

MIXES MARKLE MEN

Firm's Figuring Keeps Pay the Same, Though Wages Rise.

DEAD MEN'S DEBTS ALWAYS COLLECTED

Widows Tell of Husband's Killed and Cash Extracted by Company.

DAMAGES ARE DENIED TO POOR WOMEN

Officials Present Papers for Signature Absolving Them from Claim.

TALES ASTONISH STRIKE ARBITRATORS

Cannot Understand How Ten Per Cent Increase Sets Miners No More Cash and Witnesses Also Profess Their Ignorance.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 8.—Almost the entire session of the strike commission was taken up by evidence affecting the Markle pits.

The miners placed witnesses on the stand who swore the company refused to employ them because they belonged to the union, had evicted them from their houses for the same cause; that the docking system was intolerable; that the price of powder, which enters into the computation of wages, had been raised and the size of cars increased, while pay remained as before.

Two Hungarian women, one of them the mother of the boy who testified on Saturday, were placed on the stand and said the Markle company had deducted house rent from the last wages of their husbands, who were killed in the mines, and attempted to get them to sign a paper which would absolve the Markles from damages for the death of the men. They also confirmed the story told by the breaker boy that children had to work without pay until debts owed by dead fathers were paid off.

The Markle company was not represented, although it had ample notice that testimony affecting its collieries would be presented. The commissioners, however, expect it to bring evidence in rebuttal.

Figuring of Wages Are Strange.

The commissioners were much surprised to hear that the 10 per cent increase granted in 1900 was not a straight out raise in wages, but instead a 2 1/2 per cent increase and a reduction in powder of 7 1/2 per cent, making the net increase in earnings 10 per cent. This the miners claim is the way the Markle company figured, coming to a peculiar manner of figuring, which they do not understand. The question aroused considerable discussion and no one in the court could give a satisfactory explanation.

There was a flurry at the afternoon session, when Ira H. Burns, representing the independent companies, referred to the president of the United States as "Teddy Roosevelt."

Brigadier General Wilson and Judge Gray at once administered a stinging rebuke and the witness begged pardon.

The witness was James Gallagher who was on the stand on Saturday. He said it used to be the custom of the Markle company to contribute \$50 to the family of a man killed in the mines and to pay \$100 to the wife of a man killed in the mines and to pay \$100 to the wife of a man killed in the mines.

The powder question came up at the afternoon session and caused considerable discussion, but when it was over the commissioners knew little more than they did before.

Mr. Clark raised it when he read to the DeLoe statements of wages submitted by him in 1900 and 1901. He presented a large mass of figures, showing that wages had increased 23 1/2 per cent since 1900.

In cross-examination Ira D. Burns, for the independent companies, asked: "Don't you know that the rise in wages was due to the meat trust?"

Witness—I don't know of any such institution.

Mr. Burns—Do you agree with what "Foddy" Roosevelt says about the trusts? Witness—I believe in some of it.

He was proceeding to explain apparently just what portion of the president's views found favor with him when General Wilson jumped up and indignantly exclaimed: "Mr. Chairman, I object to any person before this commission referring to the president of the United States in that manner."

Mr. Burns intensified the sensation thus occasioned by calmly replying: "He sometimes calls himself that."

Judge Gray, however, smoothed matters over by saying: "I think the objection is well taken."

Mrs. Andrew Chapple, the mother of the 13-year-old breaker boy, who said on Saturday that he had to work on the debt of a dead father, took the stand and substantiated all her son had said. She gave the additional information that the Markle company wanted her to sign a paper waiving the right to damages for the death of her husband.

The company promised her rent and coal free for six months, but she refused to sign. Upon this they charged up rent and coal and compelled the boy to work at cents an hour in the breaker, but his wages were so small that the debt was increasing.

Another struggling infant.

Another Hungarian woman, whose husband was killed at the same time, told precisely the same story in every detail. Her son was given a job in the mines as a driver boy at 50 cents a day, and in five or six months he received \$5, all his wages being retained for rent and coal.

