

GREAT CATASTROPHE THREATENS HOLLAND WHEN DIKES CRUMBLE

Inhabitants of District are Beaten Back Inch by Inch and Ground Crumbles Beneath Their Feet—Efforts of Years Are Lost.

Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jan. 20.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Once or twice a year, a weak it seems as though an awful and immense catastrophe would inevitably overwhelm Holland. The waters of the Zuider Zee, which are not westerly of hurricane force, rose to unprecedented heights, broke through the great dikes that have for decades protected the low lying territory from encroachment by the sea, and flooded the country for miles around, sweeping away farm houses and villages like as many card board boxes and covering the rich pastures with a layer of noxious salt mire. Inch by inch, relays of soldiers and civilians disputed the ground, year by year, and only retired beaten when the soil crumbled and sank beneath their feet into the roaring torrents.

A fortunate circumstance was that the great storm came a week before spring tide. Had they coincided, practically the whole of Holland would have been inundated. It has been a narrow escape; but as it is, the death toll numbers twenty-one; over 50,000 acres of land have been wholly or partially ruined by the sea water thousands of cattle and sheep have perished, and the damage is more than \$3,000,000.

The history of the "water countries" abounds in records of such catastrophes. In 1572, took a toll of 20,000 lives; but not since the last great flood of 1825, when 800 people and 48,000 acres of land were lost, has a disaster of like magnitude overtaken this country.

All along the curved coastline of the shallow sea, which has existed for years and has already often been described and debated. It is now again occupying the attention of the chamber of commerce, which has a project of a dike of prodigious strength, 25 miles long, across the neck of the Zuider Zee, from Ewyskuis in North Holland to a point which has existed for years and has already often been described and debated.

The disaster has served as a powerful argument for the promoters of the scheme to drain the entire Zuider Zee, a project which has existed for years and has already often been described and debated. It is now again occupying the attention of the chamber of commerce, which has a project of a dike of prodigious strength, 25 miles long, across the neck of the Zuider Zee, from Ewyskuis in North Holland to a point which has existed for years and has already often been described and debated.

Opponents of the scheme argue that if the North sea water enters from entering the Zuider Zee, the whole Netherlands coast line north of the projected dike will be endangered. The cost would be approximately \$4,000,000, but 500,000 acres of presumably good soil would be gained, and the necessity for maintaining sea defenses over a length of 200 miles along the curved shores of the Zee would disappear.

When the associated Press correspondent visited part of the inundated land, the aspect of the country seemed to have changed in a few centuries. Maps of that time indicate a chain of large mires, long since drained and converted into smiling fields; but now the water has regained the mastery, and only the gables of farm houses and the tops of countless windmills were visible above the treacherous waves. Dead hayricks, dead carcasses of farm animals and pieces of furniture of all descriptions were floating about. At one point, the national flag depended from a pole, further progress was barred, owing to the sudden discovery by the authorities of a weak spot in a neighboring dike.

Some of the mires, on the edge of the floods now lie level with the sea, and are defended from further encroachment by hastily erected ramparts, so-called "water dikes," which consist of deal planks securely clamped together, forming a breastwork a few feet high. A similar structure is erected a yard further back, and the space between filled up with sand and earth.

Holland spends \$6,000,000 per year on protection of its "never resting enemy" and the necessity for this is indicated by the fact that the "polder"—the drained tracts of land wrested from the sea and converted into arable land or meadows—lie from ten to fifteen feet below sea level. The turf-covered dikes or embankments that are such a familiar feature of the Dutch landscape, are armored on the sea-side with brick masonry when they are in so-called "safe" positions, i. e., running from north to south; but with basalt blocks and concrete facings at the points that are exposed to the full force of the northern and northwestern winds. The last such slope, however, is of plain earth, the consequence being that once a polder is flooded, there is an enormous pressure upon the sea part of the dike.

