

SPECTACULAR FIRE AT SIOUX CITY

The Big Packing Plant of Armour and Company Is Entirely Swept Away.

JIG BLAZE COVERS OVER THREE ACRES

The Total Loss Is Estimated at \$900,000; Insurance, \$721,500. Flames Discovered at 12.50 O'clock in the Morning—Firemen Are Powerless to Check the Progress of the Conflagration Which Burns All Day—An Unequaled Spectacular View.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Sioux City, Ia., Nov. 16.—The big plant of Armour & Co., which occupied three and one-half acres of ground at the extreme south end of the stock yards district, was totally destroyed by fire, which started at 12.50 o'clock this morning on the second floor of the fertilizer building.

The loss, estimated by Charles W. Lennon, manager of the company, is total of \$900,000. The insurance is \$721,500.

The fire was said by Mr. Lennon to have been either spontaneous combustion or an imperfect dryer.

Six hundred men will be thrown out of employment all winter by the fire.

The fire was discovered by a watchman of the building, who, only a few minutes before had fired a morning box on the floor where the flames started.

Quickly the Armour private department was called out and the entire city department followed.

By 1.30 o'clock six streams of water were being thrown upon the fire, which was destroying the fertilizer building, but the pressure was inadequate. The fertilizer building, which was of brick, 120 by 160 feet, four stories high, was located between the beef killing house and the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railway tracks on the east. The floors and contents of the burning building burned like chaff. At 1.55 o'clock the roof fell, and a moment later the fire burst through into the beef killing house.

The fire continued to burn for five minutes, when it fell with a great crash.

From this structure to the old building was only a step, and when the land was ignited the fire presented a most spectacular appearance. The big beef houses caught at 2 o'clock. By this time the entire plant, except the hog house, was a lake of fire. The roar was terrible. The country for miles around was lit up. Suddenly came a terrific explosion, followed quickly by another and then another. Twenty-four drums of one hundred pounds of ammonia each, exploded before the reserve supply in the ammonia cistern was reached. That ignition almost razed the entire plant from its foundation.

At 2.30 o'clock the flames burst through the heavy fire wall that separated the hog house from the other buildings. The hog house was the last building to the north and the largest of all.

Live Hogs Cremated.

Steadily the fire crept against the wind and through the office building, which from the first had been enveloped in flames. Not a scrap of paper was saved from the office. About this time a burning roof of a chute fell on a bunch of live hogs and their squeals were added to the appalling chorus.

When the hog house caught fire, all streams were turned in that direction, but the water seemed like oil. In the building were 3,500 dressed hogs and 2,500,000 pounds of pork product.

After the fire got a headway in the hog house, all hope of saving any part of the plant was abandoned.

The shops, chicken plant, ice houses and ice runways and smaller department houses were consumed in quick succession. The fire continued to burn with unchecked fury. The efforts of the firemen seemed without result. The terrible roaring continued unabated, high brick walls crumbled and fire walls were absolutely valueless.

From a spectacular view, the fire was a magnificent sight.

At 3.25 o'clock the fire department had given up the fight. It was apparent that all its efforts were useless and the entire plant would be destroyed.

The fire continued to burn all day, and this afternoon there was another terrific explosion, which threw brick and pieces of iron for hundreds of yards, endangering thousands of spectators, but no one was seriously hurt.

Plant Will Be Rebuilt.

Kansas City, Nov. 16.—C. F. Armour, of the Armour Packing company, stated today that the Sioux City plant, destroyed by fire last night will be rebuilt at once. The new plant will be much larger and finer than the one burned. The company, in the meantime will remain in the market, the cattle purchased to be distributed between Omaha, Kansas City and Chicago.

BRIDGE WASHED AWAY.

Three Men Perish at Red Bluff, in Texas.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Lonestar, Tex., Nov. 17.—The false work of a bridge at Red Bluff was washed away today, carrying with it three men who were trying to keep the drift from collecting about the supports.

The men were Olan Lay, James Jackson and Jack Godberry. None of the bodies have been recovered.

THE TELEGRAPHERS WILL RECEIVE INCREASE.

Train Dispatchers and Agents on the Southern Pacific Get 10 Per Cent. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. San Francisco, Nov. 16.—The Southern Pacific company yesterday signed a new agreement with the telegraphers, train dispatchers and agents employed on the Pacific system. An increase in salaries amounting to 10 per cent. was agreed upon, and salaries were adjusted to suit the increasing business of many important points. The conference between the railroad officials and the committee representing the employees was most amicable. H. B. Perham represented the Order of Railway Telegraphers.

CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS.

