

HUNDREDS ARE DEAD.

Earthquake in Southern Mexico Proves to Have Been Disastrous.

New \$200,000 Sugar Mill, Just Fitted with American Machinery Totally Destroyed.

Mexico City, Jan. 21.—One of the most terrible disasters in the history of the state of Guerrero is reported to have occurred late Friday afternoon. An extremely violent earthquake shock was felt at Chilpancingo, causing a great loss of life and injuring many persons. Details from the stricken district are very meager, but scattering reports received here indicate that probably 300 persons were killed and as many more injured. It is known that the state capital, the parish church and many business houses and residences were in ruins and that there is much suffering as a result of the awful seismic disturbances. One of the edifices that suffered most was the federal telegraph office, which explains the scarcity of news thus far.

Messenger details finally began to arrive here. The telegraph lines and apparatus at Chilpancingo were badly damaged, but the employees, all of whom were uninjured, quickly proceeded to erect an improvised telegraph office on the outskirts of the city. The number of deaths in the parish church was greater than at any other single place, as a crowd of worshippers was gathered there for the afternoon service. The solid masonry walls and the roof came toppling down on the worshippers and many of those within were killed.

The war department ordered troops in the neighborhood to co-operate in the work of rescue. Until this work is completed it will be impossible to accurately learn the number of victims. It is believed, however, that this is one of the most destructive earthquakes that ever occurred in Mexico. The greater part of the population of the city are now camping out under tents around the town, which is five days' journey from the national capital.

Earthquake shocks were felt in many other cities and towns. In Mexico City the earthquake occurred at 5:37 p. m., and was of such violence as to shake the most substantial buildings. The Pan-American congress was in session at the time and many of the delegates were greatly alarmed. The first movement here was one of trepidation and was very sharp. It was followed by an easy oscillatory movement northeast to south-southwest. The duration was fifty-five seconds, against fifty-five seconds at the capital.

SHORT SHOCKS THE WORST.

The state of Guerrero has always been the focus of seismic disturbances. Reports received here state the shock was very severe at Chilpancingo. No casualties are so far reported from there. The duration of the Chilpancingo shock was less than that in Mexico City, having lasted fifty seconds, against fifty-five seconds at the capital.

The earthquake was also intense at Iguala, in the state of Guerrero, destroying the parish church and many buildings. Among the latter was the sugar mill of General Frisbie. The mill had just been completed and fitted up with American machinery at a cost of \$200,000. The property loss is immense throughout the state of Guerrero.

ADMIRAL SCHLEY TO TELL THE TALE.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 22.—Rear Admiral Schley is said to contemplate making the banquet in his honor at the Auditorium next Saturday the occasion for sending forth a message to the country. At least he is to speak, that much having been announced officially by President E. A. Mungen of the Hamilton club.

President Mungen has been tendered the services of a chorus of 100 women, who will gather at the reception in the Fine Arts building Saturday night prior to the banquet. They are to be dressed in sailor blouses and will be led by Prof. Gabriel Katzenberger.

Mrs. W. D. Washburn, Mrs. John Morris, Mrs. Fred A. Bangs and Mrs. A. A. Taylor have been named as a committee of entertainment for Mrs. Schley. They will entertain her with a few invited guests at the Auditorium at luncheon. In the afternoon a reception will be given at the Auditorium, to which 2,000 Chicago women are to be invited. At 6 p. m. there will be a dinner party, and in the evening a theater party.

Sunday morning Mr. and Mrs. Washburn will escort the Schleys to church, after which a luncheon will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Washburn. At 8 p. m. Mr. and Mrs. John Morris will give a dinner to which forty persons have been invited to meet the distinguished guests.

Orman Will Issue Call.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 22.—Governor Orman has announced that he will issue a call for a special session of the legislature to consider the following subjects: The revenue bill which was attacked by the trusts and pronounced unconstitutional in part by the courts; the control of the corporations, especially railroads, by a commission of other board, an employers' liability bill and a measure for financing the Gunnison tunnel and canal for irrigating purposes.

