

In Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda doors were jarred open, windows rattled and the effect was that of a heavy earthquake shock.

Many tons of high explosives were destroyed in the accident, which, as in 99 cases out of 100, wiped out all vestige of the human beings who were caught in the terrific explosion.

Scores of men and women at the works narrowly escaped death. Fire broke out following the destruction of the packing house, flames bursting forth in a large storehouse and then sweeping to the gelatine rolling plant nearby and threatening devastation.

PREVENT FURTHER DISASTER

The gelatine house, in which 20 girls were working, was also filled with dynamite. As the fire started a heroic band of workmen, 15 in number, led by William Fife, tried to clear the gelatine house, commenced a fight against the dangerous flames that meant death to every man of them if the fire reached the dynamite. Not only was there great quantities of the explosive inside, but two loaded cars of the stuff stood nearby, ready to go. But the fight was successful and the daring workmen prevented further disaster by their brave struggle.

TRAIN BLOWN TO ATOMS

In an imperceptible instant later an electric train of four cars loaded with dynamite that was running alongside of the packing house was exploded by the concussion and flames. The three main compartments of the train, the engine, near Enos, Grace and Rodriguez, the brakemen—were blown to atoms with their charge. It seems as though there had been an instant's warning of the impending explosion, judging from the actions of Foreman Stilwell of the packing house. He was seen to run out of the place just before the roar of the explosion, and he was killed near the tracks upon which the small passenger train was passing.

The packing house and the train were destroyed and the places where they stood were marked after the explosion by two seared craters, each 30 feet deep. With the blowing packing house No. 2 was wrecked. This was 150 yards south of No. 1 and like it, being a frame building 500,150 feet in dimensions. There were a number of workmen in No. 2, who were killed and more or less slightly cut and bruised by flying debris.

GIRLS THROWN IN PANIC

The most seriously hurt of these were Foreman John Grant and Albert Verringer. Debris was shot over the works and scattered for hundreds of yards about by the terrific shock. The gelatine rolling house, 150 yards north of No. 2, blowing house were a dozen or more girls at work. They were thrown into a panic of fright by the explosion and rushed out into a ballroom of flying debris, hunted for the gelatine rolling house. Mary Brazil was severely cut about the head. Quickly many workmen from other parts of the big plant were on hand as rescuers. They were well handled, and as soon as the women had been taken to hospital, the attention was directed to the battle with the flames that had attacked the gelatine house.

All of the three buildings were on a slight incline, protected by hills stretching eastward to the farther end of the big Hercules plant. Along the western approach near the mainline tracks of the Southern Pacific. Inside of the works is operated an electric train for carrying supplies and material to and from the various departments. It was this train which was blown up with the packing house. Engine cars and their contents were scattered into mere fragments.

