

## AN OCEAN RACER

### BATTLESHIP ILLINOIS FASTEST OF THEM ALL

Her Trial Spin a Triumph—Average Speed of 17.31 Knots for Four Hours—Beats All in Her Class—No Fugitive in World Can Equal Her Record.

Boston, Mass., June 13.—With the proud distinction of being the fastest battleship in America, and the speediest of her class in the world, the new sea fighter, Illinois, lies at anchor in President's Road's tonight after a most successful trial. Over the government course from Cape Ann to Cape Porpoise and return, a distance of sixty-six nautical miles, she raced yesterday under the watchful eyes of United States naval representatives and established a new record by maintaining an average speed of 17.31 knots for four consecutive hours. Not only did she demonstrate that she was faster than any warship afloat of her size, but she proved her ability to turn upon an enemy with extraordinary quickness by describing a complete circle within 300 yards, or a little more than twice her length, in three minutes and ten seconds, while plunging through the sea at full speed.

PLENTY OF RESERVE POWER. Steadiness and reserve power characterized the performance of the ship throughout the severe test. The work of her engines was smooth and even, as the record showed but one-tenth of a knot difference between the outward and homeward trip. She easily met every requirement and not an accident of any kind marred the success of the day.

Rear Admiral Sampson, who was aboard unofficially, and Rear Admiral Evans, who acted as president of the trial board, as well as the other naval officers who took part in the trial, were thoroughly pleased with the new champion, and as she steamed back to her anchorage with a boom at her masthead, the officials of the Newport News Shipbuilding company, whose three years of labor had reached such a happy climax, were enthusiastically congratulated.

SECRETARY LONG PLEASED. Washington, June 12.—News of the splendid performance of the battleship Illinois on her trial trip today came to Secretary Long tonight in a dispatch from Capt. Robley Evans, the chairman of the trial board. It contained the same information as that in the press dispatches. Secretary Long, in a brief talk on the fine performance of the ship, said:

"The result is very satisfactory to the officials of the department. We knew that the Illinois was a fine ship and expected her to make an excellent showing. We think she will prove herself one of the best ships in the American navy. The result speaks admirably for the contractors, and it speaks well also for the American ship builder. We are in the lead. The Illinois is a very fine ship and we ought to be proud of it."

ADOPTED AS LAW. HAVANA, June 13.—The Cuban constitutional convention yesterday accepted the Platt amendment by a vote of sixteen to eleven. The resolution to accept was carried without discussion.

Immediately after the opening of the session Senors Tamayo, Gileundias and Quesada, constituting a majority of the committee on relations, submitted as a substitute for the committee's former report the Platt amendment as passed by congress, recommending that it be adopted and made an appendix to the constitution.

GRATIFIED AT WASHINGTON. Washington, June 13.—The news of the adoption of the Platt amendment by the Cuban constitutional convention was received with genuine gratification here. The administration officials all along have felt that its ratification would be accomplished.

ROUGH RIDER IN TROUBLE. Fort Scott, Kan., June 13.—George Younger, son of Jim Younger, the convict, who is confined in the Minnesota penitentiary, was placed in the federal prison here today, charged with defrauding an Indian at Mound Valley. I. T. Younger was lieutenant in the rough riders.

INDIANS ARE THREATENING. HELENA, Mont., June 13.—A special from Red Lodge, Mont., says that serious trouble is threatening with the Arapahoe Indians in Shoshone reservation in Wyoming. The Indians openly defied the authorities and are preparing for the barbarous sun dance. The state militia has been ordered to the scene.

GETTING ALONG NICELY. WASHINGTON, June 13.—After the consultation of Mrs. McKinley's physicians yesterday forenoon the following statement was issued: "Mrs. McKinley's physicians report that she continues to show improvement."

EMPEROR WILLIAM AT RIEL. KIEL, June 13.—Emperor William, accompanied by the headquarters staff, Prince Henry of Prussia and the chiefs of his majesty, arrived here today to witness the launching of the battleship Saeheringen at the Germania yards. The emperor boarded the imperial yacht Hohenzollern amid salutes from the war vessels present. Owing to the unfavorable weather the launching was postponed until the afternoon.

