

ESTABLISHED 1861.

CLARKSBURG, W. VA. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1908.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND VICTIMS WORLD STANDS AGHAST OVER AWFUL LIFE LOSS

Sixty Miners Killed

Twenty Bodies Are Taken Out
So Far at the Lick
Branch Horror.

CLARKSBURG, W. Va., Dec. 30.—The fatalities in the Lick Branch coal mine as the result of an explosion yesterday will probably reach sixty. Up to 9 o'clock today twelve bodies had been taken out of the mine.

The Lick Branch Cillery is owned by the Peachontas Consolidated Coal Company, the largest company operating in this field. It is located at Maybury, Va.

Inspectors Philipps, Henry, Werner and Grady, of Virginia, who were in the Tug River field, came to the scene of the explosion and took charge of the work of exploring the mine. The explosion occurred at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The management of this property, it is claimed, had provided every device known to mining experience and science to insure safety and it is thought the trouble originated in an abandoned, but connected working in the western division of the mine.

According to the mine foreman there are thirty-eight men in the mine with little chance for their recovery alive. The cause of the explosion is still unknown.

BUGLARS BREAK

Into the Reynolds Harness Shop and Steal Whips and Lap Robe.

The harness shop of Edward S. Reynolds on Hewes street was visited by burglars some time Tuesday night. They went in the front way and departed through the rear of the building.

At least a dozen whips and a big lap robe were taken and, until a complete inventory of the stock is made, it will not be known what other articles were carried away by the burglars. There is no clue.

STRIKE TO CONTINUE

Glass Workers at Adamston Vote to Hold Out for the Flat Scale.

At a meeting of the Adamston window glass workers, among whom are stockholders of the company, held at Adamston Wednesday forenoon, it was unanimously decided to hold out for the new flat scale, and it is announced that the workers will not return to work Friday night under the sliding scale, as was announced by the manager yesterday. The opinion is expressed by a number of the workers that the plant will not resume operations until the new scale is accepted.

SHOE COMPANY IS THANKFUL TO PUBLIC.

The Davis Shoe Company desires to thank the public for the liberal patronage in the past year and asks the Telegram to notify the public that their store will be closed all day Thursday, December 31, and that the new firm mentioned in this paper will take charge on Friday, January 1, 1909. The new firm asks a continuance of your patronage. The stock of shoes will be one of the largest and best in the city.

ATTEND GUARD MEETING

Cols. Harry R. Smith and C. A. Osborn, of this city, left Wednesday morning for Parkersburg, where they will attend a meeting of the State National Guard Association of General W. W. Scott, commander of the Brigade, will be present along with Assistant Adjutant General C. C. Pierce, of Charleston, and other prominent officers.

Yule Jarvis is in Jarvisville on a short visit.

MR. WILLET LECTURING

Philip Willett is here from Mt. Lake Park for two days on business. He has been lecturing this season in the states of Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, and has been as far west as Missouri. Mr. Willett has for the topic of his chief lecture this year "Crimes and Mysteries of London," and is making a big hit at all places he appears.

GRAND SIRE DIES.

A proclamation has been received by the Odd Fellows here announcing the death of Grand Sire John L. Nolan of the Sovereign Grand Lodge at his home in Nashville, Tenn., December 14 last, and informing them that W. L. Kuykendall is now acting as grand sire. Marks of respect will be made by all the lodges in the country.

MEETING OF MEN'S CHORUS.

A meeting of the men's chorus of the Goff M. E. church Brotherhood will be held in the church Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. All members are requested to be present.

DENTAL OFFICE REOPENED

Dr. A. R. Timberlake, who several weeks ago had to leave his office on account of failing health, has so far recovered that his office is opened today for business. All persons having unfinished work at his office, and those having engagements, can now receive prompt and careful attention. Dr. Timberlake has secured the services of Dr. Davis, who has been engaged in business in Chicago for several years, to assist him and who will be found at the office in his absence.

