

Fair, continued cold Wednesday. Thursday fair, warmer; fresh northerly winds.

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HOBOKEN AGAIN VISITED BY FIERCE RIVER FRONT FIRE

Flames on Pier Endanger Vast Trans-Atlantic Shipping Interests.

THE BRITISH QUEEN DESTROYED

Oil Laden Barges Go Blazing Down the North River.

ONE MAN FATALLY BURNED

Longshoremen Have to Run for Life Through Flames—Chinese Crew Arrested for Fleeing Ashore—Flames Reach New York—Liners Seek Safety.

NEW YORK, March 18.—Hoboken had a great water front fire tonight, its second in less than two years. One steamship pier, located by the Phoenix Line, was destroyed, and the ship British Queen, of that line, was burned practically to the water's edge. The pier of the Barber Steamship Line was slightly burned, but no serious damage was done there. The pier of the Holland American Line, which was the next pier to the south, escaped without being so much as scorched.

Five Men Burned.

Five longshoremen, who had been working on the Phoenix Line pier, when the fire started, were badly burned in their race through the flames to the shore end of the pier. All of them were taken to the hospital in Hoboken, where it was said that all but one of them would recover. The man probably fatally burned is Patrick Hursey.

A number of burning oil and alcohol laden barges and lighters floated out into the stream from the burning piers and drifted down the North River with the tide, making a glorious night spectacle for those who live on high places on either side of the river. With the exception of Hursey, it was believed tonight that there had been no loss of life in the conflagration.

Chief Engineer Missing.

This hope can only be made into certainty by a roll call tomorrow of the 250 longshoremen who were working on the Phoenix Line pier when the fire started and of the crew of the steamship British Queen, which was burned.

There were rumors that men and women had jumped from some of the burned lighters into the river, but no verification of these stories could be obtained, afloat or ashore, tonight.

Towed to Jersey Shore.

At a little after 11 o'clock the river, which had been lighted here and there by burning barges and glowing towers of smoke ever since half-past 8 o'clock, when the fire started, was further illuminated by the blazing shape of the big British Queen, which was dragged into the middle of the stream, and, half drifting, half towed by tug boats, went heading and spinning flame down toward the Jersey flats, where it was the apparent intention of the craft escorting her that she should be beached.

Arrested for Fleeing.

For more than two hours steamship after steamship had been pulled out from the threatened piers, and had taken safe anchorages in the middle of the stream.

Steamships Seek Safety.

The Heathbourne, of the Phoenix Line, a tea ship, whose crew of thirty-five Chinamen had fled ashore from the pursuing flames, only to be imprisoned by the United States customs officers because they were violating the Chinese exclusion law, was the ship most endangered. She was encumbered with a big gray lighter which was loading cargo into her. Steamship and lighter together were towed over to a point opposite Canal Street and anchored there.

Carried to New York.

In spite of the best vigilance of the fire boat's captains, however, at least one lighter reached the New York side with enough fire aboard to make trouble. It set fire to the Pennsylvania pier at Murray Street and did some little damage before the New York fire department could arrive.

Flames Spread Rapidly.

At a little after 8 o'clock there was a puff of smoke in the middle of the Phoenix Line pier. On the north side of it lay number of Standard Oil lighters and barges, some loaded with oil and cotton.

OCEAN LINERS ENDANGERED BY MILLION DOLLAR CONFLAGRATION

A fire which broke out on the Phoenix Line pier at Hoboken, N. J., last evening, destroyed that pier and partially burned the one next to it, while the steamer British Queen, which was lying alongside, was practically consumed to the water's edge. She was towed ablaze to the Jersey flats and beached. The total damage is about a million dollars.

One man was probably fatally burned, and the chief engineer of the destroyed steamer is missing. The flames spread with such rapidity that the longshoremen had to run for safety. Burning oil barges floated down the river, endangering many liners, and the entire river front was illuminated by the conflagration.