Leaders of Philippine Catholic Church Will Define Their Positions. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Manila, Nov. 16.—A conference of the bishops, priests and leaders of the Philippine Roman Catholic church will be held in Manila next week. They propose to address a memorial to Mr. Guillard, the apostolic delegate to the Philippines, setting forth their position. A number of native priests who sympathized with this movement, but are still adhering to the Roman Catholic church, will seek an interview with Mr. Guillard before renouncing their allegiance to Rome or joining the dissenters.

SOCIALISTS WILL BE REPRESENTED

A Probability That the Executive Council of Federation of Labor Will Be Enlarged.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New Orleans, La., Nov. 16.—There is a strong probability that the executive council of the American Federation of Labor will be enlarged from nine to eleven members at the present convention, and that one of the additional members will be a representative of the Socialist wing of the labor party. The Socialists claim to control nearly one-third of the votes cast in the convention and feel fairly confident of getting one man into the board.

A strong element is opposed to the increase in number and the Socialists say they do not expect to win without a fight, but they do expect to have won that much when the fight is over. But two cities, so far, have been mentioned as the place for the next convention, Buffalo and Milwaukee. The latter place claims the better right, as it has been a candidate three times and on each occasion has withdrawn in favor of the place in which the convention was held. However, energetic work has been done by the advocates of either city.

W. E. Kennedy, general organizer of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has prepared a resolution, which he expects will raise something of a breeze upon the floor of the convention. It is to the effect that the present local government of the District of Columbia is antique and obsolete, and that the residents of the district should be allowed to vote. The resolution is sure of opposition, as it is the avowed policy of the federation to refrain from political matters.

The visiting delegates were handsomely entertained today by the local laboring men, who arranged several social affairs for them during the afternoon and secured some of the theaters for them tonight.

LIU KUN Y'S FUNERAL.

Unprecedented Demonstrations in Honor of Late Viceroys. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Shanghai, Nov. 16.—The funeral of Liu Kun Y, the famous viceroys of Nankin, which took place today at Nankin, was the most unprecedented demonstration of respect on the part of foreign representatives in that city. The funeral cortege was of great length and the obsequies, by command of the dowager empress, were carried out in imperial pomp. Nearly a quarter of a million people lined the route to the jetty, where the remains were embarked on a Chinese cruiser, which will bear them to Hunan, the native province of the deceased statesman.

CHOLERA AT MANILA.

The Number of Cases in the City Is Increasing to an Alarming Extent—An Epidemic Feared.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Manila, Nov. 16.—The number of cholera cases is increasing in this city and the spread of the disease is causing some alarm. There are on an average thirty cases daily. The Funston Hotel, the casual camp at San Antonio and the Billard prison are now included among the places infected. The disease is spreading in the Marquina valley where the danger of an infection of the water supply is regarded as grave. Should the water supply become infected a general epidemic is considered inevitable.

The cholera reports from the provinces show a decrease in the number of cases.

Secretary Wilson III.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Nov. 16.—Secretary Wilson is confined to his home by a severe neuritic attack, which has developed since the recent political campaign, in which the secretary took an active part. His ailment has been considerably relieved, but it will be some days before he is able to resume his duties in the agricultural department.

ANSWER TO THE MINERS

Statement of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company Submitted to Commission.

THE ANTHRACITE SITUATION REVIEWED

Development of the Company from the Date of Its Charter in 1822. The Expense of Operation and Small Profits Upon Capital Invested—Demand of Miners for an Increase of 20 Per Cent. Is Declared Unjustifiable—An Exhibit Showing the Earnings of the Employees of the Company for One Year—Another Devoted to the Overt Acts Charged to Striking Employees.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—The statement of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company submitted to the anthracite coal strike commission, now in session at Scranton, Pa., in answer to the demands of the miners, was made public here today. The answer recites the development of the company from the date of its charter in 1822, refers to the expense of operation and to the comparatively small profits, and declares the demand of the employees for an increase of 20 per cent. is unjustifiable, the reasons given in support of the demand being that on fact, according to the company's statement, the coal exhibits. One shows the earnings of the employees of the company for one year, based on the time worked during 1901, the number of the several classes of workmen and the rates paid according to the normal conditions of the region in 1902. The other is a catalogue of overt acts charged to the striking employees of the company during the recent contest, the riots, assaults and disturbances of various kinds being numbered at length.

The answer states: "The Lehigh Coal and Navigation company is the oldest corporation engaged in the mining of coal in the anthracite region. It was chartered in 1822, and was the successor of the Lehigh Coal Mine company, which was organized in 1782. It also acquired certain rights on the Lehigh river which were granted in 1818.