MARRIED IN CUMBERLAND

Cumberland newspapers announce that a marriage license has been granted in that city to Mr. Earl Lee Rodgers, of Mt. Clare, W. Va., and Miss Blanche Gertrude Stone, of Buckhannon, W. Va.

COL. PRICE DIES

Suddenly at His Home in Baltimore—Once Resided in This City.

Winfield S. Price died suddenly at his home on Charles street in Baltimore, Md., last night. A message came here this morning announcing his demise.

Col. Price and family formerly resided here and he was then engaged as since in the lumber business. They were residents of this city about 16 years and he is kindly remembered here by many residents. Mrs. Price died about two years ago. The sons are Marcy, David and James Price and the daughters, Mrs. Frank Pierre and Miss Elizabeth Price.

The news of Col. Price's death is received here with much sadness among those who formerly came in contact with him socially and in business.

The Price residence is 2001 North Charles street in Baltimore and the funeral is announced to be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, likely from the residence.

WOMAN FINED

In Police Court for Immoral Conduct—Other Trials Are Held.

Three prisoners received sentence at the hands of Mayor E. J. Wood in police court Wednesday morning. Frits Smolick, foreigner, was fined \$5 and costs for drunkenness, this being his second offense. F. C. Manear and Mrs. Fred Boom were charged with assembling for an immoral purpose. They were fined \$10 and costs each. All were sent to jail in default of payment of their fines.

C. H. Collins, of Pennsboro, was here over night.

C. B. Crayton is a business visitor here from Wheeling.

Mrs. C. J. Proudfoot, of Parkersburg, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. W. L. Rodgers, of Locust street.

George W. Bland, of West Union, is a city visitor.

Calamity is Beyond the Grasp of the Imagination.

THE QUEEN SWOONS

And Crowds of Terror Stricken Persons Swarm About the Royal Party

ROME, Italy, Dec. 30.—Half the population of Calabria and the eastern part of Sicily are dead. The other half are weeping.

As the great extent of the terrific seismic disturbances becomes apparent, it seems impossible to exaggerate the horrors which followed them.

The calamity is almost beyond the grasp of the imagination, not only because of the dead, but because of the innumerable wounded and buried in the ruins, many of whom perished because it was impossible to rescue them from the wrecks of their former homes.

The total number of victims is variously estimated at from 50,000 to 150,000.

King Victor and Queen Helena arrived at Messina today. The scene of the disaster and horror was too much for the Queen, who almost swooned.

Crowds of terror stricken persons swarmed about the royal party throwing themselves in the mud and screaming for pity and aid.

At Reggio the silence of death still reigns.

Pope to the Relief. The Pope has telegraphed the archbishops of Palermo and Catania and the bishops of Mileto and Catanzaro expressing his sorrow over the appalling calamity and ordered the saying of prayers. He asks also what money is required, as he desires to contribute funds to cope with the situation.

The Pope heads the subscription list with \$1,000,000 lire, (\$200,000) King Victor Emmanuel will give 2,000,000 lire.

Premier Giolitti has appointed a national committee to organize relief for the unfortunates. The president of the organization is the Duke of Aosta. The king has made a generous contribution to the relief fund. Minister of Public Works Bertolini and Minister of Justice Orlando have left Rome for Sicily. Signor Orlando is a Sicilian.

Being Burned Alive—Messina was almost completely destroyed. The victims may be numbered by tens of thousands. The conflagration which despite the torrential rain is still raging, is completing the destruction of the city.

Thousands of persons were buried alive in the ruins and are being burned alive and others are dying from injuries, while many are starving. The streets are filled with confused masses of brick, beams, furniture and other debris. In many cases the streets are twisted into fantastic shapes.

Urgent measures are required there. Food is especially at present the greatest need. A slight shock of the earth last night created a terrible panic. Such as the fragmentary news as is received from Reggio goes to confirm the previous report that the city is practically obliterated. Thirty-five towns and villages in outlying districts in Calabria were wiped out. Cable communication with the Aeolian Islands, twenty-five miles north of Sicily, is interrupted and it is feared those islands were devastated.

