

MANY DEAD IN IOWA MINE.

Twenty-One Lost Creek Workmen Killed By Dust Explosion.

Disaster Occurs with Large Force of Miners at Work, Flames Threaten Destruction of Entire Plant.

Oskaloosa, Ia., Jan. 28.—Twenty-one killed and eight others seriously injured by an explosion in the Lost Creek coal mine here. The dead were all badly burned and mangled, many of them beyond recognition, except for their clothing. Those who escaped instant death were severely injured and some who were taken out alive died soon afterward, or are in a serious condition. The bodies of the dead men were recovered from the mine. The injured, all of whom are frightfully cut, bruised and burned, are under the care of surgeons in a temporary hospital equipped near the mine.

GEYSER OF DEBRIS.

The Lost Creek mine is ten miles southeast of Oskaloosa and three miles north of Eddyville. The explosion occurred at the noon hour and was what is known as a dust explosion. The miners had just fired their usual noon shots, one of which proved to be a fizzle, the powder flame igniting the gas and causing the explosion. Smoke and debris were blown out of the mine in a column 200 feet high. A part of the top works was torn away and the fans and cages wrecked. This made the work of rescue very slow, and it was 3 o'clock before volunteer parties dared to venture into the east entry, where the explosion occurred.

The men of the rescue party fought their way into the mine, where a shocking sight met their gaze. The dead and injured were terribly burned and mutilated, some of them almost beyond recognition. Beyond where the bodies lay the fire was burning fiercely and for a time it was feared that the workings would be wholly destroyed and the bodies incinerated. Finally, however, the flames were subdued, but not until several of the rescue party had succumbed to the fumes. The bodies were then collected and carried to the top of the shaft. At the time of the explosion there were more than 100 men in the mine, but all except those of the east entry escaped with only slight injury.

SCENES AT THE SHAFT.

It was nearly 6 o'clock when the last of the dead was taken out and the scenes of anguish among the families of the victims were most pitiful. Nearly all the men were married and leave families in poor circumstances. The mine is owned by the Lost Creek Fuel company of this city and has been in operation about one year. Charles E. and Frank Lofland, H. L. Spencer and Jap Timbrell of Oskaloosa, Ia., are the principal stockholders. One hundred and twenty-five men were employed by the mine at the time of the explosion. Forty of these were in the west entry, and they escaped practically uninjured. Sixty were in the east entry, where the explosion occurred.

The explosion wrecked the hoisting cages so that it was nearly 2 o'clock before entrance to any part of the mine could be gained. Willing hands among the crowds that gathered put forth heroic efforts to reach the unfortunate men entombed beyond the east entry. Again and again they were driven back by the terrible gas and many of the rescuers were overcome. Heartrending appeals of the wives, children and mothers of the sixty men imprisoned nerved the living on to a duty that seemed beyond the range of human endurance. Every possible means of rescue that ingenuity could devise was tried, but it was after 3 o'clock before it was possible to get into the east entry. By 3:30 o'clock eight bodies had been found, their identity being generally at first unknown. At 4 o'clock all hope for those left in the mine had been abandoned. The fans, which were badly damaged by the explosion, were working again, but as several doors had been blown shut the gas did not clear readily.

As fast as the rescuers could venture in, they forced their way on, but only to find dead bodies at every step. All of the dead had been removed by 6 o'clock and taken to the company's store, which was turned into an improvised morgue. Some of the corpses were identified only by the clothing worn by the men. The scenes about the shaft and at the company's store beggar description. Physicians summoned to the scene from Oskaloosa and Eddyville arrived at 3:30 o'clock and rendered what assistance was possible. The injured men were looked after and their wounds dressed.

The total property damage will be about \$10,000.

The postoffice at Grand Junction, Colo., was robbed of the contents of a registered mail pouch from the east, the contents of which is unknown, and \$120 in money and stamps.

Police Raid the Bowery.

