

HEART OF MANHATTAN SHAKEN BY EXPLOSION

Great Catastrophe at New York Central Station Costs the Lives of Ten People.

CAUSE OF THE DISASTER IS ILLUMINATING GAS

Runaway Train Crashes Into Lumber Pile Which Butts Gas Main—Gas Collects in Auxiliary Plant and Is Set off by Spark From Third Rail.

New York, Dec. 19.—The terrific explosion of illuminating gas in the auxiliary power house at the Grand Central station which sent a tremor along the entire rock backbone of Manhattan this morning, caused the death of 10 persons, two of them women, the injury of 125 others, and property damage estimated tonight at from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000. Fire broke out in the shattered ruins of the power house again late tonight, but with a corps of police, searchers and firemen on the scene, the blaze made little headway before checked.

No. 2, directly across the street from the power house, lifted like a magic carpet. A shower of glass, bricks, mortar and splintered timbers began to fall on the pavements and in an instant the streets were filled with prostrate men and women blown flat by the shock and the rush of the air. They sat dazed when they felt plying slivers from their flesh.

The injured include laborers and other employees of the railroad, pedestrians, bystanders and others in the vicinity of the accident. A passing surface car carrying seven passengers was lifted from its tracks and buried in an automobile running alongside. Four of the seven passengers were killed outright, but the chauffeur of the motor car was only cut and bruised. Of the nearly 100 in hospitals, the following are the most seriously injured: Unidentified woman, fractured skull; Michael Ryan, fractured skull and internal injuries; Theresa Lotta, fractured skull and shoulder; John Smith, injuries to the head; Francis Kelly, policeman, burned and bruised; John Cunningham, burned.

The force of the explosion ran north and south from one to two miles along the rocky ridge that is the backbone of the island, and east and west laterally for a mile. Foundations were jarred, walls were shaken out of plumb, windows were blown in by the thousands, ceilings came crashing down on the heads of those beneath, and the pavements were littered with pulverized glass. The full amount of the property damage is yet unavailable, and may exceed the estimate of \$500,000. The loss to the New York Central railroad company includes the physical damage done to the power house, which was completely wrecked; the delay to construction work and the damage done to cars standing near the power house. The loss to shopkeepers and property owners in the vicinity will spread over a wide range of items. Christmas displays were blown backward into the shops, sucked into the street or cut to ribbons by flying glass.

How it Occurred. As nearly as can be determined this is how the accident occurred: A train of empty passenger cars hauled by an electric motor, in charge of Albert Seagrout, got out of control, crashed into a steel and concrete buffer post, snapped it off and rammed a pile of lumber behind it into a gas main collecting with the taps from which the tanks of the passenger cars are charged. By the testimony of the motorman and of John J. Quinn, a bricklayer working on the main power house adjoining the auxiliary house, the time of the break in the pipe was about 8 o'clock. Two clocks stopped by the jar fix the time of the explosion at 8:25.

In the interval the broken main had ample time to pour high pressure gas into the lower levels of the auxiliary power house. When workmen set to clearing away the lumber, it is assumed that one of them dropped a steel tool across the third rail, there was a flash of electricity and the great reservoir of accumulated gas exploded.

What happened then will never be exactly known. The roof of fire house

EDWARD DOUGLAS WHITE BECOMES CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES

In the Presence of a Distinguished Gathering the Man Who Has Served on the Supreme Bench for So Long Is Elevated to the Head of the Country's Highest Tribunal.

Washington, Dec. 19.—In the presence of a distinguished gathering in the little courtroom, Edward Douglas White was today elevated from associate justice of the supreme court of the United States to the chief justiceship. The climax of the ceremonies occurred when Associate Justice Harlan, as senior member of the court, administered the judicial oath. It was subscribed to on the bench itself, instead of at the clerk's desk, as is ordinarily the case.



CHIEF JUSTICE EDWARD DOUGLAS WHITE.

the new chief justice, and in the presence of the standing gathering administered the judicial oath. The senior justice bowed the chief justice into the chair at the head of the court, extended his personal congratulations and himself resumed his old seat at the right of the chief justice.

LOAN SHARK FINED

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 19.—Arthur V. Hill, manager of a loan company, the first person to be convicted in this state under a decision which classes money loan offices whose usurious rates are charged, was sentenced today to pay a fine of \$500 and costs. His counsel immediately took an appeal.

TO RELIEVE MINERS IN FIRE ZONE

ASSESSMENT WORK FOR 1910 MAY BE ALLOWED TO PASS—BILL PASSES SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—The senate today passed Senator Heyburn's bill relieving owners of unpatented mining claims from assessment work for the year 1910. The bill applies only to claims owned by persons who, by reason of losses suffered during the months of July, August and September, 1910, by forest fires, were rendered financially unable to perform such labor upon the claims for the year 1910.

REDUCTION IN COAL MADE BY COMPANIES

Salt Lake City, Dec. 19.—The 50-cent raise in the price of coal, which went into effect early in November, was taken off today and a further reduction is predicted. The first steps have been taken by state officials to revoke the state charters of the Utah Fuel coal company and the Utah Fuel company on the ground that they have formed a conspiracy in violation of the law of the state.

REPORT WAS ALL WRONG

San Salvador, Dec. 19.—The report emanating from Port Limon, Costa Rica, that, as a result of a terrific earthquake, an island in the Ilopango lagoon in the interior of Salvador had disappeared, with the drowning of many women and children, is without foundation. Only a slight earthquake has occurred recently, which was without damage to property or loss of life. Ilopango lagoon, which lies to the southeast of San Salvador, is a normal salt.

