

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## 22,840 MEN KILLED IN MINE DISASTERS

### Loss of Life in United States Coal Shafts Three Times Greater than That of All of Europe

## RIGID MINING LAWS ARE NEEDED

### Startling Report of Experts Investigating the Appalling Catastrophes of the Past Seventeen Years

Washington, December 19.—Special to the Journal.—The coal mines of the United States are killing three times as many men per 1,000 employed as those of most European countries. In the last seventeen years 22,840 men have given up their lives in the mines of this country. As many violent deaths have occurred in the mines during the last six years as during the preceding eleven years.

The number of fatal accidents each year is now double that of the year 1895.

In 1906 6,861 men were killed or injured in the mines, the killed numbering 2,061 and the injured 4,800.

The facts have been gleaned by government experts acting under orders from Secretary Garfield to investigate the nature and extent of mine accidents particularly those resulting from exploding, and also to make suggestions as to how mining conditions may be improved and accidents prevented.

The Secretary's request for information was sent to Director Smith of the Geological Survey last June. Carrying out the suggestions Joseph A. Holmes, chief of the technologic branch, and others, made a number of examinations of the more dangerous coal mines of Indian Territory.

**Experts in Many States**  
In addition, the nature and causes of a number of disastrous coal mine ex-

plosions in several of the states have been investigated. In the bulletin issued today, Holmes's statement that an increase in the number and seriousness of mine explosions may be expected to continue, has already proven fateful, for since the words were written the country has been startled with the news of three explosions, costing nearly 500 lives.

Holmes says that this increase in the number of accidents has been due in part to the lack of proper and enforceable mine regulations; in part to the lack of reliable information concerning the explosives used; and the conditions under which they can be used safely in the presence of the gas and dust encountered in the mines; and in part to the fact that in the development of coal mining, not only is the number of miners increasing, but many areas from which coal is being taken are either deeper or further from the entrance, where good ventilation is more difficult, and the dangerous accumulations of explosive gas more frequent.

The bulletin shows that in all European coal-producing countries the output has increased greatly during the last ten years, but the number of deaths per 1,000 miners, instead of increasing, as in this country, has undergone a marked and decided decrease. This decrease has been due, the bulletin says, to the effect of mining legislation.

### W. S. Soper's Father Very Sick

W. S. Soper received a message last evening from his brother at Beloit, Kansas, telling of their father, J. F. Soper, being very sick, with little hopes of his recovery. The elder Mr. Soper who is 72 years of age, is afflicted with heart trouble, and has been sick for some time. Mr. Soper has been having trouble a-plenty, during the last year. Last spring he was very sick for some time, and just after he had gotten so he was able to go again, the house in which he was living caught fire and burned, and it was with the greatest difficulty that he was gotten out of the burning building, and this trouble coming now, makes misfortunes close together. It is hoped by the many friends of Mr. Soper here that his father may be improved by the time he reaches his bedside. Will departed for Beloit on the late train last evening.

Three persons are now employed at the Soper gallery, who are abundantly able to care for all business even in the absence of Mr. Soper.

### Another Round on the Ladder.

On yesterday, our young attorney W. C. Ramsey, climbed up another round on the ladder of progress. He was admitted at Omaha to practice law in the federal district and circuit courts of Nebraska, now presided over by Judges William H. Munger and Thomas C. Munger. Again the Journal extends to Will, heartiest congratulations over this, another well deserved recognition of merit in a young lawyer.

### Returns to Plattsmouth.

Nelson J. Murray, who some time since moved to Marino, Colorado, where he was engaged in beet farming for sugar producing, and where he has recently sold his farm there and returned to Plattsmouth, coming in Wednesday, and has been visiting with his father at Mynard, was in the city this morning, shaking hands with his many friends.

### Have the Walls Finished.

The brick work on the Masonic Home is progressing finely and is now nearing completion, the walls having been done, leaving only a little work of that character to do on the chimneys and pillars for the porches. The contractors have been favored with good weather this fall, which they have taken advantage of, and with a continuation of weather anything like we have had in the past, they will soon have the wing enclosed so that the interior can be completed during the winter.

### Light Committee Meets.

Wednesday evening the light committee of the city council met at the council chamber to consider the appointment of the lights, which are to be installed in the early spring. In some of the smaller wards, the members of the committee coming from there very graciously expressed an inclination to allow the largest wards the largest number of lights so that the entire city could be lighted and equity done every one.

To a great extent the location of the lights were made, while some points are yet undecided, and others are under consideration, but it is thought that by the time for the next meeting of the council, the committee will have definitely arrived at a conclusion as to where the location of most of the lights will be.

