

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 14, 1904—TEN PAGES.

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LIVES SNUFFED OUT

Frightful Accident on Missouri While Battleship is at Tipton.

TWENTY-NINE MEN INSTANTLY KILLED

Five Are Injured and Two Others May Swell List of Dead

PREMATURE EXPLOSION OF GUN

Every Officer in Port and All But Three in Handling Room Killed

LATEST SHIP TO GO INTO COMMISSION

Naval Circles Appalled by Catastrophe, Which is Evidently Due to Too Rapid Handling of Big Guns.

PENACOLA, Fla., April 13.—By the explosion of 2,000 pounds of powder in the after twelve-inch turret and the handling room of the battleship Missouri, Captain William A. Bowers, commanding, twenty-nine men were instantly killed, and five injured, of whom two will die. The Missouri was on the target range with the Texas and Brooklyn at practice about noon when a charge of powder in the twelve-inch turret hand gun ignited from gases, exploded, and scattered portions of four charges of powder in the handling room and all exploded.

Only one man of the entire turret and handling crew survived. But for the prompt and efficient action of Captain Bowers in flooding the handling room and magazine with water one of the magazines would have exploded and the ship would have been destroyed.

Captain Bowers, completely overcome by the disaster, referred all newspaper men to Lieutenant Hamner, the ordnance officer. The latter gave out a statement of the explosion and its probable cause. According to him, about noon, after the first pointer of the aft twelve-inch piece had fired his string and the second pointer had fired the third shot of his string, the charge ignited. The fourth shot was being loaded, and from all indications the first half of the charge had been rammed home and the second section was being rammed home, when gases from the shots previously fired, or gases from the cloth cover, ignited the powder.

Cause of Explosion. The breach was open and a dull thud gave notice of something unusual. No loud report was made, but flames were seen to leap from every portion of the turret. A few seconds later another explosion occurred, which was more violent. This was in the handling room below, where 1,800 pounds of powder, or four charges ready to be hoisted above, had ignited. Fire quarters were sounded and in less than five seconds after the first explosion the stream of water was being played in the rooms, and when volunteers were called for, every man of the ship responded.

Captain Bowers gave his commands and the officers of the ship, the Missouri, were ordered to get down. The second explosion occurred near one of the magazines and so hot was the fire that the brass work of the magazines was melted.

Smoke and the fumes of the burned powder made it almost impossible to enter either the turret or handling room. Every officer and man in the port and all but three in the handling room were killed.

Second Explosion Occurs. Three minutes after the explosion all the dead had been brought on deck and the survivors from the Missouri, Texas and Brooklyn were attending to those not dead.

The twenty-five men of the turret were found lying in a heap. They had started for the exit when the first explosion occurred and had just reached there when the more terrible explosion in the handling room occurred, which burned and strangled them to death. Lieutenant Hamner, the officer in charge of the turret, evidently had given some command to the men, as he was on top of the heap of men.

The accident is the most serious that has occurred in the American navy since the blowing up of the Maine in Havana harbor in 1898.

The bodies of the dead were hardly recognizable, the terrible and quick fire having burned clothing from the bodies of the men and the flesh hung to them in shreds. The faces were mutilated by the smoke and flames only. Only one man was breathing, but the turret crew was rescued and he died a moment after he reached the deck.

List of Dead. WASHINGTON, April 13.—The navy department tonight furnished the following statement, giving a more complete list of dead, with next of kin:

FRANKS, HARRY W., coxswain; residence, Huron, N. Y.; kin, John Franks, father, Littleton, N. Y.

SMITH, JOHN PORTER, ordinary seaman; residence, Fairmount, N. Y.; kin, John Porter, father, Fairmount, N. Y.

COLE, JOHN W., ordinary seaman; residence, Lakota, Tex.; kin, John W. Cole, father, Lakota, Tex.

GEORGE, JOHN, ordinary seaman; residence, Grand Rapids, Mich.; kin, George George, father, 23 Elizabeth street, Grand Rapids, Mich.

ALLISON, RALPH H., seaman; residence, Philadelphia, Pa.; kin, A. J. Allison, father, Philadelphia, Pa.

