



ELEVEN DIE AT TARGET PRACTICE

Fatal Accident Occurs During Mock Bombardment by Artillery Battery

SOLDIERS MARTYRS TO RAPID FIRING

Wives and Children of Victims Are Witnesses of the Catastrophe

BREECH LOCK BLOWS OUT OF 12 INCH GUN

FORT MONROE, Va., July 21. Eleven artillerymen are dead and a number of others, including two officers, seriously injured, as the result of the blowing out of a breech lock in a 12 inch shore gun at the De Russy battery, during the coast artillery practice here today.

The accident occurred while student officers were endeavoring to sink a fleet of towed targets, representing an imaginary hostile fleet proceeding toward Washington. The battery was under the immediate command of Sergeant Harry G. Hess of the Sixty-ninth company, United States coast artillery.

The known dead are: Sergeant Harry G. Hess of Phoenix, Va., gun commander.

Corporal Charles O. Adkins, address unknown.

Corporal Albert Bradford, Dorothy, W. Va.

Private A. J. Sullivan of Perkins, Ky.

Private Roy Duffy of Kenova, W. Va.

Private H. A. Adey, Brandonville, W. Va.

Private C. W. King of Dayton, O.

Private John V. Chandwick of Tazewell, Tenn.

Private Alfred W. Smith of New York.

Private Judd E. Hogan of Meyer, D.

Private James H. Turner of Ripley, Tenn.

One private was blown into Chesapeake bay with the breech block.

Lieutenant George L. Van Deusen suffered a broken leg, and Lieutenant George T. Hawes Jr., formerly stationed at Fort Baker, Cal., was injured about the face.

The accident was the more terrible for the reason that wives and children of several of those killed witnessed it.

The accident occurred at 10:40 o'clock. The bodies of the artillerymen were terribly mangled. The wounded were rushed to the fort hospital.

News Reaches Washington

WASHINGTON, July 21.—News of the fatal accident at the coast artillery battle practice at Fort Monroe, Virginia, was sent to Acting Secretary of War Oliver by General W. H. Carter, assistant chief of staff, who was at the fort with a number of army and navy officers from Washington to view the battle practice with the big guns.

Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff, who expected to attend the practice, remained at Washington.

General Carter's telegram to Secretary Oliver was as follows:

"Regret to report the accident at the commencement of student officers' battle practice, No. 2 12 inch gun, from probable premature explosion, resulted in the death of eight men. Two others were fatally injured. Lieutenant Van Deusen's leg broken and three additional men slightly injured. Investigation is being made and a report will be submitted through regular channels."

Target Practice Cause

The accident occurred in connection with the coast artillery target practice, in which shore batteries fired upon a fleet of targets towed by Hampton Roads in such manner as to be comparable to battleships.

The shore guns were to be engaged in battle practice with the moving fleet, which was towed about four miles out and was supposed to represent a hostile fleet sailing up the Potomac to attack Washington.

According to plans of officers of the coast artillery, the firing tests were to be conducted on a larger scale than had ever been attempted anywhere. It was planned to have five batteries of 10 and 12 inch guns concentrate their fire on the target fleet and demolish it as quickly as possible. It was intended also to bring the mortars into play. Ships of the coast artillery were to tow the targets. Each was 30 feet high and 60 feet long and represented a section of a battleship.

Officers Are Witnesses

Thirty officers who have recently been graduated from the artillery school at Fort Monroe were to have been in charge of the tests.

A large number of other officers had gone from the war department to see the firing. Among them were Brigadier General William Crozier, chief of ord-

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Mrs. John Darling, Who Will Write Of Social Whirl



SOCIETY SHIVERS AND AWAITS BOOK

Prominent Smart Set Matron's Writings May Tell Who Was Not Who in Past

Thrills of suspense and excitement are beginning to shiver through society since Mrs. John Darling announced to her intimate friends that she was about to write a book, and, of all things, a book dealing with things social in and around San Francisco.

Mrs. Darling, prominent first as the daughter of the eminent Judge S. C. Hastings, then as Mrs. Catherwood, and now as the wife of Major John T. Darling, U. S. A., retired, has seen society grow from the first wee little rootling planted on the sand dunes of San Francisco ever so many years ago. She can tell just who was not who a few decades ago, and she knows just where every one's income comes from and just when it began to get better or worse.