NEELEY SAYS HIS ACCUSER LIES.

Havana, Jan. 21.—When the trial of the cases resulting from the Cuban postoffice frauds were resumed in the Audiencia court the cross-examination of C. F. W. Neeley, ex-chief of the bureau of finance, was continued.

Neeley said that his "OK" on bills under the miscellaneous accounts only signified that the goods had been received. None of Rathbone's private bills for receipts given at El Cerro, Havana, the witness said, were paid from the postal funds.

Neeley denied telling C. M. Rich, his first assistant, that he (Neeley) had saved Rathbone \$5,000 by including his private accounts with those of the postal department. He also denied that he had entered into a conspiracy with Reeves and Rathbone to defraud by issuing duplicate warrants. He said that all warrants were drawn in Reeves' office. They might have been cashed in the postoffice or in a bank.

Neeley was confronted with Reeves three times. He maintained perfect composure and evaded no questions, explaining all transactions clearly and giving Reeves the lie direct. When Neeley denied that he had forged the names to the warrants Reeves was put on the stand to corroborate the statement previously made that either he or Neeley had forged the name. He looked Reeves in the eye and made him to repeat the statement. This Reeves refused to do. Neeley's lawyer then asked the court to appoint experts to examine the signature, with the object of discovering the forger. The fiscal objected to this step, but the court said it would not grant the request.

Reeves again confronted Neeley with the statement that Neeley told him when he was departing for the United States in September, 1899, that he was taking with him \$8,000 which he had collected on duplicate warrants. The court asked Neeley what he had to say to this, and he replied that Reeves was crazy and that he would show to the court that Reeves was not with him under the circumstances related.

FIVE MILLIONS FOR THE SIOUX.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 19.—The South Dakota delegation intends to urge the passage of a bill providing for the payment of \$5,000,000 to the Sioux Indians of the state, due them under treaties with the government made some years ago, providing that after their lands were opened for settlement they should receive at the expiration of ten years 50 cents an acre for what remained. The ten-year period expires February 10.

It was stated at the interior department that Secretary Hitchcock will not reverse his order dismissing Agent Hardin of Yankton. Secretary Hitchcock claims a review of the case convinced him that he acted in accordance with the evidence presented. It has been the intention of the officials to abolish the Yankton agency, but the South Dakotans do not think this will be done. It is likely they will again call the attention of President Roosevelt to this matter.

The senate committee on public buildings and grounds has reported favorably on Senator Clark's bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for a public building at Evanston, Wyo.

Gustav Ayres of Nebraska has resigned as third assistant examiner in the patent office.

FOUND DEAD IN THEIR HOMES.

Marysville, Kan., Jan. 22.—Carl E. Holt, aged 55 years, and his niece, Miss Hilda Patterson, aged 30, were discovered murdered at the Holt home, twenty miles west of here. The people had been missing several days and an investigating party went to learn the cause. The man was found in the kitchen with two bullet holes in his head. The woman was lying on a back porch with one bullet hole through her head and one through her neck. She had been assaulted. The house had been rifled.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict that the two were murdered for the purpose of robbery. Holt had \$1,000 in the house. The murderer stole the money and a fine team belonging to Holt.

The bodies of Holt and his niece were badly mutilated.

THEY WORSHIP FEMINE LEADER.

Jerusalem, Jan. 22.—The Theocratic unity, or Diss De Bar, scandal in London, has attracted attention to a section here whose principles and practices are similar. The section numbers 10 devotees. They are chiefly Swedish, though the society is cosmopolitan and includes in its membership a few Americans, Germans, Servians, Arabs, Hindus and Turks. They live under one roof, claim to be above all laws, discard marriage and all the other sacraments.

Their leader, a woman, is worshipped as a god. They make a great show of religion and affect to live "pure and holy," but their first practical tenet is free love. Quarrels and scandals are frequent. Charges of systematic infanticide have been made repeatedly, but there is no press to expose them, no public opinion to overawe them, and authority here is so divided that it is nobody's business to put a stop to their enormities.

