

TELL THEIR WAGES

Miners Appear Before Commission with Stories of Poverty.

EARN LESS THAN FOUR DOLLARS WEEKLY

Slavonians Are Brought in to Take Work on Breakers.

COXE TRIES TO BREAK UP MEN'S UNION

Offers Local President Better Job to Leave Organization.

MAN WORKS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ON END

Should He Sleep on Duty Fans Would Stop, Gas Collect and Men and Mine Be Blown to Pieces.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 4.—At today's sessions of the commission practical miners told their story of conditions in the Hazleton coal fields.

The miners tried to show that the Cox and other companies violated the agreement, that the strikers should return to work and be given their old places where they had not already been filled.

The commission decided to invite the mine inspectors to appear before it, because the miners claim that workmen fear to mention dangerous or unhealthy places in the mines because the inspectors are usually accompanied by some representative of the company.

Rumors of possible negotiations looking to a settlement continue. Whatever is done will first be decided upon in New York, where those in authority are located.

The opinion is prevalent here and there, strongly, too, that the operators and the miners will agree on most points before the commission concludes its hearings.

Promises Not Kept. Andrew Matley, a Slavonian, who was employed at Cox's mine, said he was the first witness today. He was the president of his local union and was told by the company, he said, that if he quit the union he would be given a boss job. He refused and later was given such bad work that he gave up his job.

He said he was the means of bringing fourteen Slavonians to this country at the instance of a breaker boss at the Cox mine. They were promised \$1.10 a day, but received only 65 or 80 cents.

When the witness was asked by Darrow how many times he had seen the mine inspector in the mines, Commissioner Watkins asked the purpose of the question. Mr. Darrow said as a rule the mine inspector was accompanied by a company official and, therefore, a miner was afraid to make a complaint in the presence of his boss.

He maintained inspectors should be unaccompanied and their attention not diverted from bad places in the mines.

In consequence of this allegation all mine inspectors will be invited to testify regarding the point raised.

John G. Strenis, an Englishman, followed Matley. He said he averaged about \$300 a year and had worked in the mines for thirty years.

John Farari, an Austrian, formerly employed by the Cox company, said he was able to save only \$50 in seven years.

W. H. Dettrey was recalled in the afternoon. He presented correspondence between him and the Cox Co. with regard to 639 men who struck and were not given back their places. Some of these men were subsequently taken back.

He testified that the mine foreman read him a letter, a copy of which he fruitlessly tried to obtain, stating that the other men would not be taken back until after the strike commission made its award.

"Is against the men, none of the United Mine Workers will be taken back."

On cross-examination he said he did not know how many of the men mentioned were held for violating the law, but knew of sixteen having been dragged fifteen miles past justices of the peace, to Hazleton, where they had to appear before a justice whose sympathies were with the company.

Works Twenty-Four-Hour Day. Jackson Ansbach was the first foreman to appear before the commission. He said he received \$1.57 for a day of twelve hours and his assistant \$1.36. On every other Sunday, when he and his assistant shifted from day to night work, they were compelled to work twenty-four hours straight without relief.

This statement caused a buzz through the room and every commissioner straightened up and became much interested. "What was off to him, on that day every two weeks, this working six days a week and eight the next."

"Supposing you should fall asleep when you work in the long shift of twenty-four hours, what would happen?" asked Mr. Darrow.

"Well, if I slept long enough the fans would stop, the mines fill with gas, and if an explosion occurred the miners would be killed, that is all."

The Rev. James Hussak, rector of St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic church of Hazleton, and dean by appointment of the bishop of Lower Leuven, said he had lived in the coal regions practically all his life.

"The conditions in this region," he added, "are deplorable. The coal workers are barely able to exist. I say this without any coloring, knowing that I am under oath. I realize that what I say is going to the American people and I want to talk cautiously. I have been in their homes. They are not homes, but merely habitations, resting places. They are frugal, conservative, reasonable and God-fearing people. We have eight Catholic churches in Hazleton and they are crowded every Sunday with worshippers, and this is no doubt true of the churches whose faith is opposed to ours."

