

LITTLE-KNOWN SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Of the 56 men who signed the declaration of independence, but a scant dozen attained immortality—Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock, Richard Henry Lee, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and a few others. But what about Josiah Bartlett, Thomas McKean, Charles Carroll, Robert Morris, George Taylor, Edward Rutledge, John Hart, Francis Lewis, Button Gwinnett and a score of others?

Fifty of those 56 men were present during the discussion and adoption of the declaration, and as delegates to the continental congress, were essential factors in its ultimate ratification. The other six, elected members of congress later, nevertheless took part in the general movement by signifying themselves in favor of it and were allowed to sign. Thomas Jefferson, as the author of the declaration, attained a lasting fame, as did John Hancock, president of the continental congress.

But of the men who stand outside of that ring of immortality much can be said. If Jefferson, Hancock and Lee were generals, the others were at the same time essential to the declaration. They, as much as the others, affixed their names to what was at that time an extremely dangerous document. They, as well as the others, burned their bridges behind them and took their stand firmly upon their convictions. It required the signatures of recognized delegates from each of the 13 states to make the declaration of independence complete.

If the veil of 137 years could be lifted and those days lived over again, it would be interesting to see with what emotions these men would meet what the stand for independence. It would be inspiring to hear the tone in which each gave his answer when called upon to vote for or against the ratification of that which was to give this country its freedom. It would be interesting to see how dramatic to have hovered near the desk on which the declaration lay and watched each man as he came forward and affixed his signature, a lasting testimonial to the world, and Great Britain, respectively, the courage and faith of the new country these men were creating.

The precise hour of the day of the adoption of the declaration of independence is not determinable from records. It is known, however, that congress entered upon direct consideration of the question on the 1st of July, 1776, by voting to resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the resolution introduced by Richard Henry Lee, and to report on the 4th of July. It was then voted to postpone action on the resolution until the following day. This course of procedure was carried out, and so the 2d of July is the real independence day. The resolution adopted, congress again resolved itself into a committee of the whole "to consider a declaration of independence, or the form of announcing the fact to the world." The consideration, continued throughout the 3d and 4th, it being on the 4th that the committee arose, President Hancock resumed the chair and Chairman Harrison reported that the draft had been agreed upon. It was then adopted by congress.

The draft was considered on the 19th of July to be engrossed, and on August 2 the engrossed copy was signed by 50 members. George Wythe signed about August 27, Richard Henry Lee, Elbridge Gerry and Oliver Wolcott in September. Matthew Thornton, the following November, and Thomas McKean even later, probably in 1781. Such is the account of the signing as recognized in an official history of the declaration, despite the fact that, in recording the happening of the Fourth of July, Jefferson himself said: "The declaration was reported by the committee, agreed to by the house, and signed by every member present except Mr. Dickinson." The journal giving the record of the congress states that the signature was signed by "the committee in and behalf of congress, John Hancock, president. Attest: Charles Thomson, secretary."

The first celebration of the event was Thursday, July 8, 1776, in the statehouse grounds, Philadelphia, where every eye could gaze upon the bell that proclaimed liberty throughout the world. The declaration itself was read to a large gathering of people by John Nixon. The king's arms were taken down in the court room in the statehouse, and in the evening there were bonfires and great demonstrations of joy.

In a letter John Adams wrote to Samuel Chase on the 9th, he thus describes the occasion: "This is the day in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical society: 'You will see by this post that the river is past and the bridge cut away. The declaration was yesterday published and proclaimed in the statehouse yard, by whom, do you think? By the committee of safety, the committee of inspection and a great crowd of people. Three cheers rendered the welkin. The battalions paraded on the common, and the few de joy, notwithstanding the scarcity of powder. The bells rang all day, and almost all night. Even the chimneys chimed away.

In the evening our late king's coat of arms was brought from the hall in the statehouse where the said king's courts were formerly held, and burned amidst the acclamations of a crowd of spectators."

The men who gathered together early in July, 1776, to consider the question of independence represented many professions and ages. Of the 56 men who constituted all of the signers of the declaration, 24 were lawyers, 14 agriculturists, four physicians, one a minister, one a manufacturer, nine merchants and three who had been educated for the ministry, but who later followed other professions. Although at the time of the signing the declaration the majority of the men were between 40 and 60 years of age, several were in the early 30s, and two 27. The youngest signer was Edward Rutledge, of North Carolina, who was not 27 until about four months after the signing. The other was Thomas Lynch, Jr., who celebrated his 27th birthday three days after the signing. Mr. Lynch was accidentally drowned at sea before he was 30. On the other hand, Benjamin Franklin was 70 at the time of signing. Equally interesting are the ages of the men when they died. Three lived to be over 90, 11 over 80, 11 over 70, 14 over 60, 11 over 50, and the remainder, with the exception of Lynch, lived to be over 40.