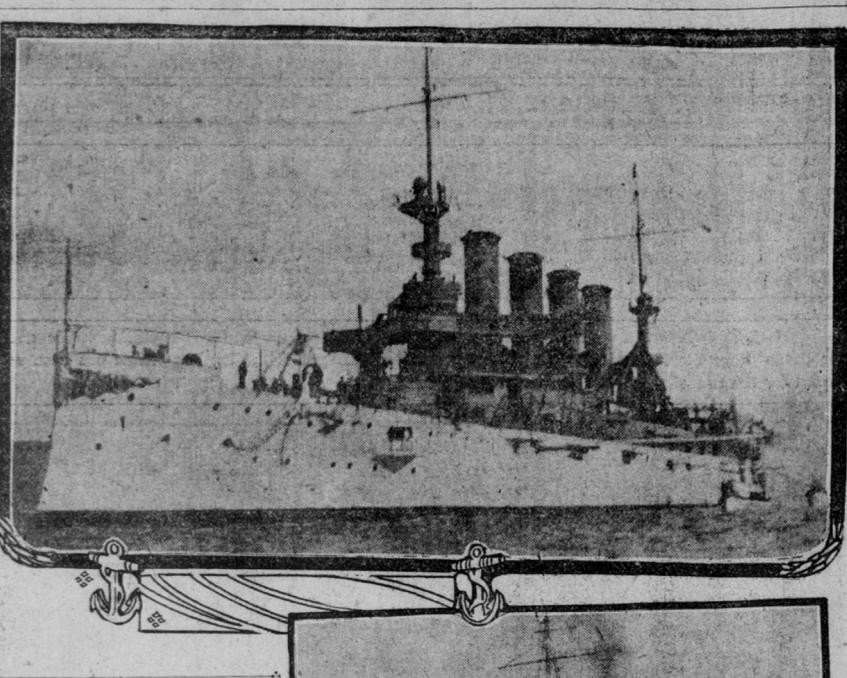
SECTION HANDS IN PERIL

Working on track repairs a short distance from the packing house was a crew of section hands. Without a suggestion of warning they were in the open and unprotected from the rain of missiles as well as the shock of the explosion. Foreman Laidlaw was hurled by the force of the concussion and was seriously injured. So heavy was the jolt that he suffered severe injuries to his back and groin and sustained two broken ribs. Laidlaw, the assistant foreman, fared even worse. A stone flying with the force of a bullet from a rifle struck him and punctured his left lung. He was also otherwise injured internally. Grant and Lane were sent to Lane hospital in San Francisco. The other injured workpeople were treated at the company's hospital on the grounds.

MOST SERIOUS IN MANY YEARS

This explosion, in point of numbers killed, was the most serious which has occurred for many years among the powder mills in the bay district. In the old works at Fleming's Point, just north of West Berkeley, were destroyed by the explosion of 300 tons of dynamite, costing many lives, mostly

Cruisers Tennessee (upper) and Washington of Rear Admiral Uriel Sebree's special service squadron "pathfinders" of the battleship fleet, which arrived in port yesterday after a successful voyage from Hampton roads.



Chinese. The record had not run up to a large number of years. The last most serious one at Hercules occurred about four years ago. Later at the Giant powder works a double explosion caused havoc, but only a few lives were lost.

Foreman Stilwell, if he had escaped, might have told the story. It is virtually a certainty that he knew something was wrong. But not only himself, but every other human being who was in the packing house, was blown to pieces. Stilwell was accounted a competent man, having been employed at the Hercules plant for five years. He was in charge of the packing house on account of his knowledge of the business. Stilwell was 21 years old and lived at Pinole with his wife. He left no children.

SUMMONS SAVES LIVES

The three men of the train crew were Portuguese. Five minutes before the explosion occurred a crew of five section hands who had been working with Lucid and Raddello on the train tracks were called away to another part of the works. The summons saved their lives for they were nearer the packing house and must have received the full shock had they been on the spot.

Foreman J. McCullough, one of the oldest men at the works, said that the accident could not be accounted for and that no explanation of it could be given. The money loss could not be easily estimated. It runs into thousands of dollars as a great amount of high explosive was destroyed. The damage to the works, outside of the wrecking of the packing houses and the destruction of the electric train, was not serious. As soon as the debris has been cleared, the work of rebuilding will go forward.

FIFTY HEAVILY ARMED TERRORISTS CAPTURED

Russian Police Are Killed and Wounded in Taking Suspected Plotters in Capital

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—Attempts that had been planned against the lives of exalted personages were frustrated by the police tonight by a succession of arrests in various parts of the city. Fifty men and women were taken into custody. This is the largest number of terrorists ever taken by the police in the capital. The majority of them were heavily armed with bombs, and they made desperate resistance. During the course of the arrests three policemen were wounded and one was killed. The operations centered around the palace of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaitch, who, it is surmised, was the immediate object of the plot.

ARMY ORDERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Army orders: Contract Surgeon Preston S. Kellogg will proceed to San Francisco and report to the commanding general, Pacific division, for temporary duty pending the sailing of transport for the Philippines. Second Lieutenant John P. Uray, Philippine scouts, will proceed to San Francisco and report to commanding general, department of California, for temporary duty, pending transportation to Manila.