## SIXTEEN ARE DEAD.

### Full Effect of Mine Horror—Rescue not Possible.

PORT ROYAL, Pa., June 12.—As a result of the explosion in the Port Royal mines of the Pittsburg Coal company sixteen are dead, seven injured and thousands of dollars' worth of property destroyed. The official list of dead and injured was made public by the company's officials tonight.

DENSE VOLUMES OF SMOKE. Smoke rose from the shaft during the night in great volumes. Great excitement prevailed and the entire population of the town remained all night at the mine eagerly awaiting some news from those thought to be either buried under the tons of slate or slowly awaiting either death from flames or relief from the outside, with small chance favoring the latter.

In the attempt to rescue the men known to be in the mine other lives were placed in jeopardy and may be lost.

From what could be ascertained last night about 6 o'clock there was a low, rumbling sound, followed by a roar which sounded like a cyclone, then three sharp and short reports.

While waiting the arrival of appliances necessary to enter a burning mine a temporary rescue party entered the shaft and started toward the spot where it was thought some of the entrapped men might be found. Lying at the bottom of the shaft were Lawrence Settler and John Stokes. Unconscious and covered with dirt, the men were quickly taken to the top of the mine. They could give no information as to what caused the fire.

About 7 o'clock William McDune of West Newton, general superintendent of this district; Dennis Wortley, pit boss of the mine; Michael Roy, foreman, and several other bosses, with about twenty men, went down shaft No. 1, which is just opposite on the Baltimore & Ohio side of the river.

TWO MORE EXPLOSIONS. About three hours after the rescue party had been in the mine two more explosions were heard. Meantime the crowd around the opening of the shaft had increased, the crowd including mothers, wives and sisters of many of the men entombed.

At 11 o'clock four men volunteered to go down shafts No. 2 and 3 and one man down No. 1.

At 3 o'clock W. A. Sweeney and Frank Stratton came to the surface, bringing Harry Beveridge in an unconscious condition, with both arms and a leg broken and badly burned. He cannot live. All three men succumbed shortly after reaching the surface. Sweeney, who was mainly instrumental in saving Beveridge, was able to tell that he climbed over the bodies of at least three men on his way out. The explosion occurred at the time when the shafts were changing from day to night turn and it is impossible to tell how many were in the mine at the time, but certainly no less than thirty were entombed.

Early today all the rescuing parties came out of the mine. They say that the black damp makes work impossible and they give up hope of finding any of the missing alive.

Seven years ago there was another disastrous explosion at Port Royal and the mine caught fire. It was necessary to fill it with water to quench the flames. To do this a hole was drilled in the bed of the river. This is now closed only with a plug, which was arranged for such an emergency as the present, and to draw out the fire all that is necessary is to take out the plug and the waters of the Youghiogheny will rush in. This, of course, can not be resorted to until all the men in the mine have been recovered or are known to be beyond rescue.

Longs to go to the Sea.

ROME, June 12.—The statement circulated in America shows that the annual reports of the pontiff's illness, critical condition and fainting fits have already commenced, and as the summer wanes, he, no doubt, as usual, will be reported at death's door. The truth is his holiness at present is in exceptionally good health, is enjoying his daily drive and walk and the cares of state seem to bear lightly on his old age, he is mounting to a higher point of the garden than usual. The other day the pope stood gazing at the yellow strip of sunlit Mediterranean, and turning with a sigh to his nephew, the pontiff, used for the first time since his "imprisonment," a phrase which might have been construed as impatience at his "captivity."

"Ah," he said, "how I wish I could go to sea again. It would really renew my youth. The last time I really stirred at sea was about fifty-five years ago, when I was nuncio at Brussels. I then went near Antwerp on the advice of a physician and can vividly remember even now how cool the water was, how invigorating and what pleasure I took in swimming. I found the cure most beneficial."

Conger will go to China.

CHICAGO, June 13.—E. H. Conger, United States minister to China, passed through Chicago tonight on his way to Washington, where he will see President McKinley and receive his final instructions as to what is the policy of the administration and what course he shall pursue after he reaches Peking. Mr. Conger will sail from San Francisco June 17. He refused to speak about the Chinese situation.

