

DISASTER IN MINE

THIRTY MEN DIE FROM BLACK DAMP.

EXPLOSION OCCURS IN MINE
NEAR FAYETTE CITY,
PENNSYLVANIA.

Fayette City, Pa., Dec. 3.—Between 25 and 30 miners, possibly more, are entombed in the Naomi mine of the United Coal company, located three miles west of this city, and there is practically no hope that any of them are alive. The imprisonment is due to an explosion of black damp about 8 o'clock last night, soon after the night force went to work.

It is said a miner entering an old working with an open lamp caused the explosion. Had the explosion occurred on other than Sunday night more victims would have been entombed. The mine employed from 275 to 300 regularly, about one-fourth of them driving entry at night, but on Sunday nights only about one-half the night force goes to work. The mine is of the shaft type and the concrete sides of the entry were broken down so as to close the passage back a considerable distance. About 100 feet from the entrance is located the first air shaft and from this deadly gas is pouring in great volumes. The gas found in mines in this territory is so poisonous that no human being can live in it for more than a few minutes and it is believed none of the entombed men are still alive. One man, an unidentified foreigner, managed to climb to the top of the first air shaft, but dropped dead there. No sign of life has come from the others.

Just after the night force entered the shaft there was a flash which lighted up the mine and all around it. There was a roar as tons of coal and slate crashed down the entries crowded with workmen. Then utter darkness followed, the explosion putting out of business the lighting and air facilities in the mine. The mine immediately filled with gases and several persons perished while running to get into the fresh air.

The shock of the explosion shook buildings in Fayette City and could be heard for miles. In the homes of miners the explosion fell like a death signal and emptied every miner's cottage in the vicinity. The occupants of these—men, women and children—form the saddest picture in the scenes about the mine this morning. The women and children are crying and stare with hope at the seemingly fruitless work of rescue. The Naomi mine is one of the oldest operated by the United Coal company, which has its principal office in Pittsburgh. It is one of the biggest mines in the soft coal region and gave work to 300 men all the year round.

The property loss will be enormous as the mine was equipped at a cost of thousands of dollars with all the up-to-date mine apparatus, such as electric lights, electric coal cars and air ventilating system. The explosion completely wrecked the air system and that in itself means that no human being can live long in the mine as it now is. Thousands are flocking to the mine mouth, where every means known to mine operation is being exerted to reach the men. Aid has been secured from Monongahela City, Bellvirton and other neighboring towns.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

Tirey L. Ford, general counsel of the United Railroads, was acquitted in San Francisco, of the charge of having bribed former Supervisor J. Phillips to vote for an overhead trolley franchise. This was Ford's second trial. In the first the jury was unable to agree on a verdict.

Fully 1000 invitations have been mailed to well known stockmen of the northwest to attend the fourth annual convention of the Washington live stock association in Spokane on December 18 and 19.

Nathan Gilmore, a brakeman on the Pasco division of the Northern Pacific railroad, was killed one mile east of Paha, Wash., Tuesday morning by falling between the cars of a moving train.

Seven hundred sheep belonging to a man named Guye were lost recently in the Mad river.

A blinding snowstorm swept Chicago Wednesday and was responsible for many street accidents. Street traffic was hampered and surface and elevated railroad cars were delayed.

Dr. J. A. Attridge, aged 38 years, was fatally shot by Mrs. J. B. Griffith, aged 35, at Detroit, Mich., she then blew her own brains out. The doctor had caused domestic trouble between Mr. and Mrs. Griffith.

Will Pay Now.

A large saving bank in New York has notified depositors that it would allow withdrawals to be made at once by depositors who gave notice a month ago that they would demand their cash at the expiration of 60 days.

The importation of gold since the currency stringency began reached \$89,900,000 today, when the treasury received \$1,500,000 in United States gold coin from Mexico.

Repeal Duty on Print Paper.

At the first opportunity after the convening of congress, Representative Champ Clark of Missouri will introduce a bill repealing the law imposing a duty on paper for printing.

CHICAGO ELEVATOR FALLS

Five Fatally Injured; Operator is Incompetent.