THREATS TO EJECT PATRICK'S COUNSEL

Recorder Goff Wounded by Wrangles of Lawyers.

MEYER AND SHORT TESTIFY

Latter Identifies Alleged Forged Will of W. M. Rice—Short Tells of Visits to the Aged Millionaire—Experts to Be Heard Today.

NEW YORK, March 18.—A row, hotter than usual, was added this morning to the long list of wrangles between the lawyers and retainers from the recorder for both sides which have been almost daily occurrences at the Patrick murder trial since it was begun eight weeks ago. Counsel became very personal, and Recorder Goff threatened to have Mr. Moore, of the defense, removed from the court room.

Meyer Cross-Examined.

Morris Meyer, the lawyer who is under indictment with Patrick on the charge of forgery of the Rice will of 1900, was on the stand when court opened, and under cross-examination by the assistant district attorney. This dialogue followed:

Q.—Do you know of any arrangement by Rice to assign all of his property to Patrick? A.—Not of my own knowledge.

Beginning of Trouble.

The prosecuting attorney fired another question before the witness had finished his answer, and Mr. House objected.

Threat to Eject.

That was the beginning, Mr. Moore took an exception to the remarks of the prosecuting attorney. Things went smoothly for as much as three or four seconds, when Mr. Moore and the prosecuting attorney got into a worse snarl as the result of a difference of opinion as to whether the witness was talking too long.

Short Called Next.

David L. Short was the next witness for the defense. He acted as Patrick's agent in 1900, and, with Meyer, is under indictment on the charge of aiding Patrick in the forgery of the will and other documents by which Patrick, it is alleged, hoped to get possession of Rice's \$5,000,000.

Alleged Will Identified.

Short then identified the alleged forged will of June 10, 1900, and swore that he and Meyer had signed it as witnesses at the request of Mr. Rice after Mr. Rice had signed it and described it as his last will and testament.

May Reject Evidence AGAINST BURNS GIRL

Asks for Briefs Regarding Detectives' Testimony.

Defendant's Rights Not Observed by the Police, It Is Thought—Comb Again Identified.

May Wipe Out Testimony.

Justice Mayer then made a long address in which he said very plainly he had strong doubts as to the admissibility of evidence of alleged statements indicating guilt, said to have been made to detectives by Florence Burns when she was arrested.

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SYMPATHY FOR RHODES.

Queen Alexandra, the King, and Others Send Despatches. CAPE TOWN, March 18.—Queen Alexandra has telegraphed to Mr. Cecil Rhodes, expressing her sympathy for him in his illness. Her despatch concludes: "I pray that God will restore your health."

SECURITIES HEARING IN NEW YORK TODAY

Taking of Testimony Adjourned After Preliminaries.

SUBPOENAS FOR DIRECTORS

Jacob H. Schiff and Charles Steele, of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., to Be Interrogated Privately—William Rockefeller Also to Be a Witness.

NEW YORK, March 18.—There were preliminary proceedings today in the law office of Lamb & Guernsey, 135 Broadway, in the inquiry into the standing and purpose of the Northern Securities Company, to be conducted by Richard A. Mabey, a special examiner appointed by the United States Circuit Court for the Southern district of New York.

Insigated by Stockholders.

This inquiry is made at the instance of Peter Power, who began a stockholder's suit against the directors of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to prevent the merger of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroad properties through the medium of the Northern Securities Company.

TRIBUTE TO BOER COURAGE.

English Correspondent Gives Additional Details of Their Attack.

LONDON, March 18.—"The Standard" Pretoria correspondent, supplementing his despatch of yesterday, again testifies to the courage of the Boers who routed General Methuen's column.

TOBACCO BONUS OFFERED.

Imperial Company Makes Special Proposition to Retail Dealers.

LONDON, March 18.—The Imperial Tobacco Company has issued a circular to retailers offering a bonus on condition that the latter sign, undertaking not to sell any of the American Tobacco Company's goods.

