

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 19, 1904—SIXTEEN PAGES.

SINGLE COPY THREE CENTS.

GAS RETORTS LET GO

Series of Explosions Wrecks Big Plant at Chicago.

FOUR KILLED AND A SCORE INJURED

Shocks So Severe That All the Buildings in the Vicinity Are Damaged.

ACCIDENT DUE TO OVER-PRESSURE

Company Engaged in Supply of Illumination for Railroad Coaches.

GAS IS FORCED INTO SMALL RETORTS

One of These Explodes and Eight Others Follow in Rapid Succession—Property Loss Above \$75,000.

CHICAGO, Nov. 18.—Four persons were killed and a score were injured today by a series of gas explosions that destroyed the plant of the Pyle Electric Headlight company.

The shocks of the explosion were so severe that all the buildings near the demolished plant were damaged and windows were shattered for blocks, while persons were thrown from their feet.

Over-pressure is believed to have caused the accident.

The dead: RALPH WELLS, superintendent.

AMOS WATKINS, assistant superintendent.

GEORGE MUEHL, draughtsman.

THOMAS JENNINGS, employe.

The injured include: John Kennedy, struck by flying steel.

Max Wrable, right foot blown off, internally injured, arm and leg broken.

C. W. Grant, blown 100 feet from building.

William H. Maloney, blown from third floor of building; body crushed, may die.

Alfred Cox, internally injured, will probably die.

Edward Reese, both legs broken; will recover.

All the men were buried under tons of burning timber and hot brick and iron, making it impossible to remove their bodies for hours after.

The company supplies illumination for railroad coaches. This illuminant is forced into small retorts, which when attached under the floor of a car will supply it with light for months.

In order to make this possible the retorts are subjected to an extremely high pressure.

It was believed that the explosion was caused by the first explosion. Workmen and wreckage filled the air, other retorts exploded in such rapid succession that it was almost impossible to distinguish the separate detonations.

There were nine other explosions in all and these in the plant in flames, which kept the fire department busy for several hours.

The total loss to property is \$75,000.

STOCK TRAFFIC EXPENSIVE

Railroad Men Testify as to Rates Charged Raisers of Cattle.

CHICAGO, Nov. 18.—Nearly all the testimony in the case of the Texas Cattle Raisers' association against the southwest railway companies, being heard by the Interstate Commerce commission, has been taken.

The attorneys for the railroad companies closed their case tonight, but the commission will convene again tomorrow to hear additional testimony from the other side.

The grounds on which the railroad companies decline their side of the controversy to be just and reasonable were summed up by Judge Baxter, one of the railroad lawyers, as follows:

"Live stock shipments are more expensive to handle than almost any other kind of traffic.

Live stock trains have to be given right-of-way over all other trains except passenger trains.

It is necessary to have special equipment on account of live stock injured or killed while in transit.

Special equipment is required for the gross earnings; the shipments of live stock delay traffic more than any other class of freight.

Special equipment is required for this traffic, and this equipment is expensive.

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PANAMA MINISTER RESIGNS

Head of War Department Retires from Office on a Pension.

PANAMA, Nov. 18.—General Huertas, the war minister, resigned today and President Amador by a decree accepted his resignation, leaving Huertas the rank of general, unattached, but with a salary, which is equivalent to a pension.

The army will not be disbanded just now.

General Yandula, secretary of the War office and an old general, has been appointed to the supreme command of the troops.

Everything is quiet now. The censorship on telegraphic messages has just been suspended.

General Huertas, in the letter tendering his resignation, protests against the charges brought against him, saying that he and the troops have been loyal, but that under the circumstances (referring to American intervention) and though they would dearly like to fight, in order to prevent bloodshed and to prove once more his love for Panama, he resigns his office.

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MASS MEETING AT ROME

Protest Against Alleged Maltreatment of Italians at Innsbruck.

POLICE AND TROOPS KEEP ORDER

Attempt to Make a Hostile Demonstration Against the Austrian Embassy is Anticipated and Frustrated.

ROME, Nov. 18.—An impressive meeting to protest against the Innsbruck affair was held this evening at the Quirino theater.

The stage was decorated with the banners of Italian cities that are still subjects of Austria. Among the notable people on the stage were Bjornstjerne Bjornson and his wife, whose appearance was greeted with tremendous applause.

The theater would accommodate only a small portion of the crowd, and the police were unable to keep in order the thousands who could not enter.

Troops were called and succeeded in clearing the streets in the vicinity of the theater, after which order was restored at the streets leading to the theater.

The meeting was opened by Prof. Sighele, president of a club of former residents of Trent and Trieste now living in Rome.

He was followed by Deputy Barzizza, a native of Trieste, and who represents one of the Rome constituencies; Deputy Vecchini, conservative, and Deputy Secci, republican, a veteran who fought under Garibaldi against Austria.

All the speakers called upon the people of Rome to make a solemn and dignified protest, worthy of a civilized people jealous of their rights, against the maltreatment of fellow Italians, whose only offense was that they stood for their race in history, nationality and culture.

The speeches were frequently interrupted by storms of applause, mingled with invectives against Austria.

As order of the day embodying the opinions expressed by the speakers, was voted by acclamation and amidst cries of "Long live Italy," and "Garibaldi forever."