### Wedding at Weeping Water.

A special from Weeping Water, under date of December 20, says: At high noon Wednesday, in the M. E. church, Miss Nora Badgley of Weeping Water, and Mr. Doras D. Cox of Milford, were united in marriage, Rev. G. H. Moulton officiating. A large company witnessed the ceremony. A wedding dinner was served at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Badgley and a reception was held at the same place in the evening. The couple will soon be at home on a farm near Seward.

### Has a Handsome Display.

V. V. Leonard, the photographer, has a fine display of pictures in the windows of his store room below, where he has his gallery. All lovers of the beautiful in art will find a feast for the eyes by taking a glance at the windows as they are dressed. Pictures of all kinds, with the varying scenes of life, and beautiful, and but a handful of the works, which his studio upstairs reveals.

## HOW NEBRASKA FARED

### In Committee Jobs—Pollard Gets What He Desired.

A special dispatch from Washington to the Omaha World-Herald, under date of December 13, says: Representative Pollard, who has been working hard to get on the committee of agriculture, has been gratified today to have Speaker Cannon announce him as a member of that committee. His selection for agriculture, which has come to be a highly important committee, was the feature of today's committee assignment. As far as Nebraska was concerned, Mr. Pollard served on two unimportant committees last congress. This congress agriculture is his only committee, but he is well satisfied with it.

Representative Hitchcock was made a member of the three committees, Indian affairs, irrigation of arid lands and Pacific railroads.

Representative Boyd was assigned to elections. No. 8, invalid pensions and private land claims.

Representative Hinshaw is assigned to Indian affairs, patents, and merchant marine and fisheries. Wilson of Illinois and Judge Hinshaw are the only republicans now on that committee who are opposed to subsidy legislation.

Representative Norris is assigned to the labor committee, to public buildings and grounds and the committee on election of president, vice-president and representatives in congress.

Representative Kinkaid is appointed to Pacific railroads, irrigation of arid lands and education.

Among Iowa members there were some important changes. The Iowa delegation was not pleased over the fact that Representative Haugen of the Fourth district was not made chairman of the committee of agriculture. He ranked second on the committee, Henry of Connecticut being first. Speaker Cannon took Henry off the committee and then jumped Scott of Kansas over Mr. Haugen's head to the chairmanship. Mr. Haugen could have had the chairmanship of war claims, but did not want it, and was made chairman of the committee on expenditures in the interior department. Judge Birdsall was given a place on rivers and harbors and on railroads and canals instead of merchant marine and fisheries and judiciary, which he served on last congress. Representative Cousins was made chairman of foreign affairs, and Iowa's hold on the house was considerably strengthened.

### Lived Here Many Years.

R. P. Wright of Lake Chalan, Washington, came in this morning, and is visiting at the home of his wife's father, Mr. Isaac Hopkins, of this city. Mr. Wright has just been to Minneapolis where he took two cars of apples from his home in Washington. They were some of his own raising. He started with four cars but fearing that the weather might be too cold in the northwest, concluded he would leave two of them in store in Idaho, while he brought the others through. Mr. Wright says that he got through without encountering any cold weather, and found a fine market for his fruit, it bringing him \$2.50 per box, each containing about a bushel. Mr. Wright came to this place in 1868 and lived here and in the western portion of the county for many years, removing to the northwest about eight years ago. He speaks in the highest terms of the west as a fruit growing country. He expects to visit here a few days before returning to the west.

### Depart for the South.

E. M. Godwin, in company with his daughter, Miss Molly, departed this morning for an extended trip to the south land, where they will spend their Christmas Holidays. They will stop at Kansas City, and then proceed to Texas, where they will visit at Austin, Ft. Worth and Galveston and probably may touch at Temple, Texas, where they have relatives, George Brinklow and family. Mrs. Godwin and Mrs. Brinklow being sisters.

## A GOOD WOMAN LAID TO REST

### A Sheaf of Ripened Grain, Gathered For the Other Home.

Yesterday at the Methodist church, at 2:00 p. m. was held the funeral of the late Mrs. Schermerhorn, who passed away, last Tuesday. Mrs. Schermerhorn was an old resident of this county having come here in 1875, and where she had lived ever since. She was born in Bloomfield Maine, and was the mother of five children, the most of whom are residing in this vicinity. Some two years since, this good woman was smitten with paralysis, from which she has never recovered; she has been patient in her affliction, and at all times grateful for any act of kindness, which has been tendered her. During the latter few months she has lived at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. E. Vroman, who has cared very tenderly for her aged mother. In the death, the grim reaper had gathered a sheaf of well ripened grain for the Lord's use, a life full of good works and replete with noble deeds.