MAY REJECT EVIDENCE AGAINST BURNS GIRL

Asks for Briefs Regarding Detectives' Testimony.

Defendant's Rights Not Observed by the Police, It Is Thought—Comb Again Identified.

NEW SPANISH CABINET.

Present Sagasta Ministry Contains Four Old Members.

JURY SOON TO DECIDE.

Wilcox Case Summing Up Will Be Completed Today.

FIREMEN ACCEPT OFFER.

Will Return to Avondale Colliery on Company's Terms.

MAY REVOLUTIONIZE BELGIUM.

Recent Coal Discoveries Thought to Be Extensive.

UNION LABOR AROUSED.

Norfolk Workmen to Assist Cripple in Supreme Court.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS AGREE ON CUBAN TARIFF BILL

After the bitterest factional fight which the Republican party has experienced in several years, the members of that party in the House, in conference last night, by a vote of 85 to 31, agreed to grant 20 per cent tariff reductions on Cuban products.

OVERWHELMING DEFEAT FOR THE BEET SUGAR INSURGENTS

HOUSE REPUBLICANS AGREE ON CUBAN TARIFF BILL

After the bitterest factional fight which the Republican party has experienced in several years, the members of that party in the House, in conference last night, by a vote of 85 to 31, agreed to grant 20 per cent tariff reductions on Cuban products. A qualifying amendment was adopted, limiting the duration of the concession to December 1, 1903.

The compromise suggestion of the beet sugar men to pay Cuba a 20 per cent rebate for three years was rejected by a vote of 57 to 79, which showed the real strength of the insurgents. The conference last night was the fifth that the Republicans have held upon the matter. Many of the beet sugar men now declare that they will renew the fight on the floor of the House.

EMPEROR WELCOMES PRINCE HENRY HOME

Elaborate Reception by the Kaiser at Cuxhaven.

BROTHERS DEPART FOR KIEL

Salutes Mark the Arrival of the Deutschland—Brilliant Display of Electric Lights and Bunting—Many High Dignitaries Present.

CUXHAVEN, March 18.—The steamship Deutschland, with Prince Henry and party aboard, arrived here at 8:45 this afternoon. The approach of the Deutschland was signaled by the Sibly-Arco system of wireless telegraphy, which Emperor William has just ordered installed on all German warships, when the big ship was eighty-two English miles away.

Saluted by Guns.

No official reception was prepared for the prince's arrival, but all the local, naval and civic dignitaries were present. The band of the Marine Artillery furnished the musical programme. The two mayors of Hamburg were present. The Deutschland's arrival was received with a salute of twenty-one guns from the Strand Battery, by special order of the Kaiser, who, until 4 o'clock, remained on board the battleship Wilhelm II in the roads.

WIRELESS TESTS ON LAKES.

Steamer From Detroit to Cleveland Makes Use of New System.

DUG UP GIANT SKELETON.

Bones Thought to Be Those of Prehistoric Man.

MARYLAND COMES TO HELP OF DISTRICT

Bill Regulating Sale of Liquor at Chesapeake Junction.

FORFEITURE OF LICENSE FOR ALL TIME TO BE THE PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO SELL INTOXICANTS ON SUNDAY.

Kaiser Comes Ashore.

Large crowds of the residents from the neighboring countryside assembled, chiefly anxious to see the Kaiser. At 4:30 o'clock the Hamburg-American steamship Wilkommen, with Herr Ballin, director of the line, on board, put off to bring the Kaiser ashore.

WILKESHAIRE, VA., MARCH 18.—

The discharged firemen of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company at the Avondale colliery have agreed to accept the offer of the company to reinstate in their old places as many as possible and to give the remainder other places.

INSPECTOR OF MARINE.

An inspection of the Kaiser and Prince Henry had been made by the mayors and boarded the Wilhelm II, and took them back to the battleship Kaiser Wilhelm II for their journey to Kiel.

MR. MOSLEY SAILS TODAY.

