New-York Tribune.

VOL. LXVII....No. 22,301. To-day, fair. To-morrow, fair; west winds. NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1907.—SIXTEEN PAGES.— Copyright, 1907, by The Tribune Association. PRICE THREE CENTS.

HUNDREDS BURIED IN MINE EXPLOSION.

NEARLY EVERY ONE OF THE VICTIMS DEAD.

West Virginia Disaster Most Appalling in History of American Coal Mining.

Monongah, W. Va., Dec. 6.—Six charred and blackened bodies lying in the improvised morgue prepared near the entrance to the mine, five men hovering between life and death from the awful bruises sustained and the deadly gases inhaled, in a temporary hospital into which one of the company buildings has been transformed, and 380 men imprisoned by tons of coal, rock and mine debris in the depth of the hills surrounding this mining town, with the chances all against a single one of them being alive, is the most accurate summary obtainable to-night of the results of a mine explosion to-day which in all probability was attended by greater loss of life than any former disaster in the history of the coal mining industry of America.

The explosion occurred shortly after 10 o'clock to-day, after the force of nearly five hundred men had gone to work in the two mines affected. These mines are Nos. 6 and 8 of the Consolidated Coal Company, situated on opposite sides of the West Fork River, at this place, but merged in their underground workings by a heading and on the surface by a great steel tipple and bridge.

The finding of the six bodies and the five badly injured men is the only reward for strenuous and uninterrupted work by large rescuing forces which immediately set to work at every possible point.

SURVIVORS CAN TELL LITTLE.

The five living men are unable to give any detailed report of the disaster or even to explain how they reached the surface. They say that immediately back of them, when they began their frantic struggle for liberty, there was a large number of men engaged in a similar struggle, while still further back in the workings there was a large number of whom they know nothing.

It is the opinion of the mine officials and others familiar with mining that these nine men had not penetrated the mine as far as had the majority of the day shift when the explosion occurred and that they headed for and reached the main entry before the heavy cave-in that now blockades the entrance more than a few hundred feet beyond the main opening of mine No. 6.

As to the miners referred to by the rescued men as having been alive when last seen, it is believed that they were caught back of a heavy cave-in of coal and mine roof and that they could not have survived more than a few minutes in the deadly gases with which the entry was filled as soon as the ventilating system was interrupted. There is more hope for those in more remote parts of the mine, as they may have reached workings where fresh air is supplied by other openings; but at best only the most slender hope is entertained for the survival of any one of the men in the mine until the debris can be cleared away and communication with the outside re-established.

There is much speculation as to the cause of the explosion, but the most generally accepted theory is that it resulted from black damp, scientifically known as methane. It is believed that a miner attempted to set off a blast which blew out and ignited an accumulation of this deadly gas and that this in turn ignited the coal dust, a highly inflammable substance found in greater or less quantities in all West Virginia mines. However, all explanations of the cause up to this time are necessarily speculative. Only a thorough investigation after the mine is reopened will disclose the cause, if it is ever ascertained.

The explosion affected both mines, and so far as is now known appears to have done about as much damage in one as in the other. It has not been established in which mine it originated. Evidencing the terrific force of the concussion, props in the entry of No. 6 mine supporting the roof were not only shattered and torn from their positions but were blown out of the entry and to the opposite side of the river. Other evidence of the awful force is shown in every section of the mines that has been reached by the rescuers. Huge quantities of coal and rock have been loosened and hurled into every opening, and all of the underground structure is wrecked beyond semblance of its original shape.

ENTRY PILED WITH WRECKAGE.

The entry of No. 6 mine, three hundred feet from the mouth, is piled high with the wreckage of two strings of cars and two electric motors. Some of the rescuers have climbed over this and found dead bodies beyond, but have made no attempt to remove them to the surface, partly because it would be almost impossible to carry the bodies over the debris, and more particularly because they do not want to lose any time in reaching other parts of the mine, where it is possible men still living may be imprisoned. The cars are being righted as fast as possible and removed from the entry together with all other obstructions.

All of the headings leading off from the main entry are being cut off by canvas and barricaded as fast as they are reached by the relief workers so that the innermost workings of the mine may get the benefit of the ventilating system to sustain any who may be yet living and make possible an early exploration of these workings.

