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VOLUME CXIII.—NO. 23.

SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1912.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## LIVES OF 22 SEAMEN ARE CUT OFF BY LOFTY CLIFFS

Crew of Foundering Newfoundland Steamer Make Land, But Inaccessible Bluffs Compel Them to Turn Back to Doomed Ship, Hammered by Seas

### MATE AND FOUR MEN WIN WAY TO SAFETY

When Morning Dawns Five Survivors on the Heights Overlooking the Ocean Can Find No Trace of Ill Fated Vessel Save Scattering Bits of the Deck Load

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Dec. 22.—Twenty-two of the 27 members of the crew of the Furness line steamer Florence, from Halifax, N. S., for St. John, lost their lives in the wreck of the vessel on the ledges west of St. Shotts during a northwest gale last Friday. Five exhausted survivors, who reached land in a boat, brought the news to Trepassy tonight. The steamer carried no passengers.

Captain Barr of the steamer and all his men reached shore after the vessel struck, but the lofty, inaccessible cliffs of St. Shotts prevented their escape. The big tide, backed up by the northwest gale, made it impossible to remain there, and all hands were obliged to put back to the ship, which was foundering heavily.

### MATE TAKES DARING CHANCE

Captain Barr felt confident that the wind would go down, but Second Mate J. Hedley volunteered to take four men in one of the ship's boats and seek a more favorable landing place further along the coast. In the heavy seas then running the captain was unwilling to risk more lives and gave his consent to the second mate's expedition with reluctance.

With great difficulty Hedley piloted his small boat along the coast until he saw a break in the rugged line of cliffs. Pointing the nose of the boat directly into the surf, he avoided the outlying rocks and on the crest of a great breaker ran his craft in without being upset. Tumbling out hastily to avoid being sucked back by the undertow, the mate and his four men dragged their boat up the beach out of reach of the sea and made their way back along the cliff to where the steamer lay.

COMBERS BREAK OVER SHIP  
The wind and sea in the meantime had increased. The combers broke continually over the decks of the vessel, which was grinding heavily on the jagged rocks. Hedley and his men searched in vain for some path by which the cliff might be scaled or the crew of the Florence helped. The coast in that vicinity was uninhabited. The few fishermen's huts were deserted for the winter and Hedley had to take refuge for the night in one of these abandoned shacks.

At daylight Saturday Hedley found that the wind had been steadily increasing. Hurrying back to the point off which the Florence lay he could see no sign of the steamer. Considerable bits of her cargo of lumber was floating along the shore, but no small boats were visible.

NO TRACE OF SHIPMATES  
The five survivors made a thorough search along the shore for their shipmates, but no trace of them was to be found. They then started for St. Shotts, the nearest inhabited place, several miles distant. Two of them were so exhausted from cold and exposure that they had to be assisted. These two were left at St. Shotts to recuperate, while the others passed to Trepassy, whence they sent word of the disaster to this city. They are not expected to arrive here before the middle of the week.

THE STEAMER FLORENCE was of 1,500 tons burden and was built in Sunderland, England, in 1889.

### THUGS TRY JAIL BREAK

Attempt of Auto Bandits Frustrated by Colorado Prison Guards  
BUENA VISTA, Colo., Dec. 22.—Fourteen prisoners, led by Edward W. Brown, Paul H. Jones and Joseph Cobb, three young men from Brooklyn, N. Y., who were arrested after they began operations as automobile bandits in Denver, made a dash for liberty yesterday evening, but were frustrated by guards. The prisoners' plans were discovered by a trusty, who informed the warden. When the prisoners were marching back to the cell block from the supper table, Cobb saw a guard from the window, from which bars were sawed, and shouted: "Come on, boys. Rifles in the hands of the guards stopped him as he tried to jump from the window."

## VIEW OF DISPUTED POTASH, SODA AND BORAX CLAIMS IN SEARLES LAKE DISTRICT, MOJAVE DESERT, AND SEVERAL CAPITALISTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OUTCOME OF THE BITTER FIGHT FOR POSSESSION.

### MIDWINTER LAMBS GAMBOL IN PARK

While East Is Freezing Our Tender Animals Are Out Eating Grass

Nothing has attracted more attention from the easterners who have visited Golden Gate park during the last week than the sight of nine little lambs, less than a week old, gambolling over the green field allotted to the band of 32 sheep near the stadium.

