

TOWN OF MERCUR WIPEL OUT BY FIRE.

Great Conflagration Started in Preble Building at 9:30 This Morning and Soon Destroyed Both Business and Residence Sections—Loss Will Be One of the Heaviest in the History of the State.

Flames Spread With a Fury and Speed That Baffled All Control—Bank and Union Mercantile Block Among the Structures Consumed—Many Persons Had Narrow Escapes With Their Lives—Citizens Will Be in Great Distress, and Assistance Will Be Necessary—Deseret News Sends Pony Messenger Over Mountains, Making Twenty-Mile Trip for Particulars of Fire.

LOSS NEARLY A MILLION DOLLARS; INSURANCE 35 PER CENT.

It was estimated this afternoon by conservative Salt Lake business men that the loss will reach from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 with insurance at about 35 per cent of that amount. The fire was greatly accelerated by a series of explosions that occurred in different parts of the city during the progress of the flames. It is supposed that the explosives were principally giant powder that had been stored away in violation of law.



MERCUR, AMERICA'S GREATEST CYANIDE GOLD CAMP.

Mercur is the western terminus of the Salt Lake & Mercur railroad, one of the most wonderful and picturesque little railroads in the world, 11 miles in length which has its beginning at Fairfield station on the Tintic branch of the Oregon Short Line. It is 33 miles from Salt Lake City and just within the eastern boundary line of Tooele county. In the old days, something over a generation ago, it was a silver camp. Finally it was abandoned and remained in a deserted and comatose state until the cyanide process of extracting gold from low grade ore was given to the world. Then it became a lively camp and finally it was incorporated in 1896. It is famous as the home of the noted Mercur and Golden Gate mines, now the Consolidated Mercur, of which Capt. De Lamar is reputed to be the principal owner. Mercur has enjoyed the reputation of being the most moral and quiet mining camp on the continent. It has had a good school system and a number of churches have regular congregations. According to the census of 1900 it had a population of 2,251.

Mercur, the great cyanide gold camp, of which Utah people have been so proud, was practically wiped out of existence by fire today. The origin of the conflagration is not known beyond the fact that it was caused by an explosion of some kind in the upper story of the Preble block in which the Quirrh hotel and a saloon were located. The loss will be immense, probably the greatest in the history of Utah. What the insurance will be no one can venture an intelligent estimate at this time. But it is certain that it will not come within tens of thousands of dollars of covering the loss.

Fortunately, there was no loss of human life so far as known at this time, though a number of persons had very narrow escapes from incineration. It has been very difficult to get accurate news from the scene of the blaze as all wire connection was cut off early and information had to come mainly from Fairfield station and Fairfield town, sometimes called Camp Floyd. In Salt Lake there was the greatest excitement on account of the business and other connections of the people here with those there. But like others they were compelled to content themselves with the brief facts that came to hand in divers manners. The "News" was just getting a message about it when the wire was cut out by fire. Simultaneously the passenger department of the Oregon Short Line received the following, via Fairfield: "The town of Mercur is burning. Not a single business block in town spared. Main street entirely wiped out on both sides and about 75 per cent of the residences will be burned in the next hour as fire is spreading. The fire started by an explosion in the Preble building on Main street.

Frank Kimball received a brief broadcast wire stating that 80 per cent of the town had been destroyed, and that the fire was still burning briskly. The McCormick bank building, the large structure of the Union Mercantile company, the Palmer hotel, and other business structures were gone, and the fire had reached up the hill to the Methodist church, but the mill buildings had not been touched. PONY MESSENGER. On ascertaining that telephone communication with Mercur had been cut off the Deseret News forthwith engaged by wire a special mounted messenger to ride with all possible speed from Fairfield over the mountains to Mercur, get particulars and return and telephone the same to this paper. In the meantime the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company was doing all in its power to re-establish connection which it hoped to be able to do sometime this afternoon. Pending this work and the return to Fairfield of the Deseret News messenger, Salt Lake was compelled to content themselves with the meager knowledge of the fact that there had been a conflagration that had destroyed the town and all of its business. SCENE IS HEARTRENDING. Smoking and Blackened Ruins With Hundreds of Homeless People. At 2:30 the Deseret News courier had returned to Fairfield from the scene of the awful conflagration and telephoned the following information to this paper: "It is impossible to describe the situation at Mercur this afternoon. When I arrived on the top of the mountain looking down into the canyon the whole gorge was filled with smoke, charred and blackened ruins among which the people moved slow or fast according to the intensity of the heat about them. It is estimated that not less than 1,000 people are left homeless and without food as the result of the conflagration. Many of them lost not only their homes and what they had to eat, but their clothing, and money as well. Some furniture was saved from the fiery den and probably 100 sets are piled along