The American miners in the town have been placed in charge of the relief work, but the Italians and other foreigners are working under them most faithfully. It is impossible for a man to remain long in the depths of the mine, and the rescue forces are divided to work in relays with frequent reliefs. Many in the relief party have already become exhausted and have been sent to the surface.

OWNERS OF THE MINES.

The mines are owned and operated by the Consolidation Coal Company, of Baltimore. General offices are located in Baltimore and the operating offices in Fairmont, W. Va. The company is said to be one of the largest operating in the bituminous coal industry of America. It

Continued on second page.

GREAT BEAR SPRING WATER.
"Its purity has made it famous."—Advt.

ROGERS ROAD HALTED

Practically All Work Stops on Tidewater Terminal.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Richmond, Va., Dec. 6.—One hundred and fifty engineers, practically the entire force engaged in completing the construction of the Norfolk terminal of the Tidewater Railway have been laid off with less than three days' notice. Many of the men have not yet been paid their salaries for last month. It is said that construction work all along the line has been ordered temporarily stopped, many hundreds of men being thrown out of employment.

The Tidewater Railway is being built from Deepwater, W. Va., to Sewell's Point, below Norfolk. The work of construction is practically finished, the terminal at Norfolk being the last big job before the road was ready to be operated. H. H. Rogers, of New York, is president of the road, which is being built to develop the coal and oil industries in West Virginia.

The present delay will postpone the completion of the road for several months. The tightness of the money market rather than inability to procure funds is the alleged cause for the unexpected action in abandoning the work when it is so near completion.

MICHIGAN HUGHES BOOM.

Governor's Strength There Said To Be Growing.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Detroit, Dec. 6.—The Hughes boom seems to be quietly expanding in Michigan, and the character and prominence of the people who are preparing to fight for the New York Governor are such as to insure a hard struggle. A letter written by Henry B. Joy, of Detroit, is taken as the first gun of the battle. Mr. Joy denies that Hughes is the Wall Street candidate. Taft men are saying that every string is being pulled to influence those interested in large corporations to bring them into line for Hughes.

GERMAN STEAMER BURNS AT SEA.

Crew Unable to Put Out Flames, Barely Escape in Milos's Boats.

Brest, Dec. 6.—The crew of the German steamer Milos arrived here to-day and told a thrilling story of their escape from the burning vessel at sea. The steamer was bound from Hamburg for Brest. Fire broke out in her hold during the voyage.

The crew battled valiantly against the flames until off Ushant Island, twenty-seven miles west of Brest, when, realizing that their task was a hopeless one, they took to the boats and were barely able to save themselves.

The Milos was a steel steamship of 2,843 tons. She was built at Port Glasgow in 1896 and was owned by the German Levant Line.

BOY SAVES SIX LIVES FROM TRAIN.

Backs Horse Off Tracks in Front of Long Island Express.

Edward Barton, fifteen years old, of No. 35 Merrick Road, Jamaica, sprang in front of a swiftly moving train last night and saved the lives of a man, two women and three children by backing a horse off the tracks. So close was the escape that the engineer thought all had been killed. He stopped his train and went back, only to find young Barto pulling away from the detaining hand of W. H. Spaulding, who sought to compel him to listen to his thanks.

Mr. Spaulding, who lives at No. 34 Bergen avenue, was out driving with his wife and a woman friend. His three small children were "cutting behind," their sleds trailing a few feet back of the surrey. As they approached the Long Island Railroad crossing at Merrick Road Spaulding says the gateman nodded to him as if to indicate that the coast was clear. He did not lower the gates. Mr. Spaulding drove out upon the tracks, and then he saw an express train thundering down upon them. Mechanically he drew up his horse, but the carriage was squarely upon the tracks.

Young Barto, who was passing, rushed to the horse's head and backed him off the tracks. The engine was so close to the boy that it touched the calves of his legs.

DEAD FROM TROPICAL FEVER.

Frederick Palmer, from Panama, Succumbs to Disease Here.

The medical staff of St. Vincent's Hospital and Coroner Harburger's physician, Dr. O'Hanlon, are puzzled by symptoms in the case of a patient from Panama who was removed to the hospital last Thursday from the steamship Panama, and who died later in the night.

The patient, whose name was given as Frederick Palmer, a wealthy planter in Panama, arrived in this port on the steamer on Wednesday. He was too ill to leave the vessel, and continued in the ship's hospital ward until Thursday evening, when it was deemed desirable to remove him to the hospital on shore, where he died.