"Families cannot be kept together," he went on. "The boys are sent into the mines almost as soon as they are able to toddle about, and the girls to the mills in the small towns and drifts to large cities."

He related instances of poverty and said it took one man six years to pay off a funeral debt of \$200.

In reply to further questioning Father Hussak said he had examined fifty or sixty mine workers and found only three who were able to save money. One was a Scotchman, one an Austrian and the third inherited his. He examined the tax lists of Hazleton, and only eighty mine employees out of 1,723 assessed owned their own homes. He could not say whether they were clear of debt.

The commission adjourned.

SHAMROCK, Pa., Dec. 4.—The Ninth district executive board of United Mine Workers tonight officially announced that the district would not receive any more aid.

TUMULT IN THE REICHSTAG

Trouble is Caused by Failure to Recognize Member Who Has Right to Floor.

BERLIN, Dec. 4.—The Reichstag was in a state of wild tumult today for a few minutes over a slight misunderstanding as to who had the right to the floor, Herr Singer, socialist, had arranged with President von Ballestram for recognition at a certain juncture.

Meanwhile the president left the chair, after explaining to Vice President von Stollberg-Werngerode, who had the next right to the floor, but the vice president recognized Herr Spain, of the center party, Herr Singer started to mount the steps to the tribune and the vice president told him to sit down.

Herr Singer, in some surprise, stopped on the steps and Herr Spain took the tribune and began his speech, with Herr Singer loudly protesting, for which the vice president called him to order, saying his turn for recognition would come later.

The members of the Reichstag were by that time in such a state of passion and tension that they all sprang to their feet, the socialists shouting in support of Herr Singer and the members of the center and right parties supporting the vice president, who ordered Herr Singer to leave the house.

Herr Singer, however, defied him and as the police do not provide for the arrest or removal of recalcitrant members, the vice president was powerless, except to suspend the session for half an hour.

At the expiration of that time business was quietly resumed, with the reading of the reports of members of the tariff committee.

GERMANY IS NOT SATISFIED

Reply of Venezuela is Regarded as Only a Subterfuge to Gain More Time.

BERLIN, Dec. 4.—The note of President Castro of Venezuela, presented to the German minister at Caracas a week ago, is not satisfactory to the German government.

It is deemed inadequate and as being specially designed to gain further time. Its partial acceptance of the German demands was coupled with conditions that are unacceptable.

The exchange of views with the British foreign office has resulted in a decision to proceed with the joint action. An ultimatum will almost certainly be presented in a few days.

The phrasing of the note is the subject of the present correspondence between the respective governments, whose action will not await the arrival in the West Indian of the cruisers Arman, Niobe and Ariadne, as Germany already has an ample force there. The departure of these cruisers has been indefinitely postponed.

A seemingly inspired article in the Cologne Gazette today says: "Despite Germany's patience with Venezuela, all thought has been abandoned of a peaceful settlement," and that Venezuela has treated Germany in a manner almost insulting because Venezuela published official communications without Germany's consent, coupled with improper comments.

GREAT PREACHER IS MOURNED

Memorial and Funeral Services for Dr. Parker Are Held in London Temple.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—A memorial service for the late Dr. Parker was held in the City Temple this morning. It was an impressive demonstration. The temple was filled with flowers and crowded with personal friends of the deceased and representatives of a score of religious organizations.

The streets outside the building were filled with crowds who were unable to enter and who waited in the biting wind to see the coffin carried out for interment at Hampstead. The music included Dr. Parker's favorite hymn and Tenyson's "Crossing the Bar." Dr. Clifford and Dr. Robertson Nicoll officiated.

Dr. Nicoll, who preached the funeral sermon, said:

"The Christian church has mourned one of its greatest preachers and free churchmen, and his memory richly had been and how poor they have now become."