While the east is snow covered, the little woolly animals thrive in the tropical sunshine of San Francisco.

Another evidence of the warm winter climate is the shedding of horns by Young Confucius, the 3 year old Axis deer near Spreckels lake. Deer are supposed never to shed their horns before spring, according to the authorities on faunal life.

### WORK AT ALASKAN MINE TO CONTINUE ALL WINTER

Superintendent of Kennal Gold Company Reports There Will Be No Letup in Ore Development

(Special Correspondence of The Call)  
SEWARD, Alaska, Dec. 5.—Superintendent Hawkins of the Kennal Alaska Gold company, just in from the Falls creek property, reports that the work of developing ore will be prosecuted all winter, and that when it is again possible to repair the broken tramway, the Kennal Alaska Gold company will have enough ore blocked out to run the mill continuously for a year. The crew at work at the mine is sinking a winze on the vein. They have attained a depth of about 70 feet below the former level.

### PROFESSOR IS POISONED

Hypodermic Injection Fatal to Young French Scholar; Friend Arrested

PARIS, Dec. 22.—A great sensation has been caused in academic circles here by the death from morphine poisoning of Rene Bichet, one of the most brilliant graduates from the higher normal college, recently appointed professor of French in the Royal college at Budapest.

### HUNGRY, SNATCHES PURSE

Thief Says He Is Son of Tennessee State Official

A young man who gave his name as R. C. Chisum, and said that his father was a state official in Tennessee and his brother a lieutenant in the United States army, was arrested at the ferry building just before midnight last night after he had snatched a purse from Miss Evans of Sausalito. To State Police Officer C. Ryan, who captured Chisum after a hard chase, the man explained that hunger had driven him to crime.

### SHE WAS FROM MISSOURI

Aud Her Unconventional Way of Being Shown Causes Trouble

Mrs. Ethel Marks, aged 27 and a native of Missouri, who donned boy's clothes in order that she might be shown the gayeties of the Barbary coast, was bailed out yesterday morning by her husband, a manufacturing jeweler of Los Angeles. Marks brought some women's clothes and \$25 ball money to the jail to get her release from a charge of masquerading in male attire. Mrs. Marks was with her brother at the time of her arrest.

### THE FAMINE IN ALASKA

Saloon Refrigerators Empty and Toddy Lovers Take Their Hit

(Special Dispatch to The Call)  
SEWARD, Alaska, Dec. 22.—Seward is suffering from the effects of an ice famine. There is not a saloon in the city that has ice. The supply from the local ice house has been exhausted and no ice has been formed this season. The toddy lovers are taking their hit with sugar here.

### FIRE IN L. A. CITY HALL

Entire Building Flooded Before Blaze Is Extinguished

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 22.—Fire which started in the city hall this afternoon because of defective wires threatened to destroy the entire building. The blaze was extinguished, but almost the entire building was flooded. The treasurer's office contained \$6,500,000 in money and securities.

## Hammer Burning An Epoch Similar Affairs to Be Eclipsed

The Call's Christmas Eve Festival Sheer Splendor

For sheer glittering magnificence and solemn mockery The Call's outdoor Christmas eve festival, "The Burning of the Hammer of Knocker," at Lotta's fountain, which will begin at 6:45 o'clock tomorrow evening, will surpass any similar affair ever attempted in San Francisco.

Music loving persons, however, will be inclined to consider the spectacular the least important part of the program, appreciating as they do all the wonderful vocal powers of Mme. Bernice de Pasquali, who is to sing as only Pasquali can sing, and the ability of Gottfried Galston, the Munich pianist, who is making his first American tour.

It takes a keen imagination to fancy the busiest street corner in San Francisco transformed from a maelstrom of streetcars, automobiles, ponderous horse drawn vehicles and darting, dodging pedestrians into a vast outdoor theater. Here two of the world's most famous musicians will charm the thousands gathered in the streets, in the office building windows and even persons perched precariously on the edges of the skyscraper roofs—for tickets are being sold which entitle the holder to a resting place on the cornices of high buildings within sight of Third and Market streets.

