

SMITH DENOUNCES FOREST SERVICE

Member From California Declares Mr. Pinchot Made Improper Use of His Power

CHIEF FORESTER DENIES IMPUTATION

Smith Brands Denial as Untrue. Motions Adopted to Forbid Forestry Officials to Use Government Funds for Attending Conventions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 30.—Debate on the agricultural appropriation bill under the five minutes rule was resumed in the House today. The provision relating to the forest service aroused considerable discussion. Mr. Smith, California, denounced the forestry service for attempting to acquire the Owens River Valley in California. "In many ways," he said, "the service is doing a great good, but it is working some outrages upon certain interests in the western part of the country." He was, he declared, referring to the manipulation of water rights under the laws of California. He openly charged that Mr. Pinchot, the chief forester, was trying to secure the water rights for the benefit of certain persons against others, who had made earlier appropriation of the water. There was, he insisted, a single element of forestry in the proposition, and it would be a sin to give the forest service to the great privilege it sought. Mr. Smith said that the party he referred to as desiring to obtain the water monopoly was the city of Los Angeles. He insisted that the city did not need the water. The city already, he said, had a perfect water system, and simply desired "to sweep in all the water there and carry it out of the valley, 250 miles, through twenty miles of mountain tunnels, for the irrigation of land adjacent to Los Angeles."

DEFENDS PINCHOT

After a hurried conversation with Mr. Pinchot, over the telephone, Mr. Pollard, Nebraska, declared that Mr. Pinchot had said that the entire California delegation, including Mr. Smith, had gone to the department "and requested and almost demanded that this reserve be created for the purpose of furnishing a water supply to Los Angeles," and that the city was entirely dependent on this supply. "Now," he charged, "that the department is trying to create a monopoly." This policy of the department, Mr. Pollard declared, was to prevent monopolies, rather than to create them.

SMITH SAYS "UNTRUE"

Mr. Smith denied that Mr. Pinchot's statement was true. He asked the House to call on his colleagues to bear him out, and Representatives Kahn, Knowland, Needham and Englebright at once arose to deny Mr. Pinchot's statement. Following heated remarks by Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee, and the lumber trust, Mr. Mondell, of Wyoming, sarcastically said that that gentleman, "for one who had so rarely attended a meeting of the Committee on Public Lands," seemed to be well versed on the subject. Shaking his finger at Mr. Mondell, Mr. Gaines declared that he nevertheless followed the action of the committee. That vast tracts of timberland have been included in forest reserve was the charge of Mr. Smith, who criticized such action. This was admitted by Mr. Scott, Kansas, but he said the Forestry Bureau had given prompt attention to petitions in protest, and had released over 12,000,000 acres of land.

MONDELL CHARGED THAT IT HAD BEEN THE RULE OF THE BUREAU TO SECURE RATHER EXTRAORDINARY OPINIONS FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL. HE INSISTED THAT IF THE PRESIDENT HAD AUTHORITY TO CREATE A RESERVE HE HAD AUTHORITY TO DIVIDE ONE. MR. SMITH AGAIN GOT TO THE FLOOR, AND SPEAKING OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT THAT WATER RIGHTS SHOULD BE TAXED, DENOUNCED HIM FOR IT.

TO DESTROY THE MISTLETOE

Mr. Burleson, of Texas, made a plea for an investigation of the best means of preventing the ravages of the mistletoe and offered an amendment to the effect: "Is this the mistletoe around which so many tender memories cluster?" inquired Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee. "It is," Mr. Burleson responded. "Is the gentleman married or single?" Mr. Douglas, of Ohio, asked. "You might know," interjected Mr. Gaines. "Is he a man you want to abolish the mistletoe in his yard?" asked Mr. Olmsted, of Pennsylvania. Unable longer to stand these jokes Mr. Burleson said: "I understand there are many tender memories that cluster around this mistletoe. However, he is a sentimental idiot. We are practical men," he declared, "and I am a practical man, and it is in the interests of the forests of the country that I offer this amendment."

INSISTING THAT "UNMARRIED FOLKS SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOMETHING," MR. GAINES PROTESTED VIOLENTLY AGAINST THE PROPOSITION.

"I AM NOT TRYING TO DESTROY THE MISTLETOE," SAID MR. BURLESON. HE PROTESTED. "NO," SAID MR. GAINES, "YOU WILL NEVER SEE THE DAY YOU WILL GET UNCLE SAM'S JOHN TEXAS."