LONDON, March 18.—Mr. Alfred Mosley, who is going to the United States for the purpose of arranging for the visit of the American delegates, whom he will take to America in the ship, will sail tomorrow on the steamer Cecelia.

House Caucus Agrees on 20 Per Cent Concession to Cuba.

SIBLEY AMENDMENT CONCEDED

Tariff Cut to Continue Until December 31, 1903.

FINAL VOTE WAS 85 TO 31

Insurgents Threaten to Act With Democrats—Will Vote for General Tariff Revision in Hope of Injuring the Cuban Concession Plan.

For Cuba reciprocity, 85; against, 31. This was the vote by which the Republican members of the House in conference last night agreed to the proposition advanced by the Ways and Means Committee to grant 20 per cent tariff concessions to the products of the island of Cuba.

This result was not accomplished, however, without a partial surrender on the part of the House leaders, who agreed to accept and incorporate in their original suggestion the amendment offered by Representative Sibley to limit the duration of the concessions to December 1, 1903.

Not Acceptable to Insurgents.

This is, notwithstanding, by no means acceptable to the real beet sugar men, who, from the first, have held out against any concessions in the nature of tariff reduction. Although badly defeated, the vote by which the resolution was adopted, as given above, did not represent the full strength of the beet sugar men at last night's meeting.

The test vote was taken upon the resolution offered by Representative Dick proposing that when the government of Cuba is organized and established, the President shall be authorized to negotiate an agreement with Cuba, whereby the government of the island shall receive a rebate of 20 per cent upon the products imported into this country in exchange for a period of three years. This was the basis of compromise which the beet sugar men agreed to at their last meeting yesterday afternoon and it was this compromise which the general conference last night rejected.

When the test vote was taken upon the proposition it was 85 to 31. This vote showed the strength of the beet sugar men.

Insurgents Leave the Hall.

When the insurgents discovered that they were finally defeated, many of them withdrew from the hall and declined to participate in the final ballot. Several others accepted the Sibley amendment as in part soothing the sting caused by the reduction.

The result is, of course, a victory for the Ways and Means Committee, and a crushing defeat for the insurgents, who have all along been putting up a very stubborn fight against the House "leaders," and contending against heavy odds and strong influence.

Those who represent the districts in which sugar beets are grown were in very angry mood last night after the adjournment, and were vowing that they would have revenge. The most ardent of these insist that they will be able to control sufficient votes to yet cause the leaders a great deal of trouble, and they propose to do so. Many of them were declaring last night that they would vote with the Democrats upon any proposition which would have the effect of defeating Cuban reciprocity.

Will Vote to Reduce Tariff.

For instance, if a rule to preclude amendments is defeated, and amendments are offered, they will vote with the Democrats to reduce the duty on steel and other products, and thereby load down the measure with sufficient amendments to ensure its defeat at the hands of the majority.

This is the hope which was expressed last night, although no definite plans along this line have been made, and the leaders who have won this, the most difficult of their fights, profess to have no fears of any such scheme being carried out. They believe that party discipline will carry out their wishes.

Statement Supporting Resolutions.

Mr. Dick, in presenting the compromise proposition of the insurgents, made the following statement embracing fourteen points why it should be accepted:

"Adhering to the statement we have heretofore made to this conference, expressing our reasons for opposing a reduction of the duties on the products of Cuba, and in the interests of harmony, and for the purpose of affording relief to Cuba, if such relief is needed, and mindful of the fact that recently developed during the last fiscal year there was a deficit in the public treasury by the island of Cuba of some \$2,000,000, we submit the following resolutions:

"That the tariff on the products of Cuba be reduced 20 per cent for a period of three years, and that the President be authorized to negotiate an agreement with Cuba, whereby the government of the island shall receive a rebate of 20 per cent upon the products imported into this country in exchange for a period of three years. This was the basis of compromise which the beet sugar men agreed to at their last meeting yesterday afternoon and it was this compromise which the general conference last night rejected.