One of the most interesting figures of that time was Josiah Bartlett. Although a native of Massachusetts, he came to congress as a representative of New Hampshire. Upon the adoption of the declaration by the committee it was put to a vote in congress. Un-

like the procedure of today in our legislature, the names were not read alphabetically, but according to the location of the colonies, beginning at the most northern. For this reason, the first man called upon to vote on the adoption of the declaration was Josiah Bartlett, and, likewise, he was the first man, after President John Hancock, to inscribe his name on that fateful manuscript.

Many families in the south could probably trace their ancestry to one of the signers of the declaration and it not been for a chance purchase of Georgia sent, among her other delegates, John Houston and Rev. J. J. Zubly to the congress. Mr. Houston was forced to take sudden leave from the debate, however, when it was discovered that Dr. Zubly was on his way posthaste to inform the crown governor of Georgia of what was taking place in Philadelphia. Zubly had been giving away the secrets of the executive session of congress so doing by Richard Chase, of Maryland, but denied the charges and challenged proof. The proof was given, and he perforce fled back to Georgia, closely pursued by Houston. Fortunately, for the good of the country, by the time they reached Georgia the crown governor had already been deposed by the people, had escaped and taken refuge in an armed British vessel in Savannah harbor. But had not Dr. Zubly the name of John Houston would have been added to those of the other signers.

The six men who were not members of congress at the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, were elected later and allowed to sign were Benjamin Rush, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross, George Clymer and Matthew Thornton. Of the 50 members, however, there were five who did not sign on the 2d of August, George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Elbridge Gerry, Oliver Wolcott and Thomas McKean. There were two other men, also, who were present during the discussion and adoption of the declaration, voting for it, but who never signed. They were Henry Wisner of New York and John Dickinson. Thomas McKean is interesting not only because he was the last to sign the declaration, but also because he was elected to the same time as the committee of Pennsylvania, having been born in New London, in 1734. Following an elementary education, he was placed in charge of the Rev. Francis Allison, of Delaware, and was admitted to the bar of that colony. But his native colony refused to give him up, and in 1765 he was elected a member of the Pennsylvania assembly. In the same year he was made a judge of the common pleas of Newcastle county, Delaware. He was elected to congress from Delaware, serving for nine consecutive terms and in 1781 was president of the congress. All this time, however, he had been continuously re-elected to his office of clerk of the court in Pennsylvania. Then, in addition to being president of Delaware, in 1777 he was made chief justice of Pennsylvania. This office he held until 1799, at which time he became governor of that colony, continuing in the latter office until 1808. He died in 1817.

Despite the fact that two of the colonies thought enough of him to give him their highest office, Thomas McKean's life was not without its thorns. He was elected to congress from Delaware, serving for nine consecutive terms and in 1781 was president of the congress. All this time, however, he had been continuously re-elected to his office of clerk of the court in Pennsylvania. Then, in addition to being president of Delaware, in 1777 he was made chief justice of Pennsylvania. This office he held until 1799, at which time he became governor of that colony, continuing in the latter office until 1808. He died in 1817.

When on August 2, 1776, the signatures of the delegates were placed upon the declaration, with but one exception, merely the name of the man was written. That exception was Charles Carroll, whose signature he wrote thus: "Charles Carroll, of Carrolltown." He is interesting on another score, also, as the only signer of the declaration, attaining the age of 95. His signature was made to congress during the discussion of Lee's resolution. Intensely interested in the movement, however, he was unable to be present at the meeting. His feelings were so well known that congress appointed him a commissioner to accompany Franklin and Chase to Canada in February of that year.

Up to his time Richard Henry Lee's resolution had already been introduced and was being discussed. Realizing the importance of the occasion, Carroll hastened home to aid in turning the tide of Maryland's sentiments, which succeeded in doing. New instructions were issued, and he himself appointed a delegate to congress. This was on July 4. He arrived in Philadelphia on the 8th, and was among the first to place his signature on the document.

