



The mine disaster at Cherry, Ill., on November 13, in which over 300 men and boys lost their lives, proved to be one of the most appalling calamities in the history of American mining. Every effort was made to subdue the fierce fire which started near the air shaft and cut off all hope of escape to the doomed miners. Frequent attempts were made to send rescuers down the shaft, but they were quickly driven back by the intense heat. No trace of the unfortunate miners was discovered until the sixth day after the fire started, when the fire was sufficiently subdued for a rescuing party to descend and recover five bodies. The discovery was also made that the men were seen lying in heaps near the air shaft. It is expected that twenty-five bodies will be taken out each day until the task of identification and burial is complete. Active rescue work is being carried on by the Red Cross and other societies for the relief of the stricken families. On Saturday, November 19, seven days after the disaster, twenty men were rescued alive after all hope had been abandoned. Fire damp shut off further rescue. The latest reports show that of the 310 men entrapped in the mine, 20 were rescued alive, 101 bodies have been recovered, and 189 were still unaccounted for.

The elimination from the customs service of Acting Deputy Surveyor James F. Vall, the abolition of that office in the New York customs house, the dismissal of 104 men and demotion of 123 other men at New York from March 4 up to the present time, together with about a score of other changes, were included in a statement made by Collector Loeb, and announced by Secretary MacVeagh. Secretary MacVeagh made it clear that there would be no further grants of immunity in the customs investigation at New York.

William M. Laffan, successor to the late Charles A. Dana in the management of the New York Sun, and publisher of that paper for the past twenty years, died at his home in Lawrence, L. I.

Raymond Patterson, late correspondent of the Chicago Tribune in Washington, was buried in that city. He was a classmate of President Taft, who attended the funeral and acted as honorary pall bearer.

There is anxiety at Santiago, Chile, lest the United States close its legation.

President Taft has issued his first Thanksgiving proclamation officially designating Thursday, November 25, as Thanksgiving day.

The rejection of the budget by the English house of lords threatens to participate a crisis.

Herbert John Gladstone, the British secretary of state for home affairs, has accepted the post of governor-general of United South Africa. He is the youngest son of the great English statesman, William E. Gladstone.

President Taft reviewed the men's Catholic societies of Washington from the steps of St. Aloysius church, an incident in connection with the celebration of the golden jubilee of the parish. Preceding the review the president delivered a brief ad-

dress, having been introduced by the rector, Father Eugene De L. McDonnell, who referred to the fact that fifty years ago President Buchanan had assisted in the dedication services of the church.

The Finnish diet has been dissolved for refusal to obey Russian orders.

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor have declared themselves against the saloon.

Dispatches from New York announced that the Wells-Fargo Express Co. has declared a dividend of 300 per cent to its stockholders out of accumulated earnings. This is one of the companies that tried to overthrow the Sibley act, enacted by the Nebraska legislature to reduce express rates 25 per cent.

Feriberto Barron, a bitter rival of President Diaz and now self exiled from Mexico, has proclaimed his candidacy for the presidency of that republic.

George E. Roberts, former director of the mint, is an advocate of the central bank of issue.

Boston's new museum of fine arts, with its \$15,000,000 worth of treasures, has been thrown open to the public. The new museum building, which was erected through private subscriptions, covers twelve acres.

Bishop Scannell, of the Catholic diocese of Omaha, in a sermon at St. Cecelia's church paid his respects to the sensational press by saying: "They should not be permitted to circulate, and the state should exercise supervision over the press." He urged women to go into temperance work, but to keep out of politics, saying: "Men have a practical judgment in this matter and do not look for the perfect ideal. Therefore, I see no advantage to be derived from women being admitted to the political arena."

Football has claimed another victim in A. Richer Christian, the eighteen-year-old halfback of the University of Virginia team, whose injuries in a game with Georgetown University resulted in his death November 14.

The stay asked for by the attorneys of President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor in the proceedings against them for contempt of court, has been denied by the court of appeals of the District of Columbia. The decision comes as a surprise to the labor leaders. The court, upon request of counsel for the labor leaders, later granted a stay until November 29 of the issuance of the mandate sending the labor leaders to jail for contempt of court in the Buck Stove and Range company case.

An order of excommunication against Mrs. Augusta E. Stetson of New York, for years regarded as one of the most prominent and powerful members of the Christian Science denomination, has been issued by the board of directors of the mother church at Boston, the supreme governing authority of the organization.

Richard Watson Gilder, editor-in-chief of the Century Magazine since

its foundation in 1881, and widely known as an author and lecturer, died unexpectedly November 18 of angina pectoris at the home of his sister, Mrs. Schuyler Van Renssaler in New York City. He was born in Bordentown, N. J., in 1844. Better known as a poet even than editor, Mr. Gilder has published six books of verse, among which are sonnets and lyrics which have been rated by critics as sure to pass into the heritage of the language. His best works are: "The Celestial Passion," "Lyrics," "Two Worlds," "The Great Remembrance," "In Palestine," "Poems and Inscriptions," "A Christmas Wreath," "A Book of Music."

In an opinion written by Judge Walter B. Sanborn of St. Paul, and concurred in by Judges Vandeventer, Hook and Adams with a special concurring opinion by Judge Hook, the United States circuit court for the eastern district of Missouri on November 20 handed down an opinion declaring the Standard Oil company of New Jersey an illegal combination operating in restraint of trade and ordered its dissolution. The opinion of the court was filed simultaneously in St. Louis and St. Paul. In this decision the government of the United States wins a sweeping victory, and according to Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul, who was the government's special prosecuting officer, the government has won every point for which it contended. The case will be appealed direct to the United States supreme court, as the judges who signed the decree are in effect the judges of the United States circuit court of appeals, although they were sitting for the purpose of trying this case as the circuit court for the eastern district of Missouri. The decree of the court dissolving the Standard Oil trust becomes effective in thirty days, when no doubt a stay will be granted for the purpose of an appeal. When the decree takes effect, unless a stay is granted, an injunction will issue restraining the Standard Oil company for further continuance of its business under its present formation.

The Dakotas have experienced the worst November storm in years. Sixteen inches of snow fell and was blown by a forty-five mile gale. Railroads were blockaded and business interrupted. The storm extended into adjoining states.

A New York man says in a paper read before the municipal league convention that civil service has not promoted efficiency of police departments.

Clarence Mackay declares that the postal company is not a party to the big telephone-telegraph merger.

The mail steamer La Seyne collided with the steamer Onda off the coast of Singapore, and sank in two minutes. Nearly one hundred persons were drowned.

Federal Judge John A. Marshall of Utah overruled the demurrer filed by Governor Charles N. Haskell and five other prominent Oklahomans to indictments charging them with fraudulently securing from the government title to a large number of town lots in Muskogee, Okla. The defendants were ordered to appear for trial at Chickasha.

The supreme court of Nebraska has declared void the normal board law passed by the last legislature.

The United States department of justice has made formal announcement of the reappointment of Francis J. Heney, the San Francisco graft prosecutor, as a special assistant attorney general to represent the gov-

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