NUNN, JAMES B., ordinary seaman; residence, Hope, Ark.; kin, Thomas C. Nunn, father, Hope, Ark.

HARDY, J. CARLTON, apprentice; residence, Hope, Ark.; kin, Thomas C. Nunn, father, Hope, Ark.

OTTLE, PAUL R., apprentice; residence, Hope, Ark.; kin, Thomas C. Nunn, father, Hope, Ark.

ROWLANDS, FRANK T., electrician; residence, St. Louis, Mo.; kin, John Rowlands, father, 225 Spoford street, Cleveland, O.

ROCHE, JOHN M., landman; residence, New York, N. Y.; kin, Michael Roche, father, County Kerry, Ireland.

TOBIN, ROBERT C., ordinary seaman; residence, Roscoe, Pa.; kin, T. B. Tobin, father, Roscoe, Pa.

SMITH, JOSEPH J., ordinary seaman; residence, Dallas, Tex.; kin, Kearney J. Kivien, father, 1303 Cabell street, Dallas, Tex.

KENNEDY, JOSEPH W., ordinary seaman; residence, Waco, Tex.; kin, William Kennedy, father, Waco, Tex.

LOXOPOLAS, JEREMIAS, coxswain; residence, Newport News, Va.; kin, Meri Jeremias, father, Newport News, Va.

BRUN, PETER JOSEPH, gun captain; residence, New York, N. Y.; kin, Rose Brun, mother, 6 Clarence lane, Cleveland, O.

MEYER, CHARLES HENRY, ordinary seaman; residence, St. Louis, Mo.; kin, Louis Meyer, mother, 179 Wirth street, St. Louis, Mo.

SMITH, AUGUST, gunner's mate, second class; residence, New York, N. Y.; kin, Charles Smith, father, New York, N. Y.

RICE, CHARLES, ordinary seaman; residence, Boston, Mass.; kin, Anita Seeliger, mother, 100 W. 11th street, San Francisco, Cal.

RODGER, NESTOR, seaman; residence, New York, N. Y.; kin, Maria Rodger, mother, New York, N. Y.

SHIPMAN, W. L., private father; no data at navy department.

Wounded, not expected to live: Donnelly, John Thomas Joseph, ordinary

Continued on Second Page.

ASSERTS THAT POPE IS ILL

Long Ceremony at St. Peter's Said to Have Depressing Effect Upon Paris.

NEW YORK, April 13.—Rumors that the pope is ill are revived by a World dispatch from Rome which asserts that after celebrating mass at St. Peter's Monday the pope spent a restless night, and that he was much agitated when Dr. Laponi reached the Vatican in response to a summons.

The long ceremony in St. Peter's and fasting until 1 o'clock in the afternoon are believed to have been the cause. Some prelates of the inner circle admit, however, the correspondent asserts, that the pope has been much affected of late by reported anarchistic plots against his life.

On the plaza, where thousands were clamoring for admission to St. Peter's during the ceremony on Monday, the police arrested several persons thought to be anarchists, who were too insistent in their demands for admission to the church.

Dr. Laponi expects his patient will be entirely well after a few days of absolute rest.

ROME, April 13.—Dr. Laponi authorized the Associated Press to deny that the pope is ill. The doctor stated the pontiff this morning as he does several times each week, but he was not called to attend the pope. The latter, this morning, received a number of people, including a special deputation from the British Catholic union, headed by Lord Benbow and accompanied in the most amiable manner with members of the deputation. The pontiff was pleased to hear that his photograph sent to King Edward by Mr. Stoner was most appreciated, being kept in the royal sitting room where Lord Benbow saw it before leaving London. Lord Benbow quoted the king as saying that he liked exceedingly the healthy, benignant appearance of the pontiff.

DISCIPLINING EMIGRATION AGENTS

Contract Made at Budapest with Cunard Steamship Line.

BUDAPEST, April 13.—In the lower house of the Diet today Premier Tisza made a lengthy statement regarding the proposed emigration law, which he said would be introduced in a few days. It was not intended to promote emigration, but to surround emigrants who refused to remain in Hungary with governmental protection and keep in touch with them with the view to their ultimate return.