ALLEGED VIOLATOR

Joe Flora is accused of selling booze at Dantz, Preston county, with-out Uncle Sam's sanction, and Deputy Marshal E. D. Hupp had him before Commissioner Daily at Kingwood last evening. He gave bond to appear in federal court to answer an indictment, if one be found.

TO GIVE DINNER

On Saturday evening, January 2, the foremen and official force of the Phillips Sheet & Tin Plate Company will be tendered a dinner at the Walden by Mr. E. T. Weir, secretary and general manager of the company.

Charles D. Johnston, of Richwood, is in the city.

Frank Armstrong is in the city from Washington on business.

J. W. Williams, of Marshville, was in the city Wednesday.

FARMHAND DIES

David Gifford, a farmhand employed by Boyd Griffin, died at the latter's home on Jones's Run Tuesday night of appendicitis. The young man was about twenty years of age.

RECOGNITION

Is Given by Magazine to Local News Dealers' Enterprise in Advertising.

Under the head of "A Southern Newdealer's Enterprise," the December issue of "Tom Wood's Magazine," a newdealer's magazine, issued by the Newdealer's Subscription Bureau, New York City, says: "As an illustration of the activity that is earning for the news trade the biggest subscription commissions and fullest recognition of publishers in general, I publish herewith an advertisement that is being carried by the Pike News Company, of Clarksburg, W. Va., in their local newspaper.

"Such enterprises as this is commendable. It tells its own story of what the newdealer will do when he realizes that he is in a position to compete with others.

The advertisement in question was the one recently published in the Telegram concerning their willingness to compete with other clubbing agencies on clubbing offers, and the recognition given the announcement by the magazine of Newdealer's Subscription Bureau speaks well for the enterprise and push displayed by the local news company in its advertising.

CHICAGO MAN

Is Chosen Secretary to Succeed the Late William C. Shafer.

WHEELING, Dec. 30.—A. T. Arnold, of Chicago, a Sunday school worker of much prominence, was yesterday afternoon chosen by the executive board of the Sunday School Association of West Virginia, which met here, as the general secretary, to succeed the late W. C. Shafer. Mr. Arnold will take up his work as secretary at the beginning of the new year. It was generally conceded that Mr. Arnold would be appointed since the sudden death of Mr. W. C. Shafer some months ago, the work has been temporarily looked after by the other officers of the association.

ELEPHANT FOR MARK TWAIN

REDDING, Conn., Dec. 30.—Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) received on Christmas day among other presents an elephant. The gift was from his friend, Robert J. Collier, of New York. Mr. Collier informed Mr. Clemens' secretary in advance of his intended present and sent a large quantity of hay from South Norwalk by freight to feed the animal.

CHARGE WITHDRAWN

Tony Alstock, a lin plate employee, who was arrested on the charge of skipping a \$7 board bill, preferred by Paul Pasternak, a Pitcairn miner, was able to effect a compromise with his landlord and the charge with withdrawn.

READY FOR TONIGHT

Captain J. R. Slayton and the Salvation Army workers as well as many poor children are ready for the entertainment and Christmas tree in the court house tonight. The doors will open at 6:45 and the program will begin at 7:45.

A MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license was issued today to Seymour Goodman and Estelle Neumann.

DEEDS RECORDED

Alfred Washburn to C. H. Colegate, 1 lot and one-half of lot Point Comfort.

J. I. S. Stealey to C. H. Colegate, 1 lot, Point Comfort.

W. T. Swiger to Joseph T. Wilkinson, 1 lot, Bridgeport.

Harvey F. Smith to Maria Palatisate, 1 lot and one-half lot, Point Comfort.

C. J. Davis, and nephew, Burton Davis, who have been the guests of Mrs. John A. Davis, of Chestnut street the last few days, have returned to their home in Steubenville, O.

W. H. Kellogg, of Wheeling, is registered at the Traders hotel.

R. L. Towles, of Salem, was here today.

FALSE CHARGES REFUTED BY COMMISSIONER WHITE

In His Biennial and First Report to the State Legislature.