## FIRE IN BIG HOTEL

### HOSTELRY AT SUMMER RESORT TOTALLY CONSUMED

Wardrobes Left Behind and 268 Persons in the Building Found Themselves Scarcely Clad—Rush Felt Melt to Exits and All Escape.

WEST BADEN, Ind., June 15.—The Mineral Springs hotel, one of the best known hosteleries in the state, was totally destroyed by fire early yesterday, entailing a loss estimated at \$250,000, with insurance aggregating \$110,000. In addition to this the loss in diamonds, jewelry, and clothing belonging to guests will, it is estimated, reach \$50,000.

It is believed that all of the 268 persons in the building when the flames were discovered escaped safely, although there were many thrilling experiences, the guests being obliged to grope their way through blinding smoke to the exits, leaving their personal effects and clothing behind. It is said that only twelve guests managed to save their wearing apparel.

STARTS IN THE KITCHEN.

The conflagration originated about 1 o'clock in the kitchen on the ground floor, immediately under two rows of sleeping rooms, all of which were occupied. The fire was discovered by the night watchman, who attempted to extinguish the blaze with hand grenades, but failing, he rushed to the office and notified the clerk and together they ran through the halls, kicking open the doors and arousing the inmates.

The electric light plant was soon burned out and the building was left in darkness. In thirty minutes the entire building was a mass of ruins. Women dressed in night robes, men's overcoats, hats and shoes mingled in the crowd and congratulated each other on their narrow escape from a terrible holocaust. The proprietor of a little country store did a thriving business, those who were fortunate enough to save any money in the mad rush for safety cleaning out his entire stock of wearing apparel, regardless of its character.

Amy Leslie, the theatrical critic of the Chicago News, who has been at the hotel with her niece for the past two weeks, escaped with nothing but her night robes. Miss Leslie's traveling wardrobe of today consists of a nightdress, a gentleman's shirt, which she purchased at the village store, and her bath robe.

MANY NARROW ESCAPES.

There were many narrow escapes from serious injury. One gentleman from St. Paul, Minn., whose name could not be learned, is said to have locked his door and lost the key. He groped around in the dark and when nearly suffocated by smoke, his door was broken in and he was carried in safety to the lawn.

The building was provided with fire escapes, and on the front of the building, extending from the ground to the roof, was an escape built in a spiral fashion. It was down this that many of the guests got out and reached the ground. During the rush for safety four ladies became wedged in this spiral escape and while in this position some one on the upper floors started a small trunk on its rapid descent down the winding chutes. The ladies were scratched and bruised and were not relieved from their awkward position until one of the guests ran up the chute and after a vigorous tug succeeded in relieving the tension and all four ladies slid to the ground in safety.

Nearly all of the guests left for their homes later in the day, the railroads furnishing transportation to all who were in need.

Well Placed For Summer.

NEW YORK, June 15.—A special to the Journal and Advertiser from Winsted, Conn., says:

Former President Grover Cleveland and his family are now domiciled in their summer residence at Tynningham, in the Berkshire hills. Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland have just arrived at Riverside. Their children, Esther, who recently recovered from an attack of diphtheria; Ruth Marion and Richard, accompanied by a nurse are also here. Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland will occupy the room, which was occupied by George Washington after the battle of Saratoga. The chamber is locally known as Washington's room. The farmers here will extend an invitation to the ex-president to fish in their trout streams, whether posted or not.

Five Negroes Legally Hanged.

SYLVANIA, Ga., June 15.—Arnold Augustus, Andrew Davis, Richard Sanders, William Sanders and Sam Baldwin, all negroes, were executed in the yard of the county jail of Screven county yesterday. The drop fell at 12:20. The necks of four men were broken by the fall. The fifth died of strangulation.

These five negroes were convicted of murder under an alleged conspiracy by an organized band of blacks, known as "Knights of the Archer." The motto of the organization, it is said, was "Death to the Whites."

Takes First Prize.

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 15.—Lincoln, Neb., won a signal triumph in the prize contest in connection with the Woodman meeting yesterday when Hagenow's band of that city was awarded first prize of three hundred dollars. Bandmaster Hagenow and Manager Gildersleeve were showered with congratulations. The band boys leave for home today and will arrive at Lincoln on the Burlington Sunday.