At ordinary times, Zuider Zee water contains per litre only about 2 grams of salt, compared with an average of 3 1/2 grams in the previous day's sea water. By the violence of the storm, however, much North Sea water was blocked up into the Zuider Zee, and hence found its way into the polders. The saltness of the flood water aggravated the trouble, because it ruins the soil for a long period. Grass land, which forms about two-thirds of the inundated area, generally recovers in about a year, provided heavy rains help to cleanse the surface of salt; but tilled fields may be rendered unproductive for two and three years, and even longer. The whole work of sweetening the soil has to be done over again. Reclamation land and this is valued when in good condition, at \$400 to \$500 per acre. The loss to the farmer in having his land thus spoiled, is great, and this factor also makes it extraordinarily difficult to arrive at anything like an accurate estimate of the damage done.

The membership of the Society of Equity has been reduced somewhat this year through the operations of the Non-Partisan Political League. This statement was made by officials of the society today.

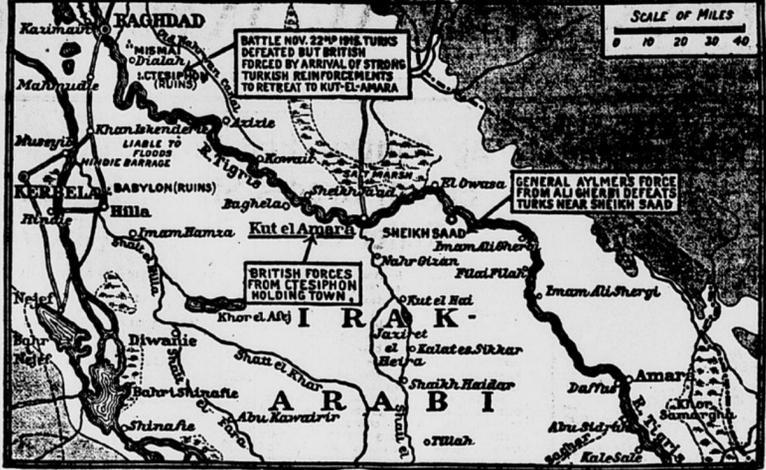
In explanation of the reduced membership, the society felt that thousands of farmers have joined the Non-Partisan League, an organization which stands for substantially the same principles as the society. They feel that contribution to one organization engaged in the fight is sufficient.

The equity president explained yesterday that the difference in the work of the Society of Equity and the Non-Partisan League were quite marked. The league is devoting its attention to political matters, while the society is devoting its attention to concrete problems—such as the establishment of co-operative industries, as testified to by the equity co-operative exchange and the packing plant.

Many of the equity people have joined the Non-Partisan League, but the reduced membership of the Society of Equity is not looked upon in any degree as indicating any retrogression on the part of the society. In fact, the attendance at the convention is quite sufficient to dispel any belief to the contrary—and the delegates are intensely enthusiastic.

Another possible objection by the convention before adjournment is the inclusion in the resolutions of an endorsement of the appointment of Brandeis, to the United States supreme court. An inveterate speaker, he said, the people have a chance to get a man who is for them in Mr. Brandeis, and he believed resolutions should be adopted endorsing the forming the North Dakota senators in congress just what the North Dakota farmers think of the proposition.

TURKS STILL WORRY BRITISH FORCES IN MESOPOTAMIA



Map showing country through which English advanced to gates of Baghdad. Baghdad, and then was badly defeated by the Turks, is now at Kut-el-Amara. A relieving force under General Aylmer is trying to reach the beleaguered British army at Kut-el-Amara and the Turks near Sheikh Saad. The two British armies have not joined, according to latest reports.

Under the other scheme, the whole people would benefit. It is a candidate for the legislature who announced this as his platform," asked Mr. Johnson. "My guess is," Mr. Johnson answered his own question, "that his head would be taken off so slick and clean—politically—because there would not be a blood spatter, because the towns on the railroads would refuse to share the benefit with the farmers."

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AMUSEMENTS

The Yellow Jacket. Frequently is asked "what is the yellow jacket?" the query applying not to the play of that name which will be presented by Mr. and Mrs. Coburn at the Metropolitan on Saturday, February 26, but to the generic source of the play's title.

Speaking generally, the yellow jacket may be described as a distinguished decoration bestowed in recognition of military services only. In this respect it is akin to the Victoria Cross and similar distinguishing badges now being lavishly distributed in Europe by warring potentates. The recipients of the yellow jacket, on the contrary, are few in number. Princes, statesmen and famous generals have been so honored, and only those who fought an abject and a rebels in the conflict known as the war of the three insurgents, Li Hung Chang, the all-powerful viceroy of the late Chinese dynasty caused it to be awarded to General (Chinese) Gordon, who was the only westerner ever so honored.