The life this noble woman has lived should be an inspiration to all, and those who are prone to be discouraged with this world and its ways. She was patient through suffering and gave good advice to all—the kindly admonition, given by the example of her life, was such that all who knew her should have been the better by her acquaintance.

The services were conducted by the Rev. A. A. Randall, who spoke of the good effects of the life of rectitude which must follow in the wake of those who have known the one that has passed on before. The interment was made in Oak Hill cemetery, where the dust shall rest until the awakening trumpet shall sound.

### Bryan on Taft

In the latest issue of the Commoner, W. J. Bryan in an editorial discussing the president's declination and presidential candidates proposed by republicans, will say:

"The president has cleared the political atmosphere by reiterating his determination not to be a candidate for a third term. It ought not have been necessary to speak again, but some of his over-zealous friends were casting reflections upon his good faith by announcing that he would be a candidate if his party demanded it. The president could hardly feel complimented at so light an estimate being placed upon his declaration, and it is just as well that he set the matter at rest. There is no doubt that some of his enemies were declaring for him in order to get into the convention, and once there, could have thrown their influence against his policies after his refusal to be a candidate. Now the fight will be a straight-out one between the republican reformer and the standpatter. That is, it will be as straightout a fight as can be made for such a reformer as Secretary Taft has proven himself to be—a very weak one at best. If the president threw his strength to Senator LaFollette, who stands for aggressive reforms, it would be a pretty fight, but the president probably feels that very little reform can be hoped for from republican leaders, and he therefore selects Secretary Taft as the reformer who will excite the least opposition among the representatives of predatory wealth.

"While the democrats will be glad to know of the president's fixed purpose not to be a candidate, their opposition to his candidacy was not on account of his popularity, for it is not at all certain that he would have polled more votes than any other republican, but President Roosevelt's candidacy would make it impossible for the democrats to secure the support of Roosevelt republicans. The natural fight is between the democratic party and the reactionary element of the republican party, for in such a fight the democrats can take advantage of the educational work that President Roosevelt has done, and the issue ought not to be in doubt. Senator LaFollette would poll the radical strength of the republican party but would lose even more than President Roosevelt would among the standpatters. Secretary Taft will, if nominated, straddle the issues and seek to hold the two wings of the republican party together. He cannot hope to hold all the radicals that the president would hold or that LaFollette would hold. Neither would he alienate as many of the standpatters. With him as a candidate the aim of the democrats would be to show that he does not stand for any reforms worth mentioning, and that his administration, if in line with his utterances, thus far would be colorless.

It is fortunate that the third term issue is removed from politics, it would have distracted attention and prevented a consideration of the economic reforms about which the country is now thinking. That the president has acted wisely no sincere friend of his will deny, for he has nothing to gain by another term and a defeat would be disastrous. Those who have insisted upon his nomination in spite of his declaration have thought more of the party than they have of the president, and it is not certain either that they accurately gauge public opinion, for the anti-third term sentiment is a real sentiment and one not to be lightly considered."

## CHAMP CLARK PICKS BRYAN

### Republican Dissent Means Democratic Victory

A special from Pittsburg, under date of December 18, says: "It certainly looks as though Bryan would get the democratic nomination, and furthermore, he will be elected if the republican leaders don't stop quarreling among themselves. The republican party has not been so split for many years.

"President Roosevelt's third-term decision certainly means that he will not again be a candidate for the presidency if there is any meaning to the English language, and with the party split into two factions, the one headed by Taft and the other by Uncle Joe Cannon, Foraker, Hughes, Knox and others, there seems to be every chance of victory for the democrats."

Regarding the movement of the navy, Congressman Clark said:

"Sending the fleet to the Pacific is all right. If I believed that no foreign nation objected to its going there, I would not favor the risk and expense of a long trip, but because I do believe that certain nations do object, I am in favor of sending it to the Pacific waters and keeping it there as long as we see fit."

### Another Case of Car Stealing

Yesterday Wm. Holly, the clothier, received a shipment of shoes from Chicago, and in one case there was an empty box. Some miscreant had abstracted the contents and placed the box back in the case. The shoes were of the famous brand handled by Mr. Holly, the "University" shoe, and retail at \$4.00 per pair. The size taken was a number nine. The case had been opened the shoes taken out, then closed, but in the closing the nails had gone awry showing the bunglesome job which was done in the closing of the case. From the way the railway company has been after the car thieves it would seem that they would be a little more shy of such propositions than they have been.

