



53 WORKMEN PERISH IN LAKE MICHIGAN WATER CRIB

Explosion of Powder Vault Starts Fire

46 STILL MISSING

Of the 95 Employed in the Workings Only 39 Were Rescued

SCHOOLS ARE DISMISSED

When News of the Disaster Became Known Hundreds of Wives and Children Anxiously Await Returning Tugs For News of Loved Ones

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—At least 53 workmen are dead as a result of a fire that had its origin today in a powder vault attached to the immediate crib in Lake Michigan used in the construction of a water tunnel connection with the south side of the city at 73rd street. Ninety-five workmen were employed in the crib and in the connecting tunnel at the time of the fire. Hospitals of the south side are filled with the injured. Tugs of the construction company are making frequent trips to the scene of the disaster through the heavy ice floes.

Owing to the difficulty small craft experienced in reaching the crib during the winter a majority of the workmen were employed on the work and particularly those without families slept in temporary structures at the crib. Just before these had been awakened for the day's work, the explosion occurred. So far as is known the explosion had its origin in a small powder house about 100 yards from the crib structure proper, but part of the general structure built on foundations resting proper, resting on the bottom of the lake.

In this building George W. Jackson Co., contractors, had stored enough powder and dynamite for future use in the construction of the water tunnel. In some manner the powder and dynamite exploded. It was not until the heat of the flames and stifling smoke penetrated the so-called "Living room," of the crib and tunnel beneath the waters of the lake that the full import of the disaster dawned upon the little colony cut off almost completely from assistance. One of the workmen made his way through the smoke to a little enclosure in

which telephone communication had been established with the store station. A drowsy attendant at this station received this message: "The crib is on fire. For God's sake send help at once or we will be burned alive. The tug —"

At this point the communication ceased and through the fog an occasional burst of smoke and unmistakable odor of smoke made itself known to the watchers on the shore that a tragedy was probably being enacted a mile and a half out on the lake. The tug Conway was anchored a short distance of the imperilled crib and this was early placed in service in the work of rescue. The ice made it impossible for the tug to reach the imprisoned men, but small boats were placed in service to carry the injured to the tug and the rescue of those who had plunged into the lake.

After several hours, 39 workmen were rescued. When the fire tug had succeeded in quenching the flames 53 bodies had been carried ashore.

The first section of the tunnel starts from shore. The crib, a mile and a half out, marked the beginning of the second section being built still further into the lake. The two sections had not been joined as yet. Until such time as the rescuers are able to enter the water tunnel it will not be known how many persons perished below the surface of the lake. Air pressure was kept in this portion of the works, but as the air generating plant became disabled soon after the fire started, it is probable that those in the tunnel must have perished. The south side was transformed into a series of hospitals for the care of the injured. Private homes were thrown open but the need of physicians and nurses was small after the tugs made two or three trips to shore. Not a shred of clothing was found on the bodies of the workmen who perished in the flames. When news of the disaster spread, the public schools were dismissed and weeping wives with their children huddled about, watching anxiously for the return trips of the struggling craft with their cargoes of injured and dead. According to the records of the construction company 46 men are missing. The police have already started an investigation with a view to placing the responsibility for the disaster and Coroner Hoffman is empanelling the jury.

DANGEROUS TRIP.

Three Chicago Merchants Have Extraordinary Experience Down South.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Three prominent Chicago business men, J. W. Thorne, J. W. Hall, and W. M. Townsend, have just returned from a trip down the Mississippi river, which almost cost them their lives. While thirty five miles south of Vicksburg at lunch, Hall detected the odor of

gasoline. Thorne, who was in charge of the engine went back to inspect. He struck a match and there was a sudden whiff of flames, he says, which knocked him over the side of the boat. The flames shot clear to the bow, setting their clothes on fire. Hall and Townsend leaped into the water.