Owing to the exorbitant demand of the steamship companies the government had intended to establish a line under its control, but in the meantime a contract had been satisfactorily made.

The contract will be for ten years, terminable at the end of five years, and will provide for the emigration of 50,000 in the event of the third. In the event of the United States preventing immigration, the contract was void.

The Cunard company undertook to make twenty-six trips annually from Flume to New York, accommodating 2,000 emigrants per trip. The government would pay \$3,000 per person the government agreed to pay 100 kronen per head deficit. The premier said that the government would gladly pay the penalty because it would indicate a falling off in emigration.

Proser Tisza said the strictest supervision would be exercised to prevent agents from holding out improper inducements to prospective emigrants.

GERMANS CONSIDER TRADE TREATY

Members of Reichstag Would Leave United States Out of Agreement.

BERLIN, April 13.—In the Reichstag today Baron Kardorff, chairman of the tariff commission; Herr Spahn, center party; and Dr. Herr von Henderbrand, right party, expressed discontent at the fact that the government had not furnished information regarding the progress of the commercial treaties.

Baron Kardorff, further inquiring when the old treaties will be denounced, demanded that at least one be denounced.

Dr. Henderbrand advocated the denunciation of the present nation arrangement with the United States.

Baron von Reichtoff, secretary for foreign affairs, replied that the treaty with Italy was completed and that those with Russia, Switzerland and Belgium were being added, would be exchanged in the course of the month with Austria and Roumania regarding the points which both sides desire in the treaties.

The denunciation of treaties and the most favored clause, continued the secretary, cannot be undertaken independently of the general negotiations of treaties. Each case would be studied, with the result that no denunciation had yet occurred.

KING ALFONSO LEAVES BARCELONA

Accompanied by Assistant of Maunra Says He is an Anarchist.

BARCELONA, April 13.—King Alfonso left here today on the royal yacht Girardale to visit the fortress of Monjuich.

It has been ascertained that the knife used by Joaquin Miguel Artao, who yesterday attempted the life of Premier Maura, was not poisoned, as reported. Doctors say Senator Maura will have fully recovered from his wound in a few days. Artao's accomplice is named Matias Ortel. He admits he is an anarchist.

Arrest Accomplish of Artao.

BARCELONA, April 13.—The police have arrested an accomplice of Joaquin Miguel Artao, who attempted yesterday to kill Premier Maura. Both men are members of the society styled "Lovers of Liberty."

The attempt, it is said by the police, was made a week ago, and since that time the premier would be assassinated by following the premier about, awaiting an opportunity to attack him.

Former Queen of Spain Banned.

PARIS, April 13.—The imposing funeral service over the remains of the late Queen Isabella today in the palace of Castille was attended by officials and diplomats. A large detachment of French troops rendered military honors. As the procession came to the place de la Concorde a battery of artillery fired a salute of twenty-one guns. A royal train bore the body to Madrid.

Colombia's Case in Court.

PARIS, April 13.—The second case of the Republic of Colombia against the Panama Canal Company involving the former's right to hold 50,000 shares of stock, came up before the first tribunal of the Seine today and went over for a fortnight by agreement. Colombia has not yet appealed its first case and intends to take the full limit of the law allows. It has still two months remaining.

No Chinese Uprising.

TIENTSIN, April 13.—The foreign and Chinese authorities here say that is absolutely no foundation for the reports, which have reached here from the Foo, which predicted an uprising in China.

SETTLES GRAIN RATE WAR

Great Western and Chicago & Northwestern Officials Reach Agreement.

CUT ST. LOUIS DIFFERENTIAL TWO CENTS

Grain from Territory Tributary to Omaha to Take Sum of the Locals for Through Rate to Chicago and Twin Cities.

CHICAGO, April 13.—(Special Telegram.)—The grain rate war between the Chicago Great Western and the Chicago & Northwestern railroads, which has been in progress during more than three months and has forested grain rates from the Missouri river to Chicago down to almost nothing, has at last been settled.

