

COSTLY FIRE IN ARSENAL

Blaze Destroys Big Storehouse at Rock Island.

WAST STORE OF MUNITIONS BURN
Flames Lick Up Nearly Two Million Dollars' Worth of Military Equipment—Firemen From Nearby Cities Aid Arsenal Brigade.

Rock Island, Ill., Feb. 12.—Shop "A," the principal issue storehouse at the Rock Island arsenal, was destroyed last night by fire, together with its contents, which included cavalry and infantry equipments of every description, and 1,000,000 rounds of Krag-Jorgensen smokeless ammunition. The contents were worth \$1,500,000. The building was a massive structure, three stories in height, and was erected twenty years ago at a cost of \$400,000.

The flames in the great government institution endangered property worth many times the amount lost. The fire was under control by 1 o'clock this morning, at which hour Major Blunt, the commandant, estimated the loss at \$1,900,000. The Rock Island arsenal is the largest in the United States, comprising ten immense buildings and covering thirty acres. It represents an expenditure of \$20,000,000.

Thousands of people stood on the river bluffs and watched the fire. When the flames got beyond the control of the arsenal brigade, an appeal was sent to Davenport, Rock Island, Moline and Des Moines. Two companies of firemen from each of the nearby cities responded, but by the time they arrived the storehouse was a mass of flame and owing to the amount of ammunition in the burning building, it was considered dangerous to life to permit them to enter the building. Their efforts were directed toward preventing the destruction of other buildings of the plant. For several hours, and even after the warehouse was a mass of glowing embers, there was a continued rattle of exploding rifle ammunition.

The force of the Rock Island arsenal has been working under rush orders for several weeks. Fifteen hundred men have been employed and the officers in charge have been advertising daily for more machinists to carry out the orders from the war department. While the factory capacity of the arsenal is left practically intact, a great hole has been made in the government stores, and it is feared the work on hand will be seriously delayed. The new small arms plant, just equipped at a cost of several million dollars, escaped the flames. This plant is now nearly in readiness to begin turning out the new model rifles.

TWO DIE IN MINE BLAZE

Fire in Spruce Shaft at Eveleth, Minn., Imperils a Dozen Lives. Duluth, Minn., Feb. 12.—Two lives were lost and ten men had narrow escapes as a result of a fire in No. 3 shaft at the Spruce mine, owned by the United States Steel corporation, at Eveleth, Minn., yesterday. The names of the dead are: John O'Brien and William Matthews.

The fire was caused by the explosion of a lantern which was left near the edge of the shaft on the second level, 150 feet below the surface. Ninety feet deeper in the mine twelve men were at work. There was no escape for them except by way of No. 3, in which the fire was raging. The efforts of the firemen were directed, with good effect, on the blazing woodwork which lined the shaft. There was ventilation for the firemen, but none for the twelve men in the drift ninety feet below them. The air soon became freighted with steam, gas and smoke and the candles carried by the imprisoned men were of little avail. They groped to the point where the drift joins the No. 1 shaft and peered upward, and when they could no longer see feet above them, began climbing the ladder.

Ten of the men reached the second level. Two, O'Brien and Matthews, were overcome when about forty feet from the point where safety was assured and fell back to their death. When the news spread over Eveleth that the shaft at the Spruce was on fire, the women rushed to the mine and those who had relatives below were in an agony of fear.

Salt Lake Has Big Fire. Salt Lake, Feb. 12.—Fire that started in the Atlas block, a large five-story office building, located in the heart of the business section, at 2:30 a. m., completely gutted that building, spread to the Central block, leaving that structure a wreck, and did other damage that will bring the total loss close to the half-million mark, with insurance of about half that amount.

Fatal Fire at Tampa. Tampa, Fla., Feb. 12.—A man named Miller lost his life in a fire here yesterday which destroyed a block of warehouses on Whiting street, causing a loss estimated at \$35,000. One fireman was severely injured. On account of the fire department being on a strike the flames were difficult to control.

Ohio Hotel Damaged. Coshocton, O., Feb. 12.—The Park hotel was damaged \$35,000 by fire. Forty guests had narrow escapes and all got out in night clothes. Louis Reichler of Detroit and T. B. Cook of Cleveland were seriously hurt in going down improvised ladders of bed clothing.

TELLS OF INSURANCE FRAUDS.

Italians Organize Clever Swindle on Eastern Companies.