Chicago, Nov. 30.—Investigation following an elevator accident Saturday afternoon that resulted in the instant death of two men, the fatal injury of five persons and the painful injury of five others, indicates that other arrests may follow the arrest of Leo Considine, operator of the car.

Considine has told the police that he knew absolutely nothing about running an elevator, but that he was ordered by one of the managers of the firm, the Ederhelmer & Stein Clothing Manufacturing company, to take charge of the car for an hour while the regular man went to lunch. Considine's regular work is that of porter.

The investigation indicates that it was his lack of knowledge rather than the breaking of a cable that caused the accident.

The engineer of the building declares the elevator was inspected last week by the city, and that he has made a personal inspection of it daily. The car was in good condition, he says, and the fact that the return weights fell from the top of the building onto the car shows that the cable did not break. Had it done so, the weights would have beaten the car to the basement, he contends.

Considine's story is that when the car reached the tenth floor with its load of 20 people it began to shoot down like lightning. He reversed the lever, or rather did what he thought was reversing it, but this only seemed to increase the speed. It may be contended that in his lack of knowledge he did just the opposite of reversing.

Jacob Scramek, clothing cutter, and a man still unidentified, were taken from the debris in the basement, dead. Arthur Horwich, 19; Rose Brantman, 18; Nicholas Baltis, 45; Morris Davis, 18, and Frank McHale were fatally injured.

The flight of the crowded elevator caused a panic in the building. The screams of 20 people imprisoned could be heard half a block away.

ONLY \$25,000,000 ISSUED

Uncle Sam Wants to Cut Down Cost to People.

The final closing of allotments of the 2 per cent one-year certificates is definitely announced by Secretary Cortelyou. He declared that no allotments had been made or would be made after his announcement of Wednesday night that no further propositions would be considered. The point was not quite clear until his statement today that some few allotments might not be made from subscriptions already in hand Wednesday. As the matter stands practically all the allotments are to national banks that have agreed to take out circulation and in the majority of cases have indicated a willingness to surrender the certificates before maturity upon payment of accrued interest on the date of redemption. Information was still withheld at the treasury as to the amount of the allotments made, but such information as is obtainable indicates that the total will not materially exceed \$25,000,000. Roughly estimated, these certificates when retired will have cost the nation only \$25,000,000 in interest.

Steamer and Crew Reported Lost Coeur d'Alene

Coeur d'Alene City, Idaho, Dec. 3.—At 2 o'clock this morning no word had come from the missing steamer Defender. The steamer Colfax is within a few miles of here, sounding her whistle. The steamer Boneta is supposed to be lost somewhere on the lake in the fog. It is reported that the steamer Defender was wrecked on a reef a mile and a half from Mica bay about 7 o'clock Monday night and that 15 passengers and the crew were lost. The lake is covered with a thick fog, and none of the boats here or in Mica bay will venture out.

Later Report.

A later report says the Defender did strike a rock, but was not much damaged and had gone into a bay and remained there all night and that no lives were lost.

New Sea Wall at San Francisco.

The board of harbor commissioners have completed plans for the harbor improvements under the first \$2,000,000 bond issue authorized by the state legislature. The improvements as projected will consist of two sections of sea wall and seven large concrete piers. They will give to San Francisco 2000 feet of harbor frontage, with an equipment unexcelled at any port in the world. The work is to be done in the vicinity of the Mall docks and will be carried forward with as great speed as possible.

Theaters Closed Sundays.

Judge Smith McPherson of Red Oak, Iowa, in the United States circuit court, has handed down a decision dissolving the injunction recently granted to local theatrical managers prohibiting county officials from closing the theaters on Sundays. Judge McPherson asserts that he has no jurisdiction. The decision is a far-reaching one, in that it practically seals the fate of all Sunday amusements in Kansas City.

How long will the world continue to sacrifice her saviors?

WILSON'S REPORT

SECRETARY TELLS OF '07 FARM PRODUCTS.

GREAT INCREASE IN THE IRRIGATED LAND DISTRICTS.

The eleventh annual report of Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson, just made public, opens with the statement that the farm production for 1907 is well up to the average in quantity, while its value is much above that of any preceding year. The farmer will this year have more money to spend and more to invest than he ever had before out of his year's work.