All the men who signed the declaration were college graduates, large land owners and high officials. Some there were who reached the pinnacle of distinction from the bottom of the ladder. Such a man was Roger Sherman of Connecticut. Born in Massachusetts, he was the son of a small farmer. When 19 his father died, leaving him the only support of the family which was large. No other employment being open to young Sherman, he had small educational opportunities. He was apprenticed to a shoemaker. In 1743 it was thought expedient to move, and New Milford, Conn., was chosen. Roger made the entire journey on foot, carrying the tools of his trade with him. He was especially fond of mathematics, and his industry and desire were so great that by the time he was 27 he was making astronomical calculations that were published in an almanac printed in New York.

After a short time in New Milford he entered business as a merchant and also began to read law. So successful finally in his law work that friends finally persuaded him to apply for admission to the bar. This he did, and he eventually became an eminent jurist. In 1755 he was chosen a member of the general assembly of Connecticut, and still later was made a judge.

John Hart, of New Jersey, according to one authority, has nothing to boast of. Happily married, the father of a large and promising family, the owner of a comfortable farm which furnished him all the financial support needed, he had nothing to ask for. Yet

he did ask for liberty, a desire, it is claimed, inspired by no wish or need for gain, but only from an inborn sense that it was the right of every man. This, it is said, he inherited from his father, Edward Hart, who raised the famous crops known as the "raisin Blues." With these he marched to Quebec, arriving there in time to share in the victory and witness the fall of General Wolfe in the "old French war."

Francis Lewis, who signed the Declaration of Independence as a delegate from New York, was an Englishman by birth, having been born in Wales in 1713. When he was but 4 he was left an orphan. He was the only child, and was taken care of by an unmarried aunt. While still young he was sent to Scotland, where he learned Gaelic. When old enough he went to an uncle in London and entered Westminster. Upon becoming of age, he inherited considerable money. He purchased a large quantity of merchandise and set out for America. Forming a partnership in New York he eventually became part owner of a large and profitable business. In the "old French war" he served as a purchaser for the British. He was captured, sent to Canada, later to France, and finally exchanged. At the close of the war the British government gave him 5,000 acres of land as a compensation for his military services. This did not mean, however, that Mr. Lewis believed in the "encroachments" of England, and consequently, when the congress was held in New York in 1765, after the "stamp act" had been passed, Mr. Lewis was one of the delegates. He heartily endorsed the measure that was adopted at that time, and when in 1775 delegates were appointed to the continental congress, he was one of those chosen.

Robert Morris, although an Englishman by birth, might be called the "backbone of the revolution." It was he who on several occasions was called upon to find money for the army. When congress fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore, Mr. Morris was one of the committee that stayed behind. Washington had been ordered to march before the enemy, and was camped on the opposite shores of the Delaware. The British were able to obtain accurate information as to his position, but he did not do likewise with regard to their movements. He sent a confidential messenger, reaching him after practically all the inhabitants had fled to Philadelphia for some safer place. Depressed, he was called upon to do, until he casually met an acquaintance, a friend, who asked for the news. Mr. Morris told him of needing money and added: "Your security is to be my note and my honor." "Robert, thou art a hero," said the friend, "and the money was secured and sent to General Washington. In 1780 Robert Morris instituted a bank in Philadelphia with others, the object of which was to establish credit by means of which the army could be supplied with money for relieving the army. He headed the list of subscriptions with 10,000 pounds, to which others added sufficient to total 350,000 pounds. By this means 3,000,000 rations of provisions and 400 horses, set 100 regiments of the army forward to the needy army. Upon still another occasion Washington wrote him that the military stores were woefully depleted and asked for aid. There was no ammunition but that in the morning he would be met. All the lead possible had been secured, even the spouts on the houses.

Under such circumstances it was but natural that Mr. Morris should be hard put to find a way to supply the lead. However, he was furnished an entertainment given by the Spaniards, and upon being pressed by his host for the cause of his apparent worry, showed him the letter from Washington. His host then told him that he was a hero, and that he should be honored with a banquet at the wharf with 90 tons of lead, which she brought as ballast. "You can have my half of this fortunate supply," he said, "and there are the owners of the other half." He secured the services and the work that same night, and before morning the supply of bullets to the depleted army.