There will be two performances, the matinee at 2:30 and the evening performance at 8 o'clock instead of the usual time of 8:30.

Does Not Hold. "This does not hold, however, for they actually wanted the American doctors and sanitary experts to stay on for King Ferdinand has a perfect command of the subject of plagues and epidemics. Such an invitation was extended to Doctors Brokaw and Forrest, contract surgeons with the Serbian army; Fitz and Haehr, attached to Lady Paget's mission; Dr. Osborne and Mr. Fox, all of the American Red Cross."

Mr. Schellens pays high tribute to the Bulgarian Red Cross. He told them a kindly, honest people and a fine type physically. They have universally the highest regard for American soldiers and sailors. The clothing taken received from emigrants, all of whom seem to have done well in the states. Bulgarian soldiers are drawn from this class.

Enough Difference. "There is enough difference between the soldiers and their officers," the present war and the causes. The soldiers are short and stocky, their officers are rather tall and of a different type. In fact, the soldiers are the real Bulgarian stock while the officers are largely of foreign inter-mixture. And the difference in character is just as marked.

Shot and Buried. "When the Serbians abandoned Uskup, they left behind them the worst of their civil prisoners of the simplest way. It would not do to leave a jail full of cut-throats and other dangerous criminals behind to be released by the invaders, so the Serbians simply shot them and buried them in the prison yard. When the Bulgarian came they exhumed these bodies, battered them up with spades and then not only took photographs, but moving pictures of the bodies, as Bulgarian victims of Serbian atrocities.

Imprisoned All Prisoners. "One of the first things the Bulgarians did on entering the town was to imprison all of the Serbian prisoners."

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ROOT OUTLINES NEW PLATFORM

Republicans Will Make the Fight for Preparedness and Tariff Reform.

New York, Feb. 17.—The republican national campaign will be fought on demands for adequate military preparedness and tariff reform, opposition to granting early independence to the Philippines, and insistence on a vigorous stand for American rights, both in Mexico and in relation to the European war, according to the "key-note" platform adopted yesterday by the republican state convention.

The outlines of the platform, which was approved unanimously, was presented last night in the speech of Former Senator Elihu Root.

There was no difference of opinion apparent among the 332 delegates to the convention in regard to the platform, but a bitter fight was precipitated by the attempt of the supporters of Gov. Whitman to secure an unqualified endorsement for his administration and to force his nomination as chairman of the delegation to the national convention in Chicago, in which they were unsuccessful.

The net result was that New York state will send an unqualified delegation to the national convention if the action of the convention is upheld by the voters at the primary election in April.

A determined fight, led by Henry L. Stinson, to obtain a resolution recommending Mr. Root as New York's favorite son for the presidency, was defeated in the committee on resolutions, and a counter resolution that no presidential candidate be endorsed was passed unanimously.

The principal ground upon which the opponents of the Root resolution fought was that an endorsement of Mr. Root would preclude the possibility of Mr. Root's putting forward as a presidential candidate Charles E. Hughes as the state's candidate for the presidency. A formal statement issued, said Mr. Root himself was opposed to the use of his name.

The question of endorsement of the Whitman administration ended in a compromise by which two resolutions were presented to the convention, one dealing exclusively with national affairs and the other "commending" Governor Whitman for his conduct of the state administration.

Miss Nikolitch, who was looking after the Serbian orphans of war, was also put in jail. All food was commandeered. Although food was still plentiful and cheap in Bulgaria, the railway communication kept it out of Macedonia. All of the civilians went short of food. Fuel was scarce and sold at an exorbitant price. The weather was terribly cold.

"But in addition to these miseries the Serbian homes were denuded of everything that the conquerors valued, such as household goods. They had little food, clothing or fuel. It was their pitiable condition that caused Mr. Stuart to appeal to the Bulgarian Red Cross for permission to carry on relief in this territory."