This year's durum wheat crop is worth \$30,000,000—more than twice the annual cost of the entire department; 3,000,000 acres are now used, much of it land formerly valueless, "the home of the prairie dog and the cactus."

The beet sugar industry has grown very rapidly during the past 15 years. Alfalfa is a wonderful plant for production wealth. The total crop of alfalfa hay in 1907 is estimated to be worth \$100,000,000.

Irrigation is yet confined almost entirely to the arid and semiarid regions of the west and the rice lands of the Gulf coast, but in time it will doubtless be practiced largely in the more humid regions of the country as it is in similar regions of the old world. The irrigated area now under cultivation in this country is 11,000,000 acres, and the crops grown on this area in 1907 were worth not less than \$175,000,000. Next year, if present prices are maintained, the products of irrigation farming should be worth \$250,000,000.

Corn is King.

Speaking of the chief crops, the secretary says that corn ranks first in importance. Besides its large use as a human food, as a live stock feed, "the starch of corn becomes the fat of the hog and the finish of the steer," thus becoming a great factor in the production of meats and meat products for export. While not as large as that of 1906, the value of the corn crop of 1907 is greater and is 26 per cent above the average value of the crops of the preceding five years.

In value the cotton crop of 1907, estimated to be from \$650,000,000 to \$675,000,000, takes third place, if in the final estimate it does not displace hay for second rank.

Wheat Valuation.

The wheat crop of 1907 is 625,876,000 bushels, 5 per cent less than the average quantity for the five preceding years. But the value is about \$500,000,000, or 5½ per cent more than the average, although the crops of 1900, 1902 and 1905 had each a slightly higher value than that of this year.

The farm value of sugar beets, sugar cane, sorghum cane and molasses and syrup made on the farm is \$64,000,000.

Farms Produce \$7,412,000,000.

The value of the total farm productions in 1907 exceeded that of 1906, which was far above that of any preceding year. The total value for 1907 is \$7,412,000,000, an amount 10 per cent greater than the total for 1906.

The animals sold from farms and those slaughtered by farmers in 1907 were worth about \$1,270,000,000, or nearly twice as much as the cotton crop.

The dairy products of the country alone were worth nearly \$800,000,000 in 1907, or much more than any crop save corn. Prices of both butter and milk have advanced.

The poultry and egg products for 1907 should be estimated at more than \$600,000,000 in value. In fact these products were worth more than the wheat crop. In 1899 the farm price of eggs averaged a trifle over 11 cents per dozen; in 1907 it was over 18 cents. Dressed poultry sold in New York in 1899 for 10½ cents a pound; in 1907 for nearly 15 cents.

Exports and Imports.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, the domestic exports of farm products were valued at \$1,055,000,000, or \$79,000,000 above the high record for 1906. Plant products made up four-fifths of this total, cotton alone amounting to \$482,000,000.

Cotton is the greatest of all our exports, having, in 1907, 29½ per cent of the total value.

Agricultural products valued at \$627,000,000 were imported during the past fiscal year—\$403,000,000 worth of plant products and \$224,000,000 worth of animal products. The principal items among these imports were: Sugar and molasses, \$54,000,000; coffee, \$78,000,000; fibers, \$62,000,000; packing house products (mostly hides and skins), \$96,000,000; silk, \$71,000,000; and wool, \$42,000,000.

During the fiscal year 1907 the exports of farm products exceeded the imports by \$444,000,000, a balance that has been exceeded only four times—in 1898, 1899, 1901 and 1902.

Lincoln's Law Partner Dead.

Fairfield, Ill.—Colonel Haviland Tompkins, lawyer and land owner, who practiced law in partnership with Abraham Lincoln in Champaign, died on his farm near here recently, aged 84 years. He was a recluse and eccentric.

SPORTING NOTES.

The open season for the killing of prairie chickens, quail, grouse and pheasants in Idaho is closed.

Beginning Monday the University of Washington crew, last year champions of the Pacific coast, entered upon its long siege of training to prepare itself for the big regattas next spring. For six months the candidates will be kept on the diet prescribed by Trainer Conlhear.