SPECIALS ROUTE OF LINE

CHANGES DISPATCH TO THE CALL

NAPA, Feb. 20.—The Sacramento and Vallejo railroad company, which is building a new electric line through Napa, Solano and other counties, announced change in its plans today. Through its San Francisco attorneys it dismissed condemnation suits for rights of way against Daniel Madigan, A. A. Watson and John Madigan. The land affected is in Napa county, near Napa. Immediately filed by the attorneys, the first against Daniel Madigan, the second against John Madigan and wife and the third against Josiah Z. Morrison and wife. The company asks for a 100 foot right of way, while in the suits it asked 148 1/2 feet.

CALIFORNIANS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—The following Californians are registered in New York: San Francisco—W. S. Leckie, F. T. Bartow, Seville; L. E. Smith, H. J. Brenner; Hermantage; Mrs. F. M. Freeman; Holland; D. H. Morse, Murray Hill. Los Angeles—T. F. Fahey, Grand Union; H. K. Wheeler and wife, Gregorian; W. H. Murphy, Wellington; J. W. Netherly, Herald Square. Pasadena—C. Hanson, Grand Union. Pomona—R. A. Walker, Herald Square.

Washington's Birthday

A \$3.00 rate to Cloverdale, account City and County, will be in effect on the Northwestern Pacific boat leaving at 4 a. m. on Saturday and for return until Monday the 24th inclusive. On this day there will be a morning train to Cazadero and intermediate points, returning same day. Boat leaves 8 a. m.

HARRIMAN WINS RAILWAY FIGHT

Court Dissolves Injunction in Illinois Central Voting Struggle.

Fish's Attorneys Say Case Is to Be Carried Higher and Tried on Merits

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—Judge Ball of the superior court today dissolved the injunction secured last October by Stuyvesant Fish by virtue of which the Harriman interests were restrained from voting 28,231 shares of the capital stock of the Illinois Central railroad at the annual meeting of the company. The theory on which counsel for Fish based their arguments in support of the injunction—that it was contrary to the laws and public policy of the state of Illinois to allow foreign corporations to own and vote the stock of domestic corporations—was denied by the court.

Under the ruling of the court the previously enjoined stock, which is held by the Union Pacific railroad and by the Railroad Securities company of New Jersey, can be voted at the annual meeting of the Illinois Central, which is to be held in this city March 2. NO APPEAL FROM DECISION

There is no appeal from the decision handed down today by Judge Hall, but it is considered possible that Fish will take further legal steps to regain possession of the Illinois Central. E. H. Frazar of New Orleans, who has acted as leading counsel for Fish throughout the controversy, said today, after the rendering of the decision, that the case would be tried on its merits, but he declined to say how many new proceedings would be instituted.

None of the principals in the case where in court, both Fish and Harriman being in New York. All the attorneys on both sides and many other lawyers and businessmen were present and filled the courtroom to overflowing. President Harahan of the Illinois Central entered while the decision was being read, and heard the latter portion of it. When the conclusion had been reached he said:

"My head is too full of that decision to allow me to say anything, but to say that I am more than highly pleased is putting it mildly."

CONTENTIONS NOT PROVED

Judge Ball, who is of somewhat frail physique, turned over to his son the case of the Illinois Central, which contained almost 10,000 words. As soon as it was concluded there was a veritable stampede in the courtroom, brokers, lawyers and messengers making a dash for the lobby. He then announced the result. They ran into various rooms seeking telephones, and many tore headings for the elevators, while others fled wildly down the stairs. Some excitement and confusion had not been witnessed at the county courthouse for many years.

The court declared that Fish had not been able to prove any of his contentions, the domination of the Illinois Central by R. H. Harriman would be to its detriment, and had also failed to show that the interests of the stockholders would be injured thereby. The Illinois Central and the Illinois Central, he said, are not competing railroads. The two roads, the court declared, were not so situated as to make it possible that they could combine to monopolize traffic in any section of the country.