MR. BURLESON'S AMENDMENT WAS LOST, 88 TO 43.

IMPROPER USE OF FUNDS.

More criticism of Mr. Pinchot was indulged in when Mr. Mondell offered an amendment providing that the money for transportation or traveling expenses of forest officers or agents shall not be paid unless such officials traveled on business directly connected with the forest service.

MR. MONDELL CHARGED THAT SUCH OFFICERS AND AGENTS LAST YEAR HAD ATTENDED A CONVENTION IN DENVER, WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOTHING TO DO, AND

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HOME RULE FOR IRELAND

Parliament Votes to Give Legislative and Executive Control to Local Affairs.

LONDON, March 30.—The House of Commons to-night after a lengthy debate on the question of home rule for Ireland, adopted by a vote of 313 to 157, a resolution moved by John E. Redmond, the Nationalist leader, that, in the opinion of this House, a solution of the problem can only be attained by giving the Irish people legislative and executive control of a purely Irish affairs, after the resolution had been amended by adding the words, "all subject to the supreme authority of the Imperial Parliament."

The government has already pledged that there will be no deal in the matter of home rule until it has been given a mandate at the general election. But the debate was made notable by the strong declaration of Chancellor Asquith, which was all the weightier because made at the moment Mr. Asquith is actually assuming the leadership.

Mr. Balfour, in a brief speech, accused his opponents with speaking with two meanings, a radical meaning and a nationalist meaning. He asked how it was possible to carry out great Irish reforms with British money, except by a British Parliament and ironicaly challenged Mr. Asquith to clear up this ambiguity.

Mr. Asquith said that for over twenty years he and his colleagues had steadily and consistently advocated self-government with respect to Ireland, purely local affairs. He held that opinion now as strongly as ever. He could not, however, support Mr. Redmond's motion in its present form, because he found in it no explicit recognition of imperial supremacy and because no agreement would be justified in embarking on such a course unless the matter had first been submitted to the electorate. It would be a gross and inexcusable violation of their promises to do so in the lifetime of the present Parliament.

Timothy Healy closed the debate, declaring that Mr. Asquith was mistaken if he supposed he would "commend himself to the Irish nation by his speech."

SEES THEM MAKE SUGAR

Mrs. Roosevelt and Children Interested in the Process. NEW ORLEANS, La., March 30.—Mrs. Roosevelt and her children to-day embarked on the yacht Mayflower, in which they are making a trip down the Mississippi River, and spent several hours inspecting the sugar plantation owned by Henry McCauley, Collector of Customs, of New Orleans. Mrs. Evan Hall's party spent an hour in the mill which grinds the sugar-cane in a mill. They inspected the methods of sugar making from the moment the sugar stalks are crushed out of them between the two gigantic rollers, until the cane makes its uninterrupted mechanical circuit of the mill, and comes out in the form of sugar. Later they saw the cane fields, in which next fall's crop was being planted. They visited a small Spanish village, where the children, nearly all of foreign parentage, sang patriotic airs, and afterward received a half holiday at the request of Miss Ethel Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt and her children were taken to the Mayflower and proceeded down stream to the Burnside plantation, Mayflower is about four to five miles above New Orleans, and is expected to arrive at that city to-morrow morning.

ONLY EXPLANATION PENDLETON GIVES OF SHOOTING OF SPOON

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WYTHEVILLE, Va., March 30.—James Spoon, who was shot and killed by a bullet fired by W. W. Pendleton, was buried yesterday at 4 o'clock, a large crowd attending the funeral. Pendleton is in jail, having been committed by a justice for the action of the grand jury, which will meet on April 13th.

PENDLETON IS SILENT, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE WAS OBLIGED TO SHOOT SPOON.

Though it is intimated that the developments of the trial will put Pendleton's act in a more favorable light, as is known to those who are familiar with the facts, he lived only a few hours and suffered greatly. He was an illiterate and dependent man, and leaves a large and dependent family, who elicit the sympathy of the community. Pendleton has heretofore been attended by several physicians of the city, who have regarded him as insane. It is supposed that his chief defense will be insanity.

