



MRS. MCKINLEY BETTER. MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN HER CONDITION.

THE CRISIS NOT YET PASSED, HOWEVER—NO RECURRENCE OF ALARMING SYMPTOMS—JOY OVER THE GOOD NEWS.

San Francisco, May 17.—President McKinley described the marked improvement in Mrs. McKinley's condition to-day as a transformation. But perhaps even the President of the United States may overstate the case in his elation at the prospect of his wife's recovery. It is certain, however, that Mrs. McKinley's condition last night improved to an extent that fairly nonplussed the doctors, brightened the anxious and devoted husband and filled the city with joy and thanksgiving.

THE PRESIDENT REJOICES. HE RECEIVES MANY CONGRATULATIONS ON THE IMPROVEMENT IN HIS WIFE'S CONDITION.

San Francisco, May 17.—Mrs. McKinley's physicians were so favorably impressed with their patient's condition at the early morning consultation that they issued a bulletin announcing that she had passed a good night, and informed the public that there would not be another consultation until evening. This reassuring news, printed in all the newspapers, was received with delight by the people. It was communicated to all the members of the Cabinet, and immediately after breakfast they hurried out to the Scott house to express their chief pleasure in the glad tidings. The joy in the President's heart was reflected in his face, and a look at his countenance to-day was enough to dispel immediate apprehension. He looked haggard and careworn yesterday; to-day his face fairly beamed. The feeling of cheerfulness continued throughout the day. Although the other physicians left the house early in the morning, Dr. Rixey remained, and Drs. Hirschfelder and Gibbons were always where they could be reached at a moment's notice.

MAY ATTEND THE OHIO LAUNCHING.

There were callers innumerable at the house, but most of them left cards and expressions of hope for Mrs. McKinley's continued improvement. Flowers arrived in profusion, until all the rooms were filled with them. If Mrs. McKinley continues to improve to-night the President may attend the launching of the Ohio tomorrow. His visit to the Pacific Coast was for the purpose of witnessing the launching of the battleship named in honor of his native State from the works of the company that built the Oregon, and he would be glad not to disappoint the expectations that have been built on his presence. But if he attends it will be a hurried trip, and he will not be absent from his wife's bedside more than an hour.

SECRETARY HAY NOT ILL.

From inquiries received here to-day, it is apparent that some rather sensational reports were printed in the East concerning Secretary Hay's indisposition. There was no reason for alarm. He was fatigued and worn out yesterday as a result of his long trip, and remained in his room at the hotel, but to-day, after his rest, he was up and about, and said he was feeling as well as ever.

KILLS SON AND HIMSELF. FATHER USES CYANIDE OF POTASSIUM FOR THE DOUBLE TRAGEDY.

NO REASON KNOWN FOR THE TERRIBLE DEED OF A BOOKKEEPER IN HIS PELHAM HOME—QUEER CONDUCT OF A STRANGER.

John L. Haigh, twenty-eight years old, an expert bookkeeper for Roberts, Cushman & Co., wholesale dealers in hat trimmings in Washington Place, this city, poisoned his six-year-old son last night and then committed suicide at his home in Pelham. The boy died in terrible agony before a physician arrived. The poison used was cyanide of potassium. A pound can of it was found in the room where the tragedy occurred. It bore the name of Schieffelin & Co., the wholesale druggists. The accountant it is believed bought a large quantity from the wholesale house under the pretense that he was in the drug business.

The cause of the tragedy is a mystery. Coroner Banning, of Mount Vernon, held an examination last night, but did not succeed in clearing it up. Mrs. Mary Haigh, the widow of the suicide, thinks that overwork and worry were the causes. She is prostrated from the shock.

STORY OF THE TRAGEDY.

Haigh had a pair of pet goats for the children and when he was home his neighbors say most of his time was spent with them in play. According to the version of the tragedy given by Mrs. Haigh to Coroner Banning, Haigh returned to Pelham last night as usual at 5 o'clock and ate supper at 8 o'clock with the children and herself. He appeared to be in a pleasant mood and after the meal suggested to little Charley that they play hide-and-seek.

"All right, papa!" exclaimed the child in delight. "You run upstairs and hide and then I'll go up and hunt for you. Mamma and baby can stay in the dining room until we get through."

