

THE STEERAGE FALL OF RAMA IS LATEST TERRORS AIRED

HORRORS OF TRAVEL IN MANY ATLANTIC VESSELS ARE VIVIDLY DESCRIBED.

CONDITIONS APPALLING BLOODY BATTLE FOUGHT

Women Agents Relate Terrible Experiences They Had and the Treatment Accorded Others Traveling Across Water as Third-Class Passengers—Report Made to Senate.

Washington, Dec. 12.—A report on steerage conditions based on information obtained by special agents of the immigration commission traveling on different transatlantic steamers was made public today through presentation to the senate with recommendations for legislation to better conditions. Conditions found in many of these vessels are described as appalling.

The general report of the commission contains the reports of individuals giving their experience on board the steamships of which they posed as steerage passengers. A woman agent, who was insulted and compelled to withstand repulsive privations, said: "In those 12 days in the steerage, I lived in a disorder and in surroundings that offended every sense. Only the fresh breeze from the sea overcame the sickening odors. The language of the men, the screams of the women defending themselves, the crying of children, wretched because of their surroundings, every sound that reached the ears irritated beyond endurance."

"There was no sight before which the eye did not strive to close. Everything was dirty, sticky and disagreeable to the touch. Every impression was offensive. Worse than this was the general aid to immorality. For 15 hours each day I witnessed all around me this improper, indecent and forced mingling of men and women. Members of the crew, and often did not understand one word of the same language. People can not live in such surroundings and not be influenced."

Describes Conditions. The woman agent had told of the mingling of the crew with women of the steerage and said the same was true of the men steerage passengers with the women. Agents of the immigration commission say that on many steamships' made towards any members of the crew as well as male steerage passengers crowd into the compartments set aside for the women and constantly pass through the passageways of such compartments, so that no woman in the steerage "had a moment's privacy."

"One night the chief steerage steward entered our compartments, but not noticing me, approached a Polish girl, who was apparently the only occupant. She spoke in Polish, saying 'My head aches, please go on and let me alone. But he continued and soon was insulting her. The girl, weakened by seasickness, defended herself as best she could, but soon was struggling to get out of the man's arms. Just then other passengers entered and she was released."

The writer tells of repelling advances on the part of the crew and stewards with a hard, unexpected blow in the offender's face. She says: "The manner in which the sailors, stewards, fireman and others mingled with the women passengers was thoroughly revolting. Their language and the topics of their conversation were vile. Their comments about the women and made in their presence were coarse."

Concerning other conditions in the old type of steerage which still exists on many steamships, agents of the commission are just as severe. In his introduction to the report it is said: "The universal needs of space, air, food, steam and privacy are recognized to the degree now made compulsory by law. Beyond that the persons carried are looked upon as so much freight, with mere transportation as their only due."

BIGGS RESIGNS. Helena, Dec. 12.—(Special)—William H. Biggs, who was from the inception of the state fair a member of the executive committee from this county, and who is now chairman of the executive committee, today resigned the chairmanship.

The vacancy will not be filled until the next meeting of the board of directors, when a new chairman will be named. Mr. Biggs gives as his reason for his resigning that he has not had time to properly attend to the duties of the position.

KILLED BY AN AUTO. St. Louis, Dec. 12.—Theodore R. Baird, a former president of the Merchants' exchange and ornament in democratic politics in Missouri, was un down and killed by an automobile driven by an 18-year-old boy tonight.

Marines to Start. New York, Dec. 12.—At the marine barracks in the navy yard here today they were preparing 118 marines for

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MAKING A DESPERATE FIGHT AGAINST THE GRIM REAPER

Leopold II, King of the Belgians, Will Submit to the Knife as a Last Resort in an Effort to Save His Life, Which Hangs by a Mere Thread That May Snap at Any Moment

Brussels, Dec. 12.—Leopold II, king of the Belgians, tonight is making a desperate fight with death and the odds are strongly against the aged monarch. As a last resort, the surgeon's knife will be tried tomorrow.

If the operation is successful King Leopold may live. If it fails the end is inevitable. All will depend upon the king's strength and vitality, which are ebbing fast. Rheumatism has already conquered the aged and wasted frame. Dropsy has developed and an obstruction of the intestines, which must be removed, has greatly aggravated his condition. The general opinion is that the king will not survive the operation. Indeed, he may die at any moment. The monarch is rather optimistic and today exclaimed to his physician: "Operate, and the sooner the better."

But he added, with a wan, wistful smile: "Perhaps, doctor, the long, long journey is at hand."

Mind is Clear. King Leopold is still as lucid of intellect as ever. This masterful mind, which conceived and carried out the gigantic Congo project and roused the whole world into bitter indictment and discussion, calmly directed what seems to be the final chapter in his pathetic enough. Separated from his two eldest daughters by a tragic skein of events, with scandal of his own personal life whispered by every tongue, Leopold lay tonight "in the palms," a little pavilion of six rooms, close to the great Laeken, attended

by his faithful daughter, Princess Clementine, Crown Prince Albert and the royal household.

The castle is empty, for the king had sold all the furniture, dismissed the servants and withdrawn to the pavilion not far from the chateau of his most intimate friend, Baroness Vaughan. The day was a mixture of anxiety, hope and despair. As his strength failed, the king whispered to his chaplain and the aged priest with tears rolling down his cheeks, approached the bed and heard the king's confession and administered communion and extreme unction.

Settles Affairs. In the morning the king, assisted by a notary and solicitors, settled his private affairs. He discussed his will with perfect composure. In the afternoon he took farewell of the court officials. To Count Outremont, marshal of the court, his majesty said: "You have served me well for more than 20 years. I am grateful. Before I die, I want to tell you so and give my thanks."