New York, Jan. 28.—A raid of unusual proportions was made by nearly 100 policemen on the Bowery. Several notorious resorts were closed and thirty-two prisoners were locked up. The large number of policemen on the scene prevented any outbreak or difficulty in getting the prisoners to the police station. The raids foreshadow the doom of the Bowery, for they marked the preliminary step in the wholesale cleaning up of that somewhat famous thoroughfare.

CHICAGO GREET'S ADMIRAL SCHLEY.

Chicago, Jan. 28.—Rear Admiral W. S. Schley thrice declared that he had no intention of entering politics. His remarks were calculated to set at rest for all time the political ambitions which some of his admirers have entertained for him. He said no office, however high, would tempt him to jeopardize the love which the people of this country have expressed for him. The day for the admiral was a round of receptions, at each of which he expressed his gratitude for tokens of esteem and approbation. The demonstrations reached their climax in the banquet given in his honor by the Hamilton club, in the banquet hall of the Auditorium. Approximately 650 guests were present.

EVERY WORD IS CHEERED.

Admiral Schley arose amid applause and said:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Hamilton Club: What I desire particularly to say is that I thank you most sincerely for the welcome that you have accorded to me. The glad tribute which I met on arrival at your depot and in passing through your streets was such a tribute of confidence and esteem that it has touched my heart sincerely. (Applause.)

"If in my long career of forty years I have done anything that is worthy of your approval, then my satisfaction is complete. (Applause.)

"I wanted only to say that I am simply a sailor and that I have served you in storm and in calm, in sunshine and in bad weather, from pole to pole and from sun to sun. The only motive of action has always been, 'My country and my people.' (Applause.)

"I desire to say, most emphatically, that I have no desire to be other than a sailor. I have no aspiration for any civil office, however high it may be. (Applause.) My one ambition has been to serve you faithfully, loyally, devotedly (applause), and if I have succeeded in doing that the measure of my ambition is full and my only other ambition is that I may retain for the rest of my years that I may be vouchsafed for me your love, your esteem and your respect. (Cheers.) I would not care to jeopardize that by seeking or accepting any office where I should be condemned to follow always, rather than to remain in the one profession that I have chosen, where there are occasionally opportunities to lead. Applause."

THE GESSION TREATY IS SIGNED.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 28.—The treaty of cession of the Danish West Indies islands from Denmark to the United States was signed at the state department by Secretary Hay and Constantine Brun, the Danish minister. The treaty will be submitted to the senate for ratification immediately.

Following the invariable rule in such cases the state department officials decline to make public any of the details of the treaty so that it is not possible to state positively the price to be paid, though this is believed to be in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000.

It is learned also that Denmark has abandoned the position it was inclined to occupy toward the conservation of the political rights of the inhabitants of the island and gives the United States a free hand to deal with them without pledge of American citizenship or of free trade privileges.

It is assumed that the status of the Danish West Indian islands, political and commercially, should the treaty be ratified, will be similar to that of Porto Rico. Having gained these points in the negotiations, the state department officials believe that the treaty is certain to receive the approval of the United States senate.

The new treaty is peculiar in that it will require action not only by the senate and the Danish Rigsdag, but by the United States house of representatives as well, since it will be necessary for the house to supply the appropriation to defray the expense of purchase.

ABOUT NEBRASKA IRRIGATION ACT.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 28.—Additional briefs, containing new arguments and a response to the interrogatories of the court, were filed in behalf of the Crawford company in the case brought by Leroy Hall in Dawes county. The action involves the constitutionality of the Nebraska irrigation act and has been pending in the supreme court for several years. Leroy Hall owns a mill on the White river and is seeking to restrain the Crawford Irrigating company from appropriating the waters of that stream for irrigating purposes.

In his petition to the court, Leroy Hall contended that so much of the act as sought to confer upon the state board of irrigation the exercise of judicial functions, was unconstitutional, alleging that the legislature copied the act from the irrigation act of the state of Wyoming, which was adopted in that state under a constitution which authorized such legislation, while the constitution of Nebraska does not authorize or permit such legislation in so far as the adjudication of the rights to the use of water are concerned. Each party diverting water from the White river or its tributaries, or using it or claiming a right to divert or use it, was made a defendant in the action. The purpose of the bill was to quiet the plaintiff's title to the use of the water which he sought to take from the river.