SHAMROCK NEARLY BURNED

Firemen Fight Fierce Flames for an Hour and Just Succeeded in Saving Challenger.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—Shamrock III had a narrow escape from being burned tonight in the wharf which did great damage to the fireman's shop and the wind blew in the direction of Shamrock's shed, which is only thirty yards distant, for an hour. A special force of men had hard work to save the challenger. Eventually the fire's shop was gutted, but the fire was got under control.

All the material parts of Shamrock III are safe, although the construction of the yacht will be delayed for some time.

ANARCHIST IS CLOSELY HELD

Man Who Intended to Kill King Alfonso Believed to Be Feigning Insanity.

MADRID, Dec. 4.—Perez Pulgar, the anarchist arrested recently at Oren, who said he intended to kill King Alfonso, is held in close confinement.

It is learned that in spite of his claim to be a citizen of Argentina he is a Spaniard 22 years old.

The police are searching for his accomplices and it is thought the investigation will result in unearthing an important plot. The officials believe that Pulgar is feigning insanity.

NOT WILLING TO ARBITRATE

Great Britain Does Not Think Sugar Question Proper One for The Hague Tribunal.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—Replying to a question today in the House of Commons on the subject of Russia's offer to submit the question of Russian sugar and all other goods to the arbitration of The Hague tribunal, Lord Cranborne, under foreign secretary, said the government had informed Russia it did not consider the question a proper one for arbitration, but that Great Britain was still ready to renounce the commercial treaty of 1859 if Russia so desired.

REED SUFFERS BAD RELAPSE

Condition of Former Speaker is Now Reported Critical.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—At 11:30 tonight the condition of ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed was reported critical. A few minutes before that Dr. Gardner, one of the attending physicians, handed the following bulletin to the press:

At 10 p. m. Mr. Reed's condition is as follows: Temperature, 102.4; pulse, 88; respiration, 24.

Mr. Reed suffered from some degree of uraemic coma during the afternoon, but his mind is again clear. This evening his apendicital symptoms are rapidly subsiding and his apendicitis is not an important factor in his condition.

W. C. GOODNOW, M. D. F. L. McDONALD, M. D. Dr. Gardner made two visits to his patient during the evening, leaving the first time at half past eight and Dr. Goodnow and McDonald remained at the hotel for nearly two hours, some of the time with Mr. Reed and the remainder of the time in consultation.

Dr. Gardner was not disposed to talk about the case or to add anything to the bulletin, saying it contained an exact statement of Mr. Reed's condition.

He did say, however, that Mr. Reed's condition was critical, but that it was better than at 5 o'clock this afternoon. In some respects Mr. Reed was better than last night and in some worse. He was better as far as the apendicital symptoms were concerned, but the uraemic features gave the case a graver aspect.

After issuing the bulletin the doctor went home for the night, leaving his assistant, Dr. Bishop, with Mr. Reed.

SEEK TO BUY A COMPETITOR

Chicago-Omaha Lines Make Active Effort to Secure Chicago Great Western.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—(Special Telegram.)—Wall street interests well informed in Chicago Great Western matters announced today that they are making an active effort to secure control of the Great Western property by other roads.

The extension to Omaha will be opened in the spring and the road will be a more important factor than ever in northwestern traffic. It is regarded as altogether probable that it will not be many months before it passes into the control of one of the big systems. It was thought the Northwestern was the system after the line, but this is authoritatively denied today by officials of the road and Wall street is looking elsewhere.

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—A. P. Stickney, president of the Chicago & Great Western, has issued a circular to stockholders requesting them to send him proxies for the special meeting on February 15. This meeting will vote on the proposition to increase the common stock from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

In his circular he says: "The company has arranged with the proprietors of the Mason City & Northern Railroad company to extend its lines to Omaha and Sioux City and to purchase and improve certain branch lines belonging to this company, together making a system of about 600 miles of road, which will be the main lines of the Chicago & Great Western at Oelwein, Ia., and at Hayfield, Minn."