While the men were struggling in the river there was a loud report and the entire launch went up in the air. "I was half strangled," said Hall. "I could not swim and was struggling fiercely to keep above the water. Thorne finally grabbed me, pulled my mouth above the water, and dragged me until we reached the shore. We heard Townsend calling for aid and we waded into the water and pulled him ashore." The men had landed on Ursina island, which is low and marshy and sixteen miles long. Townsend set off and finally found a hut.

"When I knocked at the door," he said, "a man with a gun in his hand, poked his head from the window and asked me what I wanted."

I told him the story. He laughed and said: "I know you are from the prison. There is no one else on this island. Git, and do it quick!"

The wrecked men eventually reached the prison stockade when they narrowly escaped being shot but were finally admitted and taken care of.

FORAKER'S BILL MEETS WITH OPPOSITION

SENATOR FRAZIER OBJECTS TO RE-ENLISTMENT OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE 25TH.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The Brownsville affair was taken before the senate today. Senator Frazier speaking in opposition to any measure for the re-enlistment of the discharged soldiers of the 25th. He insisted that the guilt of some of the men of the regiment had been established beyond a doubt although the individuals who had committed the crime had not been determined. Foraker announced he would move next Monday to take up his bill to re-enlist the soldiers unless an agreement on the time to vote was made sooner. The legislative executive and judicial appropriation bills were under consideration today.

MAY UNSEAT HARPER.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 20.—Two hundred and fifty prominent citizens of Los Angeles, at a meeting today at the instance of the municipal league voted to prepare and circulate petitions demanding for the election for the recall from office of Mayor Harper.

PROCEEDINGS SLOW.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—A single salesman ran the gauntlet of inquiry in the Calhoun case today and 11 others were either challenged or excused. The proceedings were almost monotonous and there was not a single clash between the opposing attorneys.

WHISTLE THEIR WIVES.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Engineers on the Pennsylvania line have come to the conclusion that the residents of Brooklyn, and Park Manor are unethical. The people of these suburbs have entered an objection because the engineers living there "Whistle their wives" as they pass through in the night.

The engineers say they have only been following a little traditional sentiment. It has been the custom of engineers, night or day to pull a long and loving whistle that the wife may know her husband has piloted his train safely home.

The objectors say the noise makes the night hideous.

PRESIDENT FEELS LESS WORRIED

Over Japanese Question in California

CONGRESS RELIEVED

Anti-Japanese Legislation Caused Apprehension in Washington

ROOSEVELT GIVES VIEWS

President in Response to Gillett States That Nothing Has Absorbed His Attention as Has the Immigration Question.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—While such assurances as have come from representatives from Pacific Coast men regarding the improbability of any legislation in California adverse to the Japanese have undoubtedly done much to relieve apprehension that exists in administration circles, it is a fact that the deepest concern exists as to the future. Nothing that has happened recently in congress or elsewhere has so absorbed the attention of the president and Secretary Root as threatened the anti-Japanese legislation in California.

It is impossible for the president in his response to Governor Gillett, to tell of the influences that guide him in making his unprecedented protest against such action by California's legislature. They are factors which for diplomatic reasons could not be mentioned in a letter which was sure to be published but which are known to members of the Senate and house committees on foreign affairs and which doubtless influenced conservative Pacific Coast men in Congress in deprecating such action as was proposed.

M. J. GORDON ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

FORMER JUDGE OF WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT HELD ON SERIOUS CHARGE.

TACOMA, Jan. 20.—M. J. Gordon, former judge of the state supreme court and until recently general western counsel for the Great Northern Railway was tonight placed under arrest by a deputy sheriff from Spokane upon a telegraphic bench warrant charging embezzlement.

BANK ROBBERS SENTENCED

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Jan. 20.—Jack Hall and Roy Prieuer, who yesterday pleaded guilty to robbing the Klamath County Bank, were today sentenced to the penitentiary. Hall got a ten years' sentence and Prieuer five years.