The Schley Case.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.—Representation Watson of Indiana, chairman of the subcommittee in charge of the bills and resolutions relating to the Schley case, repeated his belief today that nothing would be done to revive the controversy. He made the same statement when the committee was appointed a week ago and his reiteration of it is taken to mean that the republican majority likes to have its wishes expressed from time to time so no mistake can be made.

DELIVERANCE IS AT HAND.

Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka Soon to Be Freed from Bondage.

Sixty-One Thousand Dollars in Turkish Gold Ready to Hand Over to Bandits in Exchange.

Sofia, Bulgaria, Jan. 21.—The leaders of the brigands who have held Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka prisoners for twenty weeks have finally accepted, and in writing, the conditions for the release of their captives prescribed by the agents who have been negotiating for the women's release. Those agents are the Rev. Dr. M. W. Peet, treasurer of the American missionary station in Constantinople, and the dragoman of the United States legation in Turkey, Mr. Gargulio.

These two men left Constantinople December 17 and for one month have been unremitting in their efforts to reach an understanding with the bandits. The brigands waived their original demand that the ransom should be paid on Bulgarian soil and will accept it in Macedonia, which is Turkish territory. This is supposed to relieve the government of Bulgaria from liability for indemnity covering the ransom paid and perhaps heavy damages besides, actual and punitive.

In order to avoid such liability the Bulgarian government has aided the American plans to secure the captives' release by directing the Bulgarian customs officials on the frontier to allow the agents of the Americans, either those carrying on negotiations or those bearing the coin for ransom, to pass freely across the boundary between the two countries. It is understood that Rev. Dr. Peet has \$61,000 in Turkish gold to hand over to the brigands in exchange for the liberating of Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka.

ROOT SAYS TO BUY FRIARS' LANDS.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.—Secretary Root was heard on the question of the friar lands in the Philippines before the house committee on insular affairs. He said these land holdings cause one of the chief causes of discontent among the people. They had furnished Aguinaldo's chief appeal to popular prejudice.

The secretary said the religious orders so fully recognized the bad condition of affairs that they were disposed to sell out and he urged that the government take advantage of the opportunity to remove the chief causes of discontent in the islands. He did not believe condemnation proceedings would be necessary, as there were indications that a fair price could be agreed upon. A rough estimate of the value of the lands, he said, was from \$5,000,000 to \$7,500,000, American money.

Secretary Root began his statement by explaining the enormous power which the religious orders had long exercised in the Philippines. They were represented at Madrid, and the archbishop was quite as powerful as the governor general of the islands. The orders had largely supplanted the native priests. As a result of the great political power of the orders the friars became the medium of communication between the local parishes and the central government. They held large tracts of the best land, amounting to about 400,000 acres at the time of the American occupation. The people rented the lands, and thus a landlord and tenant system was now in operation. This caused intense hatred, and, Mr. Root said, the feeling of the tenant class was not equalled in bitterness by anything in Ireland. Aguinaldo had taken advantage of this intense feeling of the tenants against the friar landlords and the movement had become very popular.

The secretary said that about the most important thing to be done at this time was to dispose of the friar question, as it was felt that when landed proprietorship was brought to an end most of the agitation would be disposed of.

The friars had been driven from the land in many cases, he said, and if they returned the people would kill them.

BOERS DENY RUMORS OF PEACE.

London, Jan. 21.—Dr. Leyds, the representative in Europe of the Transvaal, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to Reuter's Telegram company, held a conference with the Boer delegation at the Hague at the house of Mr. Wolmarans. No official statement has been given out, but there is the best authority for asserting that the conference was merely a periodical meeting.

The dispatch says the reports of peace are ridiculed by the Boers themselves, who say such stories are simply fabricated by British agents with a view to English publication, hoping to turn them to advantage in South Africa. The Boers deny that any negotiations are in progress.

Ten Are Killed.

