



HUNDREDS ENTOMBED

Terrific Explosion at Jacobs Creek Mines.

BUILDINGS WRECKED

Disaster in Pittsburg Coal Company's Mine Will Equal Monongah Horror.

BODIES HORRIBLY MUTILATED

Heavy Rumbling Followed by Report and Concussion Felt Within Radius of Several Miles—Rescuing Parties at Work Though Little Hope Entertained

JACOBS CREEK, Dec. 19.—An explosion of gas in the Darr mine of the Pittsburg Coal Company located here, today, entombed between 200 and 250 miners and there is scarcely a ray of hope that a single one will be taken out alive. Partially wrecked buildings in the vicinity of the mine and the condition of the few bodies so far recovered indicates the explosion had such a terrific force that it seems impossible anyone could have survived it. All 13 bodies taken out, up to this time, are terribly mutilated and three are headless. This is the third disaster this month in the veins of bituminous coal underlying Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and today's catastrophe swells the number of victims of deadly mine gas, for 19 days, to between 550 and 600.

That today's disaster will not equal, or even exceed, in loss of life, the Monongah horror is due to this being a holiday of the Greek Catholic Church, and many miners did not go to work this morning. As was the case at Monongah, the explosion followed a brief shut down, the Darr mine having been closed Tuesday and Wednesday. The explosion occurred at 11:30. A heavy rumbling was followed by a loud report and concussion that shook the nearby buildings and was felt within a radius of several miles. At the same time there came from the mouth of the mine an immense cloud of smoke and dust. Reports were circulated during the afternoon of seething fires back in the workings, but up to this time the rescuers have found no fire at any place in the mine. As far as known only one man escaped, Joseph Mapleton, a pumpman, who emerged from one of the side entrances directly after the explosion. He left a part of the mine, where most of the men were working, to go to the engine room and get oil. Mapleton says he was blinded when the explosion occurred, and for a time did not know anything. Then he got to the side entrance and worked his way out. He is somewhat bruised and cut, but after having his injuries dressed, he returned to the mine and joined the rescuers. Officials of the mine have only a faint hope of any men being alive, nevertheless the rescue work is being carried on in the theory that some of the men may have found places of safety. A considerable number of miners were Americans, some of the officials estimating probably one-half are Americans, as the great majority of foreigners were not at work today.

MAGAZINE EXPLODES.

Storing Place of Large Quantity of Dynamite Causes Destruction.

PALERMO, Sicily, Dec. 19.—A terrific explosion occurred this evening in the military powder magazine, where a large quantity of dynamite was stored, and was followed by a large number of lesser explosions, the whole town being badly shaken by it, and the people thrown into a panic. Almost immediately flames shot high into the air and spread to the ruins of houses that had fallen in, adding greatly to the terror of those in the neighborhood. It is estimated about 25 persons were killed and

100 injured. A wild rumor followed fast on the explosion placing the number killed and wounded into thousands.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Lumber Men and Senator Borah to be Tried in Idaho.

MADISON, Wis., Dec. 19.—J. T. Barber and Sumner G. Moon, millionaire lumbermen of Eau Claire, Wis., indicted with Senator Borah for alleged conspiracy in land frauds may be taken to Idaho for trial. Judge Quarles in announcing his decision in the United States court today said that the indictment is sufficient to warrant the removal of the defendants to the court of original jurisdiction. Barber and Moon will bring witnesses from Idaho to attempt to prove there was no continuous conspiracy.

ADVANCEMENT IN SCIENCE.

Meeting of American Association of Science in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Men prominent in the fields of scientific research throughout the country will gather in Chicago a week from next Monday to attend the fifty-eighth annual meeting of the American association for the advancement of science, the largest body of men of science in the country.

Sessions will be held from December 30 to January 4, including and it is estimated that there will be an attendance of between 2000 and 4000. Specialists in various branches of this department of learning. The association is to be the guest of the University of Chicago, and will hold its combined and sectional meetings in the lecture halls on the campus.

WILL INCREASE SALARIES.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 19.—In honor of St. Nicholas' day which falls on Thursday next, the emperor has issued a rescript to the army announcing a general increase in the salaries of the officers beginning in 1909. A commission has been appointed to draw up a scheme which will mainly affect the lower ranks who are notoriously underpaid in comparison with those of other armies. Recently great numbers of Russian soldiers made application for enlistment in the American service.

DAMAGING EVIDENCE

State Puts New Witness on the Stand.