OFFERED A FORTUNE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—James J. Jeffries, the retired heavyweight champion, who is filling a theatrical engagement here has received an offer of \$100,000 for 33 weeks of sparring exhibitions on an eastern vaudeville circuit. The offer was made by Sam Wheeler the fight promoter of St. Louis. Jeffries still refuses to

admit that he has any intentions of attempting to wrest the championship from Jack Johnson, but the belief is growing stronger each day that he will be seen in the ring. Although a trifle fat the retired champion shows all speed that made him the wonder of the heavyweight division during his active fighting days, and his sparring partner partner, Sam Berger, is authority for the statement that the big fighters blows have not lost their steam.

\$75,000 OFFERED FOR MATCH.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—An offer of \$75,000 for a match between Jeffries and Johnson was made by John L. Sullivan according to a statement by the former champion of America. He said he represented a number of men who are willing to put the money up.

SUBMITS ESTIMATES FOR LIGHTHOUSES

SECRETARY STRAUS ASKS \$150,000 FOR LIGHT VESSEL FOR OREGON COAST.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—For lighthouse establishment throughout the United States, Secretary Straus today submitted to congress estimates amounting to \$406,600. He asked among other things for \$150,000 for a first class steam light vessel to mark Orford reef, Oregon, and \$41,600 for six light and fog signals in Puget Sound.

PIONEER FOUND DEAD.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 20.—Captain A. C. Harmon, 84 years old, a pioneer miner was found dead in his cabin in Placerita canyon, five miles east of Newhall, by a party of hunters yesterday. The body was rigid, death having occurred long before the find. Captain Harmon formerly was master of a sailing vessel. He owned his ship and in 1849 sailed around the Horn and anchored off the California coast after a stormy voyage. He disposed of his vessel and went to the goldfields. He has been a miner since 1850 and was well known to old time prospectors. He is survived by two sisters, who live in New York.

WAS A FORMER M. P.

Dead. Irishman. At Rawhide. Was Once Very Prominent.

RAWHIDE, Nev., Jan. 20.—Investigation into the affairs of Thomas H. Niblock, the broker, who committed suicide shows that his real name was Thomas H. Prooban of the well known family of that name of West Downs, Ireland. He served in the Commons from West Downs and in the zenith of his career eloped with a celebrated Irish beauty. Four years later he left her in Paris and went to New York. The day he left, his companion was killed in a train wreck and a man crushed beyond recognition in the wrecked passenger train was buried as Prooban by the members of his family. Prooban read of the affair but maintained silence and allowed his family to continue in the belief that he was a victim of the wreck. He came to Nevada and won and lost a fortune before he committed suicide in a fit of despondency.

IN DEADLOCK.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 20.—Joint session of the house and senate on the election of United States senator was adjourned today in deadlock after five ballots were taken.

ROOT DECLARED ELECTED.

ALBANY, Jan. 20.—The state legislature in joint session today formally declared Elihu Root elected to the office of United States senator to succeed Senator Platt.

HARRIMAN LOSES MUCH PROPERTY NEAR ILWACO

FORMING JURY.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 20.—In the case of Colonel Cooper and son being tried for the killing of the late Senator Carmack but two jurors had been secured up of a late hour this afternoon.

DENIES STORY.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—Duke D'Abruzzi left today for Turin. The Italian embassy denied the story that the Duke intends to renounce title in order to marry Miss Elkins.

PROHIBITION BILL PASSED.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 20.—The Senate refused to sustain the governor's veto of the Holladay prohibition bill today. The passage of the bill caused a wild demonstration.

FOUR KILLED; 10 INJURED.

NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 20.—Four were killed and 10 injured in a powder mill explosion at Lake Hopatong today.

AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 20.—J. A. Krohn, of Newburyport, Mass., familiarly known as "Colonial Jack" arrived in Los Angeles last night. He is walking around the borders of the country. He put in more than forty miles yesterday in spite of a raised ankle. He left home Jan. 1. If he completes his journey in 400 days he will win a wager of \$1000. He pushes a sixty pound wheelbarrow, which contains his wearing apparel. He has worn out six pairs of shoes and two suits of clothes. He is 29 days ahead of his schedule. He is headed for San Francisco.