COLD SNOW SWEEPS KANSAS

Zero Weather is Experienced, but Finds Cattlemen Amply Prepared.

SIoux CITY, Ia., Dec. 4.—Today was the coldest of the season, 9 degrees below zero.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 4.—Zero weather is reported from a number of localities in northern Kansas, but the sudden fall in temperature is believed to have caught but few cattlemen unprepared. In Kiowa county in the southwestern part of the state the supply of coal for general consumption is scanty.

LA CROSSE, Wis., Dec. 4.—La Crosse and vicinity experienced the coldest weather of the season this morning, when the mercury in the weather bureau thermometer dropped to the zero mark. Instruments about town showed a low of 10 below zero.

The weather bureau promises that the temperature will rise within twenty-four hours and that more snow will fall shortly.

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 4.—General rain, sleet and snow prevailed throughout the state today. This is the earliest snow known here in years. Business is practically at a standstill, telegraph wires are prostrated and railway traffic has been impeded.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 4.—Sleet and rain fell all morning here, but cleared away to Memphis. Telegraphic communication is crippled south and west of Memphis.

SUGAR PRICES ARE BOOSTED

Western Refining Company Adds Forty Cents on All Refined Goods.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 4.—The Western Sugar Refining company today sent out circulars to all the wholesale grocery houses in California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington, notifying them that until further notice the price of all grades of refined sugar would stand advanced 40c per 100 pounds.

All grades of refined sugar were advanced ten points in New York yesterday, an action which, apparently, caused the increase of prices here today.

Local dealers say they would not be surprised if the western company were to raise prices again in the near future, as the market is still 50 cents per 100 pounds less than the rates in New York, which is unusual.

RATE ON COAL IS INCREASING

Lake Freights Jump from Thirty Cents to One Dollar Per Ton.

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 4.—The Pittsburg Steamship company has just closed a contract to bring to the lake of Lake Superior this fall 100,000 tons of coal, mostly anthracite, the freight rate being \$1 a ton.

Coal has been carried up all the year at 30 cents a ton, but the western shortage and the urgency of western shippers led to this price.

All the twenty to twenty-five ships that bring up this coal will remain here for the winter, and all the coal will be delivered in the next fifteen days.

TROOP TRANSPORTS IN DANGER

Root Considers Giving Business to Seattle Line Instead of Government Ships.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—Secretary Root has called a meeting of the Quartermaster General Ludington and Colonel Fittington, in charge of the army transport service, with regard to the transportation of troops and supplies to the Philippines.

The lowest bid received was that of the Boston company, running between Seattle and Manila. It was below regular commercial rates.

The main question to be determined is whether the rates offered would justify the abandonment of the army transport service. Although no bid was received from San Francisco the business interests of that city are actively opposing the transfer of the business.

The officers of the quartermaster's department are said to oppose the discontinuance of the army transport service. Although Secretary Root has committed himself in favor of private lines, he is not yet prepared to act and has called for additional data as to the effect of the acceptance of the Boston company's bid.

BATES JOINS CANTREEN CRY

Quotes Figures Showing Loss of Discipline Following Abolition of Official Bars.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—General Bates, quartermaster general of the army, has written to Adjutant General Corbin in regard to the army canteen question as follows:

"The War department, in recommending the restoration of the canteen, claims that it will decrease fines and forfeitures by courts-martial on account of breaches of military discipline resulting from the use of intoxicants."

"This appears to be fully borne out by the records of the quartermaster's officers, which show that the number of courts-martial during the last year in which the canteen was in force on account of home duty was 1,000, while during the year in which it was abolished, there was collected by courts-martial from absentees 10,000 enlisted men on the same account \$62,125."

"The figures cited that the fines and forfeitures imposed upon and collected from the enlisted men of the army were vastly increased during the year subsequent to the abolition of the canteen, which is not due to any other cause than the effects of an uncontrolled sale of liquor, which is a serious military post, which traffic appears to seriously affect the discipline and morals of the army."