George Taylor was born in Ireland in 1716. His father, a clergyman, educated him for a physician. At the age of 29, however, George decided that he preferred an adventurous life, a vessel being about to set sail for Philadelphia, he embarked, penniless and friendless, a redemptioner. Upon arrival, he met a Mr. Savage, who wanted an iron worker, and who promised to pay for his passage over plus he would work for him a certain number of years. He accompanied Mr. Savage to Durham, Pa., where he was set to work in a furnace, or feeding the furnace in an iron works. The other signers raised blisters, and these blisters were the workmen, were brought to Mr. Savage's attention. Noticing signs of education, Mr. Savage put young Taylor to work as a clerk, in which position he was useful in many ways. He became a useful member of the firm in a short time. He gained the esteem of Mr. Savage and upon the death of that man married his widow and thus came into possession of the business, which he enlarged and made more successful than ever.

Later he moved to Northampton, where he opened a new and more up to date business. Here he became so well liked that in 1764 he was elected clerk of the court, and served continuously until 1770. His business proving unsuccessful at Northampton, he went back to Durham. There he became a member of the provincial assembly in 1775, and was placed on a committee to give instructions to delegates to the continental congress, which were against absolute separation. Five of the Pennsylvania delegates refusing to vote for the resolution favoring independence, the provincial assembly revoked the instructions, in June, 1776, electing new delegates favorable to independence, of which Robert Taylor was one.

Button Gwinnett was born in England, coming to this country when he was 23, and locating in Charleston, S. C. Later he moved to Savannah. He was elected a representative in congress when he had been in this country but little more than five years. While a member of congress he became a candidate for the position of brigadier general, in opposition to Gen. Lachin McIntosh, but failed. This, together with other disappointments, so incensed him against his opponent that he challenged to a duel. The interference of friends was of no avail, and they fought it out May 15, 1777. They fought with pistols at a distance of 12 feet. Both were wounded, McIntosh slightly, but Gwinnett so seriously that he died as a result 12 days later.

Despite the fact that she was opposed by several men, Mrs. Mildred R. Brooks has been nominated on the republican ticket for recorder in Marion county, Oregon, having led her nearest opponent by two to one.

In order to secure good looking chorus girls for musical shows, managers are now compelled to pay \$25 a week salary, where it was possible to secure them for \$14 a week 15 years ago.

Forty-one women were recently graduated from the National Training school of the Young Women's Christian association in New York and are now eligible to act as secretaries in any part of the world.

CAPITAL REPORTERS GET TOO MUCH NEWS

Senate Would Know How They Got Facts About Colombian Treaty.

Washington, June 26.—How such complete reports of the proceedings of the Senate foreign relations committee supposed to be secret, on the pending Nicaraguan and Colombian treaties got into the newspapers is about to be investigated.

At a meeting today Chairman Stone was directed to ask the Senate to authorize examination of senators and newspaper correspondents to find the source of the information given to the public.

TEDDY MUST REST FOUR MONTHS, HIS DOCTOR DECLARES

Oyster Bay, N. Y., June 26.—Four months of absolute rest has been prescribed for Colonel Roosevelt by his physicians, who informed him that he was suffering from an enlargement of the spleen and a loss of vitality as a result of the material fever he contracted in the West Indies.

"But in four months the campaign will be over," the colonel said today. Consequently, he added, he considered it impossible for him to follow his physician's advice. Colonel Roosevelt has abandoned his campaign trip across the continent, which had been arranged tentatively for September. He also telegraphed to Pittsburgh that he would make only one speech there on Tuesday night. Two had been arranged.

The change in the ex-president's plans came after an examination made last night by Dr. Alexander Lambert, of New York. Dr. Lambert came to Oyster Bay and spent more than an hour in inspecting his patient. Then he told him he must rest for four months. He urged the colonel to give up his trip to Pittsburgh, to make no speeches during the campaign and as far as possible to give up everything that would tax his strength.

JAPANESE REOPEN ALIEN LAND FUSS

Washington, June 27.—Japan is again demanding in emphatic and uncompromising terms relief for her subjects from what are called "invidiously discriminatory" effects of the California alien land ownership law. This was revealed today in connection with the simultaneous publication in Washington and Tokio of diplomatic correspondence between the United States and the Japanese government extending over a period of more than a year.

The last Japanese communication, dated June 10 last, reopening the negotiations and asking for an answer to the note handed Secretary Bryan August 26, 1913, by Viscount Chinda, the ambassador here, and the American reply, sent by Mr. Bryan two days ago, were not made public. The reply did not reach Tokio in time for publication there with the rest of the correspondence, so it was agreed that it should be given out later. In diplomatic circles here suggestions were heard today that the way was being paved for submission of the matter to The Hague for arbitration, in spite of the contentions of the division of power in the United States between the federal and state governments makes such a step impossible.

