

THE EVENING BULLETIN.

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PANAMA SWINDLERS

Three More of Them Found Guilty in Paris.

FINED AND SENT TO PRISON.

Charles De Lesseps, Accused of Corrupting the Ex-Minister of Public Works, Receives a Severe Sentence—Baihut and Blondin Are the Other Two Unfortunate Men—Other Foreign News.

PARIS, March 22.—Charles De Lesseps, accused of corrupting ex-Minister of Public Works Baihut to support the Panama lottery bonds bill, was found guilty by the jury. Baihut, who confessed his guilt in open court, has also been found guilty, and Blondin, who acted as a go-between in the bribery of Baihut, has also been found guilty.

All the other defendants are acquitted. These are Marcus Fontane, Panama canal director; M. San Leroy, ex-deputy, who was accused of changing his vote in committee on the Panama bill as the result of bribery; Senator Berell, accused of being bribed by Baron Reinach, and Deputies Dugue, Gobron and Antonine Provot, who were accused of corruption. The jury was out about an hour.

The court passed the following sentences: De Lesseps, one year imprisonment, which sentence is to be merged into the five-year sentence imposed upon him by the first trial; Blondin, two years imprisonment; Baihut was condemned to five years imprisonment and the loss of civil rights. He must also restore to the Panama liquidation fund 75,000 francs. The defendants are to pay the cost of the proceedings jointly.

The court also ordered M. De Lesseps, M. Blondin and M. Baihut to pay to M. Monchicourt, liquidator of the Panama Canal company, 375,000 francs, the amount taken from the treasury of the company and paid to M. Baihut for his influence in favor of the lottery loan bill.

Charles De Lesseps received his sentence calmly, although the strain of the trial has rendered him exceedingly haggard and nervous. When he rose, before the retirement of the jury, to reaffirm his innocence, he spoke with difficulty and occasionally hesitated for almost a minute to compose his features. He told the jury, with apparent earnestness, that he had always tried to do his duty as a director of the company, and that where he had erred in judgment he had at the time supposed that he was acting for the best interests of the canal and state. He repeated briefly his charges of extortion against M. Baihut, and alluded with genuine emotion to the troubles which had overtaken his father. In his testimony he had told the truth, and his conscience was clear of self-reproach.

Although visibly shaken by this feeling several times during his speech to the jury, the calmness which he gained toward the close lasted throughout the reading of the verdict, the delivering of his sentence and his return to his cell.

When his wife visited him in his cell, shortly afterward, he broke down and wept like a child.

M. Baihut talked for an hour in his cell with his wife and two daughters. Despite the hopelessness of his case, he evidently was unprepared to bear the full weight of his sentence, for during the interview with his family he sobbed repeatedly and begged their forgiveness for the disgrace that he had brought upon them.

M. Blondin was hardly less affected when he bade goodby to his son and daughter.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

One Proposed to Run by Electricity, but It Has Violent Opposition.

LONDON, March 22.—A company has been incorporated for the construction of an underground electrical railway from Clearham Junction to Paddington, but the proposal to construct this road has aroused an unexpected and violent opposition.

The governors of the London Institute on Exhibition road have entered the first protest.

Professor A. Yerton testified that the locomotives of the proposed line would pass within 40 feet of the electrical department of the institute, where the most delicate experiments are constantly being made and the dynamo of the locomotives would cause serious disturbances to the instruments used in these experiments. Professor Yerton said it would not be possible to calculate the amount of the disturbance.

The queen's commissioner of works also objected, and Professor Lockmeyer, professor of astronomy and physics in the royal college, said if the proposed railroad was constructed it would be impossible to continue his work and finish his telescopic observations, as the least variation would make them impossible.

Cholera Spreading.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 22.—It is reported that the cholera is spreading rapidly throughout central and southern Russia, the peasants dying of the epidemic by thousands and the whole population being panic-stricken. The governments most severely visited by the scourge are Astrakhan, on the northwest coast of the Caspian sea; Yekaterinostav, in South Russia, and Moscow. The publication of reports regarding the epidemic are prohibited.

Six More Bombs Found.

ROME, March 22.—Yesterday six bombs were found on the premises of many rich families. No damage was done. It is believed that unemployed laborers, who are very numerous at the present time are responsible for the bombs.

ANN ARBOR STRIKERS.