## DIE ON THE ENGINE

### A Bad Accident on Union Pacific Ends Two Lives.

COLUMBUS, Neb., June 14.—The engine of freight train No. 17, westbound on the Union Pacific, was literally blown to pieces between 4 and 5 o'clock yesterday morning near Havens, a flag station between Silver Creek and Clark, by a boiler explosion, resulting in the following deaths:

ENGINEER CHARLES FULLMER.

FIREMAN J. C. JENKINS.

Brakeman D. W. Fleming sustained the fracture of the right ankle and of one or more ribs and the severe scalding of his back, legs face and hands. He will probably recover, but his injuries are considered serious.

A FAMILY OF ENGINEERS.

Three of the Fullmer family were Union Pacific engineers—the father and two sons—Charles being the older son. He lived in Omaha and leaves a family.

Fireman Jenkins was a single man, residing at Omaha. Brakeman Fleming is a widower, who has several children.

Conductor Wallace was in charge of the train. Medical assistance arrived from Central City on the Grand Island local, the caboose of the unfortunate freight being laden with the dead bodies and the injured man, and pulled to Omaha by the local passenger which was delayed by the accident about four hours.

No cause is assigned for the explosion, which is said to be the first of the kind on the Union Pacific during its entire history.

Cables Held Out.

MANILA, June 14.—The trial of H. W. Happle, port's ward of the commissary department, charged with receiving in monthly installments money from a stevedoring company, began today. The defense is that the money received was for extra services. The alleged transactions appear on the company's books and it is claimed that Happle figures under an assumed name.

D. M. Cronin, the former Californian, who was arrested in February last on the charge of furnishing supplies to aid the insurgents, but whose prosecution was abandoned last month, is going to the United States shortly and has asked for the return of \$10,000 paid as security for his appearance when summoned for trial. General MacArthur has declined to order the return of the money, but probably it will be returned after the insurrection is over.

UNWILLING TO SURRENDER.

General Sumner has returned here and has reported to General Wade of the failure of negotiations for the surrender of Calles, the insurgent leader in Laguna province. The Tullipino apparently believes he can hold out now that the rainy season has begun.

Pointment is felt here at the back and conditions in southern Luzon. Some insurgent camps have been discovered and destroyed. Lieutenant Cowan with a detachment of fifty men killed five insurgents near Jovelar.

Governor General MacArthur expects to leave on July 1 for the United States. He will sail on the transport Maeda for Nagasaki, and after spending two weeks there will embark on the transport Sheridan for San Francisco.

The United States Philippines commission today began the consideration of the code of civil procedure. The American lawyers argued against the provision making Spanish the court language.

Blacks in Peril.

SHREVEPORT, La., June 14.—This city and its vicinity have been in a state of feverish excitement and unrest since yesterday, when John Gray Foster, a prominent planter, was shot and killed by Prince Edwards, a negro employed on the Foster plantation, five miles east of this city. Armed posers of white men have been scouring the country for miles around in an attempt to capture Edwards. A dozen or more negroes are under arrest in Kennebec's store, and what fate tonight may have in store for them is uncertain. Foster was widely known and very popular. He was a brother-in-law of Governor McMillan of Tennessee and belonged to one of the oldest families in this state.

There had been bad feeling for some time past between the negroes and overseers on the Foster plantation and Foster was appealed to settle the differences. The planter started to see the negroes and upon reaching a negro cabin he was fired upon and killed.

MURDERER ALONE ESCAPES.

There were a dozen or more negroes in the cabin, and they broke and ran in all directions. The overseers were quickly joined by other men, and it was not long before all the negroes were arrested, except Prince Edwards, who did the shooting. Posers were quickly formed and started on a hunt for the negro, but as yet have made no further arrests.

Go to U. S. Today.

KANSAS CITY, June 14.—The case of Lulu Prince Kennedy will go to the jury tomorrow. The taking of testimony was finished this afternoon and arguments will begin tomorrow morning. Today the defense suffered a second setback when Judge Wofford ruled out a conversation with Kennedy before the killing, tending to corroborate evidence offered yesterday to prove that Kennedy admitted having ruined Lulu Prince.