BOISE, Dec. 19.—New and damaging testimony was presented by the state today in the Pettibone trial. Charles Neville, the 17-year-old son of John Neville, whom Orchard said he was directed by Moyer to kill, because "he knew too much," was the chief witness today, telling of his hunting trip with his father, and Orchard. On the night of the Independence Depot explosion, the boy said Orchard left camp early in the night and did not return until dawn, corroborating Orchard's testimony on that point. When the trio went to Denver, young Neville stated, he and his father went to Pettibone's store and his father had a conference with Pettibone, parts of which he overheard. "Then I will speak," was one of the remarks he said he heard his father make. They also went to the Western Federation headquarters, he said, and his father had a long talk with a man whom he did not know and whom he could not identify. Young Neville was not a witness in the Haywood trial. He was brought to Boise but was not placed on the stand. It was expected Mrs. Ida Toney, the second wife of Orchard, would testify today but the cross-examination of Neville was only fairly begun when the hour of adjournment was reached.

Mrs. Toney will be called tomorrow and the state will rest its case after her testimony. Orchard was on the stand most of the day but his examination brought out no new points.

CORROBORATES ORCHARD

Boy Testifies That His Father Had a Long Conference With Pettibone and Overheard Part of the Conversation—Also Went to Federation Headquarters

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NEGOTIATIONS STILL PENDING FOR STEAMER LINES

Special Committee Reports to Adjourned Session Yesterday Afternoon.

FORM OF BOND-CONTRACT IS FIXED UPON

Contract Covers Entire Range of Agreement as Between Mr. Garland and the Individual Subscriber for Bonds of the Transportation Company.

ADHERES EXACTLY TO BASIC FEATURES OF ORIGINAL COMPACT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE LARGELY AUGMENTED IN MEMBERSHIP AND A ROUSING MEETING CALLED FOR THIS EVENING AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, IN ORDER TO CLOSE THE IMPORTANT DEAL WITH PRACTICALLY POPULAR SANCTION.

The adjourned session of the Citizens' Meeting, called on Wednesday last to consider the offer of Col. William H. Garland, of New York, to establish a steamship system out of this port, etc., convened yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce, at 1:30 o'clock, a goodly number of representative people being present to hear the report of the committee named the day before to confer with Mr. Garland.

At yesterday's meeting Chairman Samuel Elmore, of the special committee referred to, presided, and Manager Whyte, of the Chamber of Commerce served as secretary. G. C. Fulton, of the committee was also present, but Mr. Ferguson, the third member, was out of the city on imperative business of a private nature, but left his colleagues to do what they thought proper in the premise.

The special committee submitted, as the substance of their findings in relation to Mr. Garland and his project, the following form of bond-contract drawn, upon full agreement with Mr. Garland, and covering the whole status of operations involved as between that gentleman and the individual subscriber for the bonds; and which reads, as follows, in full:

"In consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinafter mentioned, to be well and truly done and performed by of herein mentioned as the second party, I, Wm. H. Garland, of New York City, New York, hereinafter mentioned as the first party, hereby covenant and agree as follows, that is to say:

"First: To organize during the months of December, 1907, and January, 1908, under the laws of the State of Oregon, a corporation by the name of ASTORIA STEAMSHIP & TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, authorized among other things, to own real estate and to engage generally in the transportation business and particularly to operate a line of steamboats for both passenger and freight service between the City of Astoria, in Oregon, and Catalina and Valdez and other points, in Alaska; the place of business and head office to be at all times, at the City of Astoria, with a capital stock not less than \$5,000,000 to be fully subscribed for, at least \$1,000,000 of which stock to be subscribed for and paid for by the first party.

"Second: Said corporation will acquire, on or before the first day of June, 1908, the fee simple title to not less than 1600 continuous feet of water frontage on the Columbia River within the corporate limits of the City of Astoria, and will, on or before the first day of November, 1908, have completed on said water frontage a dock or docks, wharf or wharves for deep sea vessels, the cost of which, together with the purchase price paid for said real estate, to aggregate at least \$200,000; said corporation will also have purchased and will own in its own right, on or before the first day of May, 1908, at least three steam vessels of modern type, equipped for first-class passenger and freight service, each of said vessels to be not less than 1000 ton burden, and will, on or before May 1, 1908, place each of said vessels in actual service on the route

the first mortgaged bonds aforesaid in the sum of \$..... to pay said corporation said subscribed sum aforesaid.

"If said committee shall certify that said first party or said corporation has not complied with the terms of this agreement on his or its part said money paid hereunder shall be returned to the second party, his heirs, personal representatives or assigns.

"In addition to the above the said Wm. H. Garland agrees to deposit with the said committee stock in said corporation to the amount of \$125,000 fully paid up to be proportionately divided and delivered to all the purchasers of said bonds.

"Dated at Astoria, Ore., this day of 1907"

The report aforesaid was unanimously adopted and ordered of record in due course; whereupon, J. H. Whyte, moved, and was duly seconded by F. L. Parker, that the names of the following citizens be, and they are, added to the original committee of three under the resolution creating said original committee for the express purpose of considering and passing upon the text and terms of the bond contract reported back to the meeting of citizens held this day, December 19, 1907: Judge Frank J. Taylor, Judge J. Q. A. Bowlby, John H. Smith, Judge C. H. Page, Frank Snittle, John C. McCue, J. E. Higgins, J. A. Anderson, Frank Patton, S. S. Gordon, Geo. H. George, Charles Wilson, Isaac Bergman, W. F. McGregor, C. H. Callender, F. L. Parker, F. A. Fisher, Norris Staples, Max Skibbe, Geo. Flavel, Geo. W. Sanborn, Gust Holmes, Benj. Young, A. Scherneckau and C. S. Brown, and said motion prevailed unanimously.