The Great Labor Trial Begins in Toledo, Ohio.

TOLEDO, March 22.—The examination of eight men charged with having contemptuously disregarded the mandates of United States Judge Ricks, issued at Cleveland recently, commenced yesterday. Five witnesses were called, including Master of Motive Power Stevens and Foreman Berden of the Lake Shore railroad.

The latter proved to be a very material witness, though called by the complainants. He deposed just what the defense contended to show—that Judge Ricks' orders had not been read by the defendants until after they had resigned their positions on refusing to handle Ann Arbor freight.

Court adjourned at 5 p. m. Hon. Frank Hurd, who is defending the men, admits that the case is an exceptional one. It involves questions never before tried. The end will not be reached here. The supreme court of the United States alone is able to determine the case.

The question is simply this—has the court jurisdiction? If so, are the men guilty? The orders and injunctions were based upon the interstate commerce law. In Section 3 it declares that it shall be unlawful for any common carrier to make or give any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any particular description of traffic in any respect whatsoever. Furthermore every common carrier "shall afford all reasonable, proper and equal facilities for the interchange of traffic between their respective lines."

These provisions of this law are those upon which the restraining order was issued by Judge Ricks on March 11, enjoining the various railway companies whose lines enter Toledo, their officers, agents and employes from refusing to handle Ann Arbor freight. It was this injunction or restraining order which the engineers and firemen who were arrested on Saturday are charged with disobeying.

The trial alone can decide whether these men did disobey that order or not.

A Solution Proposed.

NEW YORK, March 22.—J. M. Ashley, Jr., vice president of the Toledo, Ann Arbor and North Michigan railroad, speaking of the orders of Judges Ricks and Taft prohibiting railroad employes from boycotting its freight, yesterday took the ground that the best way out of the difficulty would be to have definite contracts with employes, which would bind both parties.

As a remedy he suggested that entrance into the railway service should be by enlistment for a definite period.

Examinations as to the mental and physical qualifications of all applications should be made.

Resignations and dismissals from the service shall be governed by fixed rules.

Compensation, to be fixed at the time of enlistment, to be changed only by mutual agreement.

Promotions shall be made under a uniform system of rules.

The boycott and blacklist be prohibited and made a felony, with proper punishment.

Killed by a Train.

NEW YORK, March 22.—A. B. Bird, a well known life insurance agent of Newark, N. J., was instantly killed at Rahway about 10 o'clock yesterday morning by one of the fast trains of the Pennsylvania road. He was crossing the tracks at Cherry street when the accident occurred. Mr. Bird was about 45 years old, and did a large life insurance business in New Jersey.

His Last Speech.

PORTSMOUTH, O., March 22.—The body of Henry Storer, well known about the city, was found on the Ball coal floats yesterday. Storer on account of family trouble, has been drinking heavily of late, and it is thought while on a spree he drifted to the floats. A large family survives.

A Grievance Committee Reports.

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., March 22.—The grievance committee of the Chicago and Grand Trunk railroad conductors has been in secret session here, and has sent its report to Superintendent Atwater, at Detroit. The nature of the report is not yet learned.

Fell From a Moving Train.

FORT RECOVERY, O., March 22.—J. Biddle, a Lake Erie and Western brakeman, fell from a moving train while passing over the Wabash river, and went into the stream 30 feet below. He was rescued, but was badly cut and bruised.

They Have Sighted America.

HAVANA, March 22.—The two Columbus caravels, the Pinta and Nina, arrived yesterday under the escort of the two United States warships Newark and Bennington, on their way to take part in the great Columbus naval review.

Ex-Senator Saulsbury Ill.

DOVER, Del., March 22.—Ex-United States Senator Eli Saulsbury, who has been seriously ill for several days, has been delirious occasionally. He is now suffering great pain, but it is thought that his life is not in immediate danger.

Missing Girl Found.

ASHLAND, Ky., March 22.—May Plymate and Mary Workman, the girls missing from Bendo, W. Va., were found in this city working as domestics. Miss Plymate was taken home.

Morphine Fiend Hangs Himself.

GREENCASTLE, Ind., March 22.—A. M. Robinson, aged 72, hanged himself yesterday near Fillmore. He was a morphine fiend.

Chemical Works Burned.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 22.—The Western Chemical company's works burned yesterday for the third time within a year.