ELECTION CONTESTS ARE STARTED IN BUTTE

SULLIVAN-BENNETTS CASE, INVOLVING ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, IS FIRST HEARD.

Butte, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Election contests of all the republican candidates who lost out at the recent election against their successful democratic opponents were started today in Judge McClellan's court. The only democratic candidate whose office is not being contested is County Attorney Tom Walker. This office of assessor, to which Gilbert Bennetts was elected by four votes, is being contested by P. S. Sullivan, the present democratic incumbent, on the ground that out of the 17 votes cast at Fish Creek, and of which he got one, more than half were residents of Jefferson county.

NEGRO QUESTION IS NEXT

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 19.—Honker T. Washington, head of the negro industrial school here, has issued invitations for an international conference to be held at Tuskegee of all persons in America and Europe interested in the education and improvement of the negro race. It is planned to hold this conference in January, 1912.

UPPER HOUSE OF CONGRESS REFUSES TO ESTABLISH RULE OF CLOTURE.

Washington, Dec. 19.—By a vote of 37 to 17 the senate today again emphatically announced its determination to resist all efforts to alter its rules in any way looking to the establishment of cloture in that body. The question arose over the ruling made last Saturday by Vice President Sherman, holding that an announcement of a pair by a senator in an eye and no vote is sufficient to justify the chair in including him to make a quorum. This point was raised early in the day over the approval of the journal of Saturday's proceedings.

ADAMS MUST SERVE TIME.

Boston, Dec. 19.—Almon D. F. Adams, formerly a leading note and stock broker, who was recently convicted of the larceny of a stock certificate valued at about \$500, was sentenced today in the superior court to imprisonment for not more than five or less than three years in the state prison. F. Augustus Helme of New York and others interested with him had transactions of more than \$400,000 with Adams, suits are now pending in the supreme court to recover possession of his stock, which was hypothecated by Adams.

HARPER IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Postmaster W. W. Harper of Anaconda is here with other postmasters to advise with the postoffice department regarding the establishment of a postal savings bank at Anaconda.

WAITING GAME MAKES DENIAL PLAYED BY HORNET OF SIGNING REPORT

LITTLE OLD GUNBOAT MAKES SOME NEW ORLEANS PEOPLE GO INTO SPASMS.

SENATOR FRAZIER SAYS HE BELIEVES LORIMER WAS CORRUPTLY ELECTED.

TALK OF FILIBUSTERING

SEVEN VOTERS BRIBED

Despite the Fact That the Vessel Is Cleared as a Merchant Ship, It Is Believed She Will Participate in An Opera Bouffe War Where Revolutions Thrive, in Honduras.

Member of Senate Sub-Committee Says He Did Not Attach His Signature to Report Which Cleared Illinois Senator, but Prepared a Statement Wherein He Gave His Own Views.

New Orleans, Dec. 19.—Much excitement was created in local Central American circles this morning when it became known that the former United States gunboat Hornet, purchased several months ago from this government by a local firm, had sailed, provisioned, signed crew and would make an effort to leave today for Central America. Statements are made in local newspapers that the Hornet will lead an attack which revolutionists are alleged to be planning against the little republic of Honduras, with a view to overthrowing the Davilla government.

Chatanooga, Tenn., Dec. 19.—United States Senator James H. Frazier today denied that he signed the report of the sub-committee of the committee on privileges and elections of the senate, which found the election of Senator Lorimer of Illinois free from scandal. Instead, he says he filed a statement in which he said he believed seven of the votes cast for Lorimer in the legislature were tainted. It has been generally reported that all members of the sub-committee signed the report, which gave Lorimer a clear record.

Formerly a Private Yacht.

The Hornet was the private yacht of Henry M. Flagler, prior to the Spanish-American war, when it was purchased by the United States government and converted into a gunboat. Last summer it was purchased from the government by a New Orleans shipyard, taken from Washington to Norfolk, overhauled and sent to the Central American trade. Officers from the United States marshal's office have been keeping a watch on the Hornet, but have apparently discovered nothing to indicate a filibustering expedition.

CAN'T STOP DEBATE IN SENATE

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Cleared as a Merchant.

The Hornet was cleared today as a merchant vessel by G. W. Reuff, Jr., agent for the owner, who is given as Joseph Beer, head of a line of schooners now in the Central American trade. Mr. Reuff branded as false the report that the steamer was involved in a revolutionary expedition. Captain Johnson, the master, has been employed by the Estrada government in Nicaragua for several months and until recently was commander of the Nicaraguan gunboat Pula. David P. Rowland, the chief engineer, has seen service in Central American waters.

ENGLISH ELECTIONS.

London, Dec. 19.—With the final balloting today, the general elections have come to a close. Today's results are not yet known, but these last three seats were formerly held by a Liberal, a nationalist and an independent nationalist. The standing of the parties tonight is: Government coalition—Liberals, 37; laborites, 42; nationalists, 72; independent nationalists, 10; Total, 355.

MRS. ARNOLD'S SECOND SUIT.

Helena, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—The second suit of Mrs. Nellie S. Arnold of Missoula against H. F. Samuel of Idaho, in which the plaintiff sues to recover \$50,000 for the death of her husband was started in the federal court today. The first suit, in which Mrs. Samuel asks for \$25,000 damages for personal injuries, suffered in the accident in which her husband was killed, went to the jury July afternoon

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