

# MANY DIE IN FIRE HORROR ON LAKE

## MEN PERISH LIKE RATS

Ninety Workmen Caught in Blazing Prison on the Chicago Water Crib Structure.

### LEAP FROM FLAMES TO WATER.

Hundreds of Persons, Powerless to Give Relief, Witness Struggles of Laborers from Shore.

Over three were unfortunate workmen lost their lives and many others were badly injured Wednesday morning in a fire which destroyed the intermediate crib in Lake Michigan, a mile and a half off 71st street, Chicago, used by George W. Jackson, the contractor, in the construction of a new water tunnel. Estimates of the fatalities ranged from sixty to seventy. Ninety men, who lived at the crib and worked in shifts, were on the structure when the fire broke out. Many of these were burned to death before they could reach the doors. Others, their clothes aflame, leaped into the icy water regardless of the results. A number, unable to swim, sank beneath the surface.



Others swam to cakes of ice to support themselves until the arrival of relief.

**Starts from Powder Explosion.**  
The fire originated in the powder magazine on the first landing. Many of the employees were asleep in bunks, and others were just going to work, when a sheet of flame shot through the building. The alarm spread rapidly. Chicagoans who heard of the impending disaster were appalled when they learned that over seventy workmen

SCENE OF THE TERRIBLE DISASTER IN LAKE MICHIGAN OFF CHICAGO.



The Crib Fire Trap.

vote, Chamberlain, Democrat, defeating Calkins, Republican, although Oregon is Republican by an overwhelming majority.

### QUAKE VICTIMS SWAMP ITALY.

Cost of caring for 200,000 Homeless Estimated at \$100,000 a Day.  
Italy is confronted with a grave problem, the caring for the 200,000 persons made homeless by the earthquake of last month in Sicily and Calabria and who have dispersed not only to the interior of their native provinces, but have gone in great numbers to Naples and other of the large cities of the country. At present, it is estimated, it is costing \$100,000 a day to meet the simplest necessities of the poor, a sum which neither international charity nor the State can long continue to bear. Furthermore, the bestowal of charity is having an ill effect upon the lower classes and many disorders are reported to result.

**Gets Wisconsin Central Post.**  
Newman Erb has been elected president of the Wisconsin Central railway at a meeting of the directors of the road held in New York, following the transfer of the road's control to interests said to be affiliated with the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad.

**Venezuela Bores to Holland.**  
Jose J. Paul, the Venezuelan envoy, had a lengthy conference with M. Van Swinderen, the foreign minister in The Hague, and an agreement was reached on the principal points at issue between Venezuela and the Netherlands. This will enable the completion of a protocol, restoring diplomatic relations.

**Peach Crop Badly Damaged.**  
Reports to the Horticultural Association indicate that the peach crop of Arkansas has been damaged thousands of dollars by storms and unusually severe weather.

### "WHAT'S THE USE?"



### PEOPLE NAME SENATOR.

Oregon's Republican Legislature Elects Democrat as Instructed.  
Governor George E. Chamberlain, a Democrat, was elected Tuesday by a Republican Legislature as United States Senator from Oregon, thus solving the problem of choosing Senators by popular vote without infringing on the Constitution of the United States.

Popular will triumphed, backed by a strong people's lobby determined to see that the members of the Legislature carried out the instructions given at the polls. A suggestion of extreme measures for any violating pledges helped keep all in line. It was also declared that the "recall" would be used on offending lawmakers.

With the Republicans in a majority, many party leaders hoped to secure one of their political faith chosen as successor to Senator Charles W. Fulton, despite the voters' instructions, and a campaign with this object in view had been carried on, but without result.

Tuesday's ballot was by the houses separately, and the result was ratified by a vote in joint session Wednesday. In the House Chamberlain was given 34 votes and in the Senate 19, a total of 53, or seven more than was necessary to bring about the election.

Under the Oregon direct primary law political parties nominate a candidate as the choice of the party for United States Senator. For nominee of the Republicans in the last election Senator Fulton was defeated by Henry M. Calkins. The Democrats had only one aspirant, Governor Chamberlain. Prior to the June election Calkins and Chamberlain campaigned for the popular

### BILLIK'S NECK IS SAVED.

Sentence of Alleged Chicago Poisoner Commuted to Life Imprisonment.