DEMOCRAT CAUCUS.

Senators in Washington Hold an Important One.

A PROGRAM DETERMINED UPON.

The Officers of the Senate Selected, but Will Probably Not Be Elected During the Present Session on Account of the Republicans Filibustering.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The senate Democratic caucus yesterday afternoon determined upon the names of the officers of that body to be elected, and also decided to present resolutions looking to their election. It is not thought likely that it will be possible for the program to be carried through, for the Republicans are determined to prevent a reorganization at this session even if they have to filibuster, and the leading Democrats did not believe it would be policy to prolong the session merely for the purpose of deciding who shall temporarily occupy a few offices.

The caucus nominated ex-Congressman William E. Cox of North Carolina for secretary, Colonel Richard Bright of Indiana for sergeant-at-arms, and Dr. Milburn, the blind preacher and present chaplain of the house, for chaplain.

At today's session of the senate three resolutions will be presented. The first reads: "Resolved, That Isham G. Harris, a senator from Tennessee, be and is hereby elected president pro tempore of the senate." There will be no opposition to the adoption of this.

The second reads: "Resolved, That the senate now proceed to the election of a secretary, sergeant-at-arms and chaplain." To this there will undoubtedly be opposition, and the resolution will go over to the next meeting of the senate, a single objection being all that is necessary to insure this. The fight will come up on this resolution, and, as in 1861 and 1881, under similar circumstances the minority party has won and prevented reorganization. It is almost safe to predict that it will be defeated. In fact, certain senators have admitted the probability of defeat.

The third resolution provides by name for the retention of certain officers now on the roll as employes of the sergeant-at-arms and secretary, among them being four or five Republicans. Among them Mr. Amsel Smith, who has been in charge of the senate department room for the last 30 years. Colonel Williams of Ohio, the bill clerk; Colonel Morriss of Missouri, the executive clerk; Charles B. Reed of Maine, deputy sergeant-at-arms, and Librarian Crook.

It is understood here that those on the reserve list must be persona grata to the senators from the states to which they are attributed.

After the caucus was over, one of the leading members of the Democratic committee said that it was the intention of the party to make the attempt to elect the nominees. Just when this will be done he could not say, but the resolution, he thought, might be introduced in the senate at any time now. If the Republicans appear to be determined in their effort to prevent a reorganization at this session, it may be that the Democrats will resist and let it go over. There appears, though, to be no probability of an abandonment of the idea to make at least an effort to carry out the will of the caucus.

Another story in connection with the caucus was that the senate would adjourn before the end of the week. This was denied by several senators, who said that the subject had not been mentioned, and that the day of adjournment depended entirely upon the pleasure of the president.

The Republican senators about the Capitol look upon the action of the caucus as a declaration that the Democrats intend to inaugurate a contest over the organization, and they will hold another caucus to decide upon their plan of campaign. One Republican senator who took a prominent part in the last caucus said that the Republicans would not stand idly by and see the precedents of the senate violated without a protest, and intimated that if the Democrats precipitated a contest there was no telling when it would end.

LABOR CRISIS APPROACHING.

The Trouble Among the Monongahela Miners May Soon Be Settled.

PITTSBURG, March 22.—The great strike by the Monongahela river coal miners, which has been waged so bitterly and at such tremendous cost on both sides for the past seven months, may soon reach a crisis. A convention of miners, representing the 60 mines between Pittsburgh and Brownsville, will be held at Monongahela City, when an important conference on the strike situation will be held.

This action was determined on at a late hour Monday night at a meeting at Monongahela City. The miners of W. H. Brown & Sons, the Black Diamond works and the Ivil and Catsbury mines of the Catsbury Coal company held a meeting at that place Monday, and while they voted to stand out firm for the 3 1-2 cent rate they passed a resolution in favor of holding a meeting to be composed of delegates from pits all along the river.

The same action was taken by men at Crums' works and by others, so that the executive board deemed it advisable to call such a meeting at once. Every delegate will go fully instructed, thus leaving little or nothing to do except to take a vote whether a strike is to be declared. They may fight among themselves.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 22.—Adrianoff, the nihilist, yesterday shot and killed the mayor of Moscow. The murderer was arrested.

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS.