In order to expedite the business of the meeting and of the committee as well Manager Whyte yesterday afternoon directed the following letter to each of the new members of the main committee, so that they might know the duty of the hour and prepare to come tonight with certain equipment for the task named, to-wit:

"Dear Sir:—This is to advise you that at an adjourned meeting of citizens held this day at 1:30 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce to consider the report of the committee of three—Samuel Elmore, G. C. Fulton and E. Z. Ferguson, heretofore appointed to confer with Wm. H. Garland upon the proposed establishment of a steamship line, your name has been added to that committee for the express purpose of considering and passing upon the text and terms of the bond contract reported back to the meeting of citizens held this day, December 19, 1907.

(Continued on Page 4.)

LIE PASSES IN CONGRESS

House Scene of Fistic Encounter.

ANGER COMES TO BLOWS

Minority Leader Williams and DeArmond of Missouri Engage in Scrap.

HOUSE TRANSACTS BUSINESS

Two-Hour Session Does Actual Work—Committee Appointments Are Announced—First Money is Appropriated—Oregonians Named on Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The word "liar" was twice used in anger on the floor of the house today, the first occasion being when Representative Gaines, of Tennessee, denounced a local paper for printing a statement regarding his alleged interest in the deficiency appropriation, for seeds for free distribution; and the second and more serious occasion was when De Armond, of Missouri, applied the epithet to Williams, of Mississippi, the minority leader, the two men engaging in a fistic encounter, which only ended when they were forcibly separated. The trouble arose over a misunderstanding regarding the version of a week ago about some committee appointments, De Armond insisting he had not made any specific recommendations but had only asked that Representative Booker, of Missouri, and one or two other Democrats, from that State, be considered according to their special fitness. Williams maintained otherwise and the anger of the two men increased until they came to blows.

During the two hours and twenty minutes' session of the House it got down to actual work and transacted considerable business. All that had remained to make this possible was the announcement of committee appointments made by the Speaker today.

Several of the chairmen became alert, with regard to their rights, and forced the reference to the committee of several propositions on which immediate action was desired. This was not accomplished however without more or less debate which at times grew warm. The first money appropriated by the present Congress was awarded today.

The amount was \$50,000, and it is to be used in supply of the seed deficiency caused by the destruction by fire of the government seed warehouse in this city. The House will meet again on Saturday, on which day adjournment for the Christmas holidays will be taken.

LISTEN TO PROPOSAL

Mine Owners of Goldfield Will Hear Hilton.

NO COMPROMISE TO BE MADE

Looking to the Abandonment of the Position Taken by the Mineowners' Association That Any Miner Who Goes to Work Must Renounce the Union.

GOLDFIELD, Dec. 19.—The mineowners of Goldfield will listen to the proposition of Attorney O. N. Hilton, of Denver, acting for the Western Federation of Miners, has presented, though there is small probability any compromise can be made at this late day. What the proposition is, which Hilton has to offer, has not been revealed, but the mineowners are emphatic in their statement that no compromise, looking to the abandonment of the position taken by them, that any miner who goes to work must renounce the Western Federation, will be accepted. Hilton has stated he is authorized to make important concessions, even to the removal of some of the members of the Federation, who may be considered as agitators, from the camps. The mines are working with about the same number of men as were at work yesterday. No considerable number of men, to break the strike, have been brought in as yet. General Funston left for San Francisco today.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Speaker Cannon today announced the committee assignments for this Congress. Many changes from the last Congress were made, but in the main the members who heretofore head important offices, are retained in them. Among the assignments made today were: Agriculture, Hawley, of Oregon; claims, Hawley of Oregon; irrigation of arid lands, Ellis of Oregon; mines and mining, French of Idaho; navy affairs, Ellis of Oregon. Republican vacancies remain unfilled on various committees as follows: Committee on elections, number 3, one vacancy; agricultural, one; manufactures, one; levees and improvement of Mississippi, two; war claims, two; private land claims, two; ventilation and acoustics, one; expenditures in navy department, one; accounts, two.

While the clerk was reading the committee exhibited unusual interest. Almost every seat was occupied. Many gave evidence of their satisfaction with their assignments, but a number clearly manifested some disappointments.

MILLS NOW SECRETARY.

DENVER, Dec. 18.—James R. Kirwan, acting secretary of the Western Federation of Miners has resigned on account of ill health. He will be succeeded by Ernest Mills, a member of the executive board, from British Columbia.