

EXPLOSION KILLS SCORES

INDIANA TOWN IS ALMOST COMPLETELY WIPED OUT

One Hundred Killed and at Least One Hundred and Fifty Injured—School Collapses, Burying Scores of Children—Calamity Caused by an Explosion in Powder Factory, at the Site of Which Only a Hole in the Ground Now Remains.

(By United Press.)

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Oct. 15.—The most appalling accident in the history of Indiana occurred this morning at Fontanet, a coal miners' village, 16 miles from this city, when the works of the Dupont Powder company blew up, blotting out, it is estimated, 100 lives, injuring scores, practically wiping out the village, causing cave-ins in the coal mines, entombing the miners and causing heavy property damage in surrounding cities.

The explosion was heard and felt 60 miles away. Buildings were shaken, chimneys knocked down and communication with the stricken village almost completely cut off.

Where the works once stood there is nothing save a large hole in the ground.

The explosion occurred soon after the men went to work, but its cause may never be known, as it is believed that none of the employees of the works live to tell the tale.

Many Incinerated.

The quiet of the country was upon the ill-fated village, when suddenly there came a tremendous roar followed closely by a number of sharp explosions, which carried the works away as though they were built of cards, and tearing a great hole in the ground. Every building in the village was shaken, several including a general store were knocked down, catching fire and incinerating their inmates.

Two hundred pupils had just gathered in the public school when the explosion occurred. The building, which was a two-story structure, collapsed, nearly all of the children being pinned under the debris.

How many escaped is not yet known, but according to the latest reports from the scene of the catastrophe, many perished. Up to noon 40 bodies had been recovered and 125 injured were brought to this city. Persons who have arrived on the first relief train say that at least 100 lives were lost in Fontanet and it is believed that many miners, entombed by cave-ins due to the explosion, are dead.

Frantic Wives at Mine Shaft.

The mine shafts are surrounded by the wives of the miners, frantic and half crazed with anxiety.

Seventy men were at work in the mill when the explosion occurred. Legs, arms and parts of trunks have been picked up 100 feet away from the site of the mill, which was located two miles from Fontanet. Pitiful scenes were enacted around the schoolhouse, the parents and other relatives of the children making pathetic efforts to locate their loved ones.

A carload of coffins has been sent to Fontanet. A number of persons suffered minor injuries at Rosedale, Coal Bluff and Burnett as the result of the shake, being struck by falling chimneys.

At Crawfordsville, 35 miles away, the electric light company office building was partly wrecked, the walls crumbling and the marble floors sinking.

School Children Injured.

The latest report from Fontanet is that none of the school children were killed outright, but 100 of them were buried and some of them will die.

Not a person in Fontanet escaped injury or death. Pedestrians were thrown from their feet against buildings.

Doctors in automobiles are dashing to the scene from all directions.

Hamilton, Ohio, 150 miles away, reports having felt the shock.

The latest estimate places the dead at 100 and the injured at 150.

The damage thus far reported in other towns is as follows: Brazil, Ind., 12 miles away, \$10,000, including the art glass in the First Methodist church, valued at \$1,000; Crawfordsville, Ind., 35 miles away, \$12,000, 26 buildings being damaged; Greencastle, Ind., 27 miles away, \$10,000; Terre Haute, \$25,000. Losses of \$1,000 and more are reported in 19 other towns.

It is estimated late this afternoon that 60 persons are missing. The number of dangerously injured was placed at 200, and the slightly injured at 75.

Powder Works Survivor.

A surviving employe of the powder works was found this afternoon buried under debris, several hundred feet from the works. One of his legs was blown off. He declares that he knows that at least 100 lives were lost.

Governor Hanly has ordered the Terre Haute company of militia to go to Fontanet this afternoon and take charge.

Fontanet had a population of 1,200, and none of the houses in the place are habitable. A relief train with state tents will leave for Fontanet this evening. A camp for the unfortunate people will be pitched on a field near town.

At 10:30 this morning a second explosion occurred in a storehouse on a hill a short distance from the main mills. Three rescuers were injured by this explosion.

COUNCIL TURNS DOWN POLITICAL FIGHT

Refuses to Be a Party to Peanut Political Game and Endorses Action of Mayor in Removing Members of Health Board—Confirm New Appointees, Only Two Voting in Opposition.

The efforts of a sensational newspaper to injure Mayor Moore and to make political capital for the opposition to the present city administration on account of the removal of two members of the city board of health have failed utterly.

The city council, despite the opposition which it has shown for Mayor Moore at times during his administration, last night endorsed his action in removing the two members of the health board and promptly confirmed the new appointees.

In discussing the question, Councilman Gill took pains to point out the political move back of the fight and to denounce Alden J. Bliethen and Dr. Herman F. Titus. He declared Bliethen and Titus were trying to use the city council as a cat's paw to remove their political chestnuts from the fire.