The king then summoned Princess Clementine, whom he kissed several times, telling her not to cry. She was led fainting from the room. Other relatives, including Prince Albert, followed.

Fate, destined that Leopold's illness should occur in the simple pavilion instead of the royal palace at Brussels. While it is understood that she was a whim of the sovereign that caused the closing of the castle, this action probably had to do with the

king's plan to place most of his personal and real property in control of a stock company to permit the inheritance to pass to his daughters undisturbed by scandal such as has retarded the death of the queen.

Dramatic Touch. Princess Louise, whose creditors tried to prevent her from receiving her inheritance to the queen's jewels, has offered a dramatic touch to the present situation by sending from Hungary an insistent appeal to her father to receive her, and it is rumored tonight that the king has consented to see his bachelored daughter. Nothing has been heard from Princess Stephanie.

A curious circumstance is the fact that Brussels appears to be more occupied with the sensational chapters in King Leopold's career than with his illness. The situation is summarized by a well informed official who said tonight: "Leopold does not understand the Belgians, and the Belgians do not understand Leopold. So, perhaps, they have grown apart. The Belgians have come to consider Leopold as a great man of business, a great international promoter who at the same time has done much good for Belgium."

Baroness Vaughan, it is rumored, insisted upon seeing the king today, thus furnishing an exciting incident, but did not succeed in carrying out her plan. It is also reported that she was informed that if the king died she would not be allowed to remain in Belgium.

Grand Celebration to Be Held Tonight. Completion of Higgins Avenue. Much Rejoicing.

Tonight is the big night. Tonight Missoula county, under the auspices of the 50,000 Boosters' club, will gather in the Harmon theater and with appropriate speeches and with music written for the occasion will celebrate the opening of the Higgins avenue bridge.

It is but proper that the city, the county and the representative bodies in each should join in a celebration which means so much to all. Nothing in the past year, perhaps, has meant so much to Missoula county as the completion of the new bridge. Primitive methods of crossing, bringing delays and handicaps to business and cutting the south side off from the business section have been the result of the loss of the old bridge and now that the city is once more united and business is again proceeding unhampered it should be held.

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Much is Done. Plenty has been done during the "bridgeside" period; a new railroad has entered Missoula, a new court house has been started, new business blocks innumerable have been built, a street railway system has gotten under way and city improvements by the score have been completed, but the coming year will excel this and the coming tonight is going to start the ball rolling.

The story of the construction will be told by Superintendent R. W. Sweet of the Burrell Bridge & Construction company. The city's end will be related by Chairman D. T. Curran of the board of commissioners and the city improvements which are to follow will be told by Mayor Logan.

It is not the Boosters' club alone which has shown the true boosting spirit in regard to the celebration. The Missoula band has offered its services free of charge and will not only play during the meeting but will give a concert in the opera house from 7:30 until the meeting starts.

"Uncle Charlie" Harnois, with the spirit which he has always shown, has offered the theater to the Boosters for the evening.

Grand Ball. After the celebration is over the Missoula band will give a dance in Elite hall in honor of the event.

The program, as prepared by P. M. Reilly, president of the Boosters' club, was announced yesterday and is as follows: Music..... Missoula Band Opening of the Celebration..... P. M. Reilly "Accepting the Bridge"..... D. T. Curran, Chairman of the

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Mr. Rayner said in part: "It is absolutely preposterous for us to talk about indemnity. Indemnity is no recompense for murder. It is said we ought to break off official communication with his accredited representatives. We have already done that and that amounts to naught and is a matter of absolute unconcern to him."

"Then it is expected we ought to declare war against Nicaragua. I think that is unnecessary.

"This government is a cowardly government if it does not make an example of Zelaya before the eyes of the civilized world. This case will not admit of any trifling or concessions. If two American citizens have been murdered by Zelaya, then he must be made to pay the penalty of his crime."

Raise in Arms. "Once spread before the American people the details of the execution and our people will raise in arms and demand retribution.

If Zelaya's right to sentence these men to death and execute them in cold blood, then we must acknowledge doing that right and recognize it before the nations of the world. If he did not have that right this government is his accuser, and if he is guilty he must be awarded the doom and fate that he deserves, so that every citizen on this earth in every nation under the sun, and in every government, large or small and especially these Central American states, who have received every favor and consideration at the hands of the United States; to whom has been extended the official hospitality of our land and who in return therefor have exhibited to us at times the bitterest hatred and visited upon our citizens the most cruel indignities and outrages, shall be told once and forever that our flag follows our citizens wherever they go, and that when an assassination like this occurs the malefactor must take his place like any other culprit at the bar of criminal justice and answer for the deeds with his liberty or his life."

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SENATOR SALVADOR CASTRILLO

The Nicaraguan Insurgents' Agent at Washington.

Managua, Dec. 12.—The report is current here that there has been a severe engagement near Rama between the government troops, commanded by General Vasquez and the revolutionists, with heavy loss of life. There has also been a report that Rama has been captured by the Zelayan forces, but this is not confirmed.

According to dispatches, the revolutionists claim that they were attacked in violation of the armistice, but this is not believed. Telegraphic communication is interrupted, but it is supposed by the government officials here that General Vasquez was attacked by the Zelaya, as he was under orders from Zelaya not to make an attack. The armistice, which was arranged between General Vasquez and General Estrada, ended at 3 o'clock Friday morning.

Vasquez sought its prolongation for three additional days, but Estrada refused. In the armistice the question of the acceptability of Dr. Jose Madriz as Zelaya's successor was submitted to the Estrada followers and the armistice was brought to a close by a flat refusal to consider him for that position.

Not Acceptable. Washington, Dec. 12.—A lengthy dispatch from General Estrada, leader of the revolutionary forces in Nicaragua, to Senator Castrillo, representative in Washington of the Nicaraguan revolutionists was received today in which General