## CROPS OF COUNTRY

### PRELIMINARY REPORT OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIAN.

Slight Decrease in Wheat—Falling off in Average of Over 6 Per Cent—Condition Fairly Good but Damaged in Some Localities—Review of English Crop.

WASHINGTON, June 11.—Preliminary reports of the spring wheat acreage indicate a reduction of about 1,200,000 acres, or 6.4 per cent. Of the twenty states reporting 10,000 acres or upwards in spring wheat, eight report an increase aggregating about 34,000 acres and twelve a decrease amounting to about 1,235,000. There is an increase in acreage of 10 per cent in New Mexico, 7 in Nevada, 4 in Arizona, 3 in Michigan, 2 in Montana and Utah and 1 per cent in Wyoming and Washington, while in Iowa there is a decrease of 13 per cent, Oregon 8, Kansas 7, Wisconsin and Minnesota 6, Illinois, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and California 5, Idaho 4, and Colorado 2 per cent. The average condition of spring wheat on June 1 was 92, as compared with 87.3 at the corresponding date last year. The averages of the principal states are: Oregon 95, California 94, Minnesota 93, Iowa and South Dakota 92, North Dakota 91, Wisconsin 89, Nebraska 88.

The average condition of the winter wheat declined during May 6.3 points, the condition on June 1 being 87.8, as against 94.1 May 1. In 1900 the condition was 82.7. The principal averages by states are: Maryland 100, Virginia 98, Pennsylvania 96, California 92, Ohio and Indiana 90, Tennessee 88, Kansas 87, Missouri, Illinois and Oklahoma 84, Michigan 83 and Texas 46. The low condition in Texas is due to drought and the ravages of the wheat plant louse; in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri the crop has been damaged by the Hessian fly and drought; in Michigan the Hessian fly has seriously injured the crop, and it has done considerable damage in portions of Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. The present averages of condition relate strictly to the crop still under cultivation June 1.

CROPS OF THE OLD COUNTRY.

LONDON, June 11.—The Mark Lane Express in its weekly crop review today says that owing to the deficiency in rain English hay inevitably will be considerably below the average and importers who are now complaining of the plethora of day food stuffs, such as oats and maize, will find a good sale for them long before this time next year.

Trying to end War.

BRUSSELS, June 11.—The Kienes Journal today prints a dispatch from The Hague saying that Queen Wilhelmina's recent visit here was meant to obtain Emperor William's consent to end the South African war, both the zwelbund and the dreibund being willing to do so, through The Hague arbitration court, and that the emperor consented and the court began work thereon. The dispatch has created a sensation here.

The Associated press has just obtained the following foreign office statement, which is authorized by Count von Bulow, the imperial chancellor:

"Neither Great Britain, France nor Russia ever approached Germany to participate in any action aiming at ending the South African war. Germany has all along distinguished between offering its good offices and intervention. To render its good offices would be possible if both parties to the war requested it, but it will be remembered that Great Britain only joined The Hague conference on condition that the Boer states were excluded. There is no doubt that Mr. Kruger, who is a serious statesman, came to Europe to obtain the good offices of several of the powers to end the war, but there is also no doubt that Great Britain does not want their good offices. At least, it is true that since the South African war began Great Britain has never, either verbally or in writing, confidentially or officially, broached such an idea. It is quite possible that the Boer side has now formally asked The Hague arbitration court to lend its aid to end the war somehow, and that the court has held a session regarding the matter, but that, of course, is entirely different from any serious steps to end the war."

Miles Names his Son-in-law.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 11.—The vacancies in the staff of Lieutenant General Miles, commanding the army caused by the death of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Michie and the transfer to the inspector general's department of Lieut. H. K. Bailey have been filled by the assignment of Lieut. Col. Samuel Reber to duty as military secretary and the assignment of Lieut. Col. M. P. Maus to duty as aide-de-camp.

Colonel Reber is General Miles' son-in-law.

Woman Causes a Tragedy.

NEWPORT, I., June 11.—James A. Hamilton, desiring to obtain proof against his wife in a divorce proceeding, took a witness and watched her house Saturday night, two miles north of this place.