New York, Feb. 12.—An exposure of the methods of the conspirators in the recently discovered Italian life insurance frauds was made yesterday by the confession of one of the men concerned. It appears that the frauds have been in operation for ten years, during which time the insurance companies have been defrauded of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In one instance, a company paid out \$20,000 on one fraudulent risk. The head of the conspiracy, it is said, was Bartolomeo Cirino, who was recently arrested and released under \$6,000 bail. Cirino is said to have disappeared and his bond will be ordered forfeited. The usual plan of operations was to make an application for insurance in the name of some person in a practically dying condition, a healthy substitute being presented for medical examination. In cases where the original "risk" lingered too long to satisfy the conspirators, a substitute body was used on which to collect the amount of the policy.

DIAMOND IN A METEORITE.

Peculiar Formation on Exhibition at New York Museum.

New York, Feb. 12.—In the private collection of George Frederick Kunz, now on exhibition at the museum of natural history, is a diamond imbedded in the center of a forty-pound meteorite. The diamond is of the purest and hardest carbon, but dark in color. With several other small particles of diamond dust it rests in a small, jagged area of less pure carbon, about the size of a large marble. The area is surrounded by solid meteoric iron from four to five inches thick.

Soldiers Plan Revenge.

Sturgis, S. D., Feb. 12.—Sheriff Brown was informed that a number of soldiers of the Thirteenth cavalry, at Fort Meade, had organized to come up here during the night with carbines and make trouble. The sheriff went to the post and told the commander of the report. The commander investigated, finding about forty carbines missing, and sent out a patrol to bring in all soldiers on leave. Some of the carbines are said to have been found in bushes near the town. The plot was brought about by recent shooting affairs, two soldiers having been shot here by citizens on Tuesday.

Gas Explosion in Mine.

Tamaqua, Pa., Feb. 12.—A heavy explosion of gas occurred in the No. 10 mine of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company yesterday. Frank Boyle, a miner, was probably fatally burned and his helper, Joseph Carr, seriously injured. The gas was ignited by a lamp which Boyle carried. His clothes ignited and in order to escape being cremated, he jumped down a forty-foot trench, in the bottom of which there was about two feet of water.

Union Bank Robbers Located.

Salem, Mo., Feb. 12.—Two men, supposed to be William Rudolph and Fred Lewis, fugitives wanted on the charge of having robbed the Union (Mo.) bank and killed Detective Schumacher, have been located in the Mount Springs cave, nine miles north of here. One man is said to have his head bandaged. Lewis was wounded in the head by a posse two weeks ago. Sheriff Jack and a deputy have gone to investigate.

Wounds Woman, Then Kills Himself.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 12.—Oscar Dillon, a widower, shot Mrs. Hattie Dunn, one of his tenants, yesterday. One ball entered her head and one struck her in the breast. Dillon supposed he had killed the woman and turned the pistol to his own head, killing himself instantly. The woman is mortally wounded. Dillon was jealous of Mrs. Dunn.

Eight Miners Injured.

Wilkesbarre, Feb. 12.—A serious explosion of gas occurred yesterday at No. 11 colliery at Plymouth, four miles from this city. Eight men were burned and injured, two of them seriously. A naked lamp, carried by one of the men in a chamber of the mine, is supposed to have caused the explosion. Timbers were hurled in every direction.

Found With Heads Crushed.

Philadelphia, Feb. 12.—Mrs. George Nelk and her daughter, Miss Minnie Nelk, were found last night at their home in Germantown, with their heads crushed. Mrs. Nelk died at a hospital and the daughter is at the point of death. George Nelk, a son of the dead woman, is accused of the crime and the police are searching for him.

Fireman Hurt in a Wreck.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—The southbound Green Bay express on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad collided with a freight engine at Winnetka yesterday, seriously injuring E. P. Fleming, fireman, and slightly injuring Engineer Robinson and an unknown man. The passengers were badly shaken up, but escaped injury.

Fireman Killed in Wreck.

Plattsburg, Mo., Feb. 12.—A passenger train on the Quincy, Omaha and Kansas City road was derailed near here yesterday, causing the death of brakeman Fred Eaton of Milan, Mo. Engineer Skimerhorn was badly scalded and baggage man Henry Dean's arms were broken. No passengers were hurt.

Four Perish in Blizzard.

St. John, N. B., Feb. 12.—Four more deaths, due to the recent blizzard, are reported. The first train for six days reached the city this afternoon. Railway traffic is still delayed by heavy snow drifts.

GERMANY BLOCKS CASE

Tells Bowen \$340,000 Must Be Paid Before Arbitration.

IGNORES SIGNED AGREEMENT.

