

The Valentine Democrat

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MINE OWNERS SPLIT

ROBBINS TAKES LEAD IN FAVOR OF WAGE INCREASE.

Hotly Assailed by Others—Miners Listen Silently to Conflict of Employers—Pittsburgh Declares the Country Will Not Permit a Strike.

The deadlock between the coal operators and miners of the central competitive and southwestern district continued throughout the meetings of the joint scale committees of the joint conferences at Indianapolis, Ind., Friday, and when the meetings adjourned late in the afternoon no agreement had been reached. Both committees will meet again.

The discussion in the scale committee in the central competitive district was confined entirely to arguments among the operators on the committee, and radical differences of views were heatedly expressed by them. The miners were, for the most part, silent auditors.

An effort was made to secure from President Mitchell, of the mine workers, an expression as to whether he considered the Ryan resolution in effect. This resolution was adopted by the former joint conference in January and binds the miners not to sign in any district until an agreement shall have been reached in every district. Mr. Mitchell declined to commit himself.

F. L. Robbins, of the western Pennsylvania operators, was the target Friday for several vigorous attacks on his position in favor of paying the scale of 1903, which would mean an advance of 5.55 per cent in wages in the district and would comply with the demands of the miners. One of the most heated of these was made by J. B. Zerbe, of Cleveland, who spoke for the Ohio operators.

Mr. Robbins stated on the floor that he did not propose to be dictated to by the operators of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. He said his position was fair and just to all interests, and the Pittsburg Coal Company, which he represented, was willing to pay the advance in wages asked. He said he was also willing to pay the advance at his own mines in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, and he had received notice from an Illinois coal company having an output of 1,000,000 tons annually that it had instructed its representatives to vote with him.

Mr. Robbins said the country would not permit a general strike on the causes shown. He turned to President Mitchell, of the Mine Workers, and said he did not believe the officials of the miners would dare to refuse to allow the miners to work where the demands were met.

INSURANCE MEN ARE GUILTY.

Committed Larceny in Authorizing Campaign Contributions.

A New York special says: That the officers of the life insurance companies who contributed a portion of the campaign funds to political campaign committees committed larceny in the court of general sessions Friday. He held larceny was committed by the officers who authorized such contributions and charged the jury to investigate as to the responsibility for such crime.

This opinion is directly opposite to one on the same subject which was submitted to O'Sullivan by District Attorney Jerome several days ago.

Gen. Thayer is at Rest.

The body of Maj. Gen. John M. Thayer was Friday removed from the capitol at Lincoln, Neb., where it had rested in state for twenty-four hours, to the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal church, and the funeral services, participated in by all the military organizations of the state, were there conducted.

Fire at Denver.

Fire originating from spontaneous combustion in the starch bins of the Western Candy Company's plant in the wholesale district of Denver, Colo., caused damage to the building and stock of four manufacturing concerns estimated at \$200,000.

Bank Cashier Sentenced.

At St. Charles, Mo., Anton F. Mispagel, former cashier of the St. Charles Savings Bank, who has been on trial for two weeks on the charge of embezzlement, was Friday found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Sioux City Live Stock Market.

Friday's quotations on the Sioux City live stock market follow: Butcher steers, \$4.25@5.10. Top hogs, \$6.25

Eleven Bodies Recovered.

At 10 o'clock Friday it was stated the dead in the Century mine at Fairmont, W. Va., numbered eleven. Ten miners are still unaccounted for. The majority of the dead and missing are foreigners. The work of rescue is going on slowly. The men were killed by an explosion of gas.

\$6,000 for an Orchid.

A record price, \$6,000, was paid at London at an auction room for a prize orchid from a collection of H. T. Pitt,

DIE IN COAL SHAFT.

Many Miners Killed by Explosion in West Virginia.

A Fairmont, W. Va., dispatch says: Ten men are known to be dead, twenty-five injured and from twenty-five to seventy-five missing and believed to be dead as the result of an explosion of gas in the shaft of the Century Coal Company at Century, a small mining town situated fifty miles south of Fairmont, on the Bellington and Buckingham branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The explosion took place at 4:30 Thursday afternoon, but owing to the telephone wires being put out of commission by high winds, details are lacking, and the names of the victims, six of whom are known to be foreigners, were not secured at a late hour Thursday night.