Mrs. Haigh took the baby on her lap and sat down to read a newspaper. She forgot all about the game of hide-and-seek until suddenly she heard a scream. It was from Charley. He appeared to be choking. At first she thought it was the two at play, but as the screams grew louder she knew that something terrible was going on. She bounded upstairs to the front bedroom where the screams came from and was surprised to find the door locked. The cries of the child by this time were ceasing. Mrs. Haigh called vainly to her husband to open the door. She received no reply. Finally the cries and groans stopped altogether. The maddened mother struggled vainly with the door, but was not able to open it. It had been locked from the inside.

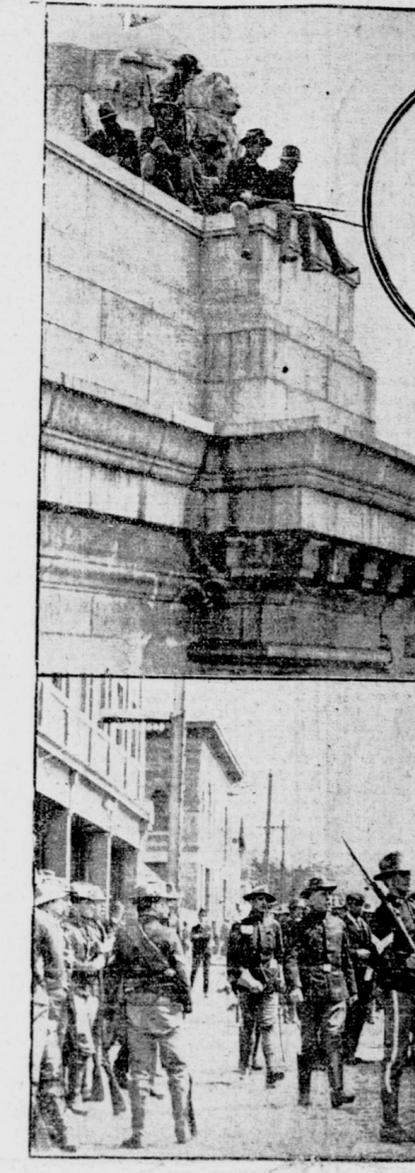
Mrs. Haigh finally gave up the task of getting into the room and ran out and called in her neighbors. One of them, a man named James Stacey, succeeded in breaking the door from its hinges. When Mrs. Haigh caught a glimpse of the interior she fainted.

CLASPED IN HIS FATHER'S ARMS.

Lying on the floor was the tall form of her husband. The boy was clutched in his arms, and beside them lay a little doll. Neither of them was yet dead, but they were unconscious, and their faces and mouths were terribly burned. The pound can of poison and the glass in which it had been mixed lay beside the bodies. Haigh had undoubtedly held the boy in his arms while he forced down his throat the burning solution. Then he had taken a drink of it himself.

In five minutes after the bodies were found the father died, without having regained consciousness. The boy lived a few minutes longer than his father. His mother and the neighbors carried him downstairs and tried to force milk down his throat. Then they sent for Dr. Van Patten, of Mount Vernon, but the child died before he arrived.

SHARPSHOOTERS OF THE 32D SEPARATE COMPANY ON ROOF OF THE CENTRAL STATION.



SOLDIERS OF THE 32D BOARDING THE FIRST CAR YESTERDAY AT THE QUAIL-ST. BARN.

COLONEL TORE OFF STRIPES. COMMANDER OF THE TWELFTH INFANTRY DISCIPLINES WITH HIS OWN HAND.

Despite all efforts at secrecy, it became known yesterday in National Guard circles that a storm broke loose over the 12th Regiment at Creedmoor last Tuesday and that in consequence Colonel Dyer, the commanding officer, personally and summarily tore off the chevrons of two non-commissioned officers. As the details of the occurrence became more generally known it was said by several high in command that Colonel Dyer might himself be reprimanded in orders for what is said to be an extraordinary piece of discipline. As another result of the episode, the two officers, and two privates who are also implicated, were dropped from the regiment's roll last Thursday night.

A member of the company who was present at the rifle practice at Creedmoor on Tuesday told of the incident last night as follows: After the practice four members of Company I began playing horse tricks on one another. One or more of them had been drinking, and their actions soon became boisterous. They were rolling around in the grass when the colonel, perceiving what was going on, called them before him. Two were non-commissioned officers, one a sergeant, and the other a corporal. The colonel, before all the rest of the regiment, then stripped the officers of their chevrons. Generally this is done through his orders by the captain of the company in which the men belong. In this case Captain Rabarg, who commands Company I, was absent.