The Treasury Report Shows a Heavy Balance of Trade Against U. S.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The advance statement by the treasury bureau of statistics on foreign commerce and immigration for the month of February has been issued.

The statement is not as encouraging as it might be. It shows a large decrease in the value of exports during the month and a large increase in the value of imports of merchandise, and, consequently, a heavy balance of trade against the United States.

The value of the exports of merchandise during February was \$59,943,888, and of the imports of merchandise \$79,632,148, or an excess of imports and balance of trade against us of \$19,688,262. The value of the exports is \$26,694,251 less than they were one year ago, and about \$15,000,000 less than they were in February two years ago.

On the other hand, the imports are larger than for any month of February in previous years, over \$13,000,000 greater than February one year ago, or for any February in four years.

From this statement it appears that the balance of trade against us is from month to month increasing, so that for the eight months from July 1 to March 1, the value of the imports was \$607,878,086, and of the exports \$584,873,515, or an excess of imports of about \$23,000,000.

For the 12 months ending with February, the value of the imports was \$911,502,807 and of the exports \$879,249,993, or an excess of imports of \$32,252,814.

This change of balance of trade is due to the large decrease in the exports of breadstuffs and decrease in value of cotton exports.

The same report shows the movement of gold and silver.

During the month of February the exports of gold amounted to \$14,245,607 and the imports to \$1,257,539, or an excess of gold exports of \$12,988,068.

During the eight months the excess of gold exports was \$50,749,189, and during 12 months the exports of gold were \$80,908,061 in excess of imports of gold.

The excess of exports of silver during February was \$992,307, during eight months \$10,638,536, and during 12 months \$14,875,941.

During the past 12 months the excess of gold and silver exported over the imports amounted to \$95,784,002.

It is also learned from this statement that the value of merchandise that came in free of duty during the past 12 months was \$507,000,000, and the value of dutiable merchandise was \$104,000,000, so that the excess of the free over the dutiable merchandise was \$103,000,000.

All After One Office.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—It is reported that the appointment of a commissioner of pensions will be made within the next few days. All the candidates for the office are old soldiers. These are General Rice of Ohio, the father of the arranges law; Colvi P. Mason, ex-congressman from the York (Pa.) district; General Wheeler of Michigan; Colonel Busey of Illinois; General Isaac S. Catlin of Brooklyn, and Colonel W. R. McClure of Indiana, who was deputy commissioner under Cleveland's former administration. Ex-Representative McKinney of New Hampshire is also in the race, and is said to have a strong backing.

It Proved a Success.

CHICAGO, March 22.—The exhibition of Gray's teleautograph at the Home insurance building was a perfect success. The receiving machine elicited expressions of astonishment from all who saw it. The electric pen dotted its 's', crossed 't's and moved in a way that seemed as if it was human. There were not many people present, and the spectators were coming and going all the afternoon. Nothing since the phonograph has excited so much wonder and admiration.

Superintendent of Immigration.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—It is said that Herman J. Schulte of Wisconsin is to be the new superintendent of immigration. He has the endorsement of the Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor all over the country and is supported by T. V. Powderly. He is at present a special agent of this office. Ex-Representative Stump of Maryland, chairman of the house committee on immigration in the last congress, is the other leading candidate.

Millionaire Mackay No Worse.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22.—Statements that there has been a change for the worse in the condition of John V. Mackay and that his condition is very critical are unnecessarily alarming. The patient was seen in his room at the Palace hotel last night and said he was feeling first rate. Dr. Keeney, after his visit at 9 o'clock, said that the crisis had passed and that the condition of his patient showed continued improvement.

Killed a Robber.

STROUDSBURG, Pa., March 22.—Hiram Kistler, proprietor of a general store here, was awakened by the ringing of his burglar alarm last night. He seized his rifle, and, seeing a man taking goods from his store, fired and killed the robber. The latter's two companions ran away and escaped. The dead man is not known here, and there was nothing on him to lead to his identity.

Noted Distiller Dead.

BOSTON, March 22.—Edward Moore, of the firm of James Walsh & Company of Cincinnati, distillers, died from apoplexy at the Adams House last evening after a brief illness. He was a native of New York city and was 50 years old.

Injured by a Falling Tree.

BROOKLYN, Ind., March 22.—George Lyons was fatally injured while felling a tree. He was struck by a limb and injured internally.

BLOWN TO PIECES.