Double Tragedy Of Man and Wife

Edward Hemsley Shoots Mrs. Hemsley With a Double-barreled Shotgun and Then Blows Out His Own Brains—Death Came Instantaneously to Both.

Atting a double-barreled shotgun full at his wife, Edward Hemsley, who lives at 1901 south Twelfth East street, shot her and then himself at noon today. Death was instantaneous in both cases. From the meager details that have been learned it seems that marital troubles were at the bottom of the killing. Hemsley and his wife have had trouble for some time past. Their married life for a long time has not been freighted with much happiness. This series of disagreements culminated recently in a divorce suit, the wife obtaining a decree of release from her husband.

Since the divorce was granted she has endeavored to get from the house those of her belongings which were given her by the court, and which were hers before she entered into the ill-fated marriage. In these attempts, which has been unsuccessful, though time and again she has made request for that which was hers. Hemsley met these requests sullenly. He did not care to have the woman coming around to his house for anything. This he told her when she repeated her requests for her belongings. Each time they met there was a quarrel and threats from Hemsley. He is said to have told her several times that if she didn't leave him alone that she would regret it.

Today she invoked the aid of the sheriff's office in her effort to secure some of her things, and today he made good his threat. Mrs. Hemsley this morning had Deputy Sheriff Ed Naylor go with her to the house of her divorced husband. Hemsley saw them approaching from an upstairs window. Without word or warning, he quickly got and loaded a double-barreled shotgun, which he always kept in the house. Then he came forward to the window again, raised the gun and shot his wife. He then turned the gun upon himself and emptied the other barrel into his own brains.

Husband and wife died instantly. Those who knew of the affair seemed in no hurry to notify the proper authorities. The police department had not been notified as late as 1:45, and at that time, the sheriff's office was just starting out for the scene of the tragedy. No one had arrived earlier, and the bodies were lying as they fell awaiting the coming of those employed to act. Both of the parties to the tragedy were young, which makes it all the more terrible. Hemsley was 25 and his young wife was not over 21. They had been married about two years, and last December she secured a divorce on the grounds of drunkenness and cruelty. Since then Mrs. Hemsley has been working for her living in families. She was employed in Judge Cherry's family

as a cook until a couple of weeks ago, when she went to work for Will Willes at the Willes-Horne Drug company. She felt a premonition of the event a few days ago, when she remarked to Mrs. Willes: "I really would like to go and get my things. Mrs. Willes, but I am afraid he would shoot me." She had grounds for this surmise in his conduct. He is said to have made life miserable for her since she was divorced as well as during those unhappy days before the decree was granted. He followed her almost everywhere she went. Hemsley seemed infatuated with the young divorcee, although his conduct was most fascinating to the neighbors, but that of an infatuated man. He told her whenever she made an attempt to get the things that he never wanted to see her again, and that she had ruined his life. But when she went away, he is said to have followed her and begged and implored her to come back and live with him. He seemed to love her in a most fascinating way, the neighbors say—a most peculiar way that impelled him to treat her cruelly when she was near him and to follow her everywhere when she went away. The mad passion of today was impelled by the madness of the thought of her leaving him. He liked to have her furniture at his house because it made her call in the hope of getting it. And when she called, he was able to see and speak to her and revile her in the singular way in which he manifested his love. Hemsley is said to have simply gone crazy when his wife and the deputy sheriff came for the furniture. He looked at the taking of these things as the ending of the last tie that bound her to him. He saw her going out of his life, and the very thought of it made the madness come into his brain—the madness that culminated in the awful deed. As the wagon came up for the stuff, he put his head out of an upstairs window and said: "I want Sadie to have everything that is hers." These were his last words. Mrs. Hemsley answered: "I wish him all the success in the world." These were also her last words. It was a parting Hemsley knew it was to be a parting, that the way separated and the words they had said were those of farewell. He could not bear the thought. He turned and got the shotgun, loaded it and fired at her, striking her in the right temple. Deputy Sheriff Naylor rushed into the house. Before he could reach the man, who had done the awful deed, Hemsley was lying on the floor in a pool of his own blood. Hemsley was the son of Edward H. Hemsley. He was 25 years of age. His father was before her marriage. Sarah I. Brooks, the daughter of Edmund J. Brooks, 318 Fourth street, an old and respected citizen of Salt Lake.

