



CREMATED IN TRAIN WRECK

Many Burned to Ashes in Kansas Collision.

OPERATOR ARRESTED

Smoking Car Crowded With Mexicans Bears Brunt of the Shock.

TRAINS MEET AT FULL SPEED

Trainmen Escape Injury by Jumping—Cars Catch Fire and Wounded, Pinned in Wreckage, Suffer Slow Death.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 2.—One of the most disastrous wrecks in the history of the Rock Island Railway System occurred early this morning, five miles east of Alta Vista, 50 miles west of Topeka, when passenger trains No. 29, southbound, and No. 30, northbound, collided head-on while traveling at a high rate of speed. The brunt of the collision was sustained by train No. 29, which was heavily laden with passengers. The cars on this train went into the ditch and several of them caught fire and were consumed. Close to 30 persons, mostly Mexican laborers, in the smoking car of No. 29, lost their lives. Many of them were pinned in the wreck and were burned to death, and only their ashes remain. Forty persons were injured. Twelve of the injured were seriously hurt, and it is believed that half of these will die. The Mexicans were en route to El Paso to work for the Rock Island Railroad.

But few persons on train No. 30 were seriously injured. The cars on this train were not badly damaged. Engineers and firemen and most of the trainmen jumped in time to save themselves. The express messenger on No. 29 is missing.

John Lynes, the telegraph operator at Volland, who appears to be responsible for the collision, has been arrested. Lynes received an order to stop both trains at Volland, but let No. 29 slip by. Lynes fled to the country, but afterward gave himself up.

An interpreter for the Mexicans was questioned as he lay slowly burning to death under the wreckage. He said there were 25 Mexicans in the party going from Kansas City to El Paso to work and most of them were burning to death like himself.

The collision occurred on what is known as the Alta Vista hill. The northbound train came down the steep grade at a high rate of speed, and the engineer had no warning of the approach of the other train. He was only able to slacken speed to a degree before he jumped. The trains met at the bottom of the hill. The smoking car on No. 29 was literally split in two and the first chair car was telescoped nearly half way back. The two baggage cars, mail car, smoker and chair car on No. 29 were consumed by flames that followed the collision. The killed and seriously injured were in the smoker and the first chair car. None of the sleeping cars of either train was damaged.

LABOR MEETS CAPITAL.

The Lamb and the Lion Will Lie Down Together.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Captains of industry and representatives of organized workmen are to meet in joint

conference in the new... Mrs. Potter Palmer... evening, January 12, at the... auspices of the National... It is expected that its president, August Belmont, will be in attendance. At the annual meeting of the National Civic Federation in New York three weeks ago, Mrs. Palmer offered the use of her residence, and invitations are to be sent out today to about 300 employers of labor and an equal number of representative union men. It is hoped by the civic federation members that the meeting will be a great success and that one of its fruits will be the establishment in Chicago of a branch of the national association, such as has been established recently in Boston. When the project was first broached a few days ago, it was feared that the labor men might refuse to attend because of the fact that the meeting was to be held in Mrs. Palmer's home on the Lake Shore drive. The more conservative of labor leaders have been approached on the subject and they have declared that they are willing to meet representative employers in any place if the meeting will have a tendency to bring about a better understanding.

FAMOUS CHURCH ORGANIST.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Professor Albert Wilhelm Berg, for thirty years organist at the "Little Church Around the Corner," is dying at his home in this city. For a month he has been suffering from heart disease and dropsy and his burden of 81 years is against him. On June 29, 1903, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding. Professor Berg was for many years a voluminous composer of church music.

HAS SHOT AT JUDGE

Young Woman Creates Excitement in St. Louis

JUDGE RETAINS COMPOSURE

Disappointed in the Outcome of an Inheritance Lawsuit, Miss Rosa Weil Vents Her Wrath in a Startling Manner.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 2.—Just after Judge J. A. McDonald, of the Circuit court, had convened court this morning, Miss Rosa Weil suddenly arose from among the spectators and fired point blank with a revolver at the judge. The bullet missed him. She was disarmed and arrested. She was a litigant in a case concerning a disputed inheritance that was tried before Judge McDonald two months ago.

When taken from the courtroom Miss Weil retained remarkable composure and said in a calm tone, "I ought to have got him." She was accompanied by her sister.

Judge McDonald did not arise from his seat during the excitement. "Take the two women out of the courtroom," he said to Deputy Sheriff Burns, and when the woman had been led from the room and order restored, the judge turned to several attorneys who were waiting to make motions and said:

CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The championship chess match between Frank J. Marshall of Brooklyn and Dr. Emanuel Lasker, chess champion of the world, which was scheduled to begin at Philadelphia on Friday is attracting interest all over the chess world. The men will play eight games, draws not to count and fifteen moves must be made within an hour. The games will be played every other day and no more than three games are to be played in a week. Beside the title the winner will receive a prize of \$1,000.

FRANK BAKER PASSES AWAY

Former State Printer Died Early Yesterday.

WAS NOTED POLITICIAN

Republican Party Loses Staunch Champion and Tried Leader.