The Century mine, which is owned by Shaw Bros., of Baltimore, Md., is one of the largest independent operators in northern West Virginia. Over 250 men are employed daily in the shaft, and had the explosion been an hour earlier the loss of life would have been appalling. As it was, there were but a few remaining in the shaft, the main body of the miners having quit work for the day.

The giant fan which furnishes air for the shaft was partially wrecked by the force of the explosion, but was repaired immediately, and within an hour of the accident Superintendent James Ward had a relief party in the mine. The first trip brought out ten men, five dead and five badly burned. They were found in the main heading near the bottom of the shaft. The living could give no details of the explosion, saying that they were on their way to the surface when the explosion took place behind them.

A second expedition immediately went down and explored the main heading, which was found to be unharmed by the explosion except that the brattices were blown out. Four more bodies were found in this heading, and twenty injured men who were making their way toward the bottom of the shaft were brought to the surface by the rescuers.

Immediately following the explosion the officials began a house to house canvass to ascertain the number of men to be found on the surface. This resulted in 160 miners being found who had come out previously to the explosion. It is believed that there are many more outside who have not yet been accounted for. If this is not true there are still seventy-five men in the mine with little hope of their being alive.

WIND CAUSES IOWA WRECK.

Freight Train Unable to Make Scheduled Time.

The Illinois Central westbound limited for Omaha with double header engines, forty minutes late, running a mile a minute, struck a freight train at Duncombe, Ia., at an early hour Thursday morning.

Both engine crews on the passenger train jumped. Fireman Walter Cutting, of the first engine, was instantly killed, and both the engineers sustained sprained ankles and knees and were badly bruised. Cutting's neck was broken.

Five cars of the freight train were telescoped and the front engine of the passenger was reduced to scrap iron.

The fact that the train was a double header saved the passengers, all the coaches remaining on the track.

UNCLE SAM MAY APPEAL.

Beef Trust Decision at Chicago Scraps Blow for Government.

A Washington special says: President Roosevelt held an extended conference Thursday with Attorney General Moody, Secretary Taft and Jas. R. Garfield concerning the adverse decision rendered in Chicago Wednesday by Judge Humphrey in the beef packers' case.

No details of the conference are obtainable, but it is certain Moody proposes to look carefully into the law bearing upon the matter with the view of ascertaining whether an appeal from the decision of Judge Humphrey by the government will lie.

More Police for Havana.

At Havana special police discovered and seized a quantity of arms, ammunition and dynamite, which was sent by express from the interior of the island to Havana and carried to a private house. Three arrests have been made in connection with the seizure. The authorities declare there is no cause for apprehension, but the police reserve has been increased.

Smoking Car for Women.

The first smoking car ever reserved for women in Great Britain left the London, England, terminus Wednesday for Liverpool. The windows bore a label reading, "Ladies' smoking." The innovation attests the spread of smoking among English women.

Coachman is Found Guilty.

At Los Angeles, Cal., Morris Buck was convicted of murder in the first degree for killing Mrs. Charles A. Canfield, wife of the millionaire oil operator. Buck was a former coachman of the Canfield family.

Stork Visits Rockefeller.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Rockefeller, Jr., at New York Wednesday night. He is heir presumptive to the greatest fortune in the world, for he will be christened John D. Rockefeller III.

Patching Up Cabiner.

A Paris special says: President Fallieres consulted Jean Sarrien, former minister of justice, Friday afternoon and offered him the task of forming a cabinet.

PACKERS ARE FREED.

Immunity for Individuals but Not for Corporations.

A Chicago special says: All of the packers who were indicted by the federal grand jury last summer upon charges of being in conspiracy in restraint of trade and commerce were Wednesday granted immunity from criminal prosecution under the indictments found against the corporations, of which some of the indicted individuals are members and others are employees, are to stand.

A decision to the above effect was handed down Wednesday afternoon by Judge J. Otis Humphrey in the district court.

Arguments in the case were concluded shortly after 3 o'clock. Judge Humphrey soon commenced the delivery of his opinion. It was oral, and the judge spoke for nearly an hour before giving the slightest indication of what the ultimate decision would be.