Epsom Gypsy And Edward.

She, Not Knowing His Identity, Told Him He Would "Rise High, to the Throne Itself, But Would Just Fall Short of His Ambition the Last Moment and Would Not be Crowned King"—Other Predictions.

London, June 25.—The story of the king and the Epsom gypsy is being re-told. According to this, a gypsy who was supposed to not have known his majesty's identity, told him that he would "rise high, to the throne itself, but would just fall short of his ambition the last moment and would not be crowned king."

The seer told King Edward that he would be so unlucky on the turf that even if one of his horses was going to win a race it would fall dead at the winning post. This prediction was fulfilled in the case of Counterpane, in 1888.

Later at Homburg a palmist is said to have foretold that the king would become ill as he started for his coronation progresses slowly. The hotels and provision dealers are hit the hardest. Thousands of pounds of perishable food of the most expensive varieties are crowding every refrigerator in London, while orders for many tons more were telegraphically cancelled yesterday and will remain a source of litigation or compromise.

The caterers of the fashionable West-End establishments have announced that they are willing to share the losses of their patrons who had given large orders for delivery tomorrow and Fri-

The British transport Bavarian, which had been racing against time in order to land the war contingent of South African veterans who were to take part in the coronation procession and which reached Southampton yesterday, departed her troops this morning. The ragged and unshorn troops were much affected when they received the news of the king's dangerous illness. A final effort was made today to have the natives carried out in some fashion since it was considered desirable that so many war ships, foreign and home, should disperse without any official inspection, but the government leader in the House of Commons, J. Balfour, decided that it was impossible. The admiralty has announced that all entertainments planned for the officers and crews of the ships off Spithead have been cancelled.

FOREIGN ADMIRALS RECEIVED.

Admiral Sir Charles Hotham, in command of the British fleet off Spithead, received the news of the king's illness today. The commanders of the foreign vessels are awaiting instructions from their governments regarding their departure. The British fleet will be in the harbor today. By the king's special desire the coronation list of honors will after all be published tomorrow as originally arranged. The only features of the coronation decorations, etc., escaping demolition are the illumination devices in London and the bonfires which had already been lit in the United Kingdom. These, for the present, will not be touched, in the hope of using them to celebrate the king's recovery. According to the Evening News there is good foundation for the rumor that it was the king's earnest desire that he should be crowned in his bedroom, and that the procession of Friday should be carried out without him.

King's Disease Described.

New York, June 25.—The following special cable was today received by the New York Medical Journal from its London correspondent whom they consider the highest medical authority in Great Britain and who is in intimate touch with everything that transpires at the bedside of the king: "London, June 25, 12 m.—The king's disease is pericarditis following cold contracted nine days previously. His symptoms became rather acute a week ago, but had subsided and it was hoped that the king would be able to attend the coronation ceremonies. Owing to a sudden exacerbation early Tuesday morning an operation was decided upon at 10 o'clock and the operation was performed at noon on Tuesday by Sir Fredk. Treves, the anesthetic being administered by Dr. Frederick Hewitt. The abscess was opened around the coronary artery and the cavity drained. There was no resection of the bowel, the newspaper reports that tabling was required to preserve the continuity of the intestine being entirely misleading. The recovery from anesthesia was satisfactory; the patient passed a restless night, succeeded by improvement, his condition being favorable on Wednesday at noon."

Enormous Loss to Underwriters.