REID GOES ABROAD

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Whitelaw Reid, American ambassador to Great Britain, sailed for Europe today on the steamer Baltic. Mr. Reid has been in the United States for several weeks on a vacation.

TO BE TRIED ON MERITS

The attorneys for Fish agreed that the opinion of Judge Ball could not be appealed from.

"It is a nonappealable order," said Attorney Farrar. "The merits of the case must now be tried, a decree entered, and then we will be able to take an appeal."

"Will you go ahead to try the merits of the case?" was asked.

"Yes," replied Attorney Farrar.

"When?"

"As soon as the matter is reached. There are issues raised in this proceeding which can be heard at any time."

EVANS ATTACKED BY GOUT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—While not yet formally advised by Admiral Thomas that he has assumed command of the Pacific fleet the officials of the navy department were expecting some announcement as that made by the admiral in his acceptance of the command of the fleet on the condition of Admiral Evans.

These reports are not regarding as indicating that the admiral is suffering from any permanent incapacity but that he is simply expected to be attacked by rheumatic gout, from which he has suffered for many years and which is directly the result of the injury received at Fort Fisher during the civil war.

NAVYMEN BELIEVE HE WILL RESUME COMMAND AT MAGDALENA

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CHARLESTON BREAKS RECORD

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 20.—Wireless messages from Magdalena bay state that the cruiser Charleston has been breaking records again. Last year at target practice her crew broke all previous records, and this year they have set a new standard for the navy.

CHICAGO PASSES STRAITS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The cruiser Chicago, now on her way from the Pacific coast to the Annapolis naval academy, has successfully passed through the strait of Magellan. Her arrival at Punta Arenas Tuesday was reported to the navy department today.

It is estimated that 0,000,000 United States last year \$100,000,000.

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SCENT S. P. PLOT TO STEAL HARBOR

Continued from Page 1, Column 1

and eliminate request from owners. Captain Amos A. Fries, government engineer, who has charge of the harbor, was telegraphed by President Stephens as follows:

"Chamber emphatically opposes senate bill reference to Wilmington harbor. Want west basin included, eliminate request from owners and claimants. Use best efforts to check passage bill present form."

T. E. Gibbon, a member of the harbor commission, did not hesitate to denounce the pernicious effect of the resolution.

"If the resolution passes in its present form," he said, "it absolutely locks up any preliminary step to the improvement of the east basin. It will prevent putting in an additional inch of work on the inner harbor. The development of the harbor of Los Angeles will be absolutely under the control of the Southern Pacific."

Captain Amos A. Fries, government engineer, who has charge of the harbor, was telegraphed by President Stephens as follows:

"It confines improvements to the east basin entirely, thereby reducing by nearly half the inner harbor above the turning basin. The provision requiring that harbor lines can only be established upon the request of a majority of the land abutting on and in the waters of the east basin is bad, for the reason that a majority of the owners is so far as my knowledge confined to the Southern Pacific, the Salt Lake and the Banning companies, and the control of the improvements would be placed in their hands, or, in other words, they could dictate the time they must be made or otherwise."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Senator Flint announced today that he would meet objections raised against his resolution authorizing the secretary of war to establish harbor lines in Wilmington harbor, California, by introducing tomorrow another draft which would eliminate the requirement that the property owners shall consent to the establishment of lines and it will cover the entire harbor, instead of the east basin only. The senator said today that he had introduced the resolutions in the form in which it came to him from the war department, and that it had been given & understood that it would be entirely satisfactory.

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PROPOSALS
PROPOSALS for Printing—San Francisco, Cal., February 19, 1908.—Sealed proposals, to be received at this office until 11 a. m., March 20, 1908, and then opened for the printing, and furnishing the material therefor, required at Headquarters Department of California, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909. Preference will be given to articles of domestic production or manufacture, conditions of quality and price (including duty thereon) being equal. Information furnished upon application. Envelopes containing proposals should be marked "Proposals for Printing," and addressed JNO. L. CLEM, Asst. Q. M. Genl., Chief Q. M.

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