Herman Billik, sentenced to hang on Friday, Jan. 29, was rescued from the gallows when Governor Deneen, on recommendation of the State Board of Pardons, commuted his sentence to imprisonment for life. The convicted slayer of Mary Vrzal, who five times was granted an eleventh-hour reprieve, fell on his knees at the county jail and wept when the news from Springfield was conveyed to him.

"Life imprisonment means liberty," he declared. "I shall now have the chance I have been fighting for to prove my innocence."

Commutation of Billik's sentence is due to the testimony and subsequent confession of perjury of Jerry Vrzal, who, with his sisters, Emma Neiman and Bertha Vrzal, were the only members of the Vrzal family to escape death by poisoning.

"We are of the opinion that even with the elimination of this testimony there is evidence to support the verdict of the jury beyond reasonable doubt," says the pardon board. "But in taking into consideration statements later made by some of the jurors we feel we are warranted in the conclusion the death penalty would not have been inflicted."

Billik, who is 42 years old and was born in Volof of Bohemian parents, was indicted more than two years ago for having poisoned five members of the Vrzal family. He was placed on trial in June, 1907, before Judge Alfred C. Barnes for the murder of Mary Vrzal, the oldest daughter, and was

### TWO SEA GIANTS VOTED.

House Grants Demands for Battleships to Cost \$30,000,000.

The war god held full sway in the House Friday and the navy appropriation bill, carrying \$135,000,000, including \$18,000,000 for two first-class battleships, was passed just as it came from the committee. The Japanese war scare was the sole topic in the discussion of which the leaders on both sides joined. In addition to the passage of the bill favorable action was taken by the committee on the fortifications bill, provisions for coast batteries in the Philippines, Hawaii and Fort Travis.

By a vote of 160 to 80 authorization was given for the construction by the United States of two of the greatest battleships in the world. This action was taken despite the opposition of some of the President's Republican enemies in the House, powerful lieutenants of Speaker Cannon, and over the heads of the few men of both parties who sincerely believe it a mistake to go on enlarging the American navy. The action authorizes the construction of two Dreadnaughts, Leviathans of 25,000 tons each, carrying 14-inch guns, the largest on any warship, and the two vessels to cost when in commission nearly \$30,000,000. The vote was accompanied by a patriotic demonstration on the floor and in the galleries, participated in by both Democrats and Republicans and significant of what the spirit of the nation would be if a foreign war were actually threatened.

The opponents of the two battleship proposal, led by Chairman Tawney of the House Appropriations Committee, attacked President Roosevelt, virtually declaring that the present Japanese agitation was a ruse cooked up at the White House to induce Congress to vote for naval increase. "I am tired of these annual wars with Japan, which always occur simultaneously with the consideration of the naval appropriation bill by Congress," declared Mr. Tawney. "All the rest of the time our relations with Japan are friendly, but as soon as we begin to consider the naval appropriation bill then we learn from the press and other sources that war is imminent."

### DROPS ANTI-JAPANESE BILL.

Governor of California Says Objectionable Measures Will Not Pass.

As the result of an urgent message from President Roosevelt protesting against the anti-Japanese measures pending before the California Legislature, Governor Gillett has announced that no bill of the kind will be passed. The Governor has authorized the following statement:

"After conferring with the leading members of both branches of the Legislature, I am convinced that no legislation directed against the Japanese will be enacted. I am satisfied that the people of California, and particularly the members of our Legislature, appreciate the efforts being made by the Federal government and the representatives of Japan to stop immigration to this country of Japanese laborers, skilled and unskilled.

"There can be no doubt that the Japanese government is acting absolutely in good faith in its endeavor to prevent its people from emigrating to our country, and in my judgment it would be a serious mistake while they are so doing to enact any laws directed against the Japanese people. This question is one in which the Federal government is particularly interested and its wishes should be carefully considered and will be, I am sure, by the people of this State."

**Germany's Trade in Decrease.**  
The export and import trade of Germany for 1908, according to estimates based on the prevailing prices of 1907, amounted to \$2,184,500,000 in imports, which is a decrease of \$98,250,000 from the 1907 figures, and to \$1,701,250,000 in exports, a decrease of \$64,750,000.