Mrs. Darling has long been recognized as an encyclopedia for family skeletons and she can—metaphorically, of course—climb any one's family tree with ease and throw down the apples of discord that have sprouted there.

She never minces matters when it becomes necessary to speak. Long accustomed to occupying a leading place in society, she has acquired the correct hauteur and frigidity of atmosphere required for social aspirants and the total indifference to their sensations which marks those who have arrived.

Plain speaking is one of her recognized attributes.

She is famous for having said once when her own family affairs were much in the public eye: "I tell you all this about the man's behavior because if people will gossip it is best to start them right."

And now she is going to "start people right" about social conditions in San Francisco. It will be interesting to note who starts for Europe or the tall timber when the date for the opening sales of Mrs. Darling's books is announced.

Burlingame will have especial reasons to close its gates and become a colony of mourning, for Mrs. Darling has in former times made no secret of her sentiments regarding the residents of the dairying district of San Mateo.

Riches, she is quoted as having said, constitute their only claim to consideration—their efforts to be admitted to the really exclusive society of the city are desperate—they are beneath notice.

"I don't want to know anything about Burlingame," she said, "who is prominent there and who isn't; but knowing the histories of the various families and being an old San Franciscan I know them from A to Z."

She went further and said that they were a group of well to do people in a small town making themselves ridiculous with their ideas of social life. But Mrs. Darling knew their fathers and mothers when they were keeping hotels and stores and that sort of thing.

Doesn't this all point to a particular spicy and interesting chapter on Who Is Now Who in Burlingame? Or perhaps she will ignore them and simply add foot notes to the annals of certain people known once to fame and the Hastings-Darling family, saying, "Moved to Burlingame and social obscurity."

Whether Mrs. Darling's book will be autobiographical with voluminous data regarding those San Franciscans whom she knows or ignores; whether it will be simply a scientific treatise on society with instances of social usages and abuses as exemplified by leading families remains to be seen.

Mrs. Darling has lived abroad a good deal in the last decade, family troubles and financial woes between her and her daughter, Mrs. Louise Catherwood-La Montagne-Maud, making it more convenient for her to live outside the state for a time. But when the reconciliation took place and there were no more dangers of horrid lawsuits and family squabbles she came back and has lived here since, picking up the scattered threads of her social acquaintanceship and at times threatening to assume a dictatorship.

"Society, Old, New and in the Interim," by Mrs. John T. Darling, will be a literary sensation which will cast all other Californian writers into a pleasing obscurity.

BANKER'S WIFE BRAVES DEATH TO SAVE HOME

Mrs. I. W. Hellman Jr. Directs Volunteer Fire Brigade, Despite Danger of Explosion

Flames Destroy Electric Plant at Country Estate, but Heroic Efforts Save Residence

SAN LEANDRO, July 21.—Though the large tank of oil in the engine room of the burning electric plant and pumping station threatened to explode from the heat at any moment, Mrs. I. W. Hellman, Jr., the wife of the prominent San Francisco banker, stayed bravely by the blazing structure and coolly directed the efforts of her employees this morning in preventing the spread of the flames, which, once caught in the dry grass, would have destroyed the beautiful country home of the Hellmans at the head of Dutton avenue.

Despite the efforts of the volunteer fire fighters, who included even Mrs. Hellman's maids, the extensive power plant, which supplied light and water to the estate and was valued at \$50,000, was completely destroyed. But for Mrs. Hellman's coolness and bravery, the loss would have been much greater.

Notifies Mrs. Hellman

The fire, believed to have been started by crossed wires, was discovered by the estate engineer shortly after 9:20 o'clock. He at once notified Mrs. Hellman, who was giving orders to the housekeeper. Hellman had left but a short time before for the city and Mrs. Hellman was the only member of the family at home.

Realizing the need of quick action, Mrs. Hellman notified the Melrose fire department and then, throwing a wrap about her shoulders, hastened out to the burning building, located at some distance from the house. When she arrived, sparks were already catching in the dry grass and foliage that separated the home from the plant.