Vienna, Jan. 21.—An uprising of the peasantry at Aise-Dos has resulted in the killing and wounding of many persons. Agrarian agitation had been going for some time in the vicinity on account of the opposition of the peasantry to the taxes. A mob attacked the government commissary entrusted with the collection of taxes and troops were sent to defend the official. The troops fired on the peasants killing ten and wounding many of them.

TRIAL OF MISS SCHOFIELDS MURDERER.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 21.—The Schofield murder trial was marked by the introduction of the most damaging testimony the state has been able to produce. A Ross Hansen, a druggist, swore positively that he sold chloroform and chloral hydrate to Thomas on the day preceding the disappearance of the murdered girl, and that Thomas declared at one time he wanted it for toothache and at another time that he wanted it for an undertaking firm with whom he had no connection at the time.

Three persons who were present when the body was taken from the water testified that the odor of chloroform was strongly noticeable, and that the same odor was present on a bundle of flour sacks near the scene.

Expert Pharmacist Macy, who examined the murdered girl's stomach, was placed on the stand, with the expectation that he would testify that he had found chloral hydrate in the stomach. His testimony will not be admitted until it can be established that the stomach he analyzed was that of Mabel Schofield.

Margie Hammond, friend of the defendant, testified that Thomas was at home within an hour or an hour and a half of the time the other witnesses testified they saw a man slowly resembling him driving toward the river with the form of a woman on the seat beside him. She also declared that he told her he was at a funeral at Valley Junction on the morning of the day the girl disappeared.

Other witnesses testified that he informed them he was elsewhere. One says that he mentioned Mabel's disappearance to him at 5 p. m., while Miss Hammond says Thomas acted as though such thought had not occurred to him an hour later.

THE MINE WORKERS' BIG MEETING.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 20.—Several hundred delegates are here attending the thirteenth annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America, which opened this morning. Fear is expressed that the convention will be over 1,000 delegates, making it the largest convention ever held by organized labor.

President Mitchell is presiding. Ben Tillett, the famous English labor leader, has arrived and will be the guest of the miners until Thursday. President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor may also visit the convention.

It is understood that the miners will present a demand of at least 10 per cent increase over the wages they now receive, but it is almost equally true that the operators will make a stubborn resistance, as many of them claim they are either operating at a loss or at a very small profit.

The miners will ask for an extension of the run-of-the-mine basis in the districts where the screen basis now prevails.

The fact that the miners have failed to unionize West Virginia may prevent them from getting an increase at the present, as the operators of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois claim that the West Virginia operators, who pay nonunion wages, are enabled to undersell them. The situation in West Virginia probably will receive considerable attention, as the miners are determined to unionize the state.

DENIES CHARGES OF CRUELTY.

London, Jan. 21.—A blue book issued on the subject of the concentration camps in South Africa contains further detailed explanations from Lord Milner, the British high commissioner, and Lord Kitchener, as to the causes of the excessive death rate in the camps and refutations of the charges of cruelty.

Lord Kitchener emphatically denies Commandant Schalkburg's allegations of forcible removal and exile of sick women and of rough and cruel treatment of women and children.

"I offered Botha to leave the families and relatives of fighting burghers in undisturbed possession of their farms if Botha would agree to spare the farms of the families of surrendered burghers. Botha emphatically refused, saying: 'I am entitled to force every man to join, and if they do not join to confiscate their property and leave their families on the veldt.'"

The blue book gives statistics for the month of December last, when there were 117,017 inmates of the camps and 2,380 deaths, of which number 1,767 were children.

Coal Barons Form Colony.

Pittsburg, Jan. 21.—A syndicate of Pittsburg capitalists has concluded negotiations for 11,000 acres of coal land in the first pool district. The price is said to have been \$8,000,000.

Eight mines are to be opened, to have a daily capacity of 12,000 tons, and 1,000 houses for the workmen are to be built. The field is five miles south of Pittsburg and extends from Fairhaven to a point near Library. The property is crossed by the West Side Belt, the Baltimore & Ohio, the Pittsburg & Lake Erie and the Pittsburg extension of the Wabash railroads.

Request Colored Successor.