NEW LAWS ARE ASKED
So as to Raise More Revenue, Especially as an Inheritance Tax.

State Tax Commissioner Albert B. White, in his biennial report, the last he will make while occupant of the office he now holds, defends the office which he will vacate on the 1st of January against charges which he terms "false accusations," states that the work of the department justifies its existence, and suggests revenue measures, "which," he says, "are submitted as propositions for what they may be worth."

The report is a preliminary publication without a number of statistical tables, which will be appended later, but it is an interesting document, fairly alive with strong sentences in discussing the new tax laws, their enemies and their friends.

The legislative recommendations made by Tax Commissioner White, he states, are based upon practical workings of the tax laws, and while some are more essential than others it has been the aim not to propose too much.

Need More Revenue.

Among the revenue suggestions made by the present tax commissioner is an amendment to the inheritance laws of the state, stating that these laws can be so amended so as to increase materially the revenue from this source. The present exemption of \$20,000 provided for lineal descendants, the tax commissioner thinks too large. The report also suggests that a statute be enacted providing that 5 per cent. of the amount placed to the credit of the counties, districts and municipalities of the taxes collected through the auditor's office from the property of public service corporations, be placed to the credit of the state fund; that notaries public be appointed for a fixed period only with a reasonable fee for each commission; that a tax be imposed upon certain writings and instruments admitted to record in the office of the county clerk of the several counties, and an increase of the tax on a retail liquor license to \$1,000 annually.

Among other recommendations affecting the license laws of the state, the tax commissioner suggests the enactment of legislation authorizing the assessor, in cases where a person fails to return his property for taxation, to double the assessment of the previous year; to enact a law providing that the true consideration be stated in every deed or conveyance; that the law relating to the capitation tax be amended so as to provide that the employers of labor should disclose the names of employees to the assessor; that assessors be provided with an office deputy; and the legislature provide that the fiscal year of counties, school districts and municipalities begin at the same time.

The Department Needed.

In the beginning of his report, Tax Commissioner White states that the office of state commissioner was created by the legislature of 1904, and it was made the duty of that officer to see that the laws regulating taxation are faithfully enforced. "The creation of an official head to the taxing system of the state was an innovation," says the official, "but time has demonstrated, beyond cavil, the necessity for such and the wisdom of the legislature in creating the office."

In his opening remarks the tax commissioner states that no person, who believes in organized government, should object to the payment of taxes, because without taxes there could be no government. "The reason every person does not willingly contribute his share of the tax burdens," says the tax commissioner, "is because of the prevailing belief that others are not contributing their share. There is no imperative constitutional or legislative requirement that taxation shall be exactly equal or exactly uniform. If there were, operations of government

would cease, from the absolute impossibility for fulfilling such requirements. The popular idea that exact uniformity and equality in taxation can ever be obtained is a day dream. There are serious and absolutely unsurmountable difficulties in the way of equal and perfectly just taxation.

"Perfect equality and uniformity in taxation being, therefore, unattainable, approximation to it is all that can be had. The State of West Virginia has equality and uniformity in taxation more nearly approximated today than at any time in its history. The purpose of those entrusted with the problems of taxation is, not only to maintain that which we have, but to strive for better conditions, and to point out to the law-making body of the state such changes as observation and experience show to be necessary in the revenue laws, in order to obtain more nearly equality and uniformity."

Before beginning on an extensive review of the work of the tax department, Tax Commissioner White comments as follows:

Defends His Office. "But for the fact that the charge has often been made, and by some believed, that the office of state tax commissioner was an unnecessary part of governmental machinery, and was created solely for the purpose of furnishing employment for some one, I should refrain from attempting to view the work of the office for the last two years and would content myself with recommendations for the future. In view of the charges so often made, however, that the office is an unnecessary expense to the state, for which the people receive little or nothing in return, I feel that I am not only justified, but that it is my duty to defend the office against false accusations."

In the review of the work of the department the report states that a good deal of attention has been paid to the collection of license taxes and that the results are that the license laws are better enforced today than at any time in the history of the state. It would not be an exaggeration, says the report, to say that a total of \$200,000 has been paid into the state treasury during the last two years from license tax alone.