Summoning every available employe on the place, Mrs. Hellman quickly organized a bucket and garden brigade. Headless of the sparks that burnt every time they hit, and the dense, pungent smoke, Mrs. Hellman directed the little band of fire fighters, despite the admonitions of the engineer that oil tanks might explode, and prevented the spread of the fire to the grass, which would have meant the destruction of the house.

Plant in Ashes

When the fire department arrived from Melrose, after a five mile run, the plant was in ashes. The building contained one of the finest storage battery systems on the coast and had been installed by the Dunsmuirs before the Hellmans acquired possession of the improved part of the old Southern farm, which they have since made their home. It was purchased from Edna Wallace Hopper, the actress, who got it from the estate of Mrs. Josephine Dunsmuir, her mother.

Mrs. Hellman is a society leader and has been identified with the "400" of San Francisco for many years. Her husband is the president of the Union Trust company of San Francisco.

FRAME FOR BRIDGE FALLS, INJURING TWO WORKMEN

High Wind Causes Collapse of Big Structure

SPOKANE, Wash., July 21.—Swayed by a high west wind, the huge framework prepared to receive the big concrete arch of Monroe street bridge over the Spokane river crashed into the stream at 1:45 o'clock today.

Two workmen are known to have been carried down in the wreckage. J. F. Walters was fatally injured. The other workmen will survive.

Part of the arch fell on the power house of the Washington water power company, putting out electric lights and stopping streetcars and machinery all over the town.

The arch was 80 feet high. Three months had been required for its construction.

A driving rain followed the wind, checking brush fires in the outskirts of the city.

BOY THIEF REFUSES TO DISCLOSE NAME

Well Dressed Youth Confesses to Stealing Bicycle

[Special Dispatch to The Call] SAN JOSE, July 21.—Rather than that his mother and sisters in this city should suffer embarrassment on his account, a well dressed San Jose boy, arrested last evening in Santa Clara by Constable Lytle of that place on a charge of stealing a bicycle, has kept silent.

The youth is about 20 years old, and has succeeded in completely concealing his identity, though several people have been taken over from San Jose, with the hope that some one would recognize him.

He has confessed to wholesale thefts of bicycles, which had been taken in this city, ridden to Santa Clara and disposed of for small sums.

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VAN LIEW CASE DIVIDES CHICO INTO FACTIONS

President of the State Normal School Denies Charges of Student and Others

Rev. C. Todd Clark Outlines His Sister's Complaint and Old Rumors Are Revived

[Special Dispatch to The Call] CHICO, July 21.—Chico stands tonight a town divided against itself, the rock on which the community has split being the charges against Dr. C. C. Van Liew, president of the state normal school, who is accused of unbecomingly and immoral conduct by Miss Ada Clark, one of his students. The official investigation will begin tomorrow. Factionalism runs rampant. Rumors and crossrumors, charges and counter-charges fill the air.

The pedagogues' opponents have harked back over the years and, resurrecting old scandals and questionable episodes, have breathed into them life, imparted to them new vigor. And Van Liew denies everything. He pleads no extenuating circumstances, nor does he offer explanations. He denies the charges in toto, and in particular those laid against him by Miss Clark. The two were alone in his office at the time, Miss Clark has her story and Dr. Van Liew denies it absolutely.

MORE ACCUSATIONS PROMISED

One-half of the town stands by the professor and the other against him. Though the episode with Miss Clark is to be the basis of the investigation it is by no means the only affair to be aired. Additional charges have cropped up and these will be laid before Governor Gillett, who is expected to attend, and the board of trustees of the institution.

Van Liew is said to have been more or less prolific with his pedagogic embraces in the past. Furthermore, he is declared to have caroused around the town in an undignified way. Also it is whispered that he has at odd times played his fiddle in certain gatherings of appreciative but riotous youths. How much of the mass of rumors will stand the searchlight of an impartial hearing is difficult to say, for Van Liew persists in denying and his friends uphold him.

BROTHER GATHERS WITNESSES

Rev. C. Todd Clark, a brother of Miss Ada Clark, gave a full account of his sister's relations with Doctor Van Liew today. He is the backbone of the prosecution and has gone to great pains to gather his witnesses for the investigation.

"My sister," he said, "is a country girl, 17 years of age, and has spent all her life without parents on the farm near Woodland. She wished to take up teaching as a profession, but as we were not rich we could not see how we could afford to pay her expenses while she was studying at the normal school.