Cleveland Is After Ducks.

Georgetown, S. C., Jan. 28.—Former President Grover Cleveland, with a party of friends, among whom are Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, Colonel E. C. Benedict, General Anson G. McCook, Captain P. B. Lambertson and Herman May, have arrived here. After a breakfast they boarded the United States ship launch Water Lily and left for Ford's Point, on the Lower Santee river, the shooting preserves of General E. P. Alexander, whose guests the party will be while here.

MR. HILL ON THE STAND.

Great Northern Magnate Undergoes Rigid Examination.

Harriman and Hill Will Both Be Questioned by Interstate Officials on "Associate Management."

Chicago, Jan. 28.—James J. Hill, president of the Northern Securities company and president of the Great Northern Railway company, testified for three and one-quarter hours before the interstate commerce commission here. In answer to questions tending to show the effect of the community of interest plan on railroads, the veteran railroader declared that competition does not lower rates, but on the contrary he believed that it advanced them. He declared that in the northwest, where the Great Northern and Northern Pacific have been at Peace, where one road has agreed with the other on rates and maintained the agreement, rates were lower than in any other part of the country.

In regard to the purchase of the Burlington by the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern, Mr. Hill declared that the purchase was a matter of necessity and was not due to a movement in line with the trust idea.

He testified to the formation of the Northern Securities company, and in doing so gave a reason far simpler than has been conjectured.

ORIGIN OF SECURITIES CO.

"There are some men, some very old men, interested in the management of the Great Northern," said he. "Two of the men are over 80 and several over 70 years. They wanted to form a close corporation into which they could confide their interests with the assurance that the road would be managed along the lines which have made it a success. It was to have taken over one-third of the stock of the road. The plan seemed to be a good one, and it was then it was proposed to let all the stockholders in—not alone the few holders of the one-third, but all of them. The plan met with approval, and then it broadened into the idea of taking in the Northern Pacific also. The roads had worked in harmony for twenty years, and the change in the holder of the securities would make no difference. It can make no difference and will make no difference."

HILL TALKS VIGOROUSLY.

Mr. Hill talked vigorously and earnestly. At the close of the session, when Chairman Knapp offered to allow Mr. Hill to leave for New York, if the latter felt that the staying in Chicago would inconvenience him seriously, Mr. Hill declared that his time belonged to the commission and that he desired in every way to aid them to the extent of his ability. Chairman Knapp then said that Mr. Hill would again be called to the stand.

It is the expressed purpose of the commission to discover, if possible, what changes, if any, have been created between the general public and the railroads by reason of the "associate management" of the latter. The commissioners desire to find out if the carrying out of the community of interests idea has affected the rate situation in a way contrary to law, or, as is claimed, if it is likely to effect to stability and non-discrimination of and in rates for which the commission has long battled.

Messrs. Hill and Harriman both reached Chicago during the morning and Mr. Hill, accompanied by Mr. Grover, his attorney, came at once before the commission.

Darius Miller, first vice president and traffic manager of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and former traffic manager of the Great Northern, was the first witness. In answer to questions by Mr. Day, attorney for the commission, Mr. Miller stated that the Burlington was absolutely independent in its operations and in the making of rates.

"Have you received instructions from either Mr. Hill or Mr. Harriman in regard to making rates?" Mr. Day asked.

"I have received none," the witness answered.

Commissioner Prouty asked the witness to what extent the Northern Pacific and Great Northern were competitors, and Mr. Miller put the competitive tariff at about 25 per cent. He declared that the Burlington was not a competitor of the Great Northern. He said the two companies had made frequent agreements to maintain rates, but said he knew of no penalty ever having been imposed for violation of agreement.

Condition on the Isthmus.

Colon, Colombia, Jan. 28.—The situation at both ends of the Isthmus is unchanged. The General Pinzon has arrived here from Savanilla with 600 troops. By a recent decree issued at Barranquilla, department of Bolivar, Jose Muto, a prominent Italian of that place, has been expelled from the country for taking an active part in aiding the liberal cause.