Dr. O'Hanlon will perform an autopsy to-day. The report noted peculiar symptoms, but Dr. O'Hanlon stated that there was nothing resembling yellow fever.

LUSITANIA DUE THIS MORNING.

Fog Delays Her at the Start and Heavy Weather Prevents Record Time.

The Cunard liner Lusitania, which was unable to leave Liverpool on Saturday owing to a heavy fog, was reported as 229 miles east of Sandy Hook Lightship at 10:30 a. m. yesterday. Although delayed a day in starting, it was though she might make the lightship late last night or early this morning.

A wireless message from Captain Watt, however, reported heavy weather and reduced speed for many hours. The steamer Philadelphia, the most consistent performer of the American Line fleet, reported heavy weather off Sable Island, and will not be able to land her passengers before noon on Sunday. Captain Watt of the Lusitania reported that he would probably come abeam of the Sandy Hook Lightship about midnight to-night and dock at about 9 a. m. to-morrow.

NEW YORK ARTISTS SUFFER BY FIRE.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

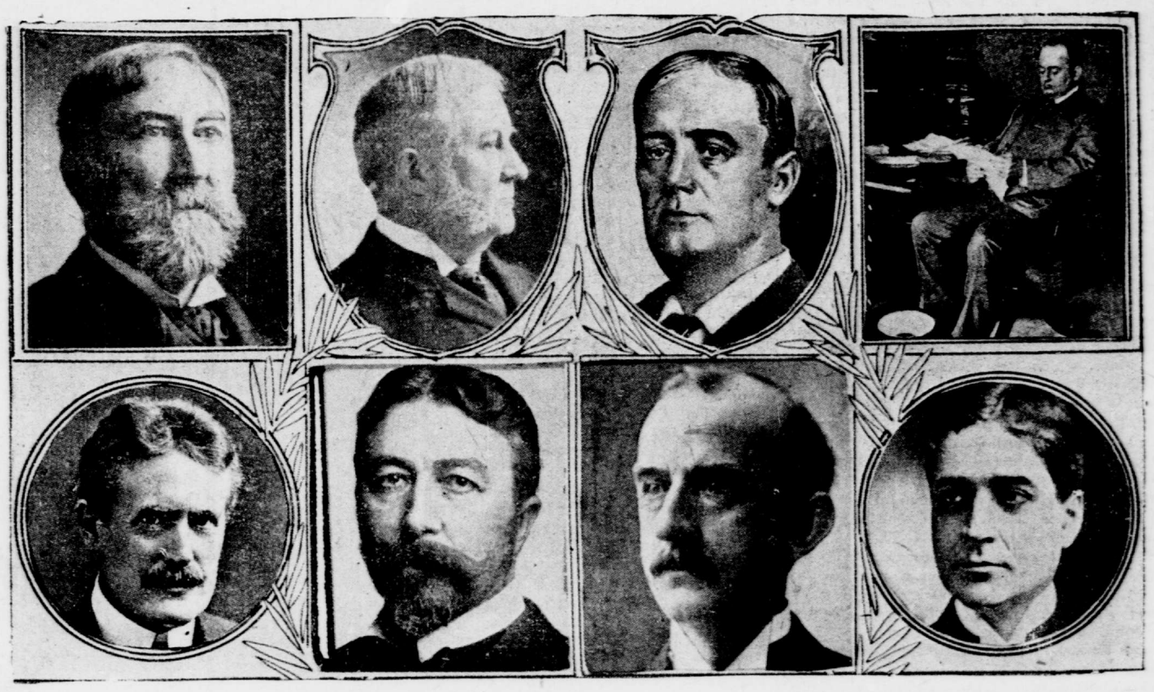
Provincetown, Mass., Dec. 6.—Paintings and antiquities valued at $25,000 were destroyed to-day when the summer bungalow of Miss Woodward and Miss Johnson, two New York artists, was totally destroyed by fire. Miss Woodward had been occupying the building for the last three weeks finishing a painting, and the fire started around the fireplace while she was in the building. Besides paintings by Miss Woodward and Miss Johnson there were a number of European paintings and a collection of antiquities that cannot be duplicated.

AMERICAN ARRESTED IN PARIS.

Paris, Dec. 6.—Max Pierson, an American, giving his address as New Oxford street, London, was arrested here to-day, charged with passing forged American and English banknotes.