At 2 a. m. Hamilton saw Robert Arey appear at a rear door of the house. An encounter followed. Hamilton was shot and killed and Arey then shot himself and died last night.

## NEBRASKA NOTES.

Stuart has a female brass band.

North Platte will soon have a new electric lighting plant.

Nuckolls county farmers will hold a race meet next fall.

One farmer in Cuming county has 200 acres planted in beets.

A Cushing man has invented a machine to harvest grasshoppers.

Gold-bearing sand is being shipped from Dundy county to a smelter at Denver.

Lightening struck the First Methodist church at Pierce and burned it to the ground.

Beatrice business men have organized a Commercial club and will look after the city's interests.

Burglars entered the postoffice at Benington the other night, blew open the safe and took all the stamps.

Three young bandits robbed a box car on the Burlington at Wymore and were sentenced to thirty days in the county jail.

W. W. Roberts at North Bend was kicked in the head by a vicious horse the other day and nearly killed. He will recover.

During a game of ball at Glencoe a player let the bat slip and it struck a spectator in the head, rendering him unconscious for hours.

Plans have been adopted by the directors of the new auditorium company, of Columbus for the construction of a \$20,000 opera house.

The Burlington railroad company has a gang of surveyors in the neighborhood of Oxford. They are running a line from there to Beaver City.

McCook is another Nebraska town that declares it will have the grandest blow-out on the Fourth of July that was ever turned out in the state.

Some of the feeders in the western part of the state are shipping their fat cattle to Denver, claiming they get better prices than they do at the South Omaha markets.

A crazy fellow at Norfolk was hit on the head by a ball bat and had his right mind restored. The practice is not recommended by the local doctors as being a sure cure.

Over 300 carloads of potatoes were sold and shipped out of Sheridan county last year. Farmers are just finding out that Sheridan county is adapted to potato raising.

Howell Reese, a farmer at Wisner, has just cut his first crop of alfalfa this year. The yield was three tons to the acre and from the same piece of ground last year he cut six crops.

Editor William H. Smith of the Independent-Democrat, at Seward, has taken unto himself a wife and now when he writes it "we," there are none to dispute his privilege.

A creamery at Tilden turned out 24,000 pounds of butter during the month of May. The biggest run of the season was made one day last week, when 2,476 pounds were churned.

The new automobile lines between Niobrara and Verdigris and Niobrara and Running Water will soon be in operation. This will connect the terminus of the Elkhorn with the Milwaukee road.

Franklin claims to be doing more building this spring than any other town in the state. Among the improvements is a \$7,000 school house that is nearly completed. Several brick blocks are being erected.

During the heavy rainstorm last week lightning struck the wire fence in the Mid lex pasture, killing seven head of horses and three mules, which were scattered along the fence for three-quarters of a mile.—Wood River Interests.

By a recent decision of the supreme court the county seat of Knox county is to be moved from Niobrara to the geographical center of the county. The supreme court was called upon to decide a dispute over the legality of a recent county seat voting contest.

Weather Prophet Hicks says that when we pass out of June there will be a dryness throughout the state that will make the farmers feel sick. But thanks be to the almighty order of things, Ira Hicks seldom hits the nail on the head—especially in Nebraska.

A few old settlers here who have resided here since the fall of man still insist that from certain signs and omens, revealed only to the elect, that this is to be the crop year. The ordinary mortal only hopes their predictions will prove true.—McCook Tribune.

A delegation of the voters of Boelus visited the commissioners of Howard county and presented a petition for a bridge across the Loup, to be used instead of the one belonging to the Union Pacific for which \$700 a year is paid.

The large St. John's Catholic Church of Prague was recently dedicated by Father Vleck, the resident priest, and Bishop Boncompagni of Lincoln. Several other priests were present. Four bands and a large number of Catholic societies in uniform from adjoining counties attended. St. John's is free from debt.

Walt Goldie of the Wayne Democrat was worked for a shirt by a tramp printer. It is not stated how the printer found out that Goldie had two shirts and we understand that the state press association will call upon him at the next meeting to explain by what right he possessed two garments at "one and the same time." The tramp printer is exonerated.

A company with \$30,000 capital has been organized at Beatrice to manufacture brick.