There will be no international yacht race for the American cup next year.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Before a vast assemblage and favored with perfect weather, the Navy Saturday defeated the Army in a sensational game of football by a score of 6 to 0. The record for 10 years shows: Games won—Army 6, Navy 6; tied 1. Points—Army 154, Navy 109.

Against the fast, snappy and well-conditioned Gonzaga team, Company H's aggregation was practically helpless at Spokane in the first game of the basketball season at the armory, the score at the end of two 20-minute halves standing 31 to 11.

Willie Fitzgerald of Brooklyn recently defeated Amby McGarry of New York in a boxing contest at Baltimore.

At Montreal, Frank Gotch recently defeated Yankee Rogers in a wrestling match for the catch-as-catch-can championship of America. Gotch secured two straight falls in 24½ and 16 minutes.

Frank P. Daly of St. Louis recently defeated Lloyd Jevne of Chicago in the thirty-fourth game of the national three-cushion billiard championship tournament.

Since Spokane's decisive defeat of the Tacoma high school football team on their own grounds Thanksgiving day, the football fans of the coast are also wondering how it happened that Butte won from Spokane.

Berkeley put up a brilliant and plucky game Saturday afternoon against Washington high school at Seattle, but it was not possible for the California boys to win. The crowd saw it before the game was one-third over and from then to the end urged Berkeley on with cheers. The final score was 30 to 0 in favor of Seattle.

There is positively no chance for the lovers of football in the northwest to see the Carlisle Indians in action on a local gridiron.

All-Star Northwest Team.

The All-Northwest intercollegiate football team, selected by the composite vote of the coaches of the six leading northwest college teams, would have an aggregate weight of 1987 pounds, or nearly 181 average to the man. The line-up:

Center—Cherry, W. S. C. (212).
Left guard—Halm, W. S. C. (195).
Right guard—Reser, Washington (185).
Left tackle—Philbrook, Whitman (204).
Right tackle—Dimmick, Whitman (190).
Left end—Moore, Oregon (170).
Right end—Savidge, Idaho (155).
Quarter—Small, Idaho (155).
Left half—Nissen, W. S. C. (164).
Right half—Rader, W. S. C. (178).
Full—Clarke, Oregon (180).

High School All-Star Team.

Quarterback and captain—Coyle (150), Seattle.
Fullback—De Witt (160), Spokane.
Left halfback—Brown (165), Tacoma.
Right halfback—Herrington (187), Spokane.
Left end—Tanner (160), Tacoma.
Left tackle—Engelhorn (177), Spokane.
Left guard—Mohr (210), Spokane.
Center—Presley (165), Seattle.
Right guard—Elliott (182), Spokane.
Right tackle—Pullen (174), Seattle.
Right end—McKay (148), Seattle.
Substitutes—For the line—Rouse (130), Spokane; Saner (147), Butte; Cox (169), Tacoma; Churchill (162), Spokane.

Back field—Schroeder (170), Butte; Jay Smith (184), Seattle, and Tanner of Tacoma for quarterback.
Average weight of line—173 3-7; average weight of back—160 1-2; average team weight—168 8-11.

Trade Is More Active.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

Confidence is returning, but conservatism is still much in evidence, especially in manufacturing. Mills and factories are only operated to fill orders, no accumulation of stocks being permitted pending more settled conditions. Some idle plants have already resumed, however, and in many cases there are ample contracts on hand, but work is curtailed because customers request delay in delivery, as funds are not available for settlement. These concerns expect to have machines in full operation when the money market becomes normal; several are preparing to resume after January 1. Retail trade is more active, sales of holiday goods supplementing dealings in staple-made merchandise and some western cities report that wholesale houses are receiving orders of usual size from country merchants for spring delivery.

Output of finished steel products has declined still further and more pig iron furnaces are idle, but the sentiment is not demoralized at leading centers, and some idle plants will resume next week. Prices remain comparatively steady, although in many cases the figures are wholly nominal, owing to the absence of a new business.

The man who returns home empty-handed frequently carries a large load than his more proverbial neighbor.