LEADING NATIONAL COMMITTEEMEN NOW MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

SENATOR N. B. SCOTT, of West Virginia. CORNELIUS N. BLISS, of New York. CHAIRMAN HARRY S. NEW, of Indiana. SECRETARY ELMER DOVER, of Ohio.



EX-GOV. MYRON T. HERRICK, of Ohio. EX-GOV. FRANKLIN MURPHY, of New Jersey. SENATOR W. M. CRANE, of Massachusetts. CONGRESSMAN F. O. LOWDEN, of Illinois.

(Photograph Copyrighted, 1905, by the Burgee Company.)

DANGER AT GOLDFIELD.

TROOPS MAY BE LATE.

Correspondence on Nevada Situation Made Public.

Washington, Dec. 6.—A situation of the utmost and immediate danger at Goldfield, Nev., is revealed in the official correspondence between Governor Sparks of that state and the President, just made public. The Governor's appeal for troops is construed by the authorities here to indicate the imminence of great peril, and if actual violence is to occur at all it is expected before the arrival of the troops from California at Goldfield. The Governor's appeal to the President, dated at Carson City yesterday, follows:

At Goldfield, Esmeralda County, State of Nevada, there does now exist domestic violence and unlawful combinations and conspiracies which do now so obstruct and continue to so obstruct and hinder the execution of the laws of the State of Nevada and now deprive and continue to deprive the people of said section of the state of the rights, privileges, immunities and protection named in the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Nevada, and which are secured by the laws for the protection of such rights, privileges and immunities; and the constituted authorities of the State of Nevada are now and continue to be unable to protect the people in such rights, and the reason of such inability and the particulars thereof are the following, to wit: Unlawful dynamiting of property, commission of felonies, threats against the lives and property of law-abiding citizens, the unlawful possession of arms and ammunition, and the confiscation of dynamite, with threats of the unlawful use of the same by preconcerted actions.

The lawfully constituted authorities of this state are unable to apprehend and punish the perpetrators of said crimes and to prevent the commission of other threatened crimes, and unless the relief hereinafter requested is granted this state, and the lives and property of a large number of its people will irreparably be affected and damaged, contrary to the peace and dignity of the United States and of the state of Nevada.

Therefore, pursuant to Article 4, Section 4, of the Constitution of the United States, and to Sections 5,297 and 5,298 of the Revised Statutes thereof, I, John Sparks, Governor, do hereby respectfully request that your excellency, Theodore Roosevelt, President, do immediately send to Goldfield, Esmeralda County, Nevada, two companies of the troops of the army of the United States to suppress unlawful disorder and violence, to protect life and property, to restore peace and to insure protection of law to the people of the State of Nevada.

The President's reply, dated to-day, follows:

To Acting Secretary of War Oliver:

Referring to the accompanying formal request of Governor Sparks of Nevada for federal troops to restore order at Goldfield, please direct General Funston to send a sufficient number of troops to be wholly adequate to meet any emergency. It is far better to avoid conflict by sending too many troops than by sending too few to run the risk of inviting bloodshed.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

General Funston has advised the War Department that he has ordered five companies from Fort McDowell and four companies with a machine gun platoon without animals from Monterey, all of the 22d Infantry, in command of Colonel Reynolds, to go to the disturbed district, and that they will start to-day. The total strength of troops probably will not exceed two hundred and fifty men, and General Funston says that in view of the large amount of property liable to destruction and the scattered condition of the same he thinks it is better to send the troops enumerated instead of a small detachment. He says that if conditions are such as to make it advisable he will go to Goldfield himself. By rapid transit the scene of the trouble can be reached in about eighteen hours.

General Funston's dispatch to the adjutant general of the army follows:

Have just conferred with a prominent mining operator of Goldfield now here, a man thoroughly familiar with all conditions there. He states the Western Federation of Miners in Goldfield numbers about thirty-two hundred, of whom about one thousand have rifles and shotguns. Not more than three hundred of these men might be considered dangerous, and doubts if they would resist regular troops. Their leaders are some of the men who made so much trouble in Idaho and Colorado. Danger is that before troops can arrive they will blow up mines and kill people. Sheriff is member of federation and in sympathy with them. Schedule time of trains is twenty-six hours; special could make it in eighteen. I feel that I should inform the department. Every morning paper in San Francisco knew that department had wired me within three hours after receipt by me of message. Information came from their Washington correspondents.

