

THE MARION DAILY MIRROR.

VOLUME XVI. NO. 97.

MARION, OHIO, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 1907.

PRICE TWO CENTS

WORST DISASTER IN HISTORY OF MINING OCCURS IN WEST VIRGINIA TODAY

Explosion Occurs in a Coal Mine Where Hundreds of Men Were at Work and It is Not Considered Possible That Any Could Have Escaped Death in the Awful Disaster.

Mine Catches Fire Following the Expulsion and the Smoke and Poisonous Gases Prevent the Rescuers From Entering the Shaft—Only Eight Bodies Have Been Recovered and It is Thought There are From Three to Five Hundred Dead Men in the Mine—Country for a Radius of Ten Miles is Shaken—Cause of the Disaster is Not Known

Fairmount, W. Va., Dec. 6.—The explosion at the mines of the Fairmount coal company at Monongahela, occurred this morning. A telephone message says 700 men were working in mines at the time of the explosion. Many men are reported killed or injured. The explosion was heard for miles around and all town physicians have been summoned. At this hour, it is impossible to get into mines where the explosion occurred. The number of dead and injured cannot be told until an entrance is effected. Over 100 men are known to have escaped from the mines after the

The explosion shook the country for 10 miles around and broke windows in Fairmount, six miles distant.

Fairmount, W. Va., Dec. 6.—At 1 o'clock this afternoon officials of the Fairmount Coal Company revised their figures of the number of men at work in the collapsed mine, making the number three hundred instead of seven hundred. They do not believe any escaped death or injury.

At one o'clock, eight bodies had been taken out, but the mine now is on fire and dense volumes of black smoke are pouring out of the entrance, driving the rescuing party back out of the mine. Fans are working hard to clear the shaft of smoke and foul air in the hope that rescuers may get in and find some alive, but they have very little hope of succeeding. The cause of the fire or its extent is not known.

Monongah, W. Va., Dec. 6.—Late this afternoon, it was officially announced that over 40 men are in two mines. The only chance that any escaped lies in that they are concealed behind safety doors.

explosion and the number in the mines is therefore in doubt.

Fairmount, W. Va., Dec. 6.—General Manager Malone said, over the long distance telephone that he believed 500 were killed in the mine explosion. He said it was the worst accident in the history of mining in America.

Foul air, following the explosion, prevented the rescuers from going in, but fans were started at noon and by two o'clock this afternoon, it is expected that some idea will be gained of the number of dead. Experienced miners say it is next to impossible for any of those entombed to have escaped death.

KILLED HIS WIFE IN A CROWDED RAILWAY TRAIN

Not a Passenger Raised a Finger to Prevent the Murder—Man Then Telephones His Mother Telling Her What He Has Done and Then Calmly Prepares to Shoot Himself—Regrets Not Having Shot Senator Allen.

Norfolk, Neb., Dec. 6.—Before a passenger coach full of horrified passengers, V. B. Nethaway, a noted trap shooter, shot and killed his wife on an outgoing train yesterday afternoon. The passengers panic stricken, did not lift a finger to prevent the murder they were compelled to witness. Nethaway appeared at the door just as the train was about to depart. His wife was seated in the other end of the car. She was on her way to Madison, where her application for a divorce was to have been heard last evening. Nethaway emptied two barrels of a shotgun into his wife's head and sprang from the train. He hurried to a local grain office and with a revolver kept the crowd at bay until he had tele-

phoned to his mother telling her what he had done and that he was going to kill himself. Then he removed hat, coat and vest and prepared to shoot himself. "Here," shouted Clarence Salter, the grain dealer, "you can't kill yourself in here."

"Wherever you say," replied Nethaway. "Go into the elevator," said Salter.

"All right," said Nethaway. He added: "My only regret is that I did not kill Senator Allen" referring to former United States senator from Nebraska. Then going into the elevator, he laid down, pillowed his head on his coat and sent a bullet through his brain. Ex-Senator Allen was the attorney for Mrs. Nethaway in the divorce proceedings.