Both Names Confirmed. The only opposition to the action of Mayor Moore developed over the confirmation of Dr. F. S. Bourns, a question having been raised as to the legality of this appointment. Councilman Murphy moved that this appointment be referred to a committee and that Dr. Ford be confirmed. The motion was lost by a vote of seven to eleven and both appointments were confirmed, only Murphy and Revelle voting against confirmation. Murphy explained his vote by the statement that in his opinion the name of Bourns should have gone to a committee for more careful consideration, but Revelle failed to make any statement regarding his vote.

PRESIDENT'S RAILROAD POLICIES BEFORE SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—President Roosevelt's railroad policies came squarely before the United States supreme court today, when briefs were submitted on petitions for writs of certiorari whereby four big packing concerns of the west hope to evade the payment of \$12,000 fines for accepting concessions from railroads on export meat shipments. The department of justice is fighting the writs, on the ground that a decision favoring the packers will take the entire field of foreign commerce from the interstate commerce commission's jurisdiction.

BANK CLEARINGS. Seattle. Clearings today... \$1,878,189.57

RACE RIOT AT FRISCO

(By United Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 15.—Joseph King, a logger while intoxicated, started a small-sized riot here last night when he fell through the window of a Japanese laundry on Fell st. The Japs at work immediately pounced upon him and, attracted by the noise, stormed the laundry. Policemen arrived and rescued King after the building was all but demolished.

EMPEROR JOSEPH IS SINKING

(By United Press.) VIENNA, Oct. 15.—Emperor Franz Joseph received a number of court officials today, but was compelled to dismount them, his condition growing worse. The emperor is steadily sinking and was unable this afternoon to cross the floor without aid on both sides. His fever continues and the alarm over his condition is increasing.

HOGGATT FACTION CARRIES JUNEAU

HIGH POINTS AT MARKET CLOSE

(By United Press.) NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—The opening on New York stocks was irregular, and for the first hour prices sagged fractionally. An undertone of strength developed around the low prices and the market advanced in most cases over a point. At this period the market became stagnant, holding around the high points with movements narrow.

PAY TOO MUCH FOR CITY WATER

Rainier Beach residents have protested to the city council against a higher water rate than is paid generally by other parts of the city. The pipes in Rainier Beach belong to private parties, but the city supplies the water. The water company is charging 8 cents a month and charging for extra faucets, according to petitioners. The city's regular rate is 6 cents.

FISH LOSES

(By United Press.) CHICAGO, Oct. 15.—Stayvessant Fish has lost the first round of his fight for control of the Illinois Central. This morning his attorneys asked for a postponement of the hearing of the injunction, restraining the voting of \$5,000,000 worth of the road's stock. Counsel for E. H. Harriman and President James T. Harahan objected, and Judge Ball told Fish's attorneys that the hearing must be held at once, which was one of the stipulations under which the injunction was granted. The court called for the appearance of Fish and his attorneys.

ASKED TO RESIGN

(By United Press.) VANCOUVER, B. C., Oct. 15.—The Asiatic Exclusion league, at a meeting last night, passed resolutions asking the five city members of the legislature to resign, so that the feeling of the community may be tested on the exclusion matter.

HUBBARD SIDESTEPS FENDER PROPOSITION

CHANGE LOCATION. The real estate firm of Albert B. Lord & Co. has moved from the New York block to the Northern Bank building.

UNION MEETINGS TONIGHT. The Plumbers, Garment Workers, Painters, Barbers, Stage Employes, Clerks, Sign Painters, Butchers and Stone Masons meet at the Labor Temple tonight.

KAMADA IS ON TRIAL

The case of the state against Juscelo Kamada, charged with assault with intent to commit murder, is on trial in Judge Morris' court today. It is claimed that Kamada quarreled with J. Maahura over a porterhouse steak in a Japanese restaurant and that during the fight Kamada pulled a revolver on his antagonist.

PLAGUE AT FRISCO

(By United Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 15.—The board of health today reported that three new verified cases of plague had been found, making a total of 68. There have been 40 deaths, and 17 patients are being treated. Three patients were discharged today, among them being Isaac Wertheimer, cashier of the postoffice. Thirty-six suspected cases are being watched.

HOGGATT FACTION CARRIES JUNEAU

(By United Press.) JUNEAU, Alaska, Oct. 15.—The Hoggatt faction carried the republican primaries here yesterday over the ticket of National Committeeman Liked, by 32 votes. Four hundred votes were polled.

EXPECT ALL OPERATORS TO BE CALLED OUT SOON

PACKAGE CAR WILL BE ADDED

The Northern Pacific today notified Secretary Yandell, of the Chamber of Commerce, that it would at once put on a package car to run daily from Seattle to Southwestern Washington, with a terminus at Walla Walla. The company realizes the necessity and promises that the service shall be permanent. The Washington & Columbia River railroad will be used for the through connection. This gives package car freight service to all points in Eastern Washington and parts of Idaho.

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BID IS TOO HIGH

The bid of Strat & Goetz, in the sum of \$31,000, for the construction of the pipe line on Harvard av., a part of the new Cedar river water system, was rejected by the board of public works this morning. The bid was considered too high.