New York, June 25.—Postponement of the coronation means an enormous loss to the underwriters, says a London dispatch to the Journal of Commerce. An underwriter's committee estimates that the claims which will have to be faced will amount to from \$500,000 to \$900,000. For many weeks policies have been steadily applied for, and ready cash has been advanced by the London market. The recovery from an estimated rate of 20 per cent to an eighth of one per cent and had only a few claims to meet. The underwriters also came out exceedingly well on their speculation as to the queen's jubilee processions in 1897, and all who had won on that occasion went in for the coronation premiums as greedily as if there had been no risk to feature and no possibility of a profit. Other held aloof from such commitments in connection with the jubilee, plunged in hungrily on the coronation gamble. Many of the underwriting clubs collected for the king for six months. The rate for this last week was 10 guineas per cent (10 1/2 per cent) but it rose on Tuesday to 20 guineas per cent (20 1/2 per cent).

MISSOURI REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

Jefferson City, Mo., June 25.—When the Republican state convention was called to order this morning, the delegates were worn out after last night's session. The credentials committee had succeeded at daylight in reaching an agreement and presented its report which was taken up eagerly. In the St. Louis contest, the report stated that Kansas delegates and three Akins delegates, a compromise, while in the Tenth congressional district, the delegation was turned from a Kansas to an Akins delegation. A brief recess was taken while the contesting delegations were allowed to retire and fight it out. After a stormy session of half an hour the delegates returned to the convention that the Akins faction had declined to take advantage of the committee's action, and had decided to let the matter rest at that point. It meant the retention of two Kansas supporters on the state committee. The report then was adopted. The committee on permanent organization, headed by E. McMurry, permanent chairman, was adopted enthusiastically. The reading of the platform containing an unequivocal endorsement of Roosevelt for president in 1904, was greeted with wild applause, the delegates mounting their chairs and cheered enthusiastically. Hats and handkerchiefs were tossed into the air and for about five minutes the ovation to the American whom Congressman Joy metaphorically designated "the little rough rider of the White House," was overwhelming. At the urgent request of many delegates, Chairman Frank read the paragraph approving President Roosevelt and his administration.

Will the King Pull Through?

Impossible to Feel Certain Until Tubes Draining Cavity of Abscess Are Withdrawn—He Passed a Comfortable Night—Tomorrow Officially Appointed a Day of Intercession—Special Prayers by Religious Denominations.

London, June 25, at 3:55 p. m.—Today Sir Francis Knollys, private secretary to King Edward, told a representative of the Associated Press that no particular change had occurred but that the king was maintaining the improvement in his condition. The following statement was made this afternoon on the highest medical authority: "Until the tubes now draining the cavity of the abscess have been withdrawn it will be impossible to feel certain that the king will pull through. What his physicians have now to fear is that peritonitis or hemorrhages may supervene. There must always be this danger in such cases. Again, it is a fact that any abscess due to pericarditis may have a fatal issue without any warning symptoms. All the indications are often masked until the post-mortem and there are many cases on record where the disease was only discovered after death from an extraneous cause, such as an accident. At any rate, the king's grave illness must invalidate him for a long time."

The medical bulletins are rapidly posted about London, and the same scenes as were witnessed yesterday were enacted today. By noon, long strings of carriages were waiting to put down visitors at the ambassador's and main entrances of the palace. A DAY OF INTERCESSION. Tomorrow has been officially appointed a day of intercession for the king's recovery and in every parish church in the United Kingdom special intercessory services will be held. The authorities of St. Paul's cathedral by request have arranged a solemn service of intercession to be held tomorrow at noon. The general public will not be admitted. Only ticket holders to the proposed Westminster Abbey coronation ceremony will be present. Catholics, Non-Confessors, Jews, Salvationists and other religious bodies

are all arranging special prayers, while in the camps of the colonial and other visiting troops, be they Mohammedans, Jains, worshippers, fire or fetish worshippers, whether from China, Borneo, Fiji, Central Africa or Hindustan, from the Indian reservations of Canada, the usual hour for prayers finds them supplicating their deity in behalf of the king. As the day progressed the crowds around Buckingham palace augmented and the cautious wording of the early bulletin was posted as follows: HAS COMFORTABLE MORNING. London, June 25, 2:15 p. m.—The following bulletin was issued at 2 p. m.: "The king passed a comfortable morning, and his condition so far is satisfactory."