ACTRESS SHOTS HERSELF WHILE AUDIENCE WAITS

Clara Bloodgood Reads a Book, "How to Shoot Straight" and Then Shoots Herself in the Mouth—Manager of the Theatre Has to Dismiss the Audience—Motive for the Crime is Not Known.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 6.—Mrs. Clara Bloodgood, the actress, committed suicide by shooting in her room in the Hotel Stafford last evening. Her act evidently was premeditated, for at her side lay a book entitled "How to Shoot Straight." There was a bullet hole in the roof of her mouth. Near her was a revolver with three chambers empty. Her body was discovered but a few minutes before she was scheduled to appear on the stage of the Academy of Music, where she had been appearing in "The Truth."

The crowd had gathered in the theater, the time for the curtain passed and there was no star. The manager was nervous.

He called the Hotel Stafford on the telephone and asked where Mrs. Bloodgood was. A bell boy was sent to find her, and as he approached her room he heard the discharge of a pistol.

He turned and ran back to the office, where he told the clerks. An investigation was made and the woman's body found lying on the floor.

The manager of the Academy of Music was told. He went to the

front of the curtain and told the audience there would be no performance, owing to the sudden indisposition of Mrs. Bloodgood.

Mrs. Bloodgood had attended a matinee in Albaugh's theater in the afternoon and returned shortly after 4 o'clock seemingly in the best of spirits. Before retiring to her room she had a talk with her stage manager John Emerson, who says he observed nothing unusual in her demeanor.

The only motive he can ascribe is that Mrs. Bloodgood feared an attack of nervous prostration. She had been working very hard, he said, and she feared a breakdown.

Mrs. Bloodgood left a note addressed to her husband, who is said to be on his way to this city.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 6.—"It was a clear case of suicide, there is no necessity of an inquest."

Thus the coroner today washed his hands of the case of Mrs. Clara Bloodgood, the Lumber actress, whose death by her own hands in a hotel last night, robbed the American stage of one of its most talented members. At noon today the body was taken back to the old home in New York, for burial.

"My wife was undoubtedly insane from over study and worry as to the success of the play in which she was starring," declared Lamber, following his arrival from New York. He had perused the sealed letter left addressed to him by his wife. The letter, it was hoped, might throw some light on the tragedy. "This refers entirely to a private matter and says nothing about any intentions of ending her life," said the husband. However, he did not show the letter to the coroner or anyone else.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 6.—It develops that Clara Bloodgood was despondent because she had furnished financial backing to her show which was not succeeding and had lost a large sum in the Knickerbocker Trust company. She brooded over the result to other members of her company.

NIGHT RIDERS NEARLY WIPE OUT A TOWN

Hamilton, O., Dec. 6.—Night riders fired the hotel at Millville this morning and almost the entire town was wiped out. A dog awakened his owner by barking. Men on horseback were seen galloping away.

PRESIDENT MITCHELL READY TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 6.—The Mine Workers' journal today contains a letter from John Mitchell, from LaSalle, Illinois, saying that he has so far recovered that he expects to leave the hospital at the close of the week.

"NOT FOR ME" SAYS ROOSEVELT

Washington, Dec. 6.—"I cannot serve beyond the present term" said Roosevelt today, in reply to an enthusiastic third term speech made him by Samuel Watts of Lewis-town, Pa. "You are for the poor man as well as the rich," said Watts, "and we are going to put you in again whether you want to serve or not." "I'm very much pleased to hear you say that," replied the President, with a smile, "and thank you, but I cannot serve beyond the present term."

COMPANY IS GUILTY

Forty-Two Counts Against Harvester Trust are Sustained.

Topeka, Kansas, Dec. 6.—After being out an hour the jury in the case of the state against the International Harvester company reached a verdict against the company on forty-two counts.

This verdict charges the company with being a trust and entering into an unlawful combination to control the price of harvesting machinery and to force dealers to handle its products exclusively.

Following the decision of the jury the attorneys for the company filed a motion for a new trial. Judge Dana has not yet passed on the motion. The maximum penalty which may be imposed is \$1,000 on each count, making a total of \$42,000 which may be assessed.

THE "LID" APPLIED

New York City will Hereafter Enjoy a Real Puritan Sabbath.

New York, Dec. 6.—At a special meeting of the Theatrical Managers' association yesterday it was decided that all theaters would remain closed on Sunday and that no test case of Justice O'Gorman's construction of the Sabbath entertainment law was to be made. Earlier in the day Police Commissioner Burgham announced that not in regard to playhouses alone but in every other respect next Sunday would be the "tightest" in New York's history. Gen. Bingham announced that the prohibition against Sunday theatrical performances and the strict enforcement of the excise law were part of his program.