NORTHWEST NEWS ITEMS

PRESS CULLINGS FOR OUR BUSY READERS

ABOUT PEOPLE IN MONTANA,
IDAHO, WASHINGTON
AND OREGON.

IDAHO NEWS.

Professor H. T. French, director of the experiment station, University of Idaho, announces the selection of R. E. Hyall, M. S., of the University of Missouri, as agronomist to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of George H. Crosthwait.

The historic poplar trees that line Main street in Lewiston are being cut down. The trees are becoming rotten.

While engaged in uncoupling the air hose between the cars of a work train on the O. R. & N. at Grange City Junction recently, Paul Shannon, the conductor, fell under the wheels and was instantly killed. Two truck wheels passed over him, cutting his body in two.

The third member of the Juliaetta horse thief gang, Frank White, has confessed. The officials think that White will make a complete detailed confession, covering a series of crimes extending over a period of nine years. George Foresman, the fourth member of the gang, refuses to talk.

Bob Jackson, a saloon keeper of McCammon, was shot and killed recently at Pocatello by Charles Evans, negro porter. The negro escaped, but was captured by a posse near McCammon.

For the alleged reason that difficult grades render it impossible to make connections between the Great Northern and Northern Pacific near Trent, in the Spokane valley east of Spokane, the Portland & Seattle railroad will be lengthened 69 miles, extending to Sandpoint, Idaho, where the terminus of the line will be established and its shops built, according to E. J. Cannon, its attorney.

Dell Woolley of Meridian, who was sentenced to serve four years in the penitentiary by Judge Wood recently at Boise for forgery, made an unsuccessful attempt at taking his life in the county jail by drinking a small quantity of carbolic acid.

OREGON ITEMS.

A clash between capitalistic and organized labor interests may be expected soon in Portland.

A conservative estimate places the value of products of Umatilla county for the year 1907 at \$11,000,000, or \$500 for every man, woman and child in the entire county, estimating the entire population of the county at 22,000.

A street car collision occurred at Portland Saturday, and Mortimer Mott will die, and two passengers, Joseph Reid and Joseph Jarvis, who were also on the platform of the same car, were seriously hurt.

Attorney General Bonaparte is in communication with District Attorney Bristol and Francis J. Heney, relative to an early resumption of the Oregon land fraud trials.

One more week of holidays has been proclaimed by Governor Chamberlain for the further protection of banks. The governor is being urged to call a special session of the legislature to untangle the muddle into which legal work of all kinds finds itself.

MONTANA NOTES.

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad officials announce a reduction of wages in all classes of labor on the grade of 25 cents a day. The contractors state that any amount of men is now available. Four weeks ago labor of any kind was at a premium.

Two Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad contractors, Michael Jennings and D. A. McIntosh were found guilty recently of violating the eight-hour statute and fined \$100 each, with costs. Immediate notice of appeal was given. It being the intention of the contractors to test the constitutionality of the statute. The contractors aver that if the law is upheld it will greatly retard construction work on the St. Paul road in Montana.

Somebody recently stole the city jail and its prisoners from the town of St. Regis.

Holding that the punishment imposed by the jury when it found George Melville guilty of second degree murder for the killing of Winfield Guthrie near Helena last July to be excessive, District Judge Clements has reduced the penalty from 50 to 20 years in the state prison.

Dine Marks, the freight brakeman on the Northern Pacific, who was accused of stealing a number of boxes of cigars from one of the freight cars near Avon, was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

The stand of the Montana Federation of Labor regarding the Industrial Workers of the World and its stand in the Bell telephone fight has been unanimously upheld by the American Federation of Labor.

The advance in the freight rate on wheat between Lewiston and Duluth, amounting to 10 cents per bushel, has gone into effect, but there is reason to hope that the old rate may be shortly restored.

Resolutions emphatically demanding that the aldermen pass a midnight closing ordinance, to include all clubs and other places where liquor is dispensed, was presented to Helena councilmen Monday night.

WASHINGTON STATE NEWS.

County Health Officer Dr. Gilechrist has quarantined all public buildings in Wenatchee, owing to an epidemic of smallpox. Churches, public schools and theaters are closed until further notice.