He reviewed the case at length in all its bearings, cited all the essential facts which had been brought out, and concluded as follows:

"Under the law in this case the immunity pleas filed by the defendants will be sustained as to the individuals, and denied as to the corporations, the artificial persons, and the jury will find in favor of the government as far as the corporations are concerned, and against the government as far as the individuals are concerned."

During the rendition of the decision the court room was crowded by the defendants and numerous spectators. Edward Morris and Edward Swift were in court and both smiled happily when the decision was announced.

J. Ogden Armour was not present, but some of the prominent men in the employ of Armour & Co., who were named in the indictments, were there and their joy was great. When the judge announced that the indictments would not lie against them, they crowded together and commenced to shake hands in mutual congratulations. The attorneys for the defense were also highly pleased.

NO WAR ON HOP POOL.

British Premier Refuses to Get Excited Over American Trust.

A London dispatch of the 21st says that in the house of commons Premier Campbell-Bannerman said he declined to embark in a crusade against "hop pools" in America or elsewhere. A member asked for information about an alleged pool formed by a hop exporter of Wheatland, Cal., and the employment of Chinese coolies by Oregon hop growers and expressed the hope that the British government would take steps to prevent the pool from destroying the British hop industry. The premier declined to take any action in the matter.

OFFER MINERS AN ADVANCE.

Question Will Be Submitted to the 51,000 French Strikers.

The miners' congress at Lens, France, Wednesday rejected the company's proffer of an increase of 10 per cent in wages. The action of the congress, however, will be submitted to the referendum of the 51,000 strikers.

The congress has issued a manifesto calling on the miners to remain calm, and not to listen to revolutionary agitators, urging that thus they will best serve their own interests and render more likely an improvement in their condition.

Quiet in Chattanooga.

At the Roos-Mehan iron foundry in Chattanooga Wednesday, where white overseers are employed with negro molders and helpers, a white man named Rogers shot and wounded a negro. The cause of the shooting is thought to be the outcropping of troubles between the races, resulting from the lynching of Negro Johnson.

"Boss" Cox Summoned.

George B. Cox, former leader of the Republicans in Hamilton County, O., was one of the number of bank presidents summoned to appear before the grand jury in Cincinnati Wednesday to testify in regard to the payment to the county treasurer of interest, or "gratuities," for the deposit of public moneys.

A Chicago Tragedy.

Nicholas J. Dickhoff, aged 23, of Cincinnati, employed as a cook in a Chicago boarding house, was shot and killed early Monday by Jacob W. Young, while in the room of Mrs. Mildred Amann at the Grace Hotel. Young, who is 18 years old; Mrs. Amann and Mrs. Mabel Grief, all of Cincinnati, were arrested.

Two Days in Snowdrift.

An Illinois Central train marooned in the drifts near Argenta, twelve miles from Decatur, Ill., has been released and reached Champaign two days late. Neighboring farmers supplied the passengers with food.

Railroad to Seize Coal.

A Saginaw, Mich., dispatch says: The Pere Marquette Railroad has issued an order confiscating for its own use all of the coal that is mined in the Saginaw valley between now and April 1.

No Mutiny at Sebastopol.

The sensational reports current at St. Petersburg Tuesday night to the effect that the execution of former Lieut. Schmidt had been followed by an extensive mutiny of sailors at Sebastopol turns out to be unfounded.

Nineteen Die in Storm.

Nineteen persons perished in a terrific norther which swept the coast of Vera Cruz Tuesday. Two of the storm victims were pleasure seekers from Mexico City.

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEWS OF THE WEEK IN A CONDENSED FORM.

No Trace of Banker Hagerty—Holt County Supervisors Increase the Reward to \$1,000—Whereabouts of Aged Cashier is Still a Mystery.

Patrick Hagerty, the fugitive cashier of the defunct Elkhorn Valley Bank at O'Neill, will be worth \$1,000 to his captor. The reward was increased from \$500 to \$1,000 by the supervisors of Holt County at a meeting held in O'Neill last week.