Great Britain and Italy Renounce Responsibility for Their Allies' Action. Agree to Stand by All Arrangements Made on Their Behalf.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Germany has ignored her previous agreement made with Mr. Bowen by Count von Quadt, her charge d'affaires, and has insisted on a cash payment of \$340,000, or a lien on the customs receipts of one of the Venezuelan ports until this is paid. This information was conveyed to Mr. Bowen last night by Baron Speck von Sternburg.

Mr. Bowen immediately informed the German minister that he refused to yield the receipts of any port prior to The Hague decision, saying that would be preferential treatment. As to the cash payment of \$340,000 demanded, Mr. Bowen left that matter to the German minister to determine, saying to him that if Germany can afford to make a concession that it does not stand by agreements signed by its duly accredited diplomats, he, Mr. Bowen, is willing that she shall receive, on the day the protocol is signed, the total amount asked in the original ultimatum. This response has been cabled to the German foreign office.

It is stated that the action of Germany in asking for \$340,000, instead of contenting herself with £5,500, is due to a misunderstanding of certain steps in the negotiations which had been passed on by Count Quadt before the arrival of Baron Sternburg. Mr. Bowen holds that Germany is bound by the act of its representative.

Last Friday night a cablegram arrived from the Berlin foreign office, asking about the payment of the \$340,000. Mr. Bowen produced the signed agreement renouncing this demand. The matter since this time has been a subject of correspondence between the German foreign office and the German minister, the latter urging Germany not to press this matter. The foreign office refused to relinquish immediate possession of the \$340,000 mentioned, though pressed to do so by both Baron Sternburg and Count Quadt, who feel greatly embarrassed because of the previous understanding and the orders which they must execute.

Great Britain and Italy have renounced any responsibility for the action of Germany and have expressed their regret. Through their representatives here they have informed Mr. Bowen that they will stand by all agreements they have made with him and will not be influenced by the action of Germany. With the exception of the demand for an increased cash payment, the protocol of Germany, in all essential respects, will conform to that of Great Britain, but will be more concise. All three protocols will provide for the immediate return of all vessels seized by the blockading ships.

It is expected an answer will arrive here today from Germany, regarding the final representations made, and upon that answer the signing of the protocols probably will occur. As soon as they are signed, orders will be dispatched to the blockading ships for their immediate withdrawal from Venezuelan waters.

Mr. Bowen last night gave out a statement with reference to published statements that Venezuela was paying him for his service here. He said: "I absolutely refused to take any fee for my services as representative of Venezuela, but I agreed, as I cabled to the department of state from Venezuela and announced on the first day of my arrival here, to accept \$5,000 to defray my expenses. In the same way, if by chance I go to The Hague, I shall accept a reasonable amount for my expenses there. I see no reason why my expenses should not be paid, and I have a very good reason for not paying them myself, and that is I cannot afford to do so."

Turkey Resolved to Fight.

London, Feb. 12.—According to a dispatch from Philippopolis, published in the Standard this morning, the sultan of Turkey is absolutely resolved to fight rather than accept reforms calculated to diminish his authority in Macedonia. The Macedonians, however, says the correspondent, will not wait, and Turkey will almost inevitably be drawn into war with Bulgaria. Dispatches from Sofia say martial law will be declared in several locations. There are rumors of conflicts between the Turks and the revolutionists, the Turks losing many men. The revolutionists are reported to be gaining a number of recruits.

Makes a Dire Prediction.

New York, Feb. 12.—While presiding over services in connection with the semi-centennial celebration of St. Paul's Methodist church in Newark, N. J., Governor Franklin predicted in his address that unless in the near future greater harmony be restored between labor and capital the country will be plunged into a civil war more disastrous than any previously recorded in history.

Farmers Suffer Heavy Loss.

Evansville, Ind., Feb. 12.—The Ohio river is stationary. It will probably begin to fall today. The Wabash and White rivers are falling slowly. A special from Hazleton, Ind., says the White river has been higher than for years and that a great deal of corn has been lost. The loss to farmers along the Ohio river has been great.

HUMBERT FAMILY IN COURT.

Noted Prisoners Make First Appearance in Series of Charges.

Paris, Feb. 12.—The Humbert family made their first appearance in the criminal courts yesterday when the case of M. Cattani, the banker, was taken up in the ninth correctional chamber. There was great public interest manifested in the proceedings and the court room was packed with people.

Mme. Therese Humbert displayed her usual bravado and coolness. Her sister, Marie Daurignac, was apparently much unmoved, and the latter's brothers, Romain and Emile Daurignac, maintained an attitude of calm defiance.