He said further that there would be no racing at the six-day bicycle contest, which is announced to begin at Madison Square garden next Sunday night before the hour of midnight. Every law in the statute books would be enforced to the letter, the commissioner announced.

OKLAHOMA WILL HAVE A "JIM CROW" LAW

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 6.—The "Jim Crow" bill has been passed by the house and will be passed by the senate, Saturday.

ASPIRANTS TO THE PRESIDENCY WILL COMBINE AGAINST TAFT

It Now Looks as Though the Race Would be the Field Against the Secretary--Chicago Now Threatens to Beat Kansas City Out of the Convention.

Senator Dick Gets Into the Saddle and Leads in the New Fight Against Secretary Taft--Secret Council is Held by the Other Aspirants and Some Plans are Laid and Fences Fixed--Committee Meeting Today and Tomorrow is of Great Importance Since It May Decide Some Things Which Will Bear on the Nomination.

Washington, Dec. 6.—An Anti-Taft combination has been formed for the purpose of sending the Republican national convention to Chicago.

Senator Dick, representing the Foraker boom, collected lieutenants of all the other presidential candidates in his committee room at the senate for a council of war late yesterday afternoon. Senator Hemenway, of Indiana, was present in behalf of Fairbanks. Frank O. Loudon, of Chicago, spoke for Canon. Boise Penrose promised the Knox support.

Those present said that Cortelyou was for Chicago and that William L. Ward, national committee man for New York, had sent word that the Hughes people wanted Chicago. The Cortelyou contribution to the alliance is expected to be a block of votes from Southern states to be delivered by Frank Hitchcock, first assistant postmaster general.

It is frankly explained that other candidates for the presidency object to the choice of Kansas City for the convention because of the Taft sentiment in that vicinity. The Cannon forces can be depended upon to Chicago to fill the hall with rooters for the anti-Taft combination.

The existence of this combination among all the other candidates against Taft was strikingly demonstrated in this harmonious meeting of their managers. From this time on, to a greater extent than before, it will be the field against the favorite of President Roosevelt. The politicians who met with Senator Dick claim Arthur I. Vorys, Taft's manager, has been quietly working for the selection of Kansas City as the convention town. Vorys himself has denied, while in Washington, that the Taft people have any choice for the convention place. The combination of the other candidates in behalf of Chicago, however, will force the Taft people to activity on behalf of Kansas City. On all sides the vote in the national Republican committee on the convention city will be taken as the first test on a national scale of the Taft and anti-Taft strength.

Taft men from Ohio, on hearing of the meeting in Dick's room, pronounced it conclusive evidence in support of the charge that the Foraker boom is not advanced in good faith, but for the benefit of a candidate or candidates outside of Ohio. It is a shrewd political game that the anti-Taft men have framed in this fight for Chicago. If the majority of the national committee can be pledged to Chicago that city will promptly produce the \$75,000 or \$100,000 required by the national committee for a guarantee fund.

If the anti-Taft people find themselves unable to defeat the selection of Kansas City they will take refuge behind the claim that Chicago was unable to raise this money. This explains the conflicting reports that have come from Chicago in regard to the difficulty of raising sufficient funds to secure the convention. It explains, too, the apparent animosity of the Chicago interests and business men who usually send large and enthusiastic delegations to capture national conventions.

The members of the conference in Dick's room said, after its close, that they found their chief difficulty in the fight for Chicago in the doubt as to whether Chicago would raise the necessary fund. At the same time it was learned that Frank O. Loudon had himself offered to guarantee the amount necessary if this should be required. And officers of the national committee said a guarantee from Loudon would be sufficient.

The anti-Taft conference was very quietly arranged and was meant to be a secret one. Senator Dick's committee room was selected because it is a secluded nook under the eaves of the capitol and admirably adapted to the back room privacy of confidential policies. Late in the afternoon Dick slipped out of his seat in the senate and went to his committee room. Soon after the cat footed Murray Crane, senator from Massachusetts, stole after Dick. Hemenway wandered into the corridor on which Dick's committee room opens with the casual air of a country visitor to the capitol looking at the pictures on the wall. When he

reached the appointed door he shot into it with the speed of a rabbit diving into his burrow.