WARD M'ALLISTER DYING

Friends Supporting Son of Him Who Was New York Society to 400. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., March 30.—Ward M'Allister, the famous actor, is dying in the Cottage Home, attacked by pneumonia. Mr. M'Allister was a close friend of Dr. J. P. McQuinn, who operated on him last evening, but does not expect his patient to recover.

MR. McALLISTER HAS NOT HEARD FROM HIS MOTHER AND OTHER KIN IN THE EAST FOR A LONG TIME.

He is coming to the Astors, York families, but he is indigent. New Rafael, in this city and San Francisco, Fremont, Truxton, Beale, Dr. Howitt, have been providing him with the necessities of life. He was United States District Judge for Alaska at one time. In a former life he was one of the most popular men in society and in the clubs here.

DID NOT FIND A HOME

Man Tramping From Virginia to Cincinnati Says He Was Expelled Upon. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CINCINNATI, O., March 30.—With a pack containing his few earthly possessions, and a bundle of dirty, worn, ragged rubbers on his feet, Paul Hollman tramped into the Army Citadel to-day and sank upon a bench exhausted. He said he had had no food since Thursday.

The man said he had walked from York Plains, Va. He landed in New York several months ago with \$350, he stated, but lost every cent of it in a land scheme. He was made to believe that he had bought a home in Virginia, but on his arrival at Green Plains he found out that he had no place.

DROPS DEAD IN YARD

John E. Tackett, Prominent Dry Goods Man, Dies Very Suddenly. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ALEXANDRIA, VA., March 30.—John E. Tackett, a prominent dry goods broker, dropped dead in his yard this afternoon. He was about sixty years old. Besides his wife, two daughters survive.

For a quarter of a century Mr. Tackett was engaged in the retail dry goods business in Alexandria. He was engaged in business in Richmond and Norfolk.

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BRYAN SPEAKS AT A DOLLAR DINNER

Two Thousand Democrats From All Parts of Missouri Gather to Honor Him.

HE ASSAILS BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND TAFT

Says Roosevelt Has Done Nothing Except to Advocate Measures Advanced by the Democratic Party—Taft, He Declares, Stands for No Reform.

KANSAS CITY, MO., March 30.—Democrats from all parts of Missouri, to the number of 2,000, attended a dollar banquet in Convention Hall to-night under the auspices of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Missouri.

William J. Bryan and Judson Harmon were the guests of honor and principal speakers. Some 15,000 persons thronged the hall as auditors and cheered the speakers. Democratic clubs in St. Louis, St. Joseph, and other cities of the State sent delegations to the dinner. Among the guests were four former Governors of Missouri, T. T. Crittenden, David R. Francis, Senator William J. Stone and Alexander Doodney, as also was the present Governor, Joseph W. Folk. All of the candidates for State officers were present. The meeting was essentially a Bryan affair, spontaneous enthusiasm marking every mention of his name.

BRYAN PRAISES LA FOLLETTE

Mr. Bryan's opening statement that "we have to begin the campaign for 1908, and to present those principles and policies which ought to appeal to progressive Republicans, as well as to traditional Democrats," was the keynote of his speech. In giving his approval of Senator La Follette as the Republican candidate for President, Mr. Bryan said:

"If the President had picked out Senator La Follette as a real reformer; if the Republican party had rallied to Senator La Follette's support, it could have compelled the confidence of reform Republicans."

Mr. Bryan said that without the support of the administration Secretary Taft would scarcely have a State in the convention, and with the President's support he is having an uphill fight. Mr. Bryan said that Taft was the best man the President could find among his Cabinet officers, but that Secretary Taft's superiority over his colleagues was due, not to his positive virtues, but to the fact that none of the rest of them had any reform tendencies whatever. Mr. Bryan said that the Roosevelt Government was strong in the Mississippi and the Missouri valleys. "What is known as the Roosevelt sentiment," Mr. Bryan continued, "is not so much attachment to a person as devotion to an idea, with which the person has identified himself. And what is this idea? It is the idea that conditions are not what they should be."

BEFORE A REMEDY CAN BE APPLIED THE NEED OF A REMEDY MUST BE ADMITTED.

For years the Democratic party has been pointing out the abuses which have been growing under Republican rule, but those abuses have been denied by Republican leaders, and the country has been congratulated upon the resolution of everything essential to its welfare. Republican platforms have been full of fulsome eulogy of the Republican party and barren of promises of reform.