"The problem was solved when I was appointed pastor of the Broadway Methodist church here, for it was arranged that she should live with my wife and myself and attend the school here.

"She entered the institution last January and was getting along in fine shape until about two and a half months ago, when a girl friend of hers fell very sick. My sister nursed her for two days, during which time she did not attend the normal school.

GIRL'S STORY OF INTERVIEW

"On resuming her studies it was necessary for her to obtain what is termed an 'excuse' from Van Liew, and she went into his office to explain the reason of her absence and get this excuse. She received one, but misplaced it, and in a short time later went back again for a second.

"She told me that on entering the office Doctor Van Liew was telephoning and asked her to be seated, indicating a window seat. She took a seat and upon the professor finishing his message he went across to his table and wrote out an excuse.

"After so doing he arose with it and went and seated himself by her. He then entered upon a personal conversation, telling her not to feel homesick on account of her friend's illness, and then, as he spoke, put his arms around her and drew her to him.

"My sister, as soon as she recovered from her surprise, drew away from him, saying: 'I always heard you were of no account and now I know it.'

ANOTHER STUDENT NAMED

"Doctor Van Liew then attempted to bluff her by speaking severely, but, failing in this, became ingratiating, saying to her: 'You ought not to object, an attractive girl like you.'

"She ordered him to open the door and left the room. As she stepped into the corridor she met another student, Miss Nina Lindley, who, noticing her agitation, asked her about it. My sister requested Miss Lindley to get her books, saying she was leaving the institution.

"I tried in vain to have the board of trustees take up the matter, and ultimately hearing that they were about to hold a meeting wrote to my sister, who in the meantime had gone back home, to come to Chico and tell her story.

"We entered the meeting after a long debate between the trustees as to whether or not we should give a

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ASTOR IN NEWPORT GOSSIPS ARE BUSY



Mrs. Alva Astor, whose hand is said to be sought by her former husband, as well as by the earl of Dunraven and Lord Curzon.

Millionaire Denies Reported Engagement to Mrs. Adolph Ladenburg

[Special Dispatch to The Call] NEWPORT, R. I., July 21.—The doings and the future affairs of John Jacob Astor, his former wife, Mrs. Ava Astor, and their son Vincent have kept the gossips of Newport in a buzz today. Colonel Astor and Vincent arrived today on the steam yacht Norma.

Colonel Astor went at once to Beechwood. He was hardly settled in the house when there came an almost angry denial of the report of his engagement to marry Mrs. Adolph Ladenburg. He described the rumor as "wicked and libelous," both to Mrs. Ladenburg and himself. Mrs. Ladenburg is already in Newport.

His words started a flood of gossip, to the general effect that he was seeking a reconciliation with his former wife. These were met with rumors of the reported story, printed in Town Topics, to the effect that Mrs. Astor's hand is being sought by the earl of Dunraven, the son of the unsuccessful contestant for the America's cup in 1895. The earl is reported to have been paying assiduous attention to Mrs. Astor on the other side. He is rich and is 35 years old. Mrs. Astor is expected in Newport in August.

Town Topics says announcement of the engagement will soon be made.

Although Town Topics makes the statement unequivocally, cabled reports from London have said that Mrs. Astor is partial to the suit of Lord Curzon, and that the couple, after dinner parties, often stroll together in the moonlight like a pair of lovers.

The Mrs. Ladenburg to whom John Jacob Astor has paid devoted attention is a rich and prominent member of the famous Meadowbrook hunt club, which in New York bears the same relation to the smart set that the Burlingame polo club does to the San Francisco smart set. Mrs. Ladenburg's husband was a member of the firm of Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., operating the United Railroads of San Francisco.

Last fall Mrs. Ladenburg created a sensation by giving a prize fight entertainment in her coach house at Hempstead. Her husband committed suicide a few years ago by jumping overboard from an Atlantic steamship.

HEAT IN IMPERIAL VALLEY KILLS SEVEN MEN IN 3 DAYS

IMPERIAL, July 21.—Seven victims have been claimed by the intense heat and high humidity of the last three days in the Imperial valley. They are: A. J. Ansell, at Imperial. Mexican laborer, at Imperial junction.