Frank O. Loudon must have climbed in at the window, for on one saw him come and he almost escaped detection when he left. As many members of the national Republican committee as the conference members could reach were brought into the meeting. Yerkes of Kentucky came to promise his support. Tom Carter, of Montana, contributed advice and the promise of one vote. Powell Clayton, of Arkansas, Brooker of Connecticut, and Streater of New Hampshire, were others to report. Brownlow, of Tennessee, who has been rated a Taft man, but whose men were recently turned out of office for the benefit of the Evans faction, showed an apparent disposition to get revenge. At any rate, he took part in the council of war of the opposition.

It was supposed that Kansas City had won the fight for the convention. But with the situation complicated by presidential politics, the outlook is more confusing. As fast as members of the national committee arrive they are besieged by lieutenants of the opposing forces and besought to pledge themselves. With this race for delegates going on, with Taft headquarters open in the Willard and other rooms in full blast in half a dozen other places, Washington has the aspect of a convention city and a casual visitor could easily get the notion that the meeting of the national Republican committee tomorrow was for the purpose of nominating the party's presidential candidate.

The committee will meet at the Shorham hotel at 11 o'clock and will be in session most of today and Saturday. The only business of importance to be transacted today is the selection of a chairman. When Mr. New was designated as the successor to Secretary Cortelyou, it was understood that he would hold office only until the regular meeting of the committee which begins today. There is little doubt that he will then be chosen to succeed himself, as no other names are mentioned. The election will be only for the unexpired Cortelyou term, which ends immediately after the next national convention. The committee will also make a formal call upon the president today.

The important work of the committee will be deferred until Saturday, when the date and the place of the next national convention will be decided upon.

NEW IS ELECTED. Washington, Dec. 6.—Harry S. New, of Indianapolis, was today elected chairman of the republican national committee. "My preference," said Chairman New, "is for the 2d of June. I believe that we should have an early convention and avoid the hot weather."

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WILL "PUT IT UP TO" THE POOR LEGISLATORS

Columbus, O., Dec. 6.—All efforts in behalf of Marie Bennardo, the Cleveland murderess in the penitentiary, who is approaching maturity, will be transferred from the board of pardons and governor to the legislature.

Cleveland women will ask the legislature to enact a law permitting her temporary transfer to a hospital.

WILL SAIL TOMORROW

Secretary Taft is in Deepest Grief Over His Mother's Approaching Death.

Taft will be in Berlin just long enough tonight to attend a formal dinner at Ambassador Towers' residence. He will leave at midnight for Hamburg, whence he will sail tomorrow. It is expected that he will land in New York December 15. The secretary is in deepest grief over the approaching death of his mother and on that account tonight's dinner will be a much quieter affair than was originally planned.

FEDERAL TROOPS ARE ON THE WAY TO GOLDFIELD

Miners' Leaders Fear They Will be Unable to Hold the Men in Check When They Arrive and Predict Fighting as Soon as They are on the Ground—Governor Sparks Denounced for Calling on the President for Troops.

Goldfield, Nev., Dec. 6.—News has been received that the federal troops started from San Francisco for Goldfield, today. They are expected late this afternoon.

For asking the president to send soldiers, Governor Sparks is being denounced. Leaders of the miners say they had the men well in hand and would not have permitted violence, and express strong doubt whether it will be possible to control rank and file now, that they have been classed as outlaws. Business men fear a practical declaration of martial law is just the thing to precipitate fighting. The mine managers, however, are much pleased. Without the troops, they assert warfare could not have been long averted.

Despite the fact that the soldiers

are coming, the operators are rapidly adding to their forces of "gun men" about the mines.

San Francisco, Dec. 6.—General Funston will probably go himself to the scene of the Goldfield mine troubles. He dispatched 500 men and three machine guns this morning. He has reported to Washington that he thinks the situation serious.

The troops will not arrive in Goldfield before late tonight.

Denver, Dec. 6.—Secretary Haywood of the Western Miners, who has just returned from Goldfield, says the town is peaceful and denounces the sending of troops. He has called a meeting of the federation board to take action.