

SIX FIREMEN CRUSHED TO DEATH BENEATH FIVE-STORY BUILDING

ONLY THREE OF THE BODIES HAVE SO FAR BEEN RECOVERED BY WORKMEN.

MONEY LOSS ABOUT \$75,000

Flames Were Soon Under Control But Inflammable Stuff on upper Floor Continued to Burn and When the Floor Gave Way Three Firemen Perished—Wall Fell on Rescuers and Thus Three More Lost Their Lives.

(By Associated Press.) St. Louis, Feb. 5.—The fire that last night destroyed the five-story building at 312 and 314 Chestnut street, occupied by the American Tent and Awning company, resulted in the death of six firemen who were crushed by the falling walls and floors.

Three of the bodies have been recovered and the firemen are digging at the immense heaps of ruins in order to reach the others.

The dead: AUGUST THIERRY, first assistant chief. MICHAEL KEHOE, assistant foreman company No. 13. DANIEL W. STEELE, foreman company No. 12. WILLIAM DUNDON, pipeman, company No. 23. FRANKLIN M'BRIDE, company No. 12. CHARLES KRENNING, pipeman company No. 12.

Origin Not Known. The injured, none of whom is seriously hurt, are: Chief Swingley, William Wann, foreman No. 13; Patrick McCarthy, engineer No. 6; Monroe Moore, electric light inspector; William Juelich, driver for Assistant Chief Thierry; Frank Lingo, assistant driver No. 6; Chief Swingley, who was knocked down and struck by flying debris, soon recovered and bent all his energies to rescuing the firemen.

The manner in which the fire originated is not known. The loss to all interests in the building is total and is estimated at \$75,000. The fire broke out last night, the coldest of the season, about 8 o'clock. The fire companies soon had the flames partially under control.

An hour after the fire started timbers and inflammable material on the upper floor continued to burn and a line was run up to extinguish the flames. Three pipemen were operating this stream when the floor on which they stood gave way without warning and they fell with it.

Buried All Inside. Assistant Chief Thierry, who was on a lower floor, heard the crash. Gathering together a few men, he went to the rescue of his comrades. Hardly had the rescuers disappeared into the structure when the front wall fell forward and the entire building collapsed, burying beneath its ruins every one inside.

Spectators, police officers and firemen on Chestnut street saw the walls totter and managed to escape on either side before it fell. Firemen in the alley back of the building fled when the ripping sound of crumbling walls was heard and for the most part escaped without injury.

"To all appearances," said Chief Swingley, "there was no danger to the pipemen who went into the upper floors. The fire was all on the fourth and fifth floors and more on the fifth than on the fourth. Under such circumstances, no one would expect a building to collapse."

The building, which was nearly 50 years old, was weak and the water with which it had been flooded, loosened its joints and soaked its walls. When the pipemen entered the walls were already tottering.

We Want the Islands. (By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 5.—The senate committee on foreign relations today ordered a favorable report on the treaty to acquire the Danish West Indies. No amendment was made to the treaty in committee.

SHEEP MEN STILL IN SESSION

MILD WEATHER PROMOTES GOOD FEELING AMONG THE WOOL-GROWERS IN HELENA.

BILLINGS AS A WOOL MARKET

Several Addresses and Some Discussion Which It Is Believed Will Have Good Results—Railroad Men Have Their Say.

(Special to Inter Mountain.) Helena, Feb. 5.—The large Auditorium was well filled this morning at the session of the Pacific Northwest Woolgrowers' association, which commenced at 10 o'clock.

A general good feeling seems to prevail among the sheepmen at present, for the present weather assures them that their flocks at home are safe in their absence, whereas if a terrific snowstorm was raging probably all of them would not stay for the entire session, and besides, while here there would be something else upon their minds than the woolgrowers' convention.

The meeting was opened this morning with a paper by Prof. R. S. Shaw of the Montana experiment station at Bozeman, on "Native Grasses." Mr. Shaw has made a study of this particular subject and spoke upon it in a highly intelligent and interesting manner. He told of the various grasses to be found in the Northwest and that which contain the best nourishment for sheep.

He also spoke of those which should be avoided for feed if possible. Col. Judson's Address. Col. R. C. Judson of Portland, industrial agent for the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, spoke of "Grasses for the Range" which was instructive.

A more local subject, but nevertheless of general interest, was dealt with by P. B. Moss of Billings, who told of "The Growth and Development of the Sheep Industry in the Yellowstone Valley." Mr. Moss spoke of the rapid advancement of the industry in that county from the time, almost, when the first sheep were brought in.

In few counties of the state has the sheep industry grown quicker. Mr. Moss also spoke of Billings as a wool market. The afternoon session was opened at 2 o'clock, and after a musical number, A. C. Logan of Billings delivered an address.