New Orleans, La., Jan. 21.—At a meeting of the Ninth colored (immunes) of the Spanish war, a resolution was adopted urging that a colored man be appointed naval officer of the port of New Orleans to succeed the late John Weber. The resolutions point to the fact that the office has been offered to colored men throughout every republican administration from President Grant's time until the present day and President Roosevelt is urged to follow the example

REGARDING THE PACIFIC CABLE.

Naval Officers Declare Acquisition Really Necessary.

Would Promote Commercial Interests in Time of Peace and Facilitate Success in Event of War.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.—The advantages of government control of the projected Pacific cable were presented before the commerce committee of the house. Admiral Bradford, who has had charge of the cable soundings; General Greeley, head of the geodetic survey; Captain Russell, who has done much of the cable work in the Philippines, and Thomas F. Clark, vice president of the Western Union Telegraph company, were among those present.

Mr. Clark said the plan presented by the Commercial Cable company contemplated exclusive arrangements with the lines in the far east, the effect of which would restrict the business to this one line, preventing competition and such advantages to the government and public as would accrue from competition.

Mr. Clark emphasized the prospective commercial development of the orient and American trade in that quarter, and emphasized the alleged disadvantage that would accrue from any private control, which would, he said, tie up the business for an indefinite period and place the far eastern links of the cable system entirely under foreign control.

General Greeley stated that about 10,000 miles of cable and telegraph were now under government charge. He would strongly favor government control of the Pacific project and showed the extent to which governments were extending their control of cables. One of the recent extensions was by Germany on the China coast, while France and other countries were making similar cable extensions. General Greeley said an American cable to the Philippines would do much good in Americanizing the islands. He cited instances of the current news appearing in the Philippines coming by foreign cables, presenting the affairs of Germany and other countries, but not mentioning the most important developments in the United States.

General Greeley stated that during the Spanish-American war it became necessary for him to secure control of the Haytian cable for thirty days at \$2,000 a day. In time of war, he said, it was impossible to observe due security when cable lines were under foreign control. He had discussed the subject with President McKinley, who was favorable to an "American cable under American control, in peace and war."

Admiral Bradford was favorable to having the cable laid, operated and controlled by the government, not for commercial considerations, but as a naval and military necessity. He said the British navy had great advantages over other navies by reason of being linked by cable with all insular possessions. If there was a war with Great Britain tomorrow, Admiral Bradford said, it would be impossible for us to communicate by cable with the Philippines.

Admiral Bradford said the navy department had made all soundings, had found a practicable route which was all ready for the government to begin operations on it. It started from Monterey, Cal., which he considered a better point than San Francisco. He did not recommend a cable of American make, as the industry was not developed here, and it was essential to get the world produced.

Senator Morgan, chairman of the senate committee on inter-oceanic canals, made a brief report to that committee today as the result of his investigation of the status of the Panama sale proposition.

He stated that he had called upon the president and Admiral Walker, chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission, and had learned that the president had impressed upon the commission the necessity for an early report, fixing the time at the close of the present week, and that the admiral had said that in accordance with these instructions, the commission probably would be able to report by Saturday night. He also stated that he had learned officially that the French government had made no proposition to the United States in connection with the Panama route, and, further, that nothing had been heard from the government of Colombia on that subject.

Pardon May Come.

London, Jan. 21.—Baroness De Roues the mother of Mrs. Florence Maybrick, who was found guilty in 1889 of poisoning her husband and sent to prison for life, is hopeful now that her daughter will soon be pardoned. She has, it is stated, received semi-official assurances that the pardon will come during the coronation celebration next June.

For Harsh Words on Kaiser.

Munich, Jan. 21.—A feeble-minded workman named Killan has been sentenced to two years and six months' imprisonment for using harsh words about the Kaiser. He already has served three terms for like offenses. This time he wrote a letter to the judges in his district, saying severe things about the Kaiser and closing with a "hook" for anarchism and all its work. Killan has no money and is believed to be insane, but this did not protect him.