"It owns and controls about 14,000 acres of coal lands in Carbon and Schuylkill counties, and has estimated to contain over 500,000,000 tons of available unmined coal. Its employees number about 6,000, and its capacity of production is over 200,000 tons a month. Its capital stock and funded debt amount to upwards of \$22,000,000. All of its capital stock and bonds were issued for full value, but although its more important coal lands were purchased at a time when the country was a wilderness, and all its lands have been acquired at moderate prices, the dividends paid to its stockholders are only averaged 4.02 per cent. The profit on coal mined by the company during the ten years ended December 31, 1901, has averaged 11.65 cents per ton, after charging off taxes on coal lands and depletion on the coal lands, but the charge for royalty which represents the value of the coal in the ground. Nor were the rates of freight upon the railroad exorbitant, as is shown by the fact that the company operated its own canal, but it was a wasteful one to send the coal to market over the railroad, rather than by their canal."

Referring to the claim of the miners that better wages are paid in the bituminous fields for substantially similar work, the answer states:

"This company does not know what rates are paid in the bituminous coal fields throughout the country, but there is nowhere in any field work substantially similar to that which is done under contract in the mines of this company. It is a fact, however, that there is no other coal mine in the country which has always been able to get from the mines of this company to any other mining region throughout the country and obtain employment.

"In 1901, for a day of ten hours, contract miners earned an average of \$3.14 per day; ordinary laborers, \$2.21; unskilled laborers, \$1.83; boys, \$1.00 for work underground. The rates for outside labor average as follows: Skilled labor, \$1.96; unskilled labor, \$1.28; boys, 75 cents. The average annual earnings of adults were \$47.25."

Denial is made of the claim of the miners that their earnings are insufficient to maintain the American standard of living, and concerning the employees of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, these figures are given:

"Out of 3,943 families, 879 own their own homes. Planos will be found in 146, and house organs in 337. The company owns and rents to its employees 671 houses, at an average rental of four dollars and seventy cents a month. The character of these houses is fully up to the average in any part of the country, occupied by any other class of workmen. It has been the policy of the company to sell surface rights to the dwellings, is now owned and occupied by employees of the company.

"The families of the employees have ample school accommodations, with capable teachers, and over three thousand children are in attendance, while over seventy-five per centum of the whole fund expended in the region is derived from taxes paid by this company on its coal estate."

MOROCCO PRETENDER HAS BEEN CAPTURED

The Sultan of Morocco Put Down Uprising of Babyles.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Tangiers, Morocco, Nov. 16.—According to a report which has reached here from Fez, the imperial troops have succeeded in capturing the pretender to the throne.

It is stated that the sultan, at the head of an army of 25,000 men, will direct in person the operations to put down the uprising of the Kabyle tribesmen at Zemour.

Previous dispatches announced that the sultan, with the entire Moorish army, was to leave Fez on November 10 to suppress the rebellion started by the pretender. The latter began his mission among the most ignorant and superstitious of the Berber tribes. He at first confined himself to a few conjuring tricks, but his success encouraged him to attempt bigger things. The pretender is nicknamed "Buhamare," meaning "father of a she-ass," because he never rode on anything but a small donkey.

Regarding the employment of boys

"State picking is a very easy occupation compared to the work done by the boy upon a farm and many are needed to take care of the mine ways and other light work, and in this way the wages of the household are largely and legitimately increased. Since 1887 more than two hundred and fifty young men have gone from Lansford and other villages in the neighborhood to normal schools and colleges and become mining engineers, attorneys, chemists, dentists, architects, ministers and priests.

Action of Foreigners.

"Some of the foreigners prefer to live in a very dignified and unassuming manner, so that they may accumulate the larger part of their earnings, and return to Europe to live in idleness; but those who have their permanent home in the region have at least \$1,000,000 in deposits in the household and funds in the vicinity, saved from the wages earned in the employment of this company. The annual remittances to their families and friends abroad, through agencies in the region and vicinity, have amounted to \$1,000,000. The company established a beneficial fund, to which it has contributed the sum of \$196,889, and the employees \$154,768.

"During the strike of 1900, in which the employees of the company declined to participate in acknowledgment of their loyalty, the company contributed \$25,000 to the beneficial fund.

"Since then," the statement continues, "most of them have joined the union and felt bound to join in the strike ordered last May. No complaint was addressed to this company; no grievance alleged, and no request for higher wages made; but, without notice, the men left work in a body, against their own will and judgment, because required to do so by the vote of the miners employed in other coal fields."

"The claim for a reduction of twenty per cent. in the hours of labor, without any reduction in earnings, for all employees, and by the hour, day or week, would be peculiarly absurd if enforced as against this company. In point of fact, the breakers of the company are only able to run nine hours a day and not ten. The miners only work from five to seven hours a day, and the coal difficulty in the region is that contract labor prices are too high, as the men get an amount sufficient for their wants by working less than three-quarters of a day. The men employed by the day only work, as a maximum, nine hours, and as many of them sum from the normal conditions of the region that contract labor prices are too high, as the men get an amount sufficient for their wants by working less than three-quarters of a day. 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