"Although the colonel's action is extraordinary, I have not heard any complaint among the rest of the men about it; but, on the other hand, he is thought to have done the right thing in the circumstances."

Colonel Dyer was seen yesterday at his office, No. 36 Wall-st., by a Tribune reporter. When asked if he had exceeded his powers in stripping off the chevrons of his subordinates with his own hands, he said: "As colonel of the regiment I had a right to call as I did. I defy the ability of any one to act me to account. Appeal? There is no appeal in such a case. According to the code, the colonel of a regiment has the right to discharge non-commissioned officers without any consultation with the captain. These officers are elected, to be sure, by the vote of the members of their companies, but with the warrant of their colonel."

The chief reason for my taking this action was its immediate effect on the rest. By a delay of two or more days and the intervention of the captain the effect would have been lost. "Yes, I understand that in other regiments thought and deliberation would have been executed by a captain, but that is because of the politics that permeates many other regiments. In such a case the degradation of an officer may hit this one or that one, and is a thing for thought and deliberation. There is no politics in the 12th. The colonel is free to act for himself. As a consequence, I can say that the character of the 12th is of a high standard. At our encampment last summer, at Peekskill, there were few drunk in the regiment, as compared with some others."

THE VICTIMS OF THURSDAY'S SHOOTING. WILLIAM M. WALSH.



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FATAL FIRE IN A FACTORY. ONE MAN BURNED TO DEATH, AND TWO MEN AND A BOY SERIOUSLY INJURED.

One man was burned to death, and two others who were seriously injured by a fire which destroyed the varnish factory of John W. Masury & Son, No. 187 to 191 Plymouth-st., Brooklyn, yesterday. The fire was one of the most stubborn the department has fought in many months. It started at 4:20 o'clock, and was not entirely out at an early hour this morning.

The dead man is Dennis McDonough, twenty-three years old, of No. 242 Water-st., and the injured are Thomas Scott, forty-two years old, of No. 47 Bridge-st., John W. Thomas, fifty years old, of No. 65 Tallman-st., and John N. Thomas, a son, fifteen years old.

While the men were at work the material from which they were making the varnish became overheated and exploded. The workmen were thrown down, and the flames spread over them. Their cries attracted the attention of other employees, who made a rush to escape, and some of whom tried to close the iron window shutters placed between the varnish factory and the storage warehouse.

POLITICIAN LOSES HIS TONGUE.

Charles A. McLaughlin, ex-Register of Water Rates in Brooklyn, and a well known Republican, had his tongue removed at the Seney Hospital last Wednesday. The operation, which took about two and one-half hours, was performed by Dr. Pilcher, and was entirely successful. It is believed that, with the aid of a mechanical appliance, Mr. McLaughlin will be able to talk.

EMMETT CORRIGAN ARRESTED.

The actor charged with perjury in connection with a bankruptcy case. Emmett Corrigan, the actor, who is now playing the role of Simonides with the "Ben Hur" company, at the Columbia Theatre, Brooklyn, was arrested last night by Officer Feeney on a warrant issued by Magistrate Brann, in the First District Court, yesterday, charging perjury. Corrigan was taken to the Elizabeth-st. police station late last night, where he was locked up.

THE STRIKE STILL ON. NO AGREEMENT AT THE ALBANY CONFERENCE.

DIRECTORS UNABLE TO ACCEDE TO STRIKERS' DEMANDS—DISCUSSION LASTS SIX HOURS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, May 17.—No settlement of the Albany surface car line strike is in sight. That was clear at midnight to-night. A six-hour conference between the directors of the United Traction Company and the representatives of the strikers resulted in nothing except increasing the bitter feeling between the men and their employers. The main conference to-day took place in the new offices of the company in Broadway, and was attended by the following men: John W. McNamara, general manager; Robert C. Pruyn, president, Anthony N. Brady, vice-president; William Kemp, Charles Clemshaw, F. N. Mann, Jr., A. Bleecker Banks, of the traction company; William McCabe and Patrick Downing, of the Central Federation of Labor, and William E. Wollard, counsel to the Federation of Labor. The Albany local division of the Federation of Labor was represented by James M. Sheehan, John Vaughn, William Dana and Thomas McGovern. Representing the Troy division of the Federation were F. J. Van Allen, J. D. Landrigan and Edward Colony.