SON OF WELL KNOWN PIONEERS

Was for Twenty Years One of the Leaders of His Party in the State—Had Retired to Domestic Life.

PORTLAND, Jan. 2.—Frank C. Baker, former state printer, ex-chairman of the Republican State Central committee and prominent politician, died at 4 o'clock at his residence, Gilsan and Twenty-fourth streets. He had been suffering from abscess of the inner ear, which was complicated by other ailments, and during the past week his heart action was bad. Dr. Clarence Nichols, who had been attending the patient, applied stimulants all day yesterday, but last night Mr. Baker grew worse and died a few minutes after the physician arrived.

For 20 years Mr. Baker had been in the politics of the state. He served two terms as state printer and since his incumbency directed several political campaigns. He retired last year as chairman of the state organization. He was always a Republican, and when the party in Multnomah county split into factions, he allied himself with the Mitchell wing. Up to within a few months ago he was an applicant for United States collector of customs.

Since his retirement he has resided in Portland, engaging in the commission business. He made a fortune from the state printing office and invested it to advantage, so that he leaves a large estate. Mr. Baker's judgment on politics was noted throughout Oregon, since at every election he laid heavy wagers on the result, and was rarely mistaken in the outcome. He was the son of W. W. Baker, formerly state food commissioner and publisher of the Rural Spirit, on which paper deceased worked for many years. Mr. Baker was one of the best-known printers in the state and was instrumental in organizing the first typographical union in Oregon. His policy was to pay the highest wage to his employees in the state printing office and he recognized that it was through the loyal support of his fellow journeymen at the case that he was originally elected and placed on the road to wealth and prominence.

Mr. Baker was born in Washington county in 1854. His parents emigrated to Oregon in 1853, remaining in Portland until 1865. In the latter year they moved to La Grande, Union county, where, at the age of 14, Frank began his printing career with E. S. McComas on the Mountain Sentinel.

WAGES ADVANCE.

Tendency to Give Employes More Money Without Awaiting Strikes.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Fourth Vice President Wilson of the International

Association of Machinists, came to New York yesterday and had a conference with the local officers as to what had been accomplished during the last year. After the conference Wilson said that there had been more advances of wages and fewer strikes than in any preceding year.

"Advances in wages," he said, "have been received by 115,000 machinists throughout the country this year without strikes, which will aggregate \$2,000,000 a year in wage advances. The advances were principally on the part of the railroad companies, but there has been a general tendency to advance wages. The year has shown more advances and fewer strikes than any other year and has been generally prosperous."

A referendum vote will be taken about February 2 on the question of holding an international convention this year. If the vote is for the convention, which will be held in St. Louis, the question of a general eight-hour work day demand will be taken up. If there is no convention this year the eight-hour question will remain in abeyance.

CONTEST SHORTER HOURS.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Delegates from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, representing all lines in the district west of Chicago will meet with officials of the railways here today to further discuss their demand for an increase in wages and an eight hour day scale. Grandmaster Stone will act as spokesman for the engineers. It is probable the increase in wages will be allowed, but the 8 hour work day will be warmly contested by the railways.

FORCES OWN DEATH

Batchelor Suicides Although the Means or Relief are at Hand.

SHOWED GREAT RESOLUTION

Slowly Strangled With End of Rope in His Hand, Whereby He Could Instantly Have Saved Himself Had He Wished.

LONG CREEK, Ore., Jan. 2.—Nailing a board across the top of the doorway of his lonely Grant county home, Leon Battig, a half-invalid bachelor, living by himself on the old Keeney ranch, looped a piece of clothesline over the board and let himself strangle to death.

Battig's suicide was a curious one, being executed in such a way that he could have called it off at any time before unconsciousness set in, as the loop was so arranged that by hands or feet he could have gotten his toes on the floor and have freed himself. When found, after the body had been hanging probably several days, the knees were touching the floor. Hans Hanson found him. On calling at the cabin and opening the door he was astonished to behold the face of the man he came to see swaying at a rope's end. Battig must have had extraordinary resolution.

Battig had just sold his ranch for \$4,500, but he owed the state \$1,000 on it, the purchase having been school land, and by the terms he was not to get any of the money for two years. In addition, he suffered from stomach trouble, and it is supposed he decided not to wait and suffer. The coroner's jury verdict was death from an "unknown cause."

FORTUNE FOR HUSBAND.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Daily Mail quotes a friend of the late Lady Burdett-Coutts as saying that the bulk of her great fortune will go to her late husband, and that it is unlikely that her will contains large bequests to charity.

YEAR'S CRIME IN FIGURES

Last Twelvemonth Shown a Lawless Onc.

FEW LEGAL EXECUTIONS

Corresponding Increase in Lynch-Furnishes Food for Thought.

MORE MURDERS BY ROBBERS

Record is an Evil One in All Departments of Crime and Compares Ill With That of Last—Many Embellishments.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—For those who contend that the people of the United States are growing better instead of worse there is little comfort in the statistics of 1906 on crime, dishonesty, and contempt for law and order. The figures, carefully gathered, show in comparison with 1905 an increase in lynchings, homicides, suicides and the amount involved in embezzlements and kindred crimes.