FOUR HORSES TO DRAW CAR  
The pageant will proceed from the undertaking establishment of Julius Godeau, 41 Van Ness avenue, where old Buncombe K. Hammer will be laid out on the specially prepared crepe covered catafalque which will be drawn by four white horses draped in black and bearing tall black pompons on their heads. The driver of the hearse will be fantastically garbed, as will be the pall bearers who are to place old man Hammer on the pyre to be built on the platform which The Call will have erected at Lotta's fountain.

A full company of Nationals, the patriotic, glittering guardsmen who will act as escort to the doomed symbol of scurrility, headed by their military band, will march with the catafalque to Geary street and Grant avenue. Geary street is to be roped off from Grant avenue to Lotta's fountain and will form the "wings" of the open air theater.

Around the platform will be the choristers who are to be directed by John W. McKenzie. There also will be the massed band of union musicians of A. F. of L. Local No. 6. This will be conducted by Paul Steindorff, than whom none is better qualified to handle the big band.

BEAUTY AS SUFFRAGETTE  
On the platform, besides the peerless Pasquali, will be the charming Mae Josephine Bennett, adjudged the most beautiful woman in San Francisco by world noted critics acting in The Call's beauty contest. Miss Bennett, in applying the torch to the hard visaged Hammer, will be giving, unconsciously enough, a suffragette version of Beauty and the Beast, for she requires no favor demanding Prince Charming to

Stampedes Occur When Film in Moving Picture House Catches Fire  
(Special Cable to The Call)  
BRUSSELS, Dec. 22.—A film caught fire during a cinematograph performance tonight at Barrage, near Menin. The flames spread with great rapidity, causing a dreadful panic. Twelve persons were killed and 20 persons injured. Many of the victims were women and children, who were trampled to death or hurt in the stampede to escape from the building.

YOUTH WON'T KILL KING  
Anarchist Chosen to Slay Italy's Monarch Attempts Suicide  
(Special Cable to The Call)  
ROME, Dec. 22.—The Giornal d'Italia publishes a sensational story that a young anarchist, Henry dal Ferro of San Giovanni, in Persiceto near Bologna, who was designated by lot to assassinate King Victor Emmanuel, attempted to commit suicide rather than carry out his mission. Ferro is now in a hospital in a serious condition.

## TURKISH FLEET TRAINS GUNS ON TENEDOS ISLAND

Moslem Cruiser and Destroyers Bombard Stronghold and Retire, Pursued by Greeks

BULLETIN  
CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 22.—The fighting before Janina is reported very severe. David Pasha, commander of the Seventh army corps, who joined Essad Pasha with the remnant of the Monastir forces, has been killed with his chief of staff. The arrival of reinforcements from Janina Sunday changed the fortune of the Turks, who drove the Greeks back in the direction of Loros. The losses on both sides were heavy.

ATHENS, Dec. 22.—The governor of Tenedos, in dispatches today, reports that the Turkish battleship Torgut Reis, the cruiser Medjidieh and three destroyers appeared at 11 o'clock this morning before the entrance of the Dardanelles.

The warships remained under the protection of the forts, the destroyers advanced and fired 29 shells on Tenedos, where the Turkish inhabitants tried to hoist the Turkish flag, and put off in boats to welcome the warships.

DESTROYERS QUICKLY RETIRE  
The small force of Greek bluejackets on the island freed of the mine sweepers, killing three of them and wounding 12. The Turkish shells did no damage, and the destroyers quickly retired into the Dardanelles.

The Greek squadron anchored off Lemnos was notified and, headed by the admiral's flagship, steamed in pursuit of the enemy. The governor of Tenedos has been ordered to institute martial law.

TWO BATTLESHIPS DISABLED  
Admiral Countouriotis, in a dispatch to the government, expresses the opinion that the Turkish flagship Kheyr-Ed-Din Barbarossa, together with the battleships Messudieh and Azzar-I-Tewfik, must have been disabled in the last naval engagement, as otherwise they would have accompanied the fleet today, because the flagship and the Messudieh are the only Turkish warships armed with quick firing guns.

Crisis Comes Today  
LONDON, Dec. 22.—The crisis of the peace conference will be reached tomorrow.

