



REPORT 200 ARE DEAD FIRE FOLLOWS TORNADO.

Conflicting Stories Regarding Loss of Life at Meridian, Miss.

New-Orleans, March 2.—Two hundred people are reported dead and fully double that number injured by the tornado at Meridian to-night.

Special trains have gone out from New-Orleans to the assistance of the stricken town.

The negro section was wiped out and the charred bodies of more than twenty negroes were found in the burning ruins.

The city is in total darkness, as the electric light plant was destroyed.

The Grand Avenue Hotel, containing fifty guests, is a wreck.

Mobile, March 2.—A long distance message to "The Item" from J. D. Breaux, service man of the Cumberland Telephone Company at Meridian, Miss., gives complete details of a tornado which struck Meridian this evening in which several persons were killed.

During a heavy rainstorm at 6:40 o'clock a storm cloud developed in the south and moved quickly over the city, striking Front street, the business center, with full force.

Among the heaviest losers are the Meyer & Neville Hardware Company; Tom Lyle & Co., wholesale drygoods and grocers; Joseph H. Moore, wholesale drygoods and groceries; the New-Orleans & Northeastern Railroad freight depot and other buildings, the names of which are not obtainable at this hour.

From the business centre the cyclone jumped to East End, where a number of houses were blown down and others badly damaged.

Meridian, the county seat of Lauderdale County, Miss., is the largest manufacturing centre in the State. It is ninety-five miles east of Jackson, on the Mobile & Ohio and Alabama Great Southern railroads.

Only Sixty of Three Hundred Boats Return to Trondhjem.

Trondhjem, Norway, March 2.—Of three hundred boats which recently went out fishing only sixty have returned, and it is feared that disaster has befallen the others.

HARRIMAN ROAD PROJECT DEFEATED.

Middletown, N. Y., March 2.—The Board of Supervisors of Orange County on Thursday defeated a project to construct one of the state roads desired by E. H. Harriman, by a vote of 15 to 14.

IT WAS NOT MR. ROCKEFELLER.

Pittsburg, March 2.—John D. Rockefeller is alive, of which nobody has the smallest doubt. He did not pass through Pittsburg last night in the private car Plymouth Rock, as had been widely announced.

SUES McLAUGHLIN ESTATE FOR \$15,000.

Chicago, March 2.—A crisis has been reached in the legal contest long waged in the Circuit and Probate courts here between United States Senator Platt, of New-York, and James Donovan, of this city.

ONE NIGHT TO CHICAGO.

By The Twentieth Century Limited of the New-York Central Lines. Leave New York 8:30 p. m. arrive Chicago 8:30 next morning.

JUSTICE DEUEL SERVED FACES STRONGER CHARGE.

Accused Man Returns Well to Fight Against Removal.

Justice Joseph M. Deuel returned to the city yesterday and went to the Criminal Courts Building in the afternoon to accept service of the papers in the application for his removal from the Special Sessions bench.

Justice Deuel looked the picture of health after several weeks of fishing on the Gulf coast of Florida, and he said he never felt better.

After the character of the charges became known, Justice Deuel declined to discuss them. He said there had been an amicable arrangement by which he had come to his chambers to accept service.

The first charge is that Justice Deuel, while he has been on the bench, since July 1, 1895, has been in the business of owning, managing, editing, printing, canvassing for and selling "Town Topics," "The Smart Set" and "Fads and Fancies," and managing, directing and controlling the Town Topics Publishing Company, the Smart Set Publishing Company and the Printers and Publishers' Realty Company.

It is then charged that in "Town Topics" there was continually published "abusive, scandalous, lascivious, scurrilous and libelous matter, so Joseph M. Deuel well knew, and that it was one of his functions to read such matter and so edit, phrase and modify it as to decrease the risk of civil or criminal liability of its authors; that it was part of the business of William D. Mann, Charles Stokes Wayne, Moses Ellis Wooster, Robert A. Irving and others associated with him in the Town Topics Publishing Company to compel the payments of large sums by persons of supposed means or social standing in the community by means of threats that unless they subscribed to a book and paid for it an "exorbitant and extravagant sum," or unless they paid for advertisements, matter derogatory to them should be published in "Town Topics," and that the custom to publish in "Town Topics" derogatory matter regarding persons who did not pay and to publish matter in praise of persons who did pay.

Mr. Jerome and the other petitioners to the Appellate Division ask that Justice Deuel be directed to make answer to the charges, and that upon the answer and the testimony submitted with the charges the Appellate Division shall decree such action in the premises as it may seem just and proper.

It is expected that the Appellate Division will adopt the usual practice of sending the charges before a referee for investigation, and that the referee will take testimony before him, and that the prosecution of Justice Deuel before the referee, Edward L. Beach, it is understood, will defend Justice Deuel.

HIS LIGHT WAS OUT.

Vermont Turned Central Park Torch Bearer Into Acrobat.