STOLE DEMOCRATIC THUNDER.

"Even the platform of 1904, upon which President Roosevelt was elected, was silent in regard to governmental evils and gave no hope of relief. To the surprise of Democrats and to the surprise of the country, as well, the President immediately began to recommend remedial legislation, taking as his guide the platform declarations of the Democratic party. He did not follow in the footsteps of democracy from desire to compliment the Democrats or to encourage them, but simply because the Democrats have pre-empted the ground in front, and he could not go forward without trespassing upon their land."

IT IS NOT STRANGE THAT HIS SUGGESTIONS WERE HALLED WITH DELIGHT BY DEMOCRATS AND MET WITH INDIGNATION BY REPUBLICANS.

Whether the President cultivated a reform sentiment in the Republican party or only revealed a previously existing sentiment, we shall never know. "It is sufficient that the sentiment is now so strong that the President is praised by the masses just in proportion as he assails the predatory corporations and pleads for reforms that look to the restoration of equity and fairness in the government. The President is not a Democrat, for he teams toward them rather than toward Jefferson, and favors a concentration of power in Washington and a centralization of government, which Democrats regard as distinctly hostile to the national welfare. It is proof that the reform sentiment in the Republican party is not only large but militant that the corporate interests, powerful as they are, have not been able to coerce the Middle West into the support of only the Republican candidates, who are regarded as reactionary. This, in itself, is the most hopeful sign of a Democratic victory for the President having aroused this sentiment, the Republican party must satisfy the expectations excited or lose the support of the rank and file of the party."

TWO THINGS NECESSARY.

"Now, what prospect is there that the Republican National Convention will satisfy the urgent demands of reform Republicans? I venture to predict that no such attempt will be made to satisfy these demands. Two things are necessary to establish confidence in the intention of the Republican party to repeal its own laws."

WEATHER

Rain and colder.

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BERKMAN SET FREE

Falling to Connect Him With Bomb-Throwing. He Is Discharged.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The trial of the police to connect Silverstein, the Union Square bomb-thrower, with the groups of anarchists, have been successful, but the jury has been unable to prove that his sensational act of Saturday was prompted in any way by these associates. These developments occurred to-day at the trial of Alexander Berkman, the anarchist leader and companion of Emma Goldman, who served twelve and a half years in prison for shooting Henry Frick, the Pittsburgh steel magnate. The detectives showed, when Berkman was arraigned in court, that Silverstein had carried on a correspondence with Berkman, and that the latter in any direct way incited the bomb-throwing was, for the time being, the case. Berkman was arraigned on a charge of conspiracy to murder Frick, but the magistrate refused their request, and the paroled Berkman on his own recognition, the latter promising to appear whenever wanted.

ARREST OF BERKMAN.

Berkman was taken into custody early to-day on the strength of the charge to show that Berkman knew Silverstein or that he had been in any direct way incited the bomb-throwing was, for the time being, the case. Berkman was arraigned on a charge of conspiracy to murder Frick, but the magistrate refused their request, and the paroled Berkman on his own recognition, the latter promising to appear whenever wanted.

"THE SHOOTING OF FRICK WAS A PERSONAL MATTER," REPLIED BERKMAN.

"The true anarchist," he declared, "is not a person, but a principle. He believes in working by peaceful means."

AFTER ADMITTING THAT HE SIGNED THE MEMBERSHIP CARD FOUND IN SILVERSTEIN'S POSSESSION, BERKMAN WAS TAKEN TO THE HOUSE OF DETENTION.

Berkman said that he had never before seen Silverstein, and that the latter, who he believed to be a Jew, had been blindfolded on his cot, because of his refusal to answer questions.

SILVERSTEIN, THE BOMB-THROWER, THOUGHT TO BE A SUFFERER FROM ORGASMIC DYSFUNCTION.

It is believed that he was unable to survive the terrible injuries he suffered in the explosion. The physicians in attendance announced to-day that Silverstein had been taken to the hospital, and that he was in a critical condition.

THE TORPEDO COMES BACK

One Shot by the Blackly Sverves, Circles, Returns and Knocks Hole in Her.

PENSACOLA, Fla., March 30.—As a result of being struck by a Whitehead torpedo fired from one of her own boats, the Blackly, which has been engaged in target practice off this port, has a large hole just below her water line on her port side. The Blackly has been put in dry dock and a board of inquiry named to conduct an investigation into the accident.