VOLCANOES ACTIVE IN SAMOA

Flames Suddenly Burst Forth from Craters Long Inactive in the Mountains.

UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, TUTUILA, SAMOA, Nov. 24.—Via San Francisco, Dec. 8.—On November 8, the Samoans at the western extremity of the group of islands of Savai were started by severe shocks of earthquakes which lasted throughout the night and day.

Some of the shocks were so strong that they threw down a concrete wall and wreck several others. Then fire burst forth from several of the mountain peaks and the people fled in terror to places they considered safe.

These extinct volcanoes, now active, are toward the west of Savai, in German Samoa. Tradition speaks of a violent eruption about 150 years ago, when that portion of the country was a flowing stream of molten lava.

The fires at present observable are at four peaks of the mountain ridge, which forms the backbone of the island and so long as the disturbance is confined to that portion of the country little harm can happen.

It is stated that the other parts of Samoa, being of more recent origin than Savai, will not be affected by the outbreak.

SENATE STANDS BY DOLE

Legislative Body of Hawaii Approves Removal of Officers by Governor of the Territory.

HONOLULU, Dec. 2.—(Via San Francisco, Dec. 8.)—The territorial senate today rejected and adopted a report of its special committee on public works approving the message of Governor Dole, in which he asks for the removal of Superintendent Boyd and made grave charges against him.

This, with the removal of Auditor Austin, already accomplished, is thought to complete the removals of officials as a result of the recent scandals.

A report was also received by the senate from its committee on the territorial treasury. The sum of \$17,949, for embezzling which Treasurer Wright has already been indicted, was found to be short.

The minister Wu Ting-fang arrived in Honolulu last night as a passenger to China on the steamer Hong Kong Maru. While here he met many of the locally prominent Chinese, and he had some very interesting comments to make on the way the exclusion act is enforced here.

MOROCCO HAS TWO RULERS

Prisoner Issues Stamps, Seizes Treasury, and Arms and Calls Himself Sultan.

MADRID, Dec. 8.—Disputes from Fez, Morocco, allege that the pretender to the throne has assumed sovereign rights.

He has issued a manifesto announcing that he has taken possession of the treasury, batteries of guns and arms, and says he intends to attack the sultan's forces as soon as his supplies arrive. He has also issued postage stamps.

The sultan has been preparing a large army with which to attack the pretender.

KAISER CANNOT VISIT FAIR

Crown Prince May, However, Cross Atlantic in Father's Stead.

BERLIN, Dec. 8.—Emperor William has been obliged to refuse the invitation extended to him to attend the St. Louis fair, as it is impossible for him to go so far away from home.

It is quite likely, however, that the crown prince will visit America instead.

Suffering in Copenhagen.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 8.—The widespread suffering here resulting from industrial stagnation and commercial depression has been intensified by the unusual severity of the winter weather, which set in a month earlier than usual.

Building operations had largely to be abandoned, thus increasing the number of unemployed to an extent surpassing most records and seriously taxing the resources of the charity organizations.

Form a Kaiser Party.

BERLIN, Dec. 8.—Baron von Eckardstein has issued invitations to a meeting at Frankfurt on December 16 to consider the formation of a new national party to uphold Emperor William's policy. It will be called the Kaiser party.

Prince Falls from Bar.

PLOEN, Prussia, Dec. 8.—Prince Oscar, Emperor William's fifth son, has sustained a slight fracture of the collar bone through falling from a horse on Saturday. The injury will not interfere with his studies.

Price of Bread Goes Up.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The price of bread was raised 1 cent per loaf in the east end of London today, thus intensifying the distress of those who are out of work.

King Concludes His Visit.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The king of Portugal today concluded his visit to England and started homeward.

Pacific Wires Opened.

MONTREAL, Dec. 8.—The British Pacific cable opened for business today.