Tokyo, Japan, June 27.—The correspondence between Japan and the United States in connection with the California anti-alien land law was published here today. It is preceded by a summary showing that the Japanese government abandons its proposal for a new convention, but continues to insist upon the American government contending that the land act is discriminatory.

AMERICANS WILL HONOR HEROES OF WAR OF 1812

New York, June 26.—The memories of Commodore Thomas MacDonough and Gen. Alexander Macomb, heroes of the battle of Plattsburgh, which was fought September 11, 1814, are to be signally honored on September 13, the first Sunday following the 100th anniversary of the battle. The Plattsburgh centenary commission has authorized Francis Lynde Stetson, chairman of name committees to lay wreaths on the grave of General Macomb in the congressional burying ground, Washington, D. C., and on that of Commodore MacDonough at Middletown, Conn.

The committee formulating plans for the celebration to be held at Plattsburgh from September 6 to 11.

President Wilson, former Presidents Taft and Roosevelt, Governor Glynn of New York, Governor Fletcher of Vermont, and many other distinguished men of this country and Canada are expected to participate.

CAMPS ESTABLISHED BY VICTIMS OF FIRE

Salem, Mass., June 26.—To insure sanitary conditions in the camps established for the homeless was the most pressing problem confronting those in charge of the relief work, in the fire stricken city today.

Officials of the state militia and of the state board of health co-operated in this work. Two official camps were in operation and preparations were being made for the erection of a third into which could be brought many persons at present scattered in various open places in the city.

In each of the tents provided for shelter there were four cots. In some cases nine or 10 persons occupied a single tent.

The militia found no difficulty in maintaining order throughout the night.

TROUBLE IN SONORA IS STILL UNSETTLED

Nogales, Sonora, Mex., June 26.—Although the troubles between the military and civil factions in Sonora reportedly have been reported settled, followers of Gov. Jose Maria Maytorena have issued from Cananea a circular warning the people against the military regime headed by Col. P. Elias Calles. The troubles between Calles and Maytorena recently became the subject of peace-making efforts by emissaries of General Carranza, and while Maytorena was retained in office as civil governor of Sonora, it was announced several days ago that Colonel Calles would remain as military chief.

VESSEL REFLAGGED.

Hughtown, Seilly Islands, June 27.—The Belgian steamer, Gothland, which went ashore on the Crim Rocks on June 23, while on the way from Montreal to Rotterdam, was reflagged today.

SCHOOL OF WHALES IS SEEN NEAR NEW YORK

Sandy Hook, N. J., June 27.—Capt. Thomas Keys, of the tug Lamont, reported today that a school of whales was in the vicinity of the Scotland lightship off the Hook. One whale, he said, was 100 feet in length and came up spouting close alongside the Lamont. Seldom are whales seen so close to New York harbor.

LEPROSY INCREASING, PHYSICIANS DECLARE

Overeating of Meats and Alcohol Blamed for Many Cases of Cancer.

Atlantic City, N. J., June 27.—With a plea for federal care and control of leprosy, eradication of child labor and an improvement of the country's milk supply, the meeting of the American Medical Association practically came to an end today. The "house of delegates," the administrative section of the organization, today approved a majority of resolutions passed by the different sections, which have been in session since Tuesday. The resolutions presented Dr. William A. Pusey, of the section of dermatology, state that leprosy exists in certain parts of the country and is on the increase; that those afflicted with leprosy are subjected to the most inhuman treatment, that many lepers are traveling in interstate traffic, constantly exposing the general public to the contagion.

Resolutions deploring the conditions under which many thousands of children labor, were submitted by Dr. Henry B. Paville, of Chicago, and they were adopted without a dissenting voice.

Overeating, especially of meats and the excessive use of alcohol and coffee cause many cancers and the only hope of their extinction lies in absolute subsistence on vegetables with the exclusion of coffee and alcohol, according to a statement made by Dr. Duncan Bulkley, of New York. He said he had treated many cases of cancer by a vegetarian diet.

REBELS WILL NOT ACCEPT ARMISTICE

Washington, June 27.—The constitutionalists of Mexico are determined to carry their military campaign to a conclusion regardless of participation in uniformed international conferences. Their plan was indicated here today on the arrival of Fred O. Breceda, private secretary of General Carranza, first chief of the constitutionalists, who came to confer with Carranza's Washington agent.

Confirmation of the military plans of the revolutionists, it was learned that General Villa plans to attack San Luis Potosi next week and expects later to fight the federals in their last stand at Queretaro.