After the meeting, the crowd, as if in obedience to a command, made a rush for the Austrian embassy and consulate, situated in the Piazza Colonna, in the center of Rome, to make a demonstration there.

The incident had been anticipated by the authorities and precautions had been taken. At all the streets entering into the piazza, police, carabinieri and cavalry had been stationed and these halted and turned back the mob from the vicinity of the embassy.

In anticipation of this evening's meeting, the flags throughout the city were hoisted at half-mast. Practically the whole population of Rome except the socialists and anarchists participated in the demonstration.

The anarchists published an order of the day which said that, according to their principles, they disapprove of today's meeting, especially owing to the fact that "among those protesting today against a sacrifice of human life at Innsbruck are some who approve of the same sacrifice, accomplished, not by foreigners, but by Italians against Italians," referring to the conflict between the police and peasants, which was the pretext for the general strike of September.

Reservists riot in Italy

Police Arrest Socialists Who Are Trying to Maintain Agitation in the Army.

ROME, Nov. 18.—In several cities, especially Milan, Turin, Bologna, Como and Spezia, reservists called to arms after the general strike recently instigated by the socialists, have tried to arrange a demonstration with the object of procuring their discharge from duty.

Only a few men were allowed to enter the barracks. The demonstration was easily put down by the authorities. Some arrests were made.

The police in several towns have arrested socialist agitators who have been trying to distribute among the soldiers leaflets entitled, "To Conscripts," inciting them to rebellion.

The most energetic action has been taken by the War office to check even an attempt to create disorders. The officials are supported by public opinion.

Attempts at demonstrations having occurred today in many towns, it is evident that there was a plan to conduct a military movement simultaneously throughout the peninsula. It, however, failed.

At Naples this affair was unnoticed outside the barracks. At Verona, which is a great military center, 200 reservists assembled in the streets, but order quickly was restored and carabinieri were detailed to guard the barracks at night.

At Genoa a reservist tried to commit suicide, but was dissuaded. The authorities at Genoa have taken cartridges from the reservists and placed the barracks under guard.

Believes Danish Pensioners

COBENHAGEN, Nov. 18.—In consequence of a personal appeal to the American minister, Mr. Swenson, the minister of justice has issued instructions that no notarial fees shall in future be charged by Danish officials for witnessing the vouchers of pension receiving persons from the United States.

The pensioners (some of whom are poor widows on account of the distance are unable to obtain free services of American diplomatic and consular officials), of the payment of the fees which pensioners within the reach of American officials escape.

Ascoli Honors J. P. Morgan

ROME, Nov. 18.—The municipality of Ascoli has by acclamation conferred honorary citizenship upon J. Pierpont Morgan, in recognition of his action in restoring to the city the famous Ascoli cope. It was also decided to place a bust of Mr. Morgan in the city palace, together with a marble tablet recording his generous action, and to bestow his name on one of the principal streets of the city.

Russians Desire More Liberty

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 18.—The recall of political prisoners exiled under the former regime by the recent administrative order, has led many papers to urge the technical state of siege which exists in most of the large Russian cities in order to prevent the possibility of summary arrest and punishment outside of the regular processes of law.

Hottentot Rising in German Territory

CAPTOWN, Nov. 18.—A dispatch from Uplington, on the Orange river, says two women, who have just arrived, give details of a Hottentot rising in German territory. Their husbands and a number of Dutch farmers were brutally murdered, but twenty-three women and children escaped and reached Reinfontein in destitute circumstances.

Earthquakes in Italy

ROME, Nov. 18.—Severe earthquake shocks were felt today in central Italy, especially at Florence, Pisa and Urbino. No damage was done.

WARE RETIRES FIRST OF YEAR

President Settles Possible Complication as to Status of office.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—A question has been raised as to the date when the resignation of Pension Commissioner Ware takes effect. The resignation was dated November 13 last, and accepted by the president the next day.

Ware was in the office when the resignation was accepted. He only resigned.

With best regards I hereby tender this resignation.

The president's acceptance has been received by the commissioner who has continued to discharge the duties of the office until the present time, and inquiry has developed the fact that it was his expectation to remain in office for some weeks yet.

The question of date was brought up incidentally at the meeting of the secretary of the interior, but he has not as yet taken any steps in connection with the matter.

The claim is made that Mr. Ware's occupancy of the office terminated when the president acted upon it, and that no act of the commissioner's since that date is legal.

When the matter was brought to Mr. Ware's attention today he replied that he had not known that the resignation had been raised.

"My intention has been," he said, "to remain in office until December 13, but I am not anxious to continue even till then. My original wish was to get the resignation accepted before the election, and I have only extended the time to meet the wishes of the president."

Secretary Hitchcock brought the resignation to the attention of the president at the meeting of the cabinet today and was told by the president that he had made an endorsement on Mr. Ware's letter accepting the resignation to take effect on January 1.

This all agreed has the effect of extending the commissioner's term of office until the time specified in the acceptance.

Secretary Hitchcock denied the report that the resignation of Ware had resulted from a lack of harmony between himself and the commissioner.

"The report is absolutely without foundation," he said. "True we have not always agreed in judgment as to policies to be pursued, but the differences have not been greater than ordinarily arise between cabinet members considering the same questions."

There has been no friction whatever, and any statement to the contrary is false.

FOUNDERS FOR OPEN SHOP