The allies oppose the Turkish request for the provisioning of Adrianople not only for the reason that this would give the enemy a great advantage in event of resumption of

Continued on Page 4, Column 4

## HEAVILY ARMED FORCES ARE READY TO BATTLE FOR ALKALINE RICHES

Romantic Mining History of California Has Sensational Climax In Desperate Struggle Powerful English and German Syndicates Are Making to Control Wonderful Potash, Soda and Borax Deposits Revealed in Searles Lake and Claimed by Intrepid American Prospectors Banded Together to Enforce "Rights"

### ROW OVER WEALTH OF MOJAVE DESERT MAY DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE

Properties of Trona Company, Held by Receiver Under Federal Court Appointment, Are Guarded by United States Officers, Deputy Sheriffs and Burns Operatives Against Invasion of Los Angeles Party Bearing Rifles and Determined to Recover Holdings for Which It Pretends to Have Title by Prior Entry

Down in the lonely Mojave desert in San Bernardino county, hard by the entrance to Death valley, a bitter fight is about to be waged between bands of armed men for possession of the richest stake in the history of California mining—the newly discovered potash and borax deposits of Searles lake.

Not since the thrilling romantic bonanza days of '49, when adventurers and claim jumpers harassed the mining camps and fought for the prize of gold, has there been a parallel to the daring attempt now on foot in these civilized days to grab literally from the holders of this vast desert wealth a share that will be worth millions if the scheme is successful.

### RIFLEMEN LEAVE FOR SCENE OF STRIFE

Twenty men, equipped with rifles and revolvers, will leave Los Angeles today via Mojave for the potash sink, which will be the scene of their attack on the present owners of the property. They were recruited as fighters—brave, determined men who are prepared to take any risk to gain the object for which the raid is being made, namely, the physical possession of 175 placer mining claims, comprising 28,000 acres, on the lake itself.

Opposed to them will be five deputy United States marshals, 15 Burns detectives and a dozen or more deputy sheriffs, some of whom were sworn in only yesterday to help defend the claims from the invaders. This guard, heavily armed, is now divided between the only two passes leading into the region and no matter which approach is chosen, the claim jumpers will be met and turned back. DEFENDERS ARE WITHIN FEDERAL LAW

The authority of the defenders is the United States circuit court. The attackers are without the law entirely. By an order of the court, anyone who willfully invades the property is guilty of contempt of the federal court.

Because of the vast prize, this fact has not deterred those who have planned and are now about to execute the raid. It will be a battle of force, not law, for the millions that lie within the barren salt sink.

There are 40,000 acres in the crystal marsh, possessing quantities of potash, borax and soda sufficient to glut the markets of the globe, and since the discovery of the rich deposits in California, the German syndicate has set its diplomatic agents in Washington to working out a plan that will enable it to gain control of the new competitive field.

### FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON

With this end in view, pressure has been brought to bear upon President Taft and his cabinet to thwart a bill in congress that seeks to place perpetual control of the potash mines in American companies. England also is interested, as the Foreign Mines Development company of London, is now in possession of the property. These developments at Washington, which point to international entanglements of broad significance, tend further to complicate the contest that is imminent at the lake now.

## Sensational Mining Drama Opens in Mojave Desert

A great industrial drama—one that promises to be an epoch in the romantic mining history of California—involving diplomatic entanglement of the United States with England and Germany, financial struggles between powerful corporations and threatened clashes of armed men, rapidly is nearing a physical climax in Searles lake, Southern California, with slower certainty in Washington.

The 40,000 acre crystal and briny deep—the American Dead sea in north-west San Bernardino county at the head of the Mojave desert—possessing limitless deposits of potash, soda and borax, sufficient to glut the markets of the world and drive therefrom the potash producers of Germany and the borax kings of California, is the stake for which a huge three cornered fight is being waged.

On one side is the Foreign Mines Development company of England, the greatest mining organization in the world. This corporation, possessed of vast capital, controlling the Consolidated mines of South Africa, both diamond and gold output, retaining major interests in other mining enterprises in Europe, Asia, America and Australia, is in virtual possession of the \$1,000,000 works at the lake through a mortgage which it is seeking to foreclose against the California Trona company.

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