The number of legal hangings in 1906 was 123, as compared with 123 in 1905. The record follows: Alabama 5, Arkansas 6, California 3, Georgia 10, Idaho 2, Illinois 5, Iowa 2, Kentucky 8, Louisiana 8, Maryland 4, Massachusetts 2, Mississippi 10, Missouri 5, Montana 1, Nevada 2, New Jersey 8, North Carolina 1, Ohio 1, Pennsylvania 6, South Carolina 7, Washington 2, District of Columbia 2, New Mexico 3, Indian Territory 1. There were 35 hanged in the North and 88 in the South, and of these 45 were whites, 76 negroes and 2 Indians. The crimes for which they were executed were: Murder 114, rape 8, murder and rape 1.

The number of lynchings is 69, compared with 66 in 1905. The 12 negroes killed in Atlanta in September and the 12 killed at Scooba and Wahala, Miss., in December, are not included in this total.

As the lynching evil is a problem of general interest, occupying the attention of courts, legislatures, congress and the President himself, the record of the last 10 years is given:

1897	166	1902	96
1898	127	1903	104
1899	107	1904	87
1900	115	1905	69
1901	135	1906	69

The classification follows: Alabama 6, Arkansas 5, Colorado 1, Florida 6, Georgia 5, Kentucky 1, Louisiana 8, Maryland 2, Mississippi, 12, Missouri 3, North Carolina 5, South Carolina 5, Tennessee 2, Texas 6, Indian Territory 2.

Of this number 64 were negroes and 5 whites. The crimes alleged were as follows: Murder, 24; murderous assault, 7; murder and rape, 1; rape, 15; attempted rape, 14; suspected of rape 1; theft, 3; insulting woman, 1; arson, 1; miscegenation, 1; disorderly conduct, 1.

The total number of deaths by murder and violence of every kind during 1906, as reported by telegraph, shows a small increase over 1905, being 9,350, as compared with 9,212. It was remarked last year that "the startling feature of the record is the increase of murders committed by highwaymen, burglars, hold-up men and that class of criminals." This feature is even more apparent in 1906, for the number of murders to be credited to them is 605, as compared with 582 in 1905, 464 in 1904, 406 in 1903, 333 in 1902 and 103 in 1901.

SHOOTS THREE MEN.

Opens Fire Without Warning and Without Apparent Motive.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—John Vandell, 22 years of age, was fatally shot in an uptown street early today by a man known to the police as "Chop Suey Joe." Two companions of Vandell, Charles Carberry and William Murray, were also wounded, the latter seriously. No motive but pure devilishness can be assigned for the shooting. The young men were escorting their sweethearts to their homes when the assailant stepped from a hallway and began shooting. The would-be murderer escaped, but as he left a trail of blood for some distance, it is thought he is wounded, probably by his own pistol.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER HURT.

HOOD RIVER, Jan. 2.—Mrs. William Scobey and her small daughter were severely burned in a fire that destroyed the Scobey house south of Hood River yesterday. The mother rushed upstairs for the child and had to pass through flames carrying her outside. She got outdoors a few moments before the roof fell in. Both will recover.

SHOOTS DOWIE LEADER.

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—The mystery which surrounded the shooting of Elder Peter Ropp, one of John Alexander Dowle's closest followers and friends, at Zion City, was cleared up when the police learned that his assailant, Rudolph Zollinger, fired the shot while in a frenzy over losing his life savings, which he had invested in Zion enterprises.

GUN VS. MILLIONAIRE

Woman Declares Herself His Wife and Demands Money.

ABSENTLY GIVES WRONG NAME

When Arrested Claims to be Wingfield's Wife, but Let Slip Her Name Which is Olivette Barric—Wingfield Repudiates Her.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—At 3 o'clock this morning a woman claiming to be the wife of George Wingfield, the Goldfield millionaire, stepped from an automobile at the St. Francis hotel and forced her way past the watchman, at the door, waving a pistol and declaring her intention of killing Wingfield if he did not comply with her demand for money. A telephone message to the Bush street police station brought Sergeant Shaw and a squad of policemen, who arrested the woman and took her to the station. There she became wildly hysterical and had to be taken in the patrol wagon to the Central Emergency hospital, where she remained until 9 o'clock.

Although the woman claims to be Wingfield's wife, she gave the name of Olivette Barric, when arrested. Her home is at San Jose, and she says she came up yesterday for the purpose of forcing Wingfield to pay her money. Wingfield denies that she is his wife.

ROAD NEARLY DONE.

FREEWATER, Ore., Jan. 2.—Work on the electric suburban line between this city and Walla Walla has been considerably delayed by the recent high water which carried away nearly all the temporary bridges. Grading and tracklaying are progressing rapidly, the roadbed is completed and the track laid is within one mile of Freewater. It is expected the line will be ready for operation by January 10, with the exception of a permanent structure across the Walla Walla river.