After Insisting Upon Taking the Matter Out of Hands of Board of Public Works, the State Labor Commissioner Fails to Show Up on Date Selected by Himself.

Failure of Labor Commissioner Charles F. Hubbard to appear this morning caused postponement of the fender investigation set for today until October 22.

The members of the board of public works gathered in the board room in the city hall at 10 o'clock, together with several inventors of street car fenders who hoped to submit their inventions to the board. For over an hour they waited for Mr. Hubbard to appear. Chairman Thomson, of the board of public works, tried to reach Mr. Hubbard by telephone, but was unable to locate him in the city.

After over an hour of delay Chairman Thomson announced that, as Labor Commissioner Hubbard had failed to appear, the hearing would be adjourned for two weeks, in case that action met with Mr. Hubbard's approval. Hubbard's Strange Conduct. "When the matter of holding a public investigation by the board of public works was first discussed," said Mr. Thomson, "Mr. Hubbard wrote to me that, under the state law, it is his duty to conduct such investigations and asking that, in case the board held such an investigation, he be invited to take part. The hearing was set for today, after consultation with him, and the board does not feel that, under these circumstances, it should proceed with the hearing without him."

"A second letter was received from Mr. Hubbard last Saturday stating that he would be here today. Probably he has been detained. The absence of any word from Labor Commissioner Hubbard, and much speculation has been indulged in as to why he failed to appear today. From the first the labor commissioner has shown a lack of enthusiasm over the fender investigation and, in spite of the

stand taken in his first letter to Mr. Thomson, he has since taken the position that the board of public works has ample authority to proceed with the investigation in which he has agreed to co-operate.

Signs of Sidestepping. That Mr. Hubbard has failed to accept the responsibility for the investigation placed upon him by the board in answer to his letter, is shown by the fact that he made no effort to secure testimony concerning the fenders now in use for presentation at the session this morning. No one was subpoenaed to testify concerning the inefficiency of the fender, and had the session been held this morning, it could not have had satisfactory results.

The board of public works is largely dependent upon the power of the labor commissioner to make the investigation as effective as it should be. The board has no power to subpoena witnesses and compel testimony, and no money to defray the expenses of a thorough investigation. The labor commissioner has this power conferred by the labor laws of the state. He can subpoena witnesses, force them to testify, pay witness fees, call upon the attorney general for legal advice and use all necessary machinery of the state in conducting the investigation.

Found Everything All Right. However, Labor Commissioner Hubbard is already committed to some extent on the fender question, having told the Seattle Electric company, after a private investigation made several months ago, that their fenders met the requirements of the state law, if properly adjusted and kept in repair. This fact may account for the apparent reluctance of the labor commissioner to assume the responsibility and take the initiative in the investigation.

Local Telegraph Operators Expect Next Move Will Be to Call Out Leased Wire Men and Operators in Employ of Railroads—Orders Expected From New York in Few Days.

That the leased wire operators and the railway telegraph operators of the country will probably be called out on strike, as the next move of the striking telegraphers, is the information coming from the headquarters of the local telegraphers.

The bad impression created by the weakness of President Small, in proposing that the union vote on the question of calling off the strike, has made this move necessary in the opinion of the executive committee now conducting the strike, according to local advices, and sealed orders to that effect are expected to arrive from headquarters in New York soon.

JOHNSON TO BEGIN TRAINING

(By United Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 15.—Jack Johnson, the colored heavyweight, who is matched to fight Jim Flynn of Colorado in the Colma arena on October 26, arrived from the east this morning and will go into training at once. The final articles of agreement, which call for a 45-round battle, will be signed tonight.

Convict's Trial Postponed. SAN RAFAEL, Cal., Oct. 15.—Arraignment for sentence of Convict Jacob Oppenheimer, convicted of attacking a fellow prisoner while attempting to escape from San Quentin, was put over this morning until Friday. His attorneys made a motion for a new trial.

telegraphic service of the newspapers which have depended largely upon their leased wires for news since the inception of the strike. The demoralization of railroad business, which will follow a strike of the railway operators, will affect in some degree the business of the entire country and make the strike much more serious to the public than at any time during its 16 weeks of duration up to the present time.

Because of the widespread effect of such a move, it has been the policy of the telegraphers to seek to win the strike without involving the railway and leased wire operators, and the move was not favored until the action of President Small gave the public the impression that the telegraphers were weakening in their fight.

TO STOP SALE OF LIQUOR AT FAIR

WALLA WALLA, Oct. 15.—Willaud P. Hershey, state president of the Good Templars, has started a fight to prevent the sale of liquor at the Walla Walla county fair. George Mottet, proprietor of a saloon, has been arrested on a charge of selling liquor without license. The grandstand where the saloon is located is 100 yards outside of the city limits, and within the radius of a mile where neither the county commissioners nor the city council can issue a license. Mottet is still doing business, but Hershey says he will have him arrested every day during the fair, if necessary.