TO MEN OF MODERATE MEANS.

It was agreed to-night that the purpose of the administration has been to make it evident that the great diplomatic positions are not to be treated as positions to be held only by millionaires, but so far as possible as rewards for faithful service to the public in other positions. Thus the last four ambassadors appointed, Messrs. Bland, to Russia, Dudley to France, O'Brien to Japan, and Hill to Germany, have all been men of moderate means, who, in previous positions of lesser rank, had shown especial fitness for the performance of the duties of higher posts.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE IT MADE EVIDENT THAT THE POSSESSION OF MODERATE MEANS IS NO BARRIER TO PROMOTION TO THE HIGHEST POSITIONS.

It is because of this feeling that it deeply regrets the failure of Congress to provide proper official residences for the ambassadors abroad. It was stated to-night that this failure militates directly in favor of the man of great wealth and against the man of smaller means.

SEEKING BRIDGE ON FIRE ENGINEER OPENS

Which Will Cross in Safety. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHATHAM, VA., March 30.—Twenty-five feet of the Southern bridge over the Roanoke River, three miles south of this place, was burned before daylight this morning, delaying traffic eight hours.

Train No. 33, the Norfolk and Western, was rounding the curve near the bridge when the engineer saw the fire, and realizing that he could not stop his train, he pulled the throttle wide open, passing safely over the burned span which was supported by the rails and burned a few pieces of timber. The train, which was directly over the stream, sixty feet high. The origin of the fire is unknown.

GIRL BURNED TO DEATH

Clothing Catches from Hanging Lamp, Burns Her to Death. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., March 30.—Miss Lollie Smith, seventeen-year-old daughter of a prominent business man here, died this afternoon as a result of burns. While lowering a hanging lamp late at night, she fell and ignited, and Miss Smith's dress being wrapped in flames, she rushed into her mother's room, moving herself across the bed, which ignited, in her efforts to save her daughter, Mrs. Smith was also frightfully burned, but she will recover.

WOULD HAVE RIFLE RANGE ON THE VIRGINIA SIDE

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 30.—Representative Carlin, of Virginia, to-day introduced a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the purchase of about 300 acres of land in the vicinity of Washington to provide the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps with a rifle range for small arms practice.

WELCOME TO HILL WILL BE CORDIAL

German Ambassador Gives President Further Assurance to This Effect.

THE WORK OF GOSSIPS, NOT OF THE EMPEROR

Dr. Hill Selected, as Germany Fully Appreciates, Because of His Special Fitness—His Name to Be Sent to the Senate To-Day.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 30.—With a view to bringing to a close the gossip connected with the reported disapproval in Berlin of the appointment of Dr. O. J. Hill as ambassador and terminating the incident, Baron von Sternburg, the German ambassador, called at the White House to-night by appointment to see President Roosevelt and Secretary Bacon. At the conclusion of the conference, the following statement was given out:

"IN ADDITION TO THE COMMUNICATION ALREADY MADE PUBLIC FROM THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO CONVEYED TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THE ASSURANCE OF THE EMPEROR THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY CHANGE IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD MR. HILL AND IN HIS CORDIAL WILLINGNESS TO WELCOME MR. HILL TO BERLIN.

THE EMPEROR'S FAVORABLE OPINION OF MR. HILL WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR LAST NOVEMBER, AND HIS ATTITUDE HAS NEVER CHANGED SINCE.

"APPARENTLY SOME REMARKS IN A CASUAL CONVERSATION HAVE BEEN DISTORTED BY GOSSIP AND BY RUMOR SO AS TO GIVE A TOTALLY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER.

THE TWO GOVERNMENTS NEVER SHARED THIS MISUNDERSTANDING.

ESPECIALLY WELL EQUIPPED.

"The design of the President and the Secretary of State in choosing Mr. Hill was to choose the man who of all the men in the diplomatic service was best fitted for this particular position—a position of the very first order in honor and responsibility. Mr. Hill is, therefore, it was deemed well to send a skilled diplomat, a student, a speaker, an authority on international law, a learned German scholar who had served with signal ability as Assistant Secretary of State under John Hay, and as foreign minister in two successive positions, in the last of which he had rendered marked services in connection with The Hague Peace Conference. This purpose is, and has always been fully appreciated by the Emperor personally and in Germany at large."