General Oliver, Acting Secretary of War, today made public all the correspondence, in order that the exact facts which have impelled the administration to order troops to Goldfield might be known. In addition to General Funston's first dispatch announcing that he had intended to send two companies in the first place to Goldfield, came later correspondence showing that on inside information as to the situation in that mining camp it had become apparent that a very much larger force of soldiers would be necessary, on the theory that a small force would only invite attack or resistance by the riotous element, while an overwhelming force would insure peace by making it apparent

Continued on third page.

BRYAN IN ILLINOIS.

Harks Back to Free Silver in Talk on Crisis.

Freeport, Ill., Dec. 6.—William J. Bryan opened his Illinois campaign for the nomination for the Presidency on the Democratic ticket here to-night in two speeches delivered before mass meetings and later at a banquet attended by nearly seven hundred prominent Northern Illinois Democrats. Mr. Bryan spoke on the "Vindication of the Democratic Platform Since 1896."

"The Republican party has been steadily falling from popularity," he said, "and to-day only one man can win the Presidency, one who will have to break away from precedent and accept a third term, and one who has only gained his popularity by taking for his issues planks from the Democratic platform."

He pointed out that the present financial stringency was the result of turning down Democracy's bimetallism issue, and declared the trusts, tariff and labor arbitration problems were being solved according to the lines embraced in Democratic platforms.

ASKS STATES TO MEET.

Alabama Plans General Scheme of Railroad Regulation.

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 6.—The Alabama Railroad Commission has requested a meeting with the railroad commissioners of Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Louisiana for the discussion of the many questions now arising in state regulation of transportation lines. The idea is to get a uniform plan with regard to rates, schedules, stations, demurrage and other problems.

The commission has also issued an order that no road shall discontinue a passenger train without first getting permission from the commission.

GREAT LAKES CLAIM 135 VICTIMS.

Monetary Loss Two and One-half Millions During Season Just Ended.

Detroit, Dec. 6.—From the opening of navigation until December 5, when marine insurance expired, 135 lives were lost on the Great Lakes. The principal monetary losses aggregate $2,598,000. Eight small steamers burned since October 7. The City of Cleveland and the Naomi were destroyed earlier in the season.

The sinking of the Cyprus caused the greatest loss of life, only one of the crew of twenty-three escaping when she went down in the Lake Superior gale on October 12. The Arcadia, with fourteen lives lost, is the second largest disaster.

The record for the season follows: Lives lost, 135; drowned in collision, 12; drowned in wrecks, 55; washed overboard, 8; accidentally drowned, 19; other causes, 41; total vessels lost, 22; total in vessels lost, $750,000; strandings, 137; collisions, 49; total monetary loss, $2,598,000.

MAJOR WILLIAM L. GEARY DEAD.

Was the First White Child Born in the City of San Francisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 6.—Major William L. Geary, U. S. A., died to-day in the army general hospital at the Presidio from Bright's disease. Major Geary was the first white child born in San Francisco, his father having been the last Alcalde and the first Mayor of San Francisco. He entered the army during the Civil War when thirteen years of age as drummer boy in a Pennsylvania infantry regiment and was brevetted captain at the close of the war.

He was then graduated from West Point.

WIRE WALKER FALLS TO STAGE.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

St. Louis, Dec. 6.—Don Juan Calcedo, a South American wire walker, slipped from a wire in the Garrick Theatre at the matinee to-day and fell twelve feet to the stage floor. He landed on his hip and shoulder, and walked off the stage, but fell unconscious behind the scenes. His injuries will confine him for several weeks.

OKLAHOMA CASHIER ARRESTED.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Hobart, Okla., Dec. 6.—R. J. Schofield, cashier of the State Bank of Manitou, which failed last summer, has been arrested on two charges of embezzlement in connection with the failure. He was released under a $1,200 bond.

NEBRASKA MAY GUARANTEE DEPOSITS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Omaha, Dec. 6.—A special dispatch from Lincoln says there is a likelihood that the Legislature of Nebraska may be called to meet in special session to enact a law providing for the guarantee by the state of deposits in the state banks.

OKLAHOMA "JIM CROW" BILL PASSED.

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 6.—The "Jim Crow" bill passed the Senate this afternoon by a vote of 36 ayes, 3 noes, 4 absentees and 1 excused. The law will become effective in sixty days after being signed by the Governor.