"TREVES, "LAKING, "BARLOW." This was regarded as being somewhat more favorable and the good impression which it created was enhanced by the arrival at the palace shortly afterward of the Duke and Duchess of Aosta, who came from Dorchester house to lunch with the royal family. The observers deduced therefrom that unless the king's condition was fairly satisfactory the queen would not have entertained the visitors, for she has been unrepentant in leaving her husband and has withstood him constantly at his bedside. Thousands of names of visitors were registered at the palace yesterday. NO SPECIAL ANXIETY. London, June 25, 6:15 p. m.—The following was issued at 6:15 p. m.: "His majesty passed a fairly comfortable day; his general strength was well maintained, and there are no symptoms causing special anxiety."

"LAKING, "SMITH, "TREVES, "LAKING, "BARLOW." KING CONTINUES TO IMPROVE. London, June 25, 7:20 p. m.—The private secretary of King Edward, Sir Francis Knollys, said at 7:15 p. m., that his majesty continued to improve and that everything was going on satisfactorily.

DEMOCRATS AND POPULISTS FUSE IN NEBRASKA.

Grand Island, Neb., June 25.—Fusion was accomplished by the Democratic and Populist state conventions today when both bodies unanimously nominated W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, a Democrat, for governor. The remainder of the ticket is as follows: Lieutenant Governor—N. A. Gilbert, Populist, York. Secretary of State—John H. Powers, Populist, Hitchcock. Attorney-General—J. H. Broody, Democrat, Lincoln. Commissioner Public Lands and Buildings—James C. Brennan, Democrat, Omaha. The nomination of Thompson by the Populists came on the tenth ballot, when he received two-thirds of the votes cast. Ex-Governor Painter moved to make the nomination unanimous and the motion prevailed. Thompson had already been nominated by the Democratic conference committees at once got to the work on the rest of the ticket. The Populists were given their first choice of the remainder of the candidates. At 7 o'clock the fusion conventions adjourned for breakfast without having secured a nomination for governor and with the prospects for fusion still in doubt. Each of the conventions had selected a nominee for governor during the night, the Populists naming M. F. Harrington of Holt county, and the Democrats C. J. Smyth of Omaha. Both conventions began to ballot on these names and entered into a deadlock, which lasted until 3 o'clock this morning. At that hour William J. Bryan was nominated by the Populists by acclamation, and the Democratic convention called a recess. Smyth appeared before the Democratic convention and announced his withdrawal. Mr. Bryan thanked the convention for the honor but said he could not accept the nomination for reasons already familiar to the public. He made a plea for harmony and for fusion. After discussing a mode of procedure, a new ballot was ordered. Five out of six counties called cast their vote for Harrington, the Populist choice, when Harrington withdrew and asked the convention to nominate W. H. Thompson. The suggestion was acted upon with unanimous consent and Thompson was borne to the platform on the shoulders of a number of delegates. The Democratic convention adjourned for breakfast. This action was made known to the Populist convention, which took a recess. The Populists convened at 5 o'clock, and the first ballot taken resulted in the nomination of Gen. P. H. Barry. The Democratic convention was notified of this action at once and the two bodies were soon again in deadlock, balloting on Thompson and Barry.

A TERRIFIC STORM IN INDIANA.

Indianapolis, June 25.—A special to the News from Greenfield, Ind., says: A terrific storm swept over Hancock county this morning, taking in Maxwell, Wilkinson and Pendleton. It blew down houses in all of these towns and from 10 to 15 people are reported to be killed. Three men in the chain factory in Maxwell are supposed to be killed. In a funeral procession at Cleveland, Ind., 18 horses are reported killed. At condition, two received bullet wounds, several were badly beaten and a number of others were thrown or jumped from the fast moving train, receiving more or less serious injuries.

BLOODY BATTLE WITH TRAMPS.

Evanson, Wyo., June 25.—A gang of tramps stealing a ride on a Union Pacific freight had a bloody battle with clubs near here yesterday. As a result one man was taken to Ogden in a dying

PENSIONS GRANTED.

(Special to the "News.") Washington, D. C., June 25.—C. M. Wise has been appointed postmaster at Wise, Big Horn county, Wyoming, vice G. W. Wise, deceased. Pensions granted—Utah: Original

widow's Mexican war, Jennene McBride, Hyrum, 48. Idaho—Original: James Lyman Johnson, Soldiers' Home, Boise, 48; William W. Bartlett, Shelley, 48. Wyoming—Original: Isaac N. Davis, Sundance, 36. War with Spain, original, Everett E. Hopkins, Moyer Junction, 36. Increase: Oliver Kerr, Sheridan, 34.