Before the conference was held Robert C. Pruyn, president of the United Traction Company, had sent the following letter to Mayor Blessing: Albany, May 17, 1901. Dear Sir: In answer to your request we say that we are ready at all times to receive and confer with a committee of our late employees for the purpose of composing the differences between us, and if a committee of such employees desires to confer with our executive committee we will meet them at your office at 4 p. m. Yours very respectfully, ROBERT C. PRUYN, President.

The conference continued uninterruptedly from 4:15 o'clock until nearly 11 o'clock. The longer the situation was argued the more remote appeared the prospect of a settlement. The strikers' representatives finally agreed to waive their demand for a recognition of their union, but in the same breath demanded that all the new men engaged be turned adrift and the old men go back to their former places. The directors flatly refused to grant this demand. Over this point in its various bearings there were angry interchanges, with neither side yielding an inch.

William Kemp, one of the Troy directors, came down the marble staircase of the office and started for his home at 11 o'clock. When asked about the situation he said: "I am absolutely disgusted. There was nothing but talk, and talk. These men upstairs have really no authority to speak for the organizations they pretend to represent. They will have to go back and report to their organizations and receive fresh instructions. The men say to-night that they are ready to waive their demand for a recognition of their union, but they demand that we discharge the new men who have come here to work. That we will not do."

General Manager McNamara said to a Tribune correspondent shortly after Mr. Kemp left: "The labor delegates are simply wasting their own time and ours as well. They are well in a position to construct anything. Anything might agree to to-night might be kicked to pieces as soon as the delegates report back to their unions. The discharge of the new men who have come to work for us, and we won't listen for a minute to any such proposition. There will be no settlement of the strike as a result of the conference to-night."

SETTLEMENT SEEMS NEAR. BETTER OUTLOOK FOR END OF STREET-CAR STRIKE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, May 18, 1 a. m.—The prospect of a settlement of the strike is steadily brightening. Labor delegates who left this city for Troy last night said that the end of the trouble was near at hand. The proposed new night rate of 19 1/2 cents an hour means an additional half a cent an hour to the men employed at night. The day rate is 20 cents an hour.

The change in the situation began shortly after midnight, and there is, apparently, a good chance that the strike may end to-day. One of the directors of the United Traction Company takes this view. "The soldiers will be going home to-morrow," he said. The representatives of the street railway employees, at the conference with the officers of the United Traction Company, said, it appears, that they favored a certain compromise which was suggested by the representatives of the company. The United Traction Company made some concessions in this compromise, and the employees made others. The company, it is also said, agrees to pay 19 1/2 cents an hour to night men. This is an increase of wages to this class of men. On the other hand, the eight non-union men to whom objection was made by the union men will be retained.

The representatives of the employees said they would submit this proposed compromise to their respective unions in Troy and Albany, and had no doubt whatever that it would be adopted. The directors of the United Traction Company, through their executive committee, agreed to it to-night, so that, so far as they are concerned, there is no retreat.

The only doubt left is whether the street railway employees of Troy and Albany will ratify this compromise. They rejected one compromise and may also reject this one, but persons who think they know the sentiments of these men say they certainly will accept this one. The employees are said to be eager to get to work again, and to have been as profoundly horrified by the appalling death of Mr. Smith and Mr. Walsh as have other residents of Albany. The directors of the United Traction Company also are sincerely desirous of ending the strike.

BISHOP DOANE'S PRAYER FOR PEACE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, May 17.—Bishop Doane, of the Episcopal Church, has composed a prayer for peace, and in his letter transmitting it to the churches says: "There is no Christian man in Albany who would not gladly do what in him lay to quiet the unrest and end the disturbance in our city. If any counsel of advice or arbitration could be offered it would be, but it is the unlikelihood of that we can at least ask God to bring order out of confusion, to allay passion, to avert bloodshed, to establish the right."

MORGAN AND ILLINOIS CENTRAL. REPORT THAT HE HAS BOUGHT THE ROAD DENIED.

A dispatch received in this city last night from London by way of New-Oreans said that J. P. Morgan had bought the Illinois Central Railroad, Charles Steele, of J. P. Morgan & Co., when asked about the report, said that there was no truth in it. Stuyvesant Fish, president of the Illinois Central Railroad, also denied that the road had been bought by Mr. Morgan.

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