Hagerty is the man charged with the greatest part of defrauding which left scores of widows and orphans in the lurch for a total of \$50,000 a year ago last Thanksgiving. The day after Thanksgiving came without opening the doors of the bank, and investigation proved that the president, Bernard McGreevy, and the cashier, Patrick Hagerty, had both fled. McGreevy was captured at Phoenix, Ariz., and brought back to stand trial, but his trial has not yet come up, though he was captured a year ago. Hagerty is a man 50 years of age, with snow white hair and beard. Nothing has been heard of him since he fled, though detectives are said to have scoured the country for him. The county supervisors believe that the reward of \$1,000 will have a tendency to find the man.

The board of supervisors of Holt County instructed the county attorney, in connection with the bank defaulting case, to start legal action in order to recover funds from County Treasurer D. J. Cronin which are alleged to have been placed in this bank by that official in excess of the amount allowed by law to be deposited in any bank. This amount, it is alleged, is about \$1,500. The county board refused to make settlement with Mr. Cronin, who is retiring, and ordered that the books be examined.

The board further, in connection with bank affairs, instructed the county attorney to begin action to undo an alleged combination of Holt County banks for the paying of but 2 per cent interest on county funds. It is alleged that 3 per cent has been paid heretofore, but that now all the banks refuse to pay more than 2 per cent.

SECOND TRIAL FOR IRWIN.

Nebraskan Again Before Jury for Killing Ceans.

The trial of Myron Irwin, charged with the murder of Bob Ceans a year ago near Badger, near the Boyd-Holt County line, is being held at O'Neill and will continue during the next ten days.

This is the second trial, Irwin before having been found guilty of murder in the second degree. The killing is alleged to have resulted from a quarrel that started at Butte, March 30, 1905. It is alleged that Irwin stabbed Ceans twice after they had left town, and after they had crossed the Niobrara River into Holt County, Ceans died a half hour after he was stabbed. One wound was in the heart and the other in the stomach.

NEBRASKA CITY ELECTIONS.

Temperance the Main Issue in Most of the Towns.

Municipal elections in Nebraska will be held on April 2. In a number of the towns of the state the fight is fierce. Omaha is convulsed. Lincoln has no municipal campaign this year. The temperance question is the main issue, although the gambling question is considered in many places. At Crete this year a double ticket was named. The Democrats and the Republicans met in joint caucus and two men were named for each office. The one receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected in each instance.

DR. HUNT KILLED BY TRAIN.

Well Known Nebraska Physician Loses His Life at O'Neill.

Dr. S. F. Hunt, of Stuart, was instantly killed in the railroad yards at O'Neill at 4:40 o'clock Friday afternoon while attempting to board freight train No. 63. The doctor was at O'Neill as a witness in the Irwin murder trial, and went to the depot to take the freight for his home at Stuart.

The train had started when he reached the depot and he made a grab for the front end of the caboose, slipped on the icy ground and fell under the wheels, the rear trucks passing over his body just below the arms, instantly crushing his life out.

Violated Liquor Laws.

As a result of the indictments recently found by the grand jury at Albion fines to the amount of \$2,500 have been assessed and either paid or secured. These are all for violations of the state liquor law, and four parties indicted, with an aggregate of about thirty counts have not yet been tried. This does not include several parties against whom indictments have been found who have disappeared since the convening of the grand jury. Not less than \$3,000 will be recovered by way of penalties.

Oldest Woman in State in Want.

Is Mrs. Julia Massey, the oldest woman in Nebraska, a soldier's widow or did she have a son who served in the civil war? She is now confined in the hospital ward of the Lincoln insane asylum. She is not insane, the authorities sending her to the asylum in order that she might have food and shelter.

Two Men Hurt in Runaway.

Herman Brandenburg and August Marquardt, two young farmers, were both injured more or less severely in a runaway accident near Norfolk on Monday. Their carriage was overturned and they were dragged over the very rough roads.

Another Land Fraud Arrest.

Thomas M. Huntington, a banker, was arrested at Gordon Thursday by United States Marshal Proctor on a charge of subornation of perjury in connection with alleged land frauds.

GEN. JOHN M. THAYER IS DEAD.

Grand Old Man of Nebraska Passes Away.

Gen. John M. Thayer, civil war veteran, former United States senator and governor of Nebraska, died at Lincoln shortly before 8 o'clock Monday night after an illness which became serious only last Saturday. For a man of his age—86 years—Gen. Thayer was unusually robust and active until a month ago.