**Threaten Pastor with Death.**  
Rev. W. A. Amis of Hot Springs, leader of reform measures before the Arkansas Legislature, has received anonymous letters which threaten him with death. "Within thirty days," he says, "I have received seven anonymous letters."

### WORK OF CONGRESS

The authority of Congress to direct hands of executive departments to send to the Senate or House information in their possession was the subject of a speech in the Senate Wednesday by Senator Bacon of Georgia, who took the broad view that Congress has absolute power to demand from heads of departments any information within their possession and even to require them to give reasons for the action or non-action on any matter. Senator Lodge questioned the power of Congress to demand papers on file and insisted upon the right of the President to exercise discretion. Senator Hale declared that he did not believe the President intended to state in this message to Congress that he would not furnish documents and information, but merely that he declined to permit a cabinet officer to furnish reasons for the action he had taken. Senators Fulton, Teller, Clapp, Money and others joined in the debate, all of them upholding the power of the Senate in the matter. Practically the whole session of the House was devoted to a discussion of an amendment to the District of Columbia appropriation bill appropriating \$15,000 for children's playgrounds. The subject occasioned a lively debate. The supporters of the proposition prevailed and the amendment accordingly was adopted.

The Ananias Club was dismissed in the Senate Thursday by Senator Tillman, who declared that statements made by Attorney General Bonaparte and Postmaster General Meyer in answer to his reply to charges made against him by the President in relation to Oregon timber lands made them eligible to membership in that organization. He again defended his action and said in fighting the "unscrupulous men" who are determined "to destroy" him he was "prepared for anything, even assassination." The bill to establish postal savings banks and the omnibus claims bill were under consideration during the day.

For a time in the House of Representatives it looked as if that body would further resent the President's statement affecting members of Congress and the secret service by ordering the printing of 2,000,000 copies of the proceedings tabling his remarks. A resolution to that end was presented by Mr. Landis of Indiana, but so strong was the sentiment against it that it was tabled. The District of Columbia appropriation bill was passed, minus the major part of the appropriation of \$15,000 for playgrounds.

The amendment to the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill increasing the salary of the President and Speaker of the House to \$20,000, and \$5,000 additional allowance for carriages and coachmen for the Vice President and Speaker, and increases for the judiciary aggregating \$328,500, precipitated a lively discussion in the Senate Friday. Senator Borah of Idaho made a point of order against these increases on the ground that they involve general legislation. Without concluding the debate, further consideration of the amendments was postponed. Private bills had their inning in the House of Representatives, almost the whole session being given up to their consideration. Many were passed. Under a resolution offered by Mr. Gaines of Tennessee the judiciary committee was directed to report within ten days upon the question of the right of George L. Lilley, Governor of Connecticut, to retain his seat as a member of the House. The subject occasioned a good deal of debate, which at times waxed warm.

The entire session of the Senate Saturday was devoted to a memorial service for the late Senator William Pinkney Whyte of Maryland. After the adoption of suitable resolutions of respect the Senate adjourned. An elaborate analysis of the Sherman anti-trust law by Mr. Jenkins of Wisconsin was the feature of the House session. The pension appropriation bill technically was under consideration, but the time was all given to general debate. Other speakers were Mr. Eye of Minnesota, who entertained the House with an address on law and lawmaking; Mr. Douglas of Ohio, who advocated attorney for the Porto Ricans, and Mr. Burton of Delaware, who made a plea for postal savings banks.

### SHORT NEWS NOTES.

J. Harry McMillan, a millionaire miner, was arrested at Tonopah, Nev., on complaint of Jim May of Reno, who charges McMillan got \$8,000 from him on worthless checks.

J. M. Foster, a Grand Army veteran of Massachusetts, was buried at Columbus, Ga. Foster had lived in the town six years, and was in love with the South. His dying wish was that he be buried in southern soil.

The James Ballantine Company's plumbing factory at Winnipeg, Canada, was damaged to the extent of \$75,000 by fire.

Half the business portion of the town of Kensington, Kan., was destroyed by a fire that started in the Palace Hotel. The loss is \$50,000.