Morgan Against Panama.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 28.—Senator Morgan, chairman of the committee on interoceanic canals, has prepared a report, which he has sent to every member of the committee, relative to the canal situation, since the offer of the Panama company to sell its property for \$40,000,000 was made. The report takes the ground that the Panama company cannot give the United States a good and sufficient title, and also criticizes the whole matter as intended to delay canal legislation.

ARE PLEADING FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 28.—When the foreign affairs committee of the house resumed its hearing on the subject of the re-enactment of the law prohibiting the coming into this country of Chinese, it was informed that if it had not been understood fully by the people of the Pacific coast in the last national congress that Chinese would be excluded by a republican administration and by a republican congress, California's electoral vote would have been cast for Mr. Bryan.

This statement was made by E. J. Livernash, assistant manager of the San Francisco, Cal., Examiner. He appeared before the committee in support of the Kahn bill for the exclusion of the Chinese, and declared that for the course of his statement he had a part in preparing.

In the course of his argument Mr. Livernash particularly supported the section of the proposed act which prohibits the coming of Chinese into this country from the Philippines or other insular possessions of the country.

He referred to the flood of petitions which have been poured upon congress in favor of a more liberal treatment of the Chinese, which it appeared in congress to listen to such petitions would be simply to assist in the exploitation of the Philippine islands by Europeans and cause us to lose sight of the commercial future of the islands as an American possession.

BIG COAL FIELDS SOON TO MERGE.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 28.—John F. Bays of Sullivan, the purchasing agent of the giant combine that is about to take control of the bituminous mines of Indiana and Illinois, declares that the organization of the two fields and their merger will be a success. The answer of the underwriters who are now in New York going over the options will be returned early next week.

Mr. Bays will then receive definite information as to whether the financiers are to continue with the deal. While Mr. Bays does not know what the combine will be capitalized at he says that the options in the two fields cover 800 mines in Illinois and 200 in Indiana, and call for a total investment of \$75,000,000. The delay in the negotiations, according to Mr. Bays, has been due to the inability of the Illinois managers of the combine to get their options into negotiable condition.

CAPTIVITY WILL SOON BE AT AN END.

Sofia, Jan. 28.—The semi-official organ, Bulgaria, announces that the delegates bearing the ransom of Miss Stone, the captive American missionary, have arrived at Jumaya and that Miss Stone and her companion, Mme. Tsilka, will be released within twenty-four hours after the money is paid.

Vienna, Jan. 28.—The Politische Correspondenz, a highly reputable paper, publishes a dispatch from Constantinople declaring that the porte has received secret reports charging Miss Stone of connivance with the Macedonian committee in allowing herself to remain a prisoner in order to increase the ransom for her release demanded by the brigands, the bulk of which will go to the committee. The dispatch further says that Miss Stone is at present living in a Bulgarian village in the disguise of a peasant.

THE SHIPPERS FAVOR THE MERGER.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 28.—A petition has been signed by grain men, lumbermen and merchants and shippers of Minneapolis, to be presented to Governor Van Sant, asking that the fight against the so-called merger of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington railroads be discontinued.

The petitioners state that it is their belief that the proposed arrangement for the control of the systems by means of the Northern Securities company will be more beneficial to shippers than are existing conditions. They want stability of rates, they say, and believe that the Northern Securities company will secure this for them. Not only will the shippers of the Twin Cities be benefited by the stability of rates, but all classes of shippers throughout the northwestern states will be similarly affected, they say.

No Peace Terms Pending.

London, Jan. 28.—A. J. Balfour, the government leader, made a comprehensive denial in the house of commons today of stories of negotiations of peace with South Africa. He declared that since the negotiations between Lord Kitchener and General Botha no proposal having in view the termination of war had been received from anyone professing to have authority of the Boer leaders to make proposals, and that no discussions looking to peace were now proceeding.

Shot Down Indefinitely.