He was United States senator from Nebraska for the incomplete four-year term from 1867 to 1871, territorial governor of Wyoming in 1875 and governor of Nebraska for four years, beginning in 1887. He gained renown as an Indian fighter in the territorial days of the state.

One of the first settlers of the state and its metropolis, a leading factor in repressing Indian ravages, a distinguished officer in the war of the rebellion, the first United States senator from Nebraska, twice its governor and the honored occupant of various official positions leading up to those which crowned his eventful career, John M. Thayer occupied a place in the history of Nebraska and in the affections of its people which no other man ever did or ever can claim.

SHOTS WIFE AND PARENTS.

Nebraska Woman is Fatally Wounded by Husband.

A special received Thursday night says that August Miller, after having shot his wife and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hohnke, on their farm home between Winslow and Stanton just inside the Stanton County line, was captured later in the evening in Thurston County.

Mrs. Miller died of her wounds. Mr. Hohnke, Miller's father-in-law, may recover in spite of the three wounds in his arms and legs, while his wife merely lost two fingers when she grabbed the revolver to protect her husband. After the wounded father-in-law seized a shotgun and drew blood in the assaultant's neck, Miller ran a mile to the home of a neighbor named Miller, borrowed a horse and rode away. The shooting began in the barn at 7 o'clock Thursday morning, where Miller found Hohnke. He began firing and followed Hohnke into the house.

Miller lived on a corner of Hohnke's farm and had had trouble with the old folks. His wife had gone back to her parents. He declared Wednesday he would get his wife or blood.

NORTH LOUP SUFFERS.

Nearly All of Business District is Destroyed by Fire.

A disastrous fire broke out at North Loup Tuesday morning at 7:30 on the second floor of Babcock & Gowen's department store and entirely consumed the building and most of the dry goods stock. The fire then spread to the postoffice and to H. E. Davis' furniture store, burning both buildings to the ground. The contents of both buildings were removed and the damage to this is slight. The three buildings which were burned were frame buildings and in two hours were entirely destroyed.

The town is without fire protection, and it was only by the heroic work of a large number of men that the balance of the business portion was saved. The stock of E. Johnson sustained slight damage and practically all the plate glass windows with a radius of a block were broken by the heat. The cause of the fire is not known, but the supposition is that it caught from a stovepipe.

The total damage is estimated at about \$35,000, partially covered by insurance.

A FIRE AT RANDOLPH.

Blaze in the Business District Causes a Loss of \$20,000.

A Randolph special says: A fire which broke out in the Pill Bros' general merchandise store early Wednesday morning caused a loss of about \$18,000. The stock of Pill Bros. was a total loss, with one-half to two-thirds of it covered by insurance. The building is owned by N. W. Trent, and his loss is \$2,000, covered by insurance. The firemen did excellent work in fighting the flames and prevented their spread to adjoining buildings.

Farmer Found Dead in Street.

The lifeless body of Wm. Schlevelbein, a prominent German farmer of Gosper County, living ten miles northwest of Arapahoe, was discovered Tuesday morning lying on the Main street. At the coroner's inquest but little was elicited other than that the deceased had been drinking some, but not more than usual for him, but in some manner, after untying his team to go home, was thrown from his wagon and either so stunned or injured as to cause his death by freezing or the injuries.

Craig Divine Buried.

Rev. Mr. Motter, of Craig, pastor of the Christian church there and at Wakefield, who started the fire in his cook stove Monday morning with gasoline and was burned so badly that he died Tuesday morning at 6 o'clock, was buried at Craig Wednesday afternoon.

Coldest of the Winter.

A Lincoln special says: The minimum temperature of the year was recorded Friday night, the mercury dropping to 2 degrees below zero. Temperatures of 7, 12 and 12 were reported from northwest Nebraska. The average low temperature for the state was 7 degrees below zero, the coldest of the winter.

Omaha's Mayor Dead.

Frank E. Moores, Mayor of Omaha, died at his home Friday afternoon. He had been ill for several months with throat trouble and a general breaking down. Mayor Moores was 66 years of age.

Slot Machines Seized.

County Attorney William Ely, of Ainsworth, has seized all of the slot machines in Long Pine and will later prosecute the saloon men and other merchants who had them in their places of business.