The traffic officers of the roads interested at a meeting held today decided upon a compromise settlement which appears to be satisfactory to both the Great Western and Northwestern. The arrangement has only to be ratified by the executive officers, who meet here next Tuesday, but there is no doubt that they will approve of the action of the traffic officers.

The agreement provides that the St. Louis differential over Chicago on grain from Missouri river points shall be reduced from 5 to 3 cents a hundred pounds. On grain from Nebraska points which naturally is tributary to Omaha the through rate is to be equal to the sum of the local west to Omaha and east from that city to Chicago and the twin cities. On grain tributary to Missouri river gateways north of Omaha the through lines may make a lower through rate than the sum of the locals.

CLOSE MERGER CASE ARGUMENT

Court May Not Decide Application for Intervention Until Later Date.

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 13.—Closing arguments in the matter now being heard by the United States circuit court, wherein E. H. Harriman and Winslow S. Pierce, as trustees for the Oregon Short Line, ask for permission to file an intervening petition in the Northern Securities case, were made before the court today.

The court announced before adjournment yesterday that it will allow counsel one hour and fifteen minutes for further talk.

John G. Johnson of Philadelphia had the last word on behalf of the Northern Securities company and W. D. Guthrie of New York closed for the Harriman side. It is believed that the court will take the matter under advisement and decide the case later.

The United States circuit court after hearing all the arguments on the motion of E. H. Harriman and W. D. Guthrie to file an intervening petition in the Northern Securities case, reserved decision and adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow.

OLNEY AND HEARST DIVIDE

Massachusetts Democrats Favor the Former by Majority of National Delegates.

BOSTON, April 13.—Returns, practically complete, from the democratic caucuses last night, show that fully two-thirds of the delegates elected to the state convention are pledged to Olney and the remaining delegates to Hearst.

The conclusion of the minority report is that there is no warrant for law for the appropriation of the \$1,500,000 requested by the commission of pensions for the purpose here stated. It quotes the recent report of the committee to the effect that the item and ordered by a party vote.

As the item is included, a minority report accompanies that of the majority to the house. The minority views are signed by Underhill, Brundage, Benton, Livingston and Pierce. Taylor of Alabama was absent.

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NEBRASKA WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday Fair and Warmer in East Portion; Friday Fair.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

High 59, low 37, 1 p. m. 50

5 a. m. 37, 2 p. m. 48

7 a. m. 36, 3 p. m. 47

9 a. m. 35, 4 p. m. 47

10 a. m. 34, 5 p. m. 47

11 a. m. 33, 6 p. m. 46

12 m. 32, 7 p. m. 42

FEARS MENACE OF RUSSIA

Premier Balfour Gives His Reasons for the Expedition to Tibet.

LONDON, April 13.—The House of Commons today, by 289 to 81 votes, adopted a resolution sanctioning the employment of Indian troops for the protection of the "political mission to Tibet."

War Secretary Brodrick, in introducing the resolution, read a telegram from Col. Younghusband, the political agent at the head of the mission, to the effect that Col. MacDonald, in command of the escort, reached his goal, Gyantse, Tibet, April 11 without the loss of a man. The telegram added that the Tibetans were highly demoralized and were fleeing from the Gyantse valley. The Chinese delegate was coming in and that the Tibetan delegates were on their way to Gyantse.

Mr. Brodrick proceeded to defend the action, saying that while the Tibetans were trying to circumvent their relations with India they simultaneously were attempting to open up relations with Russia. The British government could not acquiesce to any change in the status quo in Tibet, nor countenance an attempt on the part of any foreign government to establish a predominant interest there.

On British, occupied the country, had no desire to occupy the country or to establish a permanent mission in Tibet, but the government was absolutely resolved that if any power is to be predominant in Tibet it must be Great Britain.

The liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, warmly criticized and commended the mission and the "slaughter of the Tibetans," declaring that Mr. Brodrick's explanations of the reasons for the mission were wholly insufficient.

The debate ended with a short speech by Premier Balfour, declaring the mission had no ulterior objects. The last thing the government desired, he said, was to add to its Indian frontier responsibilities.

OBJECT TO NEW PENSION RULE

Democrats in Congress Do Not Want Appropriations for Pensions Increased by Order.