Mr. Logan is the secretary of the Central Montana Woolgrowers' association, and told in a general way of the conditions of the industry as they exist in his territory.

FOREIGN ADVICE

PROF. SILBERER TALKS ABOUT AIRSHIP CONTEST.

BALLOONS OF THE SAME SIZE

Many of Those Now in Experimental Use Will Be Obsolete—Conditions Must Be Right or Will Be No Entries.

(By Associated Press.) Vienna, Feb. 5.—Herr Victor Silberer, president of the Vienna Aero club, in speaking about the possibilities of airship and ballooning competition at the forthcoming exposition at St. Louis, said: "The St. Louis aerotale committee should make a program with the least possible delay. Due notice should be given now."

GENERAL DE WET HAS LOST HIS LAST GUN

Kitchener Telegraphs From Pretoria That Field Cornet Wessels Is Killed and That Boer Forces Are All in Tight Places.

(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 5.—The British pursuit of General De Wet has been successful to the extent that his last gun has been captured and Commandant Wessels, one of his principal lieutenants, has been routed. General Kitchener sent this news in a dispatch from Pretoria, dated Tuesday, February 4, as follows: "Bing's column, while proceeding towards Liebenburgvlei, after a night march, attacked and routed a considerable force of the enemy under Commandant Wessels. We captured a 15-pounder and pompon taken from Firmans' column, and also De Wet's last gun, and three wagons of ammunition, 150 horses and 100 mules."

Many Prisoners Captured. "The Boer casualties were five men killed, six wounded and 27 men captured. "Among the killed was Field Cornet Wessels. Among the prisoners is Captain Mullen, of the Staats artillery. The enemy was scattered. Our casualties were slight. "The National Scouts, near Middleburg (Cape Colony), captured 13 prisoners. "Plumer, near Amersfoort (Transvaal), captured seven prisoners and 500 head of cattle. "General Gilbert Hamilton captured 32 prisoners."

ACTOR JAMES NEILL.



ACTOR NEILL TALKS

MAKES DENIAL OF CHARGE OF ATTEMPT AT ADVERTISING.

IS CENSURED BY MANY ELKS

Prominent Members of the Order in Various Montana Cities Call Neill Incident an Affront and Resent It.

"I give you my word of honor, as I hope to stand some day before the Eternal Creator, that there was not the faintest intention of any attempt at advertising my action in this Elk matter."

BEAVERHEAD PRISONERS DIG THROUGH JAIL WALLS

(Special to Inter Mountain.) Dillon, Feb. 5.—William McKenzie and L. L. Hutchins dug through the walls of the county jail last night and escaped. The jail had been very cold lately, and prisoners were allowed to make beds down near the stove, through the jailer's sympathy.

BOILER EXPLODES ON MONONGAHLA, SEVERAL ARE DEAD AND MISSING

Burned to Death. (By Associated Press.) Waterloo, Ia., Feb. 5.—Mrs. Ed Kushner and two children were burned to death in their home last night in a fire caused by the overturning of a lamp. One other child was fatally burned and three others seriously injured.

MISSING ARE THOUGHT DEAD

Surviving Members of Crew Claim Boilers Did Not Have Extra Pressure and Cannot Account for the Disaster—Injured Are Now in Pittsburgh Hospital—One of the Best Boats on River.

ROBBERS SECURE LARGE SUM

FOUR MEN BLOW OPEN SAFE, KILL THE SHERIFF AT CLARKSVILLE, ARK.

GET SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS

Sheriff Powers Confronted the Robbers But He Was Probably Killed by the Bandits First Shot—They Get Clear Away.

(By Associated Press.) Fort Smith, Ark., Feb. 5.—Robbers, at 2:30 o'clock this morning, at Clarksville, Arkansas, blew up the safe of the bank of Clarksville with dynamite, secured a sum estimated at \$6,000, killed John Powers, sheriff of Johnson county, who attempted to capture them, and escaped before the citizens were aware of their presence.

They tied their horses on the outskirts of the town and made their way unobserved to the bank, which is situated on the north side of the public square. After gaining an entrance, they destroyed the safe with dynamite, secured what money was not destroyed and made their way to the street. There they were confronted by Sheriff Powers, who opened fire upon them. The robbers returned the fire, using both revolvers and Winchester.

Powers stood his ground and emptied two revolvers before he was killed, although it is believed he was mortally wounded by the first volley from the robbers. Sheriff Was Dead. When citizens arrived a little later, Powers was dead and there was no trace of the robbers, except a trail of blood that indicated that the sheriff had wounded one or perhaps more of his assassins.

The bank officials today were unable to give the exact amount of plunder secured, but stated that the bank was insured against loss. As late as 11 o'clock today no attempt had been made to arrest the robbers, except to wire all adjoining towns to be on the lookout for them.

REPLY TO SULZER

NEW SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY WRITES OPEN LETTER.