John Dorgan, of the Whitebreast

Coal Company Saturday morning told the members of the state board of purchase and supplies that coal would shortly be a scarce commodity and suggested that if the board did not have sufficient on hand at the various state institutions, it had better get busy at once and do some more buying. The contract to furnish the institutions with coal for the present quarter expires April 1 and Mr. Dorgan told the board that after that date coal might be hard to get at any price. The board, acting upon the suggestion, promptly ordered the state superintendents to prepare for an emergency and hustle in all the coal their bins would hold, and if it could not be secured at the present contract price to pay a little more for it.

During the last two weeks four convicts who have been out on parole voluntarily returned to the penitentiary. Of this number three returned during the last two days. The men gave as a reason for returning they liked the three meals a day and the regular hours, though combined with confinement, to the strenuous work shoveling onto a man working for his board and a little extra money. Each of the convicts, however, brought back a neat little sum of money and deposited it with the warden. In the meantime, however, those who have escaped from the institution have shown no disposition to return, and Warden Beemer attributes this to the fact that all men are constituted differently.

Attorney General Brown Saturday afternoon filed with the supreme court a brief in support of his motion for a rehearing in the case wherein Gov. Mickey, as chairman of the state board of equalization, sought by mandamus to compel the county clerk of Douglas County to include the value of the reserve fund of the Woodmen of the World and the Woodmen Circle in the assessment of the property of the order. The court held mandamus was not the proper procedure, though it did not pass upon the question of the assessment of the reserve fund. The legal department contends mandamus was the proper procedure by which to compel an officer to do his duty.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company is in the supreme court to have reversed one of the largest personal damage verdicts ever rendered against a railroad in Nebraska, \$27,500. The plaintiff in the lower court was John T. Connolly and in his first suit, which was filed in 1902 in the Douglas County district court, named as defendants the Union Pacific and Elmer E. Fair, an engineer employed by the railroad. Connolly, who was a stockman in the western part of the state, had brought some cattle to South Omaha and while walking in the yards was run down by a freight train and both legs were cut off below the knees.

Auditor Searle has received a letter from a party in Douglas County who had sent in a voucher for a gray wolf bounty which the auditor had turned down. The letter desired to know of the auditor by what authority he went behind the voucher, and as the slayer of the wolf had satisfied the county clerk he demanded to know what business it was of the auditor. In the meantime the auditor has made arrangements with a local tannery to get hold of a gray wolf scalp for comparison with those alleged gray wolf scalps likely to be sent in.

State Superintendent McBrien has sent out circular letters instructing the teachers to file their state certificates for registration with the various county superintendents of the state. This action is in conformity with the law enacted by the last legislature providing unless such certificates were registered prior to June 1 they should become void. Under the old law it was provided that only certain certificates should be registered, while others were exempt; while the new law provides all state certificates should be registered. The registration fee is \$1.00.

State Treasurer Peter Mortensen is not a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. Mr. Mortensen made this announcement Thursday afternoon. Mr. Mortensen concluded not to enter the race after the question of his eligibility was raised, and after he had secured Judge Strode and Attorney Clements to look into the matter and see if there was any method by which the case could be passed upon by the supreme court before the date of the Republican state convention. The lawyers filed an opinion with the treasurer saying they knew of no way the case could be taken up.

The state board of assessment Thursday afternoon adopted rules for the guidance of county assessors and incidentally instructed them to assess the reserve funds of fraternal companies. The rules adopted by the board answer the questions raised by the county assessors at their recent meeting held in Lincoln.

The long drawn out and bitterly fought litigation over the right of the state to enforce its reciprocal insurance tax law was ended Thursday morning by the payment of \$2,786 by the Insurance Company of North America, the amount of the tax it owed, together with the amount of the court costs.

The supreme court has been asked to express itself unequivocally on the legality of the Nebraska anti-trust laws, or, in other words, explain the opinion it handed down in the "grain case" some weeks ago. The attorneys for the state, Attorney General Brown, John J. Sullivan and Joffers & Howell make this request in a brief filed in the case. The attorneys hold the opinion was not definite in its decision, and further, the syllabus and the body of the opinion were at variance.