The early stages of the trial did not produce any sensations. Mme. Humbert gave a long, rambling statement of her dealings with M. Cattani, and alleged that his demands for excessive interest and her borrowings from him amounted to about \$600,000. When M. Cattani was heard and repudiated the charge of usury, Mme. Humbert sprang from her seat and asked for the privilege of interrogating the banker, but the presiding magistrate repressed her.

RAILROAD TO BE PROSECUTED.

Action Under Lecey Law for Carrying Prairie Chickens Contrary to Law.

Sioux City, Feb. 12.—The attorney general of the United States has directed Deputy Tracey to proceed against the Great Northern railroad for hauling prairie chickens to Sioux City when under the ban. The action is to be brought under the provisions of the Lecey act. Two hundred and six chickens were brought from Montana and it is understood, were to be transferred to the Illinois Central. This road refused to take them and the Great Northern sold them to B. C. Potter, who was arrested and tried. The jury made a remarkable finding, that 206 chickens were only one, and fined Potter accordingly.

Steamer Banned From Southern Ports.

Mazatlan, Mex., Feb. 12.—There were three deaths from the plague yesterday. Captain Russell of the steamer Acapulco, which passed this port, complained bitterly of the conduct of the authorities of some of the Central American ports, which refused to allow his ship to touch at those ports. The captain said he had served a long quarantine and had made a thorough disinfection of his ship, besides he had received a clean bill of health from the officials of the Mexican ports. The ship is en route to San Francisco, returning with its cargo and all correspondence. The Pacific Mail company will institute suits for damages against some of the Central American ports.

Editor Garver Fatally Beaten.

St. Louis, Feb. 12.—Edward S. Garver, editor of the Grant City (Mo.) Times, is believed to be fatally injured, as the result of an assault alleged to have been committed upon him on a street of his home town yesterday by E. V. Stevens, a prominent Democratic politician. Editor Garver was a member of the Missouri commission to the Buffalo and Charleston expositions. The men differed on political matters during the campaign last fall and recently the personal feeling has been embittered.

St. Louis Gets Olympic Games.

St. Louis, Feb. 12.—"Everything settled. You have Olympic games," is the wording of a cablegram received from Michel La Grave, World's fair commissioner at Paris, by the Louisiana Purchase exposition officials. The meaning of the cablegram is that the Olympic games, which were originally intended to be held in Chicago in 1904, will be held in St. Louis during the World's fair, the international committee having now so decided.

Uneasiness at Vienna.

Vienna, Feb. 12.—The news that the Bulgarian government is contemplating a partial mobilization causes grave uneasiness here. It is still hoped that Austria and Russia by energetic action will prevent the danger assuming alarming proportions.

No More Witnesses to Hear.

Indianapolis, Feb. 12.—The trial of Dr. J. C. Alexander, in the grave robbing cases, is ended, as far as the admission of evidence is concerned. Mr. Ruckelshaus addressed the jury and presented the prosecution's side of the evidence in the case.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

A ferryboat crossing the Vistula river at Lemberg, Austria, sank and fifty peasants, who were aboard, perished.

The Audubon theater on St. Charles street, New Orleans, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night, causing a loss of \$55,000.

Ansegar college at Hutchinson, Minn., was destroyed by fire Wednesday, together with the library. Three hundred students lost all their belongings.

All the cotton mills of the Cocheo Manufacturing company at Dover, N. H., were shut down Wednesday owing to a strike of 250 spinner and carders to enforce pay for twenty minutes' overtime.

Rev. Thomas Perryman, president of the Creek house of kings, died in Kansas City, Wednesday, aged sixty-four years. Mr. Perryman was a full blooded Creek Indian and had been a leader in national affairs for thirty years.

ALASKAN TREATY RATIFIED

Senate Assents to Protocol in Executive Session.

NO DELAY IN SECURING ACTION.

Panama Canal Treaty and Cuban Reciprocity to Be Considered Today. Conference Report on Commerce Bill is Adopted.

Washington, Feb. 12.—In an executive session, which lasted only an hour and a half, yesterday the senate, in addition to confirming a large number of nominations, ratified the Alaskan boundary treaty and came near taking similar action on the commercial treaty with Greece, which was reported by Senator Cullom yesterday from the committee on foreign relations. The Greek treaty was read through by the clerk and then Senator Cullom asked that the resolution of ratification be acted on, but Senator Hoar (Mass.) objected. He said that he desired an opportunity to examine the provision in the treaty concerning consular trials. He explained that he had no objection to the general purpose of the treaty, but said as the provision was read it seemed to him to be loosely drawn and he wanted an opportunity to read it carefully before giving his assent to it. The principal purpose of the Greek treaty is the regulation of commerce between Greece and the United States. It contains full provision for the control of the consular service along the lines laid down in the recently negotiated Spanish treaty. There was no delay in securing action on the Alaskan treaty, and very little opposition to it was manifested.