TO FRAME A CURRENCY BILL.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.—A general banking and currency bill will be framed and reported to congress by a subcommittee composed of Representatives Fowler of New Jersey, Hill of Connecticut and Price of Illinois. As yet currency, the parity of the metals problem relating to the volume of the money will be thrashed over by this trio, who will report to the house via the committee on banking and currency.

In speaking of the matter Mr. Prince said: "There has been so much discussion about our currency system, its defects and needed amendments, that the committee has decided to review the question in the hope that a bill can be framed that will afford relief and at the same time not disturb the business world."

"At this time, I am not at liberty to suggest ways and means for remedying the alleged mistakes in the existing system, but all efforts in that direction must maintain the stability and uniformity of the currency. Means should be adopted for improving the elasticity of the volume of money. I don't know but that I might favor the coinage of silver bullion in quarters and halves, but I think there is some opposition to the coinage of silver dollars."

"Sentiment seems to favor the interchangeability of gold for silver, and the committee on coinage, weights and measures already has reported such a bill favorably. It is a complex question to legislate about the currency, and steps must be taken with extreme care and caution."

HAS A NEW PLAN FOR CANAL.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 21.—J. C. Power superintendent of the park system of this city, who as civil engineer, with Lieutenant Robert E. Peary, the explorer, made surveys for the world's isthmian canal, has proposed a new route for the great waterway and his plans will be laid before the president and congress.

While detailed announcements have not been made steps have been taken toward the organization of a gigantic stock company for the promotion of the project under Engineer Power's direction.

By the route he proposes from the deep water of the Pacific to deep water of the Atlantic the distance is only twenty-nine miles.

The proposed way ends in two good harbors, Darien on the Pacific side, and the Gulf of Darien on the Atlantic.

CHICAGO ELEVATOR BOY IS A HERO

Chicago, Jan. 21.—Fire, which broke out in a rear building, completely destroyed the Lake La Strain hotel, 335 Ellis avenue, and nearly caused the death of a number of guests. Only the heroism of the elevator boy, who made trip after trip, with the seething flame bursting out all around him, carrying the inmates of the hotel to places of safety, prevented a fire horror similar to that of the Windsor hotel of New York two years ago. Oscar Bela is the name of the boy to whom so many owe their lives.

After taking out as he supposed all the guests of the hotel, he made a search of the upper story and found Mrs. Albrecht, a paralytic, in her room, nearly dead from fright and smoke. The young hero carried her to his car and safely descended to the bottom, reaching there only a few minutes before the roofs and floors began to tumble in.

The loss is placed at \$100,000.

MORGAN MAY GOBBLE THEM UP.

Berlin, Jan. 21.—Many arguments are being advanced in Germany in support of the proposition that the German government should control the German steamship companies as it does the railways of the country. The chief of these is that if the government owned the great ocean liners all danger would be past of J. Pierpont Morgan or anybody else acquiring them. The possibility that foreign capital will buy the German steamships strongly influences the managers of these lines in favor of government purchase.

FATAL WRECK ON THE ROCK ISLAND.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 21.—The Rock Island flyer was wrecked at Victor. The engineer and firemen were killed and several members of the train crew were injured.

The wreck was caused by the explosion of the boiler with terrific force. The concussion and report were felt and heard for two miles.

The boiler was entirely blown from the engine and driven twelve feet into the ground.

The train consisted of six coaches, four of which were derailed and thrown down an embankment.

None of the passengers were seriously injured. One sleeping car was filled with Des Moines people, but they escaped miraculously, though the car was overturned.

Engineer Williams and Fireman William Hoar were blown to pieces. Conductor Fox was badly hurt. The baggage man and two porters were injured, but not fatally.

Negro Shields Mistress.

Jacksonville, Ill., Jan. 21.—Ferguson, a colored man, under a twenty years' sentence for complicity in the alleged poisoning of Dr. J. L. Barnes, while an inmate of the asylum here, was placed on the witness stand in the case of Mrs. Barnes, now being tried as one of the principals in the crime. The negro, who was houseman in the family of the Barnes, refused to answer almost every question put by the prosecution, evidently trying to shield his former mistress.