JOHN DILLON AGAIN IN BED

Trip from Chicago to New York Proves Too Much for the Irish Leader.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—John Dillon, one of the 13-year-old breaker boys, who said on Saturday that he had to work on the debt of a dead father, took the stand and substantiated all her son had said. She gave the additional information that the Markle company wanted her to sign a paper waiving the right to damages for the death of her husband.

BOTH PARTIES TAKE ACTION

Nonpartisan Delegation from New Mexico Will Be Named to Urge Statehood.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Dec. 8.—The chairman of the republican and democratic parties of this territory will appoint a large and nonpartisan delegation to visit Washington and work for the passage of the nonpartisan statehood bill.

Mass meetings will be held during the week in all the leading towns of the territory to advocate the cause of statehood.

HOUSE PAYS REED HOMAGE

Adjourns to Show Respect in Which Late Speaker Was Held.

ENTERS BRILLIANT TRIBUTE ON RECORDS

No Parliamentarian Surpassed Illustrations Dead, No Debater Matched Intellectual Giant Who Towered Above His Fellows.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The house today paid a remarkable tribute to the memory of ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed.

His death had created a profound impression and there was a universal desire among the members that the house show a signal mark of respect to his memory.

For the house to take such action on the death of a former member had only three precedents in its history, namely, on the occasions of the death of Benton, Blaine and Alexander Stephens, when the house adopted resolutions and adjourned out of respect to their memories.

It was decided to follow these precedents in the case of Mr. Reed. The chaplain at the opening of the session paid a feeling tribute to his memory.

No business was transacted beyond the formal reading of two messages from the president and an arrangement to postpone the special order for today, the London dock bill, until tomorrow.

Sherman Offers Resolution.

Mr. Sherman of New York, then amid profound silence arose and in a few feeling remarks offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the following minutes be spread upon the records of the house of representatives:

John Thomas Brackett Reed died in Washington December 7, 1902. For twenty-two years he had been a member of this house; for six years its speaker. His services terminated with the Fifty-fifth congress. Within that time he had been one of the great activities of his life.

He was a man of great intellect, with a full and broad development of his powers. A distinguished statesman, a lofty patriot, a cultured scholar and incisive, an unflinching defender of the truth, and a man of great personal magnetism.

His death is a great loss to the country. He has left behind him a reputation which will live as long as the world endures.

Resolved, That in honor of the distinguished life of this great patriot and statesman, the house do hereby adjourn until tomorrow.

In presenting the resolution Mr. Sherman said: Mr. Speaker, the life of ex-Speaker Reed ended yesterday. It spanned more than fifty years of the life of this country, and yet there was within it so much of moment that it has become a great and moving story.

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TWO FATALITIES AT A FIRE

Man Falls and Breaks His Neck and Child is Burned to Death.

MEMORINE FALLS, Wis., Dec. 8.—Fire last night destroyed the general store and dwelling of Manthey & Colgate, five miles north of here. Mr. Manthey in attempting to escape fell from the porch and broke his neck, dying a few minutes later.

In the excitement a child 8 years of age was forgotten and was burned to death. Another child was fatally and three others seriously injured. The mother and two other children were the only ones to escape uninjured.

WAR ON THE CATTLE PLAGUE

Congress Asked for Half Million Dollars to Stamp Out Disease.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—(Special Telegram.)—The outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Massachusetts and the New England states generally will probably receive the attention of congress within a very few days.

D. E. Salmon, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, is now in Boston. He writes that he is rapidly organizing a force for the stamping out of the disease.

Swanson Recommended for Postmaster at Fremont—Lacey Offers Amendments to the General Land Laws.

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Snow and Warner Tuesday, Wednesday, Probably Snow.

Table with 3 columns: Temperature at Omaha Yesterday, Hour, and Degree. Rows show temperatures for 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m., and 12 m.