Such Was the Destruction of the Keeler Mills.

LITCHFIELD, ILLS., THE SCENE.

John Cowle, the Head Millwright, Was Instantly Killed, and Several Employes Were Seriously Injured—The Shock of the Explosion Felt For Miles Around. Details of the Disaster.

LITCHFIELD, Ills., March 22.—The Keeler mills, in which the explosion occurred yesterday morning, are said to be the largest in the United States. A number of dwellings were badly damaged, and it is estimated that \$5,000 worth of glass in the windows of houses all over town were shattered.

The big mills were discovered to be on fire at 3:30, and by 4 o'clock the flames were beyond control. It is believed that the fire was caused by a spark from a passing locomotive. Employes and the local fire department hastened to the scene of the conflagration, and while they were endeavoring to subdue the flames a terrific explosion occurred. This was probably due to the ignition of flour dust. The immense building was literally blown to pieces, and large fragments filled the air.

John Cowle, head millwright, of Waterloo, was instantly killed, and several employes were seriously injured.

The shock was felt in the adjoining villages of Clyde, Highland and Greenville. Inhabitants of many neighboring towns were aroused from their slumbers, and in some cases were terror stricken, believing that they had been visited by an earthquake. As the telegraph wires were prostrated details were at first somewhat meager. Experts believe that the explosion was of a boiler and not the flour dust. It is not known what the property damage will be, but it is very great. The large elevator near the Wabash track, containing about 250,000 bushels of wheat, was burned to the ground. General Manager Smith is authority for the statement that but \$350,000 insurance is carried, while the loss will approximate \$1,000,000.

Hundreds of people have viewed the ruins. Many houses are reported to have been shaken from their foundations. Others besides Cowle have perished, but no thorough search is possible just now.

The list of injured is as follows:

Mrs. Hoffman, leg broken.

Mrs. Lynch, badly cut about head and face.

Thomas Donoghue, head cut and body badly bruised.

Mrs. Henry Steigle, arm horribly crushed.

Mrs. Levi Hussey, arm badly maimed.

John Nother, John Kenney, D. P. Greewall and Andrew Duncan wounded about heads and faces.

A number of less serious casualties are reported from the falling debris.

The theory that the explosion was caused by flour dust, finds no favor among the local millers. The awful tremor of the earth indicates that a high explosive was used. "I know nothing about the particulars," said Alex H. Smith, "but I am certain that flour dust was not the cause. Since the invention of the dust machine by George T. Smith no such explosions are possible, as all mills are provided with them and there is no dust in the air. The explosion in all likelihood was a dynamite or a boiler explosion, and it was certainly not due to dust."

SHE SHOULD BE WATCHED.

The Alexander Is Going to Play a Desperate Skin Game.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22.—Advices have been received from Behring sea showing that the steamer Alexander, which left here early in this year, is already in the forbidden waters. This steamer cleared from San Francisco for Hakodate, Japan, Jan. 25. She carried a full sealing outfit, and another suspicious circumstance was that she carried 80 men. At the last moment several cases of Winchester and cartridges were secretly put aboard.

It is believed that the Alexander will trade liquor for skins along the shores of the Behring sea and that before a patrol fleet starts north she will make a dash for the rookeries, overpower the small guard on the islands and then slip south with a full cargo of skins.

DAYLIGHT MURDER.

The Motive Was Undoubtedly Robbery, as the Evidence Shows.

KALAMAZOO, Mich., March 22.—A murder, of the perpetrator of which there is no clue, was committed here yesterday in broad daylight, in Portage street market. Louis Schilling, father of Henry Schilling, who has an office in the market, remained in the office while his son went to dinner.

Upon his return, about 1:30 o'clock, Henry Schilling found his father dead behind the stove, his throat cut and his head almost severed from his body. His pocketbook was gone and there were evidences of a struggle, but no clew whatever to the murderer. The murdered man was 61 years old, and a respected citizen.

An Undertaker Killed.

WILMINGTON, Del., March 22.—S. P. Short, an undertaker of Bridgeville, Del., was instantly killed yesterday afternoon by being thrown from his horse. In the horse was the body of Isaac Riggan, and behind the horse were many carriages. Short's horse reared and plunged, throwing the undertaker off. He struck upon his head, dying instantly. The coffin was thrown to the ground.