MINISTER TO JAPAN IS DEAD

Alfred Buck Taken Suddenly Ill While on Hunting Trip and Expires.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The Japanese minister called at the State department in haste today to communicate to Secretary Hay a cablegram he had received from the minister of foreign affairs at Tokio, dated today, stating that while Mr. Buck, the United States minister to Japan, was on a hunting trip this afternoon he was taken suddenly ill and expired.

The service of the deceased minister covered a critical and important chapter of Japanese history.

The State department will take the necessary steps to see that Mr. Buck's remains are brought to this country for interment, if his family so desire. Huntington Wilson, the secretary of legation, was designated as charge.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 4.—Hon. Alfred E. Buck was about 60 years of age and was a leader in republican politics in Georgia. In 1897 he was appointed by President McKinley as minister to Japan.

BAR BAD IMMIGRANTS OUT

Authorities Make Move to Stop Illegal Entry to Country at Land Frontiers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The commissioners of immigration who have been in conference with Commissioner General Sargent, concluded their work today.

It is understood the department now has specific information as to points on the Canadian and Mexican borders where immigrants have been crossing quite unmolested. Arrangements are therefore being made to close these runways and establish a more rigid inspection of the frontiers.

The immigration bill now pending in the senate was also discussed and several suggestions bearing principally on the administrative features will be made to the immigration commission, which meets on Monday.

SENATE DOES LITTLE WORK

Receives Bills, Petitions and Resolutions, Considers in Private and Adjourns.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The senate was in session today one hour and five minutes, most of which time was spent behind closed doors. After the reception of a number of bills and petitions and the adoption of a concurrent resolution, the president for the papers in the Plus fund case, Mr. Beveridge read the resolutions favoring the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one state.

The senate then went into executive session and at 1:50 adjourned until Monday.

KEPT BUSY SHAKING HANDS

President Receives Nurses and Sanitariums in Audience at White House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—President Roosevelt today received the members of the Spanish War Nurses' association, now in session. Nearly 100 paid their respects to the president, while he shook hands with and extended a pleasant personal greeting to each.

Later in the day Dr. Walter Weyman presented to the president about fifty delegates to the Pan-American Sanitary conference, now being held in Washington.

ASTRONOMER SEES NEW COMET

Washington Man Observes Celestial Traveler Discovered in France on Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The United States naval observatory reports that W. W. Dawidowitch last night observed the comet discovered by Giacobini at Nice on Tuesday.

The comet is nearly on a straight line joining Trocyon and Sirius and is about one-third of the distance from Trocyon to Sirius. It is moving northwest.

FAIRBURY IS TO THE FORE

Contest for Postmastership is Attracting a Large Amount of Attention.

PUBLIC BUILDING BILL FOR YANKTON

Some Talk that Combination May Be Made to Clear Up the Calendar of Bills When Site Has Been Purchased.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—(Special Telegram.)—While the fight over the Fairbury postoffice between Senator Dietrich and Congressman-elect Hinshaw has not reached any further than a simple disagreement stage as to the relative merits of the two candidates, Mr. Hinshaw, recognizing the power that a United States senator has, has seen not only Postmaster General Payne, but the fourth assistant postmaster general in behalf of his candidate, Lew Shelby. He has also gone to the president with his story, so that when the time comes to act upon Senator Dietrich's recommendation for the place there may be a thorough understanding of the circumstances.

Mr. Hinshaw claims the right of naming the postmaster at his home town, even though he is but congressman-elect. Senator Dietrich, on the other hand, is carrying out a pledge made to D. E. Thompson last year and has secured the nomination for the postmastership at Fairbury, and says that Mr. McCluskey will be appointed.

From an official of the Postoffice department today it was learned that the practice of electing postmasters heretofore been to recognize the right of congressmen-elect to make appointments in their several districts. Usually senators are only too glad to rid themselves of these appointments, but there has been no case but exactly similar presented to the Postoffice department as the situation over the Fairbury postoffice.