SANTA FE TRAIN WRECKED

Two Men Are Killed and Four Other Passengers Receive Injuries.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 8.—The westbound California Limited on the Santa Fe was wrecked at Rothville, Mo., shortly after noon today, causing the death of the engineer, Samuel Wise of Argentine, Kan., and his fireman, and great damage to the engine and coaches.

John McKeon of New York, who received slight bruises, was the only passenger injured. A colored waiter had his arm broken and two other waiters were injured.

Congressman-elect George A. Loud of Michigan and Rabbi Hirsch of Chicago were among the passengers and helped to care for the injured.

The wreck was caused by the coaches being derailed on an open switch, which the engine had passed safely while the train was going at a high rate of speed.

Twenty-three of the passengers were brought to this city on an accommodation train at a late hour tonight and most of them resumed their journey westward. The dead and injured were taken to Fort Madison, Ia.

FRAUD JURY IS DISCHARGED

Denver Panel Freed from Duty Because Constitutional Amendment Complicates Jurisdiction.

DENVER, Dec. 8.—Judge Carpenter today discharged the grand jury drawn to investigate alleged election frauds. This action was taken because of complications arising from the constitutional amendment abolishing the office of the state auditor and creating the city and county of Denver.

Another grand jury may be summoned after the supreme court gives a decision as to the validity of the amendment.

The supreme court today assumed original jurisdiction in the suit to test the amendment and a decision is expected within six weeks.

CHEYENNE THEATER BURNED

Wyoming Tribune and Other Property Also Damaged, Total Loss Reaching \$75,000—Insured.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 8.—The Cheyenne opera house, owned by James M. Carey and valued at \$50,000, was burned today. The Wyoming Tribune Publishing company, which occupied the basement of the building, suffered a loss of \$15,000.

Adjusting property was damaged and the loss is estimated at \$75,000, which is covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

About two score people were sleeping in the building when the fire was discovered at 4:45 o'clock, but all got out safely.

OMAHA STOCKMAN IS FREED

Colorado Governor Holds Heid Guiltless of Criminal Intent in Violating Stock Law.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 8.—Governor Orman today pardoned E. H. Reid of Omaha, a wealthy stockman who was sentenced to six months in prison for violating the Colorado state inspection law.

Mr. Reid's violation was for the purpose of testing the validity of the law, and as there was no criminal intent the governor interfered to prevent his punishment after the United States supreme court had affirmed the judgment.

BRITAIN BUYS MORE MULES

Hundred Thousand Ready to Ship to Transvaal and Like Number Will Follow.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 8.—Major Eckersley of the British army passed through Memphis tonight for Oshkosh, Mo., where King Edward's government has concentrated 100,000 mules and horses to restock farms in the Transvaal. The shipment of animals will begin on January 15.

Major Eckersley says it is the intention of the government to make a second purchase of equal size when the present animals are shipped.

ARMY HOLDS CONFERENCE

Nebraska and Iowa Join with Other States at Kansas City Convention.

WAR MAY BE ON NOW

British and German Diplomats Present Ultimatum to Venezuela.

MINISTERS BOARD FRIENDLY CRUISERS

Try to Collect Bills Peaceably and Failing Withdraw.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT IGNORANT OF STEP

Foreign Office Professes to Expect Surrender Without Hostile Acts.

SUPPOSE AMBASSADOR STILL AT CARACAS

Cable Break Delays News and Clash May Come Without Home Authorities Knowing that Demands Are Finally Refused.

CARACAS, Dec. 8.—The British minister, W. H. D. Haggard, and the German charge d'affaires, Herr von Plaritz-Baltazzi, left Caracas at 3 this afternoon for La Guaira, where Mr. Haggard boarded the British cruiser Retribution and Herr von Plaritz-Baltazzi the German cruiser Vineta. Both legations have been closed.

Yesterday the British minister and the German charge d'affaires departed at the private residence of the foreign minister, Lopez Barral, separate demands. The British being for settlement of claims and the German for the payment of the interest on the loan and other claims. The demands are in the form of an ultimatum, but do not limit the time for an answer.