NOW GOES TO PRESIDENT.

Department of Commerce Bill Needs Only His Signature.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Mr. Hanna yesterday called up the conference report on the department of commerce bill in the senate. It was agreed to without debate. The bill now goes to the president. Morgan, soon after the opening of the session, resumed his remarks on the statehood bill, but branched off on the subject of the proposed treaty with Colombia. He referred to the concordat of Pope Plus IX, which constituted a part of the organic law of Colombia, and said that the United States intended to put the heel of ignominious contempt upon it. He predicted a return of the hostilities between the old church party in Colombia and the liberal party. Mr. Dewey spoke in opposition to the statehood bill. He did not conclude his speech.

Office Building for Congress.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The house made fair progress yesterday with the sundry civil appropriation bill, covering 86 of the 150 pages of the bill. The amendments of which Cannon gave notice Tuesday for the completion of the east front of the capitol and the erection of an office building for members were adopted, points of order raised against them being overcome by the adoption of a special rule making them in order. By the terms of the amendments, \$500,000 is appropriated for work on the main building of the capitol and a limit of \$2,500,000 is fixed. For a site for a new office building, \$750,000 is appropriated. The cost of the building is to be \$3,100,000.

DEPOSITORS DEMAND MONEY.

Clamor for Their Cash From St. Louis Investment Companies. St. Louis, Feb. 12.—As the result of a suit of attachment served on the John J. Ryan company on Tuesday, a run was started by depositors on a number of co-operative turf investment companies here and a petition was filed in the United States court by creditors asking that E. F. Arnold & Co. be made to show why they should not be declared bankrupt. Mr. Arnold wired from Hot Springs, where he now is, that he was not bankrupt and would settle with his creditors and that they would lose nothing. The offices of E. J. Arnold & Co. were filled with frantic people yesterday, madly clamoring for their money.

Passenger Rates Demoralized.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—The rate situation in passenger business between Chicago and the Twin Cities is in the worst condition of years. The meetings which the lines have been holding every two weeks have utterly failed to secure harmony. It is thought the presidents may take hold and try to smooth matters out.

Senators by Direct Vote.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 12.—The senate yesterday adopted the Stewart resolution asking congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of amending the constitution so that United States senators may be elected by direct vote of the people.

Prince Given a Divorce.

Dresden, Feb. 12.—Crown Prince of Saxony was yesterday granted a divorce from the former Crown Princess Louise after several doctors had furnished expert testimony in the case.

Death of an Iowa Pioneer.

West Union, Ia., Feb. 12.—Phineas Sturgis, a pioneer and a well known politician, is dead at his home here, aged seventy-three. He formerly was a member of the state legislature.

Guatemala in a Turmoil.

Berlin, Feb. 12.—Advices received here from Guatemala announce that the entire republic has been declared in a state of siege.

SCORES MINERS' UNION.

Counsel for the Independent Operators Submits Argument.

Philadelphia, Feb. 12.—Counsel for the coal operators continue to arraign the miners' union in their arguments before the anthracite strike commission. The independent operators of the Lehigh, the Wyoming and the Lackawanna regions held the attention of the commissioners for the greater part of the day, the proceedings concluding with the presentation of the Reading company's argument by Simon P. Wolverson, the company's chief counsel.

In nearly every case the attorneys charged President Mitchell with responsibility for the alleged lawlessness in the coal regions during the strike and the union was characterized as an irresponsible organization, whose members were beyond the control of the leaders. Mr. Wolverson strongly urged the incorporation of the union and charged that it was unfit to control the anthracite industry, because boys are numbered among its members.

Samuel Dickson argued the case of the independent operators in the Lehigh region. He defended the attitude of the Markle company, claiming the firm was justified in the stand it took against its men when the strike was declared off, because it had not been a party to the correspondence resulting in the appointment of the commission.

Snowstorm in Utah.

Salt Lake, Feb. 12.—Over eight inches of snow fell in Salt Lake yesterday. This is the heaviest snowfall here in fourteen years. Street car traffic was demoralized, traffic being almost at a standstill. The storm extends over southern Idaho, western Wyoming and northern Utah, and trains on all roads are more or less delayed by the snow, which is reported drifting badly in some places.

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