Cuts which the Spokane merchants are now making in their different lines of stock indicate a general reduction in the cost of living, such as already prevails in the east and the middle west.

All Seattle theaters and places of amusement in Seattle disregarded the mayor's order to close under the state Sunday closing law.

The members of the Tacoma chapter of Sons of the American Revolution have arisen in a body and publicly condemned the action of the county school board, superintendents and teachers of every public school in the county for refusing to permit the school children to sing patriotic songs.

Government secret service men have been doing some active work in the Tacoma section, capturing a number of counterfeiters.

The trustees of the Washington Logging and Brokerage company, the concern handling about 80 per cent of the logs on Puget sound, has decided to suspend all logging operations indefinitely, beginning December 1.

Many homesteaders who are ready and wish to make final commutation proof on their lands are prevented from doing so by their inability to get the necessary cash.

The astonishing sum of nearly \$800,000 has come to Wenatchee valley this fall to fruit growers.

S. Hagedal, a tunnel contractor working in the Great Northern tunnel near Leavenworth, was blown to atoms by the explosion of 35 sticks of dynamite. Frank Hill, a laborer, had his head split open and scalp torn off, and is expected to die.

Tacoma meat prices have been raised.

Governor Mead intimates the charges regarding the alleged shortage of coal at the penitentiary during the years 1905 and 1906 will be dropped and that there is nothing to it.

Considerable interest is being manifested among the farmers and wheat growers of Walla Walla and surrounding country concerning the rate hearing, which will be held in Ritzville some time during September. A feature of the hearing will be the grain freight rate question.

People in the Wenatchee valley are making plans to attend the convention of the county horticultural society, billed to meet December 12.

The new United Presbyterian church at North Yakima was dedicated Sunday morning with the usual exercises. John Draper, or Raper, aged 22, who has been employed as a waiter, committed suicide in Colfax Saturday by drinking carbolic acid.

Harry Sheerer, a laborer, who preferred to carry his savings in his hip pocket rather than deposit them in a bank, and two footpads who evidently knew it sneaked quietly up behind him in Tacoma and with a revolver pressed against his head relieved him of his cash, amounting to \$290 in gold.

Mrs. N. A. Jacobs, survivor of the Whitman massacre and lifelong friend of Mrs. Cushing Eels, who, with her husband, founded Whitman college, has presented that institution with a life-size portrait of Mrs. Eels.

The Okanogan canal is nearly done. The Spokane banks announce that they are ready and willing to resume specie payments as soon as the Chicago and New York banks take the initiative.

Major W. H. Grattan, aged 66 years, one of the prominent figures in Tacoma business and political life, died recently.

Fully a thousand persons assembled at Walla Walla Friday at the mausoleum containing the remains of Dr. Marcus Whitman and party, massacred 60 years ago by hostile Indians. Near the spot where lie the bodies of the pioneers stands a beautiful marble shaft, which was dedicated.

The I. O. O. F. hall at Milan was destroyed by fire recently.

Judge C. H. Hanford of the federal court has made an order restraining the Washington state railroad commission from enforcing its order of September 20, which required the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern to operate their roads as connecting lines in hauling wheat from all loading places in the state to ports on Puget sound. The commission's order is known as the joint wheat haul order.

Trust Company Resumes.

The plan for the resumption of business by the Knickerbocker Trust company of New York provides that shareholders shall raise \$2,400,000, and the stock of the company shall be placed in the hands of a voting trust. Depositors are to be paid 30 per cent of their deposits at once in surplus certificates, to bear interest of 4 per cent. These certificates are to be retired out of surplus that may exceed \$10,000,000. Seventy per cent of the deposits are to be represented by negotiable certificates of deposit, and 5 per cent of these certificates are to be paid off every three months.

Hill Comment on New York.

New York, in the opinion of James J. Hill, head of the Great Northern Railway company, has reached the climax of her supremacy. In an interview Saturday the railroad builder of the northwest expressed this view, his reason being that this city can not hope to maintain its commercial control when its chief claim is, as he stated it, that it is the dearest place in which to do business.