THE NOMINATION OF DR. HILL AS AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY WILL BE SENT TO THE SENATE TO-MORROW, ACCORDING TO THE PLAN AGREED UPON TO-NIGHT.

NO TIME HAS BEEN FIXED FOR THE RETIREMENT OF AMBASSADOR TOWER, BUT IT IS SAID DR. HILL WILL SUCCEED HIM SOME TIME IN MAY.

SHOT MAN: DID NOT SEE

Charles Gaudin Shoots at House in Dark and Kills His Cousin. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] DANVILLE, Va., March 30.—Lester Perkins, a carpenter, of Heidsieck, N. C., was accidentally shot and fatally injured by Charles Gaudin, a schoolboy, late Saturday night by his cousin, Charles Gaudin, who was on a visit to Mr. Perkins, mother of the slayer, and had been standing in the doorway when Gaudin, who is only about eighteen years of age, came up. Young Gaudin had just purchased a pistol, and while testing the weapon he fired at the target, the ball lodged in the neck of Perkins, which severed the jugular vein. A coroner's inquest exonerated him of blame.

THE DEAD MAN WAS ABOUT FIFTY YEARS OF AGE AND LEAVES A FAMILY.

MOUSE SCARES ELEPHANT

Put Into Cage by Bad Boys and Throws Big Beasts Into Panic. NEW YORK, March 30.—One very small mouse, smuggled in by three very wicked small boys, has scared three very big elephants into spasms yesterday in the Bronx Zoo. Spectators were much attracted by the trumpeting of the elephants and stampeded to safety.

THE MOUSE WAS FIRST SEEN BY GUNDA, THE BRITISH ELEPHANT, USUALLY THE MOST DOLEFUL OF BEASTS, WHO TRIED TO BUTT HIS HEAD THROUGH THE WALLS AND STRAINED AT HIS LEG CHAINS.

GUNDA'S PANIC WAS SPEEDILY CONVEYED TO THE OTHERS BY THE ELEPHANTS' TAILORS, AND THEY BEGAN TO SOUND THEIR TRUMPETS.

"ALL THIS TIME THE MOUSE WAS CROUCHING IN A CORNER OF GUNDA'S CAGE, MORE FRIGHTENED THAN THE ELEPHANTS. KEEPER HOFFMAN KILLED IT."

WALK FOR GOOD CAUSE

Novel Contest Among Veterans for Mousie's Fund. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LEXINGTON, KY., March 30.—After one of the most exciting walking contests ever held in Kentucky, in which twenty-nine former Confederate soldiers, and one former Union soldier, participated, a five to one shot, a distance of competitors to-night at the skating rink here, taking first prize.

THE CONTEST WAS INAUGURATED BY THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY. THE PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND RAISED BY THEM TO ERECT A MONUMENT TO GENERAL JOHN G. MORGAN. THIS CONTEST WAS ANNOUNCED TWO WEEKS AGO, AND SINCE THEN VETERANS HAVE DAILY GATHERED FOR WORKOUTS. TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE SAW THE CONTEST TO-NIGHT.

OVER BURNING TRESTLE

Seeing Bridge on Fire Engineer Opens Which Will Cross in Safety. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHATHAM, VA., March 30.—Twenty-five feet of the Southern bridge over the Roanoke River, three miles south of this place, was burned before daylight this morning, delaying traffic eight hours.

TRAIN NO. 33, THE NORFOLK AND WESTERN, WAS ROUNDING THE CURVE NEAR THE BRIDGE WHEN THE ENGINEER SAW THE FIRE, AND REALIZING THAT HE COULD NOT STOP HIS TRAIN, HE PULLED THE THROTTLE WIDE OPEN, PASSING SAFELY OVER THE BURNED SPAN WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE RAILS AND BURNED A FEW PIECES OF TIMBER.

THE TRAIN, WHICH WAS DIRECTLY OVER THE STREAM, SIXTY FEET HIGH. THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE IS UNKNOWN.

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MINERS TO QUIT WORK

Quarter Million to Lay Down Picks and Shovels To-night.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 30.—The union miners in most of the coal fields of the country will lay down their picks and shovels to-morrow night. Almost 250,000 of them will stop work in Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and probably Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia and Kentucky. The mining contracts, under which they are now working, expire at midnight to-morrow night, and except in Central Pennsylvania and in the Indiana block-coal district, no contracts have been made nor have the miners and operators yet entered into district agreements providing for the operations of the mines after April 1st pending agreement.