JEROME'S OFFICE ACTS

CALLS PROVIDENT MEN.

Philadelphians and Thomases Tell of Transactions.

The directors of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society held a meeting yesterday at No. 346 Broadway which lasted nearly five hours, and during that time discussed every phase of the situation facing them.

The Philadelphia syndicate which attempted to purchase the society from E. R. and O. F. Thomas was well represented, almost all of its eight directors being present. The Thomases were there, as was Timothy L. Woodruff, who has acted in the interest of the policyholders.

Isador J. Kresel, Assistant District Attorney, sprang a surprise when he subpœnaed a number of the Philadelphians and the two Thomases to appear before him yesterday afternoon. The day previous E. E. Rittenhouse, a Commissioner of Insurance of Colorado, who has been investigating the Provident society with Superintendent Kelsey, placed in Mr. Kresel's hands some data, requesting him to lay them before the grand jury if after inquiry he found there was ground for so doing. Mr. Kresel's subpœnas followed quickly.

The Assistant District Attorney examined the witnesses as to the bargain between the syndicate and the Thomases, and it is understood also examined them as to some of the affairs of the company.

The men subpœnaed were John J. Coyle, E. R. and O. F. Thomas, Charles M. Braun, John W. Phillips, Henry Brooks, J. J. Moore, John B. Wurtz and George B. Elliott.

From the testimony taken the Assistant District Attorney understood that Mr. Coyle, who was elected chairman of the finance committee of the society, had deposited $50,000 of its money in the Hamilton Trust Company, of Philadelphia, of which Mr. Brooks is a director, and had offset this deposit by a note of like amount.

When Mr. Coyle's attention was called to this later he said: "Absurd! I did deposit that amount in that bank, and I did so because I did not have any great knowledge of New York banks, and you know what the banking situation here was at that time. I knew this Hamilton Trust Company was a safe institution. Of course, I did not offset it by a note for $50,000. The mistake probably arises through the fact that one of my notes for that amount is held by the Hamilton Bank of New York."

The District Attorney's office learned yesterday that the Thomases had bought the Brockville, Westport & Northwestern Railway, of Canada, some two years ago. This road is capitalized at $900,000 and has a bond issue of $450,000. In March last Charles F. Heim, vice-president of the Hudson Trust Company, it was said, sold the society $20,000 worth of bonds of the road at 75, and in April he sold it $16,000 more of these bonds at the same price. It was said the District Attorney's office believed the bonds could have been bought at 40.

O. F. Thomas said this matter needed no explanation. "When we bought the road," he said, "we paid 102 or better for every bond purchased, and we still have all the bonds we bought. I do not know whose bonds were sold to the company, but they were not ours. As for buying them at 40, it could not have been done, in my opinion."

Mr. Coyle said that he had been advised by a broker that 75 was not an excessive price to pay for the bonds, and Mr. Woodruff said he thought the investment was a good one for the society.

At the meeting of the board of directors yesterday different sub-committees were appointed to attend to various matters that are now before the society. One committee was appointed to report on securities that it deemed the society would do well to purchase. The Provident Society has more than $1,000,000 in cash for investment purposes. The question of the valuation of the society's realty also came up for discussion. The society will ask for a hearing on this question and a revaluation.

Mr. Woodruff said that he hoped when the investigation was finally over that the Insurance Department would be satisfied with the condition of the society and permit it to resume business. "It is unfortunate, too," said he, "that this investigation should come just at this time. It makes a settlement of the differences between the Thomases and the syndicate much more difficult, it complicates the whole situation materially and the tendency of the whole business is to hurt the society."

STEAMER SINKS, THIRTY DROWN.

Brazilian Coaster Guasca in Collision with Unknown Vessel Off Paranagua.

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 6.—The Brazilian coasting steamer Guasca, Captain Ramos, 550 tons, has gone down off Paranagua, Brazil, as a result of a collision with an unknown vessel. Thirty persons who were on board the Guasca were drowned.

NO STATEMENT FROM WHITE HOUSE.

SENSATION NOT PROVIDED FOR PARTY LEADERS.

National Committeemen Had Expected President to Make an Anti-Third Term Announcement.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 6.—The really important and somewhat dramatic feature of to-day's gathering of the Republican National Committee was the eager and almost exultant expectation with which the members gathered at the White House, convinced that the President was going to avail himself of the occasion to reiterate his Election Night statement, and the inscrutable but ineffable smile with which the President greeted them, said a few complimentary words, shook hands all around, and dismissed them.