Washington, Ind., Jan. 28.—At 5 p. m. last Saturday every department of the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern shops except the roundhouse closed down indefinitely, by order of General Superintendent Rawns, who has been here trying to effect a settlement with the striking shopmen. Superintendent Rawns said the company could not afford to operate the shops while a strike was in progress. The strikers are opposed to making any concessions.

FREE HAND FOR WAR.

British Government Dictates Policy to Session of Parliament.

Resuming of Control in Cape Colony Postponed, Monster Army to Subjugate "Annexed" Republics.

London, Jan. 28.—The British government is to have a free hand for its war policy at this session of parliament, just as it had at the last. The prospect of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman leading a united opposition on anti-Jingo lines has been shattered by the developments of the debate on the war amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne. That amendment, halting and self-contradictory in terms, conciliated the center section of the liberal party, but failed to conciliate the moving spirits of liberal-imperialism or the anti-war wings. So the government is left master of the parliamentary situation. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman can do nothing positive without being deserted or attacked by one or the other of the dissatisfied forces. The opposition has been drawn already and even its bark is silenced.

The ministerialists, except the few who have been in South Africa and appreciate the situation there, are remorselessly grinding the Boers under the British heel. Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's diplomatic pretenses of magnanimity to the Boers were received by his followers in sullen silence, while every reference to rigorous measures was cheered with an enthusiasm proportionate to its ruthlessness. The practical acquiescence of the civilized world in a continuation of this war of conquest and extermination gives the British government unfettered liberty to pursue it to any end it chooses, and that opportunity to be fully availed of.

POSSIBLE LOSS OF COUNTRY.

When a man of international reputation like the Right Hon. James Bryce predicts the "probable loss of South Africa to Britain," it may be realized how seriously the carrying out of the British policy is regarded by responsible statesmen. Mr. Bryce was asked to participate in a movement to raise money here to endow a chair of history in a South African college. He wrote in reply: "It seems almost a mockery in the fruitful state of affairs in South Africa, with martial law everywhere, interest in education paralyzed, the people unable to move from place to place, an intensity of passion aroused which threatens bitterness for generations to come and the probable loss of South Africa to Britain, to go on the platform with smooth generalities about history, a history which has not saved us from repeating the blunders of 1775, and the dulcet notes of peace when there is no peace."

W. H. Lecky, M. P., the eminent historian, whose only indication of his view on the war has been his explanation of an approval of an arbitration petition, replied with thinly veiled irony to the same petition: "It shows no small courage to start such a scheme amid all the present troubles in South Africa. I sincerely hope it may find support among the many rich men in London who have made their fortunes in South Africa."

TROUBLE OVER ILLINOIS COAL FIELDS.

Carbondale, Ill., Jan. 28.—A most serious condition has just been found to exist in the attempt to place the Illinois coal field under control of the English corporation which now controls the interests in Indiana, West Virginia and Ohio. The Illinois Central railroad has carried in the past 27 per cent of the coal of the state and through its allied interests, has carried over 50 per cent of the output.

About ten days ago a demand was made for some agreement that its carrying revenue in the future would not be hampered by the eliminating of competition. To this only an evasive agreement was proposed, whereupon the roads refused to deal longer with the J. P. Morgan interests and suggested that the Harriman people would be acceptable as negotiators. The present condition, therefore, means that the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad, which is controlled by the Morgan syndicate, may endeavor to enlarge its coal carrying at the expense of other coal roads of the state. The present contest may delay the plans of the combine for several months, unless the railroad interests of the state are amply protected in their revenues.

Sad Ending of Long Journey.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 28.—Governor William H. Taft's arrival at Cincinnati, which is expected to occur early Monday morning, will be saddened by a death which occurred here today. Mrs. Harriet Collins Herron, wife of Attorney John W. Herron, formerly United States district attorney, and mother of Mrs. Taft, died suddenly today from heart disease. A reception which had been arranged by the bar association for Governor Taft for Monday afternoon has been abandoned.