Patrolman Mulvey, of the Central Park police, noticed, about 7:30 last night, that the lamps in the 86th street transverse road were not lighted.

While walking through the street he saw a little figure moving hand over hand across a telephone wire about twenty feet above the street.

CRISIS IN FIGHT AGAINST PLATT.

Partner of Senator's Opponent in Timber Case, Supposed Dead, May Be Alive.

Chicago, March 2.—A crisis has been reached in the legal contest long waged in the Circuit and Probate courts here between United States Senator Platt, of New-York, and James Donovan, of this city.

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE FIGHT.

Contest for Congressional Chairmanship Narrowed to Two Candidates.

Washington, March 2.—The fight for the chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional committee has narrowed down to a contest between Representative Griggs, of Georgia, and Representative Granger, of Rhode Island.

GILBERT FOR OPERA.

Hammerstein Signs Famous Singer for His New Company.

Oscar Hammerstein has made another contract which will please lovers of opera in this city.

SLAVE LAW STANDS IN DELAWARE.

Wilmington, Del., March 2.—Delaware is the only state in the Union where slavery laws are still in force.

THE BENNETT BUILDING.

In Nassau street, from Fulton to Ann streets. Sold yesterday by the New-York Life Insurance Company to Felix Isman, of Philadelphia, for \$1,000,000.



THINK COLOMBIA ANGRY SOLD FOR A MILLION.

But Señor Mendoza Denies Relations Will Be Severed.

Washington, March 2.—There is interest in diplomatic circles over the fact that since the United States rejected Colombia's offer to submit the question of an indemnity asked by that government from the United States on account of the revolution and subsequent loss of Panama to arbitration of a third party, the Colombian Minister to this country, Señor Mendoza, has been absent from Washington.

It is feared that the government of Colombia, irritated by the second rejection of their demands, may decide once more to break off relations between that country and the United States, and that the minister's departure for New-York was only the first step taken on his way home.

SEÑOR MENDOZA, who has been staying at a hotel in this city for the last ten days, when informed of the foregoing dispatch last night, denied that he had any intention of withdrawing from Washington.

"There is absolutely no foundation for the report," he said. "I am in New-York on some business for my government. When I have finished with that I shall return to Washington, and continue to present the claims of Colombia growing out of the Panama affair and try to have them satisfied.

ADMITS IDAHO MURDER.

Steve Adams Confesses Share in Steunenberg Assassination.

Boise, Idaho, March 2.—Steve Adams has made a full confession in the Steunenberg assassination case. It is more detailed and sweeping than that of Orchard on the movement of the conspirators.

BLACKMAILERS IN NET.

Caught on Havemeyer Estate Looking for Decoy Package.

Greenwich, Conn., March 2.—Prosecuting Attorney Henry B. White and Constable Richard Morrell succeeded late last night in capturing a man believed to be the writer of a "Black Hand" letter, and his alleged companion, Joseph Ferrante and Eugene Imbroga, the prisoners, and they will have a hearing to-morrow on the charge of blackmail and threatening the lives of Pasquale Forte and family.

WILL DEPOSIT \$10,000,000.

Secretary Shaw Announces Temporary Placing of Funds.

Washington, March 2.—Secretary Shaw announced to-day that he would make temporary deposits in public banks amounting to \$10,000,000. The Secretary in his statement says:

SLAVE LAW STANDS IN DELAWARE.

Wilmington, Del., March 2.—Delaware is the only state in the Union where slavery laws are still in force.

J. R. WALSH ARRESTED.

FALSE REPORT CHARGED.

Chicago Financier Also Accused of Misusing Bank's Funds.

Chicago, March 2.—John R. Walsh, ex-president of the Chicago National Bank, which closed its doors December 18, 1905, was taken into custody to-day on a federal warrant charging him with making false returns to the Controller of the Currency and converting to his own use, without proper authority, funds of the bank amounting to three million dollars.

The complaint alleges that on November 18, 1905, the Chicago National Bank's statement to the Controller of the Currency said that at the close of business on November 9 the amount of loans and discounts of the banking association on which the officers and directors were then liable, either as payer or indorser, was \$245,000, whereas in truth the amount of such loans and discounts was \$3,000,000.

The \$3,000,000 mentioned as taken by Walsh is identical with the amount specified as being loaned to officers. It is further alleged that John R. Walsh and John M. Smyth and William Best, directors of the bank, "and other persons too numerous to mention," unlawfully converted money to the use of Mr. Walsh.

The arrest of Mr. Walsh was the direct result of the last examination of the books of the Chicago National Bank made by Special Examiner Arthur L. Curry. The data were sent to District Attorney Morrison, in this city.

This was granted, and twice more the friends of Mr. Walsh asked for and obtained a brief respite. A short time after 2 o'clock, however, Deputy Marshal Middleton refused to wait longer.