Soon after the arrival of Mr. Breceda he received a telegram from General Carranza announcing the first chief had received assurance of the ending operation and support of the leading constitutionalists in the informal conference over Mexico's internal affairs. Mr. Breceda frankly stated that he had no definite knowledge. But he asserted representatives here and through them with the Washington administration to present General Carranza's ideas.

Mr. Breceda conferred with Luis Cabrera, one of General Carranza's confidential agents here, who is urging participation in the mediation and later with Rafael Zubaran, chief Washington agent of the constitutionalists. Later the three conferred again and then General Carranza at Monterey was in touch with them by his chief, Breceda, who does not speak English, and telegraphed his representative to present General Carranza's ideas.

Mr. Cabrera after his morning conference with Mr. Breceda, was in an optimistic mood but when asked directly about the mediation plans said: "I know nothing yet. We must confer later today with General Carranza."

EMPHATIC SPEECH ROUSES CONGRESS

Washington, June 27.—President Wilson's emphatic declaration of the administration's intention of going ahead with its anti-trust legislation and place these measures on the agenda of the country, which the prediction of unparalleled prosperity follow attracted widespread attention here today. In congressional circles especially the president's utterances were read with keen interest.

While the president's speech was addressed to members of the Virginia Press association, it was meant for the entire nation. It was regarded as perhaps the most important message the president has given to the business world and as his final answer to those who oppose the enactment of the anti-trust program at the present session of congress.

The president spoke in no uncertain terms and made it clear that he was determined to push the trust program. He reviewed the efforts of the administration to carry out other features of its program—the tariff and the currency law—which he said was attended by fear of business disturbance. When, however, those measures finally became law, the feeling of uncertainty was relieved, he said.

In congress the belief was expressed that the president's announced attitude would have the effect of rallying democrats to the plan to dispose of the trust program. This belief was further strengthened by the fact that the entire Missouri delegation in the House had pledged the president their aid in his fight. That the president feels sure that congress would complete the program at an early date, was made evident in his address to the editors. The Senate had before it again today the trade commission bill. It is now the unfinished business before that body.

NOTED VENEZUELAN MINISTER IS DEAD

Washington, June 27.—Private dispatches received at the Pan-American union early today reported the death of P. Ezequiel Rojas, minister from Venezuela, at Atlantic City, N. J. No details were given.

Dr. Rojas, who was 70 years old, died of heart failure, with which he had been threatened for several years. He was prominently identified from youth with the politics of his country. He had been thrown into dungeons during several revolutionary periods and for many years was compelled to live an exile from Venezuela.

Dr. Rojas had been minister here for the last five years and had been minister to Argentina and Chile. At one time he was president of the national congress of Venezuela and he also had been a representative and senator.

FLIES OVER MOUNT WHITNEY IN BIPLANE

Independence, Cal., June 26.—Silas Christofferson, aviator, in a biplane yesterday flew over the peaks of Mount Whitney 14,595 feet high. He attained an altitude estimated at more than 16,000 feet, and established, it is contended, a new American altitude record.

Experts are now pointing out the danger of putting too much power in to light automobiles.

SUMATRA IS SHAKEN BY TERRIFIC QUAKE

Many Killed and Injured and Widespread Damage Is Reported.

Batavia, Java, June 27.—Many were killed or injured today in a violent earthquake which caused widespread damage in southern Sumatra. The offices of the Dutch resident officials and many other buildings collapsed at Benkoelen, the capital, and telegraph and cable communication was interrupted.

The British steamer Kintock of the China Mutual Steam Navigation company, crowded with immigrants, was reported 10 hours overdue and it was feared that she had met with an accident in connection with the earthquake. It is believed to have been sent from here to search for her.

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NOT KNOWN JUST WHERE PARLEYS WILL BE HELD

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CAN FLUNK VIADUCT.

Des Moines, Ia., June 27.—Railroad Commissioners Puler and Ketchum today sustained the contention of the railroad companies that they are not compelled to complete a viaduct begun several years ago, leading to south Des Moines.

FOUR MEN KILLED BY TOUCHING LIVE WIRE

Boston, June 26.—Four men were electrocuted in a peculiar manner at the Quincy Market Cold Storage company's plant last night. An elevator rope with a metal cord, which had become exposed by the wearing off of a fiber covering, came in contact with an electric current. The men, grasping the rope on successive floors in an effort to stop the car after the first victim had started, were shocked to death.