## JOHN A. DONELAN DIES IN HOSPITAL

### Where He had Been Operated Upon For Ap- pendicitis.

A telephone message was received by A. W. White, from Omaha at about one o'clock this afternoon telling of the death of his son-in-law, John A. Donelan, who went to the St. Joseph hospital for an operation, and who, after the operation, had been reported as progressing nicely, with hopes that he would be able to return home at the end of two weeks. Consequently the news of his death was a shock to his many friends, who had expected he was recovering rapidly. His case was one of much seriousness before the operation was attempted. Mr. White departed on the first train, going by the way of Pacific Junction and Council Bluffs, for Omaha, where he went to make arrangements necessary for the removal of the body, preparatory to the funeral. Monday's Journal will have more regarding the deceased.

### Buy a New Home.

Engineer E. B. Thrall, although having had a very pleasant home on North Third street, and one which is slightly and well appointed, has bought another residence, where they will make their home. The place is known as the Shryock place, consideration being \$1,500. They expect to occupy the new home about the first of the year. Henry E. Weidman has been living there and will remove to Havelock soon. This makes a nice home and will be very convenient to his work, which is in the switch yards of the Burlington.

## HARRY WHITE IN WRECK IN SOUTH

### While Three Japs Were Killed, Harry Escaped With- out Injury.

About three week since, while on his way from Chama, New Mexico, to Durango, where he had been called by the Denver and Rio Grande, Railway, for which he is working, in the capacity of hostler at the first named place, Harry White, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. White was caught in the wreck, which it seems almost impossible for one to have escaped without the loss of life. Harry who was sent to Durango, to do some work, was dead heading, and was sitting in the couple of the way car, the train in which he was traveling was backing up. The train had just passed through a tunnel, and was hugging the mountainside, which on one side the mountains lighter than one could see, while on the other side, was a canon some 2,000 feet deep, and with only enough room for the track, on a narrow ledge of rock. Here the trains met, the one on which Harry was riding backing, and rounding a curve, while the other one having two engines was double heading with a freight.

As Harry sat looking out of the couple window he saw the other train round the curve, but a short distance away, giving no time to jump. When impact came, the forward engine was derailed and hurled into the canon 2,000 feet below, while the way car was reduced to kindling wood. Three Japs, who were riding therein were killed outright, and a brakeman, who was sitting with Harry had a leg broke, and otherwise injured. Harry was more fortunate, for otherwise than being bruised somewhat, and having his clothes torn badly he escaped uninjured. Any one acquainted with this route will recall the place, it being about a half from the east end of the tunnel near Toltie Pass, New Mexico. Mr. W. A. White his father had heard something about the wreck some time since, through an aunt of Harry's, Mrs. L. T. Cornell living at Alamosa, Colo., to whom he has sent his clothes for mending. But until yesterday he had not heard directly from Harry.

## MRS. JANE ELIZABETH MARK

### Passes Away at the Home of Her Son, William H. Mark, Near Union.

Born May 19, 1839, in Ireland. Died at 4:10 p. m. on Wednesday, December 18, 1907, at the home of her son, Wm. H. Mark, one mile west of Union, Neb. Deceased had been failing in health the past ten years, due to some extent to her advanced age, and much of the time the past two years she has been confined to her bed. Six weeks ago she suffered a stroke of paralysis, and since then she was helpless, being unconscious the four days prior to her death. The funeral services were held at 10 o'clock yesterday at Wm. Mark's residence, and the remains were taken to Otterbein cemetery north of Nehawka for interment.

The maiden name of the deceased was Jennie Elizabeth Askins. At the age of six years she sailed from Ireland with her parents, who located in Meigs county, Ohio, where she grew to womanhood and there she was married to James E. Mark, his death occurring in that county May 14, 1876. Their surviving children are John Mark and Mrs. Annie Farley, of Meigs county, Ohio; Mrs. Agnes Lowther of near Plattsmouth, Neb., George Mark of Nehawka, Neb., Edgar Mark of Meigs county, Neb., and Wm. H. Mark, one mile west of this village. Her mother Mark came to this county 18 years ago and made her home her children since then. She was kind and benevolent old lady for all her acquaintances had great respect and love, and her life since girlhood been consistent with the teachings of the Christian church, with which she was united in the day of her youth. The death of this estimable lady is mourned by all who knew her, and since her path is extended to all of her relatives.—Union Ledger

### Serious Accident

Jacob Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Adams, was injured while attempting to get on a wagon the other day on the endgate in suiting him and break his leg along as well as causing suffering considerable member.