Mr. Haggard took his secretary, Grant Duff, his chief of staff, the secretary of the legation, Mr. Godfrey, with him to La Guaira, where they were met by thirty officers.

Public Offices All Closed. The ministers left Caracas without previously notifying the Venezuelan government, probably in order to avoid any hostile demonstration. Yesterday and today being festivals in Caracas all the public offices are closed and it is impossible to see any one in authority and may have led to the unprecedented step of handing in a demand of such a nature at a minister's private residence.

The actual situation is incomprehensible here, as up to this morning no one appeared to know anything about the Anglo-German projected demonstration.

The foreign minister said he considered a menace on the part of Germany inadmissible and any threat would only be a feather, while England has no ground for aggression.

Up to yesterday there were no preparations indicating that the ministers intended to abandon their posts.

The government has made no military preparations as the Venezuelan considered the threat of a demonstration a bluff, and set aside the possibility of an Anglo-German demonstration, but one of the chief officers of the German cruiser Vineta told a German family at La Guaira yesterday that a blockade of the coasts was imminent.

Castro Wars in Words.

The papers here publish an open letter from President Castro, in which he refuses to believe that Britain and Germany have allied themselves against his country. He claims to have acted fairly and squarely toward all nations and concludes:

Honorably, I cannot do more. I put honor first. I will not see cause to disarm foolishly enemies by accepting humiliations which would offend the dignity of the Venezuelan people and which are not in accord with my public life.

In case of our national dignity is based on our rights and our possession of justice and on our relations with the world and mutual respect with foreign nations.

London is in Ignorance. LONDON, Dec. 8.—Great Britain and Germany have presented ultimatums to Venezuela, which will be followed by the seizure of the customs unless a satisfactory settlement is forthcoming.

The ultimatums have no time limit, but it is understood a speedy reply is expected. The foreign office has issued an official statement as follows:

Both notes are practically identical, although they differ in the details. The notes merely reiterate the continued disregard by the Venezuelan government of all our representations and demands and demand immediate action on the part of President Castro's government in connection therewith.

Should the British ultimatum meet with a hostile reception the British minister, W. H. D. Haggard, has been instructed to board a British cruiser, but no such action is expected.

Broken Cable Complicates Things.

Complications have arisen, owing to the inability of the foreign office to communicate with Mr. Haggard. Officials here believe he is still in Caracas, but owing to the reported breaking of the cable they are ignorant as to what steps he is taking, or what the Venezuelan government intends to do.

The foreign office is hourly awaiting important dispatches from Caracas, but up to a late hour tonight none had arrived.

While the government is rather worried at its inability to get an answer from Mr. Haggard, serious alarm is not felt, especially as the Venezuelan representatives are in a similar situation. In the meantime the foreign office disclaims any desire to coerce Venezuela, and says it was only the persistent and insulting disregard for all representations which compelled the present move.

Official said tonight in this regard:

It is now too late in the day for anything but purely diplomatic arrangements. When the fleets have assembled there is scarcely time to deal with bankers and a financial settlement, which should have been effected long since. It is to be welcomed by both Germany and ourselves. However, an bona fide proposition will receive careful attention. Reconstruction in commercial affairs is always better than litigation, and if the reconstruction of the Venezuelan finances can be accomplished to the satisfaction of our interests, both German and British will have achieved their ends.

Strong Measures May Result.

Mr. Balfour, when questioned on the Venezuelan situation today by the liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, said:

For the past two years we have had grave cause for complaint on various occasions of unjust interference by the Venezuelan government with the liberty and property of British subjects.

No effort has been spared by the British government to obtain an amicable settlement of these claims, but in none of them have satisfactory explanations been forthcoming. Latterly the representations of the British minister have been practically unavailing.

There are also cases in which British subjects and companies have large claims. We have been acting in conjunction with the German government, which has large claims against the Venezuelan.

A final communication has been made to the Venezuelan