OPINION RELATIVE TO BILL

Secretary Shaw Makes Plain the Effect of Proposed Legislation on the Monetary Affairs of the Country—Expresses Doubt.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 5.—Secretary Shaw's first communication on financial legislation is found in a letter to Representative Sulzer of New York, concerning the latter's bill to deposit government funds at interest in national banks throughout the country.

The letter says: "I find on my desk awaiting my arrival your letter of January 17, referring to house joint resolution No. 112 and asking for information as to the amount of interest which the government would have realized had the proposed law been adopted as a part of the national banking law."

Government would Not Lose. "If the surplus money in excess of fifty millions working capital had been deposited in clearing house cities in proportion to the relative capital of each bank there, with no other security than a prior lien on the bank's assets the government would have lost nothing and if the government had realized 2 per cent upon the funds so deposited it would have received thirty-two millions. "Aided in this way, the banks referred to would be able to increase credit accommodations to the people in the sum of two hundred million. This computation was made at the instance of my predecessor (one year ago) and based upon quarterly rather than daily balances."

Questions the Law. "I think some provision for the deposit of surplus funds belonging to the United States with national banks upon security other than government bonds would be wise, though I doubt the limitations as to the amount of capital and surplus contained in the bill. "I also question the wisdom of mandatory provisions of the law. On the contrary, I think there should generally be a fair latitude of discretion. "Authority to act in a given line is generally sufficient." (Signed.) LESLIE M. SHAW.

ONE EXPLOSION CAUSES ANOTHER, DESTROYING ONE OF THE BOATS.

MISSING ARE THOUGHT DEAD

Surviving Members of Crew Claim Boilers Did Not Have Extra Pressure and Cannot Account for the Disaster—Injured Are Now in Pittsburgh Hospital—One of the Best Boats on River.

(By Associated Press.) Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 5.—By the explosion of the boilers on the towboat John W. Allen, owned by the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal & Coke company, at 1:30 o'clock this morning one man was killed outright, four probably fatally injured and several are missing. Six others were rescued from the icy waters.

The dead—WILLIAM PERRY, deckhand of Roscoe, Pa. The injured—Edward Mitchell, mate, badly burned and inhaled flames, will die; Mario Walker, negro cook of Pittsburgh, serious; James Williams, fireman, serious; Booker Null, second engineer, Beverly, W. Va.; Weaver Wolf, deckhand, Middleport, Ohio.

Missing—John Coffin, watchman, Fredericktown, Md.; John Burke, pilot; Glyde Sill, chief engineer; William Campbell, fireman.

No trace whatever of these men has been found since the boat blew up, and it is thought they have been drowned. Those rescued were Capt. W. L. Shaw, commander of the boat; John Rankin, deckhand, Glassport, Pa.; David McBryde, deckhand, Middleport, Ohio; Reuben Watts, negro, deckhand, Middleport, Ohio; Maria Walker and James Williams.

Forced Into the River. There was a crew of 14 all told. The captain, with Chief Engineer Sill, Fireman Campbell and Cook Marie Walker had just gone off duty and the new watch was made up of Burke, Null, Mitchell, Williams, Perry and Wolf. They passed the Homestead steel works and were nearing the city with seven floats of coal, when one of the boilers exploded with a mighty roar and terrific force. The explosion extended to the other boilers and then all went into the river or into the air.

The boat immediately took fire and burned so rapidly that all who were able were forced to take to the river. In a few minutes the towboat Vulcan was on the scene with a full crew of men and nearly all were rescued.

The injured were brought to Pittsburgh and seven of them are now at Mercy hospital. The Allen was completely destroyed. The loss is placed at \$25,000.

The boat was considered one of the best owned by the coal combine and its boilers had been inspected but a few days ago. The surviving members of the crew claim that they were not carrying a greater pressure of steam than the government allows.

JURY FAVORS SUMWALT.

Awards Him Two Mining Claims on Big Butte.

A jury in Judge Clancy's court rendered a verdict today in the case of Samuel D. Sumwalt against John R. Bordeaux, giving the plaintiff the Missouri Girl and Rear Stake mining claims on Big Butte.

The trial of the case opened in Judge Clancy's court yesterday morning, and the evidence was all in by 11 o'clock this morning.

The defendants asked for a non-suit on their pleadings when the plaintiff had finished his side of the case, but the motion was overruled.

The jury was out about two hours. The claims awarded Sumwalt are said to be of a valuable character. Sumwalt located them in 1892, and they were afterwards located by some of the defendants under a different title.

In the suit the defense took the position that the prior location had lapsed when the second one was made. The jury thought differently.

STILL EXAMINING WITNESSES IN BLACK CASE.

(Special to Inter Mountain.) Bozeman, Feb. 5.—So far the state has examined five witnesses in the Black case.