The use of Roentgen rays to ascertain the age of children, thus to establish whether they are mature enough for manual labor, was advocated by Prof. Thomas Morgan Roach of Harvard in an address in New York. He said examination of the wrist bone was the rarest test.

During the last three months there has been a steady and considerable gain in the value of imports of precious stones to New York, according to reports of the appraiser of that port.

The Fort View hotel at Winchester, Ky., was destroyed by fire. One man is supposed to have been burned to death and several persons were hurt by jumping from upper windows.

The plant of the Puget Sound Mills and Timber Company at Bellingham, Wash., the biggest shingle mill in the world, burned. The loss is \$415,000. W. L. Cleveland, a saw filer, was burned to death.

### CRIPPLED LINER SINKS INTO ATLANTIC OCEAN

Crew Leaves Republic at Last Minute and Finds Safety on Revenue Cutter.

### SIX ARE KILLED IN COLLISION.

Passengers of Both Vessels on Baltic Taken Into New York Harbor Through Fog.

Six lives were lost and two persons were injured when the Florida of the Lloyd's-Italian Line cut her way through the sides of the Republic, the White Star Mediterranean liner, in the fog-bound waters of the Atlantic off Nantucket early Saturday morning. Despite valiant efforts on the part of half a dozen other vessels to save her, the Republic sank at half past 8 o'clock Sunday night off No Man's Land, near Martha's Vineyard, while the Gresham, a revenue cutter, and the Seneca, a derelict destroyer, were towing her to New York and the Furnessia of the Anchor Line was steering her aft.

The Republic is sunk in 150 feet of water off No Man's Land, and is gone forever. Efforts to raise her from this depth would be useless. Captain Sealby and his crew, who had returned to their ship when she was taken in tow, remained aboard until the last moment, when they were carried off in small boats and transferred to the Gresham.

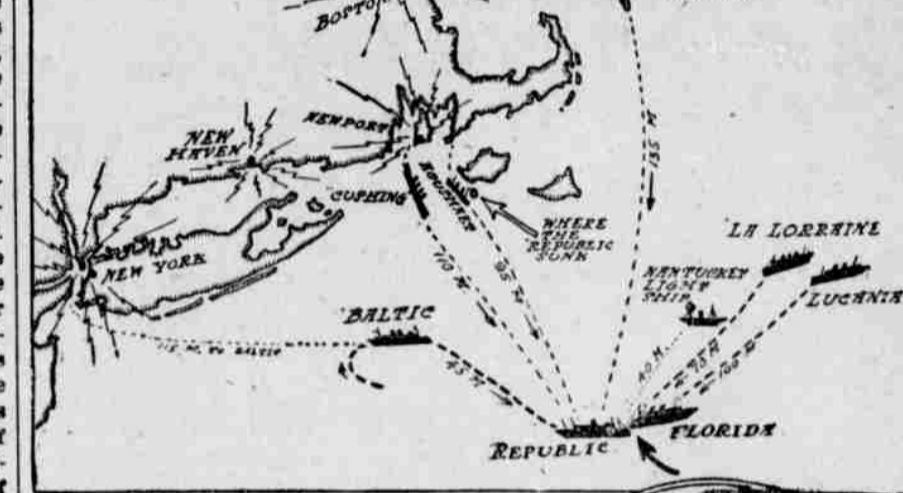
Meantime the Baltic, carrying the passengers of both the Republic and the Florida, numbering more than 1,000, was making all speed to the port of New York. Two of those killed were passengers on the Republic, as were the two injured. The other victims were seamen.

Seven hundred persons, in round numbers, were transferred from the

### BIG OCEAN LINER. DIAGRAM SHOWING WHERE IT SANK, AND THE CAPTAIN.



THE REPUBLIC WHICH WAS RAN BY THE FLORIDA.



Republic to the Florida, and then 1,650 from the last named vessel to the Baltic. That this transfer of nearly 2,500 persons was effected without the loss of a single life is considered a marvelous performance, though the fortunate occurrence of a placid sea and mild, almost springlike weather was an important factor in this work.