APPROPRIATION BILL BEFORE HOUSE

FOUR AMENDMENTS TO THE MEASURE ARE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—After adopting without opposition a resolution by which Governor Lilley of Connecticut ceases to be a member of Congress, the house today proceeded with the naval appropriation bill.

Four amendments were offered to the measure. Representative Foss, chairman of the naval affairs committee, had charge of the bill on the floor, and Tawny, Fitzgerald, Gaines, Macdon and others, spoke. Representative Mann occupied the chair during the consideration of the bill which will probably have the attention of the house on Friday.

1,100 Feet of O. R. & N. Roadbed Swept Away

RESULT OF BIG RAINS

Big New Dock at Megler Also Badly Damaged by the Storm

LINE IS BADLY CRIPPLED

Traffic on the Ilwaco Line is Suspended Perhaps For Weeks Before the Necessary Repairs Can be Made.

PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—Reports of heavy damage to roadbed, bridges, trestles and other property of the Harriman lines in the Northwest are being received today. The most serious mishap as the result of the down-pour of rains and high winds is the destruction of 1100 feet or nearly a quarter of a mile of the roadbed on the new extension of the Ilwaco line. The heavy winds and high tides which have prevailed off the coast, working together, swept this long stretch of track into the sea, and it will probably take weeks before the storm's havoc can be repaired. Rails, ties and all were carried away completely. Traffic on this line, while not heavy at this time of the year, will be wholly paralyzed until temporary tracks here will run into the thousands. The big dock at Megler, also new, was badly damaged by the storm, the tide having beaten down and carried away long stretches of piling which support the building, the boat landing and its approach. For a considerable distance west of Megler the tracks have been washed away. It is further reported that there are a number of smaller washouts on the Ilwaco line, which will necessitate practically rebuilding of the portions weakened or carried away.

CODE OF "ETHICS".

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—A code of ethics which will bring closer together the medical and pharmaceutical professions and results in the betterment of public service has been determined upon by the Chicago Medical Society and the Chicago Retail Druggists and a committee from both organizations will formulate a general code of action.

INTRODUCE BILL TO KILL STATEMENT 1

That Anyone Circulating Petition on Initiative or Referendum Shall be Guilty of Misdemeanor

SALEM, Or., Jan. 20.—That any one who is hired to circulate a petition on initiative and referendum shall be guilty of misdemeanor, as well as a man who hired him is the penalty carried in one of the measures introduced in the legislature today. In line with the same measure is one making it a misdemeanor to make a pledge while a candidate for the legislature. Should these acts become laws, they would seriously impair the effect of the direct primary law. A bill is now under consideration which prohibits a woman from using a hatpin more than ten

TO PUSH WORK ON THE SEATTLE FAIR

Senate Will Pass a Bill Increasing Interest on Warrants so as to Avoid Delay in Work

OLYMPIA, Jan. 20.—Wesley L. Jones was formally declared elected as United States Senator in joint session of the legislature today. Jones sent a telegram thanking for the honor and a joint resolution was passed directing the president and speaker to wire congratulations. To prevent delays in the work on the Washington buildings at the Seattle Fair, the senate will tomorrow pass a bill to increase the rate of interest of warrants drawn on the ground which is secured by the state shore lands and guarantee interest out of the general fund. The bill is designed to make the warrants

more attractive to investors, a fair commission having so far been able to dispose of only \$60,000 out of the \$400,000 warrants. A bill was introduced in the house today providing for the equal suffrage amendment and one providing for an eight-hour law for women engaged in laundries, hotels and restaurants. In the Senate a bill was introduced creating the shoreland improvement fund from proceeds from the sale of Lake Washington shorelands and appropriating \$250,000 therefrom from the construction of a canal connecting the lake with the Sound.