Equities Favor Hinshaw.

There are a great many equities in Mr. Hinshaw's favor, according to the official above mentioned. The fact that he desires to make the appointment at his home town and a town in which the senator does not live seems to be in his favor. That he has changed the composition of the district from democracy to republicanism is also regarded favorably by the department, and as he will be a full fledged congressman after March 4 the department is desirous of following its usual practice and recognize the right of a congressman-elect to make recommendations.

Of course, should Senator Dietrich decide to antagonize Mr. Shelby in case his name is sent to the senate for confirmation, Fairbury being a presidential office, it would go hard with Mr. Shelby, and should he make a personal fight against his confirmation it would be safe to assume that the senate would stand by a colleague as it has done on numerous occasions in times past. It is not thought, however, that an open war will be inaugurated, but that a compromise will be arranged so that Mr. McCluskey may be appointed.

No fear is entertained for the safety of Fairbury, except in those households inhabited by negroes, into which the water is already backing.

Captain Potter of Memphis, United States engineer for the Third district, with a government relief boat is expected to arrive tonight.

NIECE IDENTIFIES THE DEAD

Claims She Got Letter Returned for Murdered Aunt Indorsed by Prisoner.

BOSTON, Dec. 4.—The trial of J. Wilfred Blondin on the charge of wife murder is beginning to take definite shape. It was established today that Mrs. Blondin was killed by strangulation and her head was cut off after death with a sharp instrument, probably a jack knife.

The attorney general proceeded to introduce evidence to prove the identity of the woman and to show that a letter written to her by her niece, Miss Casey, subsequent to the alleged murder was returned to the writer, bearing the indorsement, "Gone to Canada," in Blondin's handwriting.

Some details in the life of the murdered woman were given by the niece and many articles of clothing were identified by her.

The cross-examination of Miss Casey was searching and the questions of counsel for the defense gave an inkling of a possible defense. He tried to shake Miss Casey's positive identification until it seemed as if meant to show that Mrs. Blondin was still alive.

Senator Gamble today introduced a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the erection of a public building at Yankton, S. D., on the site recently selected by the Treasury department at the southwest corner of Walnut and Fourth streets. Senator Gamble, speaking of the bill, said that there was a decided feeling growing in favor of bringing in an omnibus public building bill for the purpose of appropriating money for the erection of public buildings on sites already purchased, and to clean up the whole public building question at this session. If an omnibus bill is not agreed upon Senator Gamble will form an offensive alliance with other members of the committee.

Beyond a mere exchange of formalities nothing of an important character transpired.

Later the committee called in a body upon Secretary Root, who also spoke of the innovation, and said he expected to call on his colleagues in the senate for their respects to President Roosevelt.

The president was exceedingly gracious and said to the members of the committee that Captain Hull was one of three men who had made possible a republican majority in the Fifty-eighth congress, to which the captain gallantly replied that it was the president who brought about the election of a republican congress and not the men of the national congressional committee.

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FIRST DREXEL MEDAL GIVEN

Prof. Helioprecht Honored for His Archaeological Research at Nippur.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 4.—Prof. H. V. Helioprecht was today awarded the Lewy Wharton Drexel medal for his excavations at Nippur and his publications on the subject by the University of Pennsylvania.

The fund for the medal was established last month by Lewy Wharton Drexel, who had donated \$10,000 to be expended for medals to be awarded once a year for the best archaeological excavation or for the best publication based on archaeological excavations by an English-speaking scholar.

STANLEY DETAINED AT HOME

Called in Detroit at His Instance.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 4.—Governor Stanley has cancelled his engagement to appear at the National Rectiprocity League meeting in Detroit next Wednesday, where he was to make an address.

He is a candidate for the United States senate and the campaign for that office is living up to such an extent that he cannot well leave the state at present, though