THIS IS A POSSIBILITY IN THE INDIANA BITUMINOUS DISTRICT IN ILLINOIS, MICHIGAN AND WEST VIRGINIA. THE INDIANA BITUMINOUS, WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AND ILLINOIS MINERS AND OPERATORS ARE IN JOINT SESSIONS AT TERRE HAUTE, PITTSBURGH AND SPRINGFIELD.

TECHNICALLY, MINERS WILL GO OUT ON STRIKE, BUT IN REALITY THEY STOP WORK BECAUSE THE OPERATORS, EXCEPT IN INDIANA AND ILLINOIS, SHOW NO INTENTION OF MEETING AND TREATING WITH THEM, THOUGH NO QUESTION OF WAGE OR PRINCIPLE IS AT STAKE.

ILLINOIS MINES TO CLOSE.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., March 30.—Illinois coal mine operators to-night decided to close the mines of the State for the immediate future, beginning on April 1st. The mines will be closed until about April 15th, or even longer, if the operators and miners cannot agree on a new scale of wages.

BIG GUN DEFECTIVE

One of the Missouri Six-Inch Guns Blows Off Muzzle. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 30.—During target practice Saturday at Magdalena Bay 140 inches of the muzzle of one of the six-inch broadside guns of the Missouri blew off, and the fracture was a clean one, and did not indicate any flaw in the metal. Practice was continued, and the gun will be replaced by the six-inch gun of the Washington Navy Yard. No one was injured. The gun was made at the Washington Navy Yard in 1902 and is a turret gun, and is one of the armor-producing companies. It was the early design of high-power guns, and was not hoped to be the muzzle of a six-inch gun, but it is a gun produced to-day. The gun at the point where the break occurred, after eight feet from the chamber, had a strength of thirteen tons. It had in December, 1907, been fired 143 rounds, and on original proof has stood 200 rounds at pressures as high as twenty tons. On March 13, 1908, an accident occurred on the Missouri when an explosion of powder resulted in a flashback, caused the death of thirty-three men, and the destruction of the ship was in target practice near Pensacola, Fla.

UBURN, N. Y., March 30.—Chester E. Gillette to-day paid the penalty for the brutal murder of Grace Brown. He went to his death in the electric chair at Auburn prison without a sign of weakness, and with the same lack of emotion which has characterized him from the day he was arrested, charged with the crime.

GILLETTE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN FULLY RECONCILED TO HIS FATE, AND IN A STATEMENT GIVEN OUT BY HIS ATTORNEY, ADVISERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS EXECUTION, IT IS INDICATED THAT HE HAD MADE A CONFESSION OF HIS GUILT. THIS STATEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE REV. HENRY McLELLAN, OF LITTLE FALLS, AND THE REV. CORDOLIO HERRICK, THE PRISON CHAPLAIN. IT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"BECAUSE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHESTER GILLETTE WAS PRIVILEGED, WE DO NOT DEEM IT WISE TO MAKE A DETAILED STATEMENT, AND SIMPLY WISH TO SAY THAT NO LEGAL MISTAKE WAS MADE, IN HIS EXECUTION."

Gillette's Statement.

Gillette himself, so far as the public was concerned, never admitted his crime. His last word, in the form of a statement, which he prepared with painstaking care last night, was made public after he had been put to death. In his statement he said: "Not even in the shadow of the valley of death, it is my desire to do everything that would remove any doubt as to my having found Jesus Christ, the personal Saviour and unfailing friend. My one regret at this time is that I have not given Him the pre-eminence in my life while I had the opportunity to work for Him. If I could only say something that would draw young men to Him I would deem it the greatest privilege ever granted me. But all I can say now is, I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

"IF THE YOUNG MEN OF THIS COUNTRY COULD ONLY KNOW THE JOY AND GLORY OF A CHRISTIAN LIFE, I KNOW THEY WOULD DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO BECOME EARNEST, ACTIVE CHRISTIANS, AND WOULD STRIVE TO LIVE AS CHRIST WOULD HAVE THEM LIVE."

"THERE IS NOT ONE THING I HAVE LEFT UNDONE WHICH WILL BAR ME FROM