John Harrington, William Kaiser and W. S. Shannon, at El Centro. H. A. Carlson, at Silsbee. Unidentified man at Holtville. This is the first instance in the history of the valley where residents have succumbed to heat. The deaths are charged to the extraordinary humidity.

JAPANESE LABORER IS MURDERED FOR MONEY

SAN DIEGO, July 21.—G. Usami, a Japanese laborer on the Temarita ranch near Milpitas, was found dead in his cabin this morning with his neck broken. Yesterday Usami cashed a check for \$500 in this city, but when the body was found the money was missing.

SAN DIEGO DRIVES 2 2 2 ANGORAS 4,000 MILES

WASHINGTON, July 21.—Having driven a team of angora goats a distance of more than 4,000 miles on a wager, Captain V. Edwards, a ranch owner of San Diego, Cal., arrived here from San Diego today. With Captain Edwards are six young men and a pack team of three Mexican burros, hitched to a canvas covered wagon.

700 PEOPLE HEMMED IN BY WALLS OF FIRE

Flames Sweep Forests and Completely Surround Wisconsin Towns; Nearby Village Is Wiped Out

THOUSANDS FIGHTING FIRES IN NORTHWEST

Several Cities Along Canadian Border Menaced and Property Worth Millions Destroyed

FAMILIES MISSING AND HUNDREDS ARE HOMELESS

WAUSAU, Wis., July 21.—Information received here from the villages northeast of Merrill, where Wausau men conduct many lumbering enterprises, gives credence to the reports that many residents of the district are cut off by the flames. The best information is that 700 are thus endangered.

The country surrounding is one vast belt of hardwood, hemlock and pine and the cutover lands are so overgrown with brush as to afford much opportunity for rapid spread of flames.

Gleason, north of Bloomville, is isolated by the fire and it has been impossible to get word from there for several hours. This leaves Bloomville with its 650 persons hemmed in on every side.

The loss in buildings in the burning sections is more than \$200,000.

Several farmers' families have not been accounted for.

The inhabitants of Heinemann are now quartered in Merrill and Gleason. A few minutes before the flames burst upon the town the relief train driven by Heinemann succeeded in reaching the threatened village.

Refugees say that the entire town burned rapidly, the flames leaping more than 200 feet.

The Heinemann lumber company has lost all its property, the mill having been destroyed by fire on April 4 and the fire of Wednesday completing the destruction.

The saving of the lives of the people at Heinemann was due to the energetic action of H. H. Heinemann, who took a St. Paul train without waiting for permission from the railway company and ran the train back and forth until everybody was out of the village.

Fighting to Save City

NELSON, B. C., July 21.—Three hundred government fire fighters are working frantically to save the town of Sandon from destruction. The flames have already crept within one mile of the place and should the wind come up the town will be doomed.

Thousands of dollars' worth of valuable timber in the Slocan and Arrow lake districts has been destroyed, as have several ranch buildings and crops.

The fire fighting is being done on a scientific basis and it is now believed that further damage in Hall and Arrow Park districts has been averted. At Slocan junction new fires have started and are running up the hillsides close to the big ranches of Ashley and Stewart. A force of 114 men is fighting the flames at this point. Though the Crow's Nest pass timber fires are still blazing the damage is practically confined to timber limits.

Fires around Nelson have not yet been extinguished, and the city is enshrouded in dense smoke. Some fear is entertained regarding Wasco creek district. The government has sent a detachment of 150 men to this point to check the flames.

Women and children left Sandon this morning on a rescue train.

Three Forks, reported burned; is still in existence, but surrounded by the fire. The total destruction of Whitewater and McGuigan is confirmed. Fire is now closing in on the Roseland Center mines.

Town Is on Fire

SPOKANE, Wash., July 21.—The town of Marble is reported burning. Marble is on the Columbia river, about 10 miles south of the Canadian boundary. The Big land company has been making improvements valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars there. The town is surrounded by fire and its destruction is expected. Fire in the Flat creek country, near Bossburg, Wash., is steadily spreading and threatens to wipe out the majority of homes in this fertile section. In China creek basin the citizens have been fighting flames almost continuously since Sunday afternoon. Indians bring news to Bossburg that all the buildings