"The members of the Republican National Committee need no introduction to you, Mr. President. They are the gentlemen who conducted the campaign of 1904, which resulted in such a magnificent victory for you," said Chairman New, as he presented the committee to the President.

"No, indeed, they don't need an introduction. I know them all very well. I am exceedingly glad to have the opportunity of seeing you gentlemen again and of expressing my obligation to you, and of saying, furthermore, that, in so far as in me has lain, I have endeavored to so carry myself as to meet your expectations and make you not regret the remarkable work you did three years ago," replied the President.

Then the President shook the hand of each committeeman, went to the front portico of the White House, posed for a picture with the members of the committee, and said "Goodby."

Early this morning a rumor had gained currency to the effect that when the national committee called at the White House Mr. Roosevelt would declare his determination not again to accept a Presidential nomination. As the day wore on, the report spread further and further, and many interesting details were added. Committeemen whispered to committeemen, and newspaper men were confidentially assured of the accuracy of the report. The utmost delight that they were to be the recipients of such important news and to be present on so momentous an occasion was evident among the committeemen, and some of the more venturesome even suggested that they might have "something important to say later in the day."

THE RECEPTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

By the time the committee reached the White House, about 3 p. m., the excitement and expectancy were at fever heat. A crowd of newspaper men had gathered on the White House portico, each determined to be the first to flash the important statement to his paper as fast as electricity could carry it. When the committeemen were all properly lined up in the East Room some one told the President that the newspaper men were outside, and he immediately sent them an invitation to come in. That settled it, and every scribe produced paper and pencil with which to write down the momentous enunciation. When the President, accompanied by his military aid, Captain McCoy, appeared at the entrance to the East Room the silence was intense.

The President was fully aware of the expectations of the politicians who had come to greet him, and he spoke with much impressiveness and with his broadest and most genial smile. His words are quoted above. No significance, no inkling of Mr. Roosevelt's purposes or of his choice of candidates could be detected by the most careful scrutiny of his remarks, and the men who are to arrange the preliminaries for the selection of his successor looked at one another with amazement and even with disappointment.

With that easy grace which is one of Mr. Roosevelt's happiest gifts, he passed along the line, shaking each hand as if he were especially delighted to meet its owner, making a comment here and there in his happiest vein, but never even referring to national politics.

Then he gave a sign to Chairman New, who said: "Gentlemen, please step this way," and the gathering filed out on to the portico. A large leather chair had been placed immediately in front of the big glass doors, and the President seated himself, while the members of the committee grouped themselves about him. A battery of cameras was levelled at the Executive and his companions, and when each operator had flashed his shutter the President waved his hand to his callers, said goodby and disappeared behind the glass doors.

The important statements which were to have been given to the press later in the day have not been forthcoming. A few of the committeemen declared themselves irrevocably for Mr. Roosevelt for a third term, and a few have come out for Taft, but the majority are biding their time and are still waiting for some sign from the White House. After leaving the White House, the committeemen scattered about the various hotels and discussed the situation, and their disappointment that the President had not chosen an occasion which seemed to them so auspicious to declare himself.

Then the story that the President had said to Samuel Watts, a banker of Lewistown, Penn., that he would not accept another term gained circulation, and the question was warmly debated as to whether or not that could be regarded as a final statement. A little later word came from the White House to the effect that Secretary Loeb had said that Mr. Watts had not quoted the President correctly and that when the President had anything to say on that subject he would say it for himself, and again the committeemen were nonplussed. Presidential possibilities became a tabooed subject and the various groups fell to discussing the respective chances of Kansas City and Chicago, while some bets were made with odds on Kansas City.

Frank S. Streeter, national committeeman for New Hampshire, expressed himself this evening as in favor of the nomination of William H. Taft, although he declined to permit a direct quotation of his remarks. He said, however, that he had been for Taft from the first and was so still. He added that he regarded it as most important that good work should be done in Ohio with a view to solidifying the delegation from that state for the Secretary of War.

The recent poll of the Massachusetts delegation in Congress, which showed five members of the House for Taft, two for Cannon, two for Hughes and two undecided, and one Senator for

AFTER ALL, USHER'S THE SCOTCH that made the highball famous.—Advt.