After being released Mr. Walsh said: The report in question would ordinarily have been signed by the cashier, but by reason of his temporary absence it was signed by me. I believe, however, was undoubtedly correct in every particular.

AGENTS STRIKE BACK.

Form "Endless Chain" to Hurt Members of Armstrong Committee.

Although every effort has been made to keep the fact secret, it was revealed yesterday that after the dinner of the Life Underwriters of New-York, in the Hotel Savoy last Wednesday night, at which Paul Morton, president of the Equitable Life, was the principal speaker, some fifty of the general agents met and organized themselves into an "endless chain" political organization.

Each of the fifty agents who entered the "endless chain" pledged himself to get twenty other agents to join the chain, on condition that each of the other twenty should pledge himself to array at least twenty more agents against the committee and the members of the Legislature placed on the blacklist.

By that process it was designed to get into a political organization all the insurance agents in the state, to the number of many thousands. It was figured out that the fifty men would get in one thousand in the first chain, that the one thousand could get in twenty thousand in the second chain and the twenty thousand could get in four hundred thousand agents and friends in the third chain.

It is to be a perpetual organization," said an agent who had been asked to become a member of the second chain, "and there will be a line-up in all parts of the state against every body who assists in the work of limiting new business or cutting down commissions."

KU KLUX KLAN WARNING.

Black Robbed Horsemen Terrify Negroes Into Respect for Law.

Shreveport, La., March 2.—This city experienced a revival of the Ku Klux Klan last night, when fifty mounted men, draped and masked in black, rode all over the city, causing a stampede in the negro districts. They warned the negroes that they must respect law and order.

CARD FROM MISSING MAYOR.

Signature Said to Be That of W. H. Belcher, of Paterson, N. J.

Paterson, N. J., March 2.—A postcard bearing the signature of William H. Belcher, who mysteriously disappeared from this city some time ago, after embarking about \$100,000, has been received by William J. Barbour, a prominent lawyer of this place.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

FISH—NO WHITEWASH.

ASSOCIATES SAY SO.

Lord Northcliffe Asked to Help Clean Mutual Life.

There remains no doubt that Stuyvesant Fish, president of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, who recently resigned from the board of trustees of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, will head a policyholders' committee of international scope which will go into the affairs of that company without a whitewash brush.

It is almost certain that Effingham B. Morris, whose resignation from the Mutual board was accepted with that of Mr. Fish on Thursday, will be one of the active members of the new committee.

It now seems likely that the Washington aggregation of Mutual policyholders and those brought together by Thomas W. Lawson, of Boston, will join with the Fish committee. John D. Witt Warner, counsel for the Washington committee, spent yesterday in the Capitol and in Philadelphia discussing the situation.

There is some objection to the past records of some of the backers of these older movements, but in a desire to do the most good for the Mutual it is likely that this objection will be overruled.

Mr. Fish's friends and advisers made vigorous denial yesterday of the story circulated in a morning newspaper that in order to bring the Illinois Central fight to an end he had approached what is known in Wall Street as the Standard Oil clique.

That the movement on the part of the policyholders for an outside housecleaning is already beginning to have its effect on the Mutual management was shown yesterday, when Mr. Peabody issued copies of the modified requisition which the Trustee's committee had made upon him for information.

Practically all of the objections which President Peabody made to the blanket requisition have been sustained in the recent one. The investigators no longer demand "a statement on the date of last dividend payment, giving such date of the individual holdings or interests of any trustee or officer of the Mutual Life Company" in the subsidiary banks or trust companies in which the company is interested.

While it is not our purpose in any manner or degree to limit the extent or scope of our inquiries and investigation of the affairs of the Mutual Life Company, as defined in the resolutions appointing and empowering our committee, we recognize the force of your objections to the methods of procedure indicated in our letter and will endeavor to meet your views in this respect as far as we feel that we can consistently do so.

The accountants appointed by our committee have been checking the books and accounts of the company during the last three months, and their work has to an extent been done with a view of checking on the accuracy of the figures and data called for in our letter of the above named date. They advise us that certain of these matters require further information on these particular matters, and it is necessary or additional explanation regarding them, which is desirable from any trustee, officer or employee of the company, we will at once make request therefor in such specific form as will enable you to procure it as quickly and fully as possible.

The new requisition follows the lines of that made by the Frick committee on the Equitable officials last April. There is a particular request regarding terms of leases in the company's office buildings to relatives of officers or trustees. The rental accounts of the home office on Nassau street are to be especially inquired into. Losses sustained by the company of more than \$10,000 in the purchase or sale of real estate, in loans thereon, and in the sale and depreciation of securities are made the subject of special inquiry.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.

EMPLOYEES ASKED NINE QUESTIONS.

Nine questions are asked of employees receiving more than \$2,000 a year. The investigators want to know if such officials have had any business relations since January, 1900, with any other company in which the Mutual Life has any interest.