(Continued on page 4.)

SHERIFFS MEET

And Reorganize Their State Association by Electing Officers.

The West Virginia Sheriff's association was reorganized Tuesday evening at the Walden hotel, where a meeting of sheriffs-elect was held for the purpose. About twenty-five incoming sheriffs were in attendance. Officers were elected as follows:

I. Harshbarger, of Huntington, chairman.

S. P. Smith, of Charleston, secretary.

M. J. Francis, of Wilsonburg, treasurer.

Matters pertaining to their welfare from the viewpoint of salaries, commissions and the conduct of the office of sheriff were discussed and the next meeting of the association will be at the call of the chairman.

JOINT INSTALLATION

Modern Maccabees and Royal Neighbors Are Soon To Hold.

Northcott Camp No. 5748, Modern Maccabees, and Alpha Camp No. 1644, Royal Neighbors, will have a joint installation of officers the night of January 12 in the Knights of Pythias hall in Glen Elk. The officers-elect of the Northcott camp are as follows:

J. M. Coburn, consul.

Burgess Moore, vice consul.

Fred Davis, treasurer.

W. A. Fletcher, clerk.

C. W. Herron, escort.

H. Westfall, sentinel.

W. W. Moore, watchman.

L. W. Annon, manager.

John Davis, a well known employe at the tin plate mills, left this morning for Pittsburg, where he will attend the big Welch concert in Carnegie Institute New Year's. He will return next Wednesday.

Victory Claimed By Both

Taft and Burton in Senatorial Contest But There is a New Comer.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 30.—The expected return from Augusta, Ga., today of Assistant United States Attorney General Wade Ellis, who it is said discussed the Ohio senatorial question with President-elect Taft, offered a wide range of speculation as to what will be the fruits of his mission. Senator Dick is also expected to arrive today.

The claims of victory continue to issue from headquarters of Taft and Burton, while there is much discussion of a new comer among the candidates, Former Lieutenant Governor Harding.

PETITION DENIED.

PARIS, France, Dec. 30.—The petition of Count Boni De Castellane that the custody of his three children be given to his mother was denied today. The court ruled that the children should remain in the custody of their mother.

DIES IN LOCK-UP

Smithfield Man is Seized With Spasms and Expires Suddenly.

City officers found a man sleeping in a hallway on Main street at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday morning and arrested him and took him to the city lock-up, where he gave his name as J. W. McAlister, of Smithfield, W. Va. Two hours later he was seized with spasms and the officers summoned the city physician, but the man died before he could arrive at the lock-up. The physician had the body removed to an undertaking establishment to be prepared for burial.

OIL EXCITEMENT

Is Caused at Shinnston by Striking Oil on the Hardesty Farm.

SHINNSTON, Dec. 30.—Quite a little excitement was aroused here yesterday when oil was struck on the Robert R. Hardesty farm about two miles north-east of town.

The well was drilled in at 2200 feet and filled up with 1100 feet of oil. It has been estimated as about a 30-barrel well and will be a pump-out. Three tanks will be put up at once and probably more later. A number of oil men are here and they are leasing all the available land. Large bonuses have been offered.

MOOSE LODGE ELECTS.

The local lodge of the Moose elected officers last night for the coming year. Attorney H. C. Batten was chosen worthy dictator, Robert Poole vice dictator, J. Yates vanguard, chairman, and Wilbur Adams secretary and treasurer. The lodge has about one hundred members and holds regular weekly meetings.

CANTONS GO.

Members of the Clarkeburg, Burton, Parkersburg and other Cantons of the Odd Fellows order left here today for Fairmont to attend the Patriarchs Militant state meeting.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Marriage licenses have been issued to Ashy J. Rice and Nellie M. Robey; Morris J. Rickert, col., and Janet Powell, col.; Nicholas A. Hardman and Henrietta Rhodes, and James Fish and Mary E. Fowler.

Mrs. George Mendel is in Greensburg, Pa., to attend an annual meeting there.