THE TORRENS SYSTEM FOR IOWA.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 28.—The most important bill yet introduced into the legislature was put on the calendar by Representative W. V. Hawk of Jasper county. It provides for the establishment of the Torrens system of land title registration in Iowa, but is optional in its provisions. No owner of real estate is required to register his title, but any who so desire may do so. It creates no new salaries or offices and imposes no additional expense on the taxpayer except such as will be required to furnish the necessary books and blanks. County recorders are made registrars of titles and two or more persons in each county are to be appointed in each as examiners of titles. These examiners are to be paid from the fees for examination. Application is to be made for registration to the district court in such manner as to show the owner's right and title to the land and all claims and charges of other persons against it. An abstract of title is also to accompany the application. Notices are given and proceedings had in about the same manner as in actions to quiet title. The court may refer the case to an examiner of titles for investigation, but is not bound by his report. On the rendering of a decree of registration, which decree shall declare the order and priorities of all charges and claims against the land, the registrar will record the title with all such charges noted in a book called the "Register of Titles," and issue to the owner an exact duplicate.

After registration all dealings with the land of whatever character must be noted on the certificate, which will at all times show on one page the exact condition of the title. For the purpose of indemnifying any person who may have been wronged by making the title indefeasible, the owner on registration is required to pay one-tenth of 1 per cent of the value of the land for the creation of an indemnifying fund. This fund, until required to be used for such purpose, is to be loaned as in case of the school fund. The title after a time limited is indefeasible and a purchaser is not required to inquire as to anything further back than the certificate in the register. Mr. Hawk will press the bill vigorously.

SHERIFF HOLDS A TRIAL FOR TAX.

Wellington, Kan., Jan. 28.—C. C. Shawyer, sheriff of Sumner county, held a freight train on the Kansas holding, for several hours on a tax warrant. The train was run onto a siding at Caldwell and the depots at South Haven, Guelph and Caldwell (Southwestern railroad), a Santa Fe were attached.

For several years the road had been delinquent in its taxes, but the sheriff, anticipating an injunction suit, has withheld action until now. When the road learned of the sheriff's intention to take action it secured an injunction from the probate judge preventing the sheriff from stopping the train which carries the mail west of Caldwell. Failure to make a \$5,000 bond prevented the circuit clerk from issuing the summons on the injunction. Late in the day the bond was filed and the train was released. The road threatens to arrest the sheriff for stopping a train carrying mail.

SECRETARY GAGE IS IN DEMAND.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 29.—A representative of the Bankers' Trust company of St. Louis called on Secretary Gage and intimated to the secretary that the company would like to make him a proposition to accept a position at the head of the company. Mr. Gage informed his visitor that when he turned over his office to his successor he would locate either in Chicago or New York, that he could not entertain a proposition from any other source. It is well known among Secretary Gage's intimate friends that, while the New York offer is a very tempting one, his inclination is very strongly in favor of accepting an offer from a leading Chicago trust company and the probabilities are that after taking a rest of a couple of months in Florida he will make his permanent home in Chicago.

STEEL TRUST GOBBLES UP PLANT.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 28.—In the election of former Judge Elbert H. Gary as chairman of the board of directors of the Allis-Chalmers company, the United States Steel corporation is supposed by some to have gobbled up that concern. It has a capital of \$25,000,000 and the chairman of the executive is William J. Chalmers.

The old firm of Fraser & Chalmers and the E. P. Allis company of Milwaukee joined interests some time ago, but since Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the trust, has completed the organization of the companies and found time to absorb other concerns, his eye has fallen upon the machinery companies. Now it is reported the trust will go farther and build ships.

It is understood Mr. Chalmers will continue to direct the business of the Allis-Chalmers company, while Judge Gary will govern the finances.

Mine in Good Condition.

Oskaloosa, Ia., Jan. 28.—An inquest was held this afternoon over the remains of the twenty-one miners killed in the dust explosion at the Lost Creek coal mine. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that the men came to their death as a result of an explosion caused by a shot fired by a miner named Andy Pash. The mine was examined by a state inspector, who said the mine was in as good condition as any mine in the state. The miners are being buried at the expense of the Lost Creek Coal