Throughout all of Sunday the only information which reached New York or elsewhere of the situation on the fog-bound waters off Nantucket came fitfully in the detached and sometimes conflicting wireless dispatches, but without these nothing might have been known for days. Thousands of homes would have been plunged into grief and anxiety but for the reassuring news that the accident was not so grave as had been feared, and that the loss of life was small.

### U. S. GRANT ACCUSES BANKER.

Financier Arrested as Embassador of \$750,000.

Homer G. Taber, former president of the United States Bank of Los Angeles, former president of the International Bank of Searchlight, Nev., and now president of the San Diego Bank and Trust Company, has been arrested, and will be taken to Pioche, Nev., to answer to nineteen indictments said to involve altogether \$750,000. It is charged Taber embezzled \$40,000 worth of telephone bonds from U. S. Grant, Jr., of San Diego, S. K. Williamson, cashier of the Lincoln National Bank of Searchlight, was arrested simultaneously with Taber.

### Throws Robber Into Creek.

William Cain, a miner, 50 years of age, put to rout in summary fashion a holdup man who attempted to rob him not a block away from the police station in Denver. Cain seized his assailant and tossed him over a bridge railing into the bed of the creek.

### Bryan's Daughter Seeks Divorce.

Ruth Bryan Leavitt, daughter of William J. Bryan, has filed suit for divorce from William H. Leavitt in Lincoln, Neb. The petition was immediately withdrawn. T. S. Allen, brother-in-law of Mr. Bryan, is the attorney for the plaintiff. Leavitt is now in Paris.

### 60,000 Acres of Grain Ruined.

San Jacinto valley, Cal., was flooded the other day by the greatest freshets of the State's history. All telephone communication with the flooded region has been cut off. Up the river the water has destroyed 60,000 acres of grain.

### GUARD AGAINST WASTE.

President in Special Message Tells Congress of Nation's Peril.

President Roosevelt in a special message to Congress urged upon the nation the necessity for conserving its resources, and told of the duty of the citizens of to-day to the generations to come. The message transmitted to Congress the report of the National Conservation Commission showing the peril confronting the country if the present waste is permitted to continue.

"We should do all in our power to develop and protect individual liberty, individual initiative, but subject always to the need of preserving and promoting the general good," said the President. "When necessary, the private right must yield, under due process of law and with proper compensation, to the welfare of the commonwealth. The man who serves the community greatly should be greatly rewarded by the community; as there is great inequality of service, so there must be great inequality of reward."

In the message the President reviewed practically all the accomplishments of his administration and asked for the development of the inland waterways and for the preservation of the forests and minerals, besides making a plea for the "square deal."

Some of the striking points made in the message as showing the reckless waste of the natural resources of the nation were as follows:

- Mineral production of United States, 1907, value \$2,000,000,000; waste more than \$200,000,000.
- Available Coal Supply—1,400,000,000,000 tons; threatened with exhaustion by middle of next century.
- High Grade Iron Ore—3,840,000,000 tons; threatened with exhaustion by middle of next century.
- Petroleum Supply—20,000,000,000 barrels; waste enormous; supply not expected to last beyond middle of present century.
- Natural Gas Daily Waste—More than 1,000,000,000 cubic feet; enough to supply every city of more than 100,000 population.
- Fire Losses per Year—\$450,000,000; four-fifths preventable.
- Forest Burned Yearly—50,000,000 acres.
- Of 70,000,000,000 cubic feet of water an-

### Cholera Grip Not Loosened.

The promised extinction of Asiatic cholera in St. Petersburg by cold weather has failed, and medical authorities are agreed that it will require almost a miracle to prevent a scourge of this disease in the spring. New cases are developing at the rate of thirty and forty a day.

### Guilty in Bank Failure.

Jacob and Abraham Kapnar, father and son, hosiery manufacturers, and J. S. Freytman, vice president of the First National Bank at Dresden, Ohio, which failed in October, 1907, were found guilty by a jury of misapplying the bank's funds and conspiracy to wreck the bank.

### Steals \$2.75; Gets Two Years.

J. H. Trimm, a railway clerk, pleaded guilty in the federal court in San Antonio, Texas, to the charge of abstracting \$2.75 from the mails. He was sentenced to serve two years in the Leavenworth penitentiary.