Copies of this correspondence, which were carried on in the French language, were turned over to a correspondent of the Associated Press by Mr. Schellens. A translation of Mr. Stuart's first letter, dated Dec. 23, 1915, follows:

"Being charged by the American Red Cross society to organize the distribution of relief to the necessitous in the territories occupied by the Bulgarian troops, I have the honor to appear to you with the kindest request to the general headquarters for its authorization and benevolent help for this humanitarian purpose."

"The general staff of the army in the field, while expressing its keen thanks to the American Red Cross for its very noble proposal to aid the necessitous in the occupied territories, regrets that on account of purely military considerations it cannot authorize the distribution of this relief on the spot. Mr. Stuart can put these sums in the hands of the Bulgarian Red Cross, which will accomplish the desires of the American society."

Mr. Stuart then requested the Bulgarian Red Cross to ask the headquarters if the relief could not be distributed on the spot for military reasons, whether the same objections would hold against the establishment of an American depot at Nish only, the personnel to be entirely American. It would then distribute its supplies through the surrounding country through the medium of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

This proposal, which would enable the Americans to keep check on the supplies given out, resulted in the following note from the general staff, signed by Sanitary Colonel Stewart and the medical chief, Dr. Dopoff:

"The general staff charges me to inform you that at this time, when the administration of the local military authorities is being organized and no even Bulgarian subjects are permitted to travel in freely. It is not convenient to permit the representative of the American Red Cross, the very honorable Mr. Edward Stuart, to distribute personally the relief in question. The general staff believes it would be preferable if the American Red Cross would turn over the distribution either to the local military or administrative authorities or to a committee composed of representatives of the local authorities and the Bulgarian Red Cross, because he believes that for the American Red Cross, animated by humanitarian sentiments, it would be a matter of indifference who would distribute the aid, provided the desired end was attained."

"The American committee volunteering for this work was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Charles Fox, Gerald Laughlin and Mr. Schellens. All except Mr. Schellens are now in Belgrade."

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BUILDING FALLS AND KILLS NINE

Explosion Follows Collapse of Opera House in Texas Town.

Metia, Tex., Feb. 17.—Nine persons were killed here early last night in the collapse of the old opera house building, which was followed by a gas explosion and a fire that for a time threatened the entire business section of the town. Numerous other persons were injured. The property loss was \$75,000.

A search continued late into the night for other bodies which it was feared might be buried in the ruins, although it was believed that all persons in the building had been accounted for.

The death list included the superintendent of city schools, his wife and one of their children. The old opera house, seldom used, had begun to assemble, when without warning the structure gave way, burying them in a mass of debris and heavy timber.

GREAT FLOOD IS CAUSED BY THAW

Hayre, Mont., Feb. 17.—The winter's snow, thawed by a Chinook wind, has brought a flood from the mountains which has filled cellars and covered streets and broken gas mains. The city pumping station is flooded and the usual water supply is cut off. Families on the east side of the city have left their homes and are living in hotels.

OUR YOUNG WOMEN

are so often subject to headache—are languid, pale and nervous—because their blood is thin or insufficient. They are not really sick and hesitate to complain, but they lack that ambition and vivacity which is their birthright. They don't need drugs—but do need the tonic and nourishment in Scott's Emulsion that makes richer blood, fills hollow cheeks, suppresses nervousness and establishes strength. Nourishment alone makes blood and Scott's Emulsion is the essence of concentrated nourishment, free from wines, alcohols or opiates.

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Double 3.00 to 4.00
Single Rooms, with bath, 3.00 to 6.00
Double 4.00 to 7.00
Parlor, Bedroom and bath, \$10.00 to \$14.00

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RENTING ROOMS

Your advertising should not be limited to a window card, for the great majority of prospective roomers and boarders do not pass your way. A window card only limits your field so much that you might as well be living in a city of half the size of this one. The most efficient method is the use of the Want Ads in The Grand Forks Daily Herald, these ads reach practically everybody for miles around, they are read by those wanting rooms and if yours are in the desired locality, and are the kind wanted you can depend upon them being quickly rented through a Want Ad in The Herald.

BEGIN HOT WATER DRINKING IF YOU DON'T FEEL RIGHT

Says glass of hot water with phosphate before breakfast washes out poisons.

if you wake up with a bad taste, bad breath and tongue is coated; if your head is dull or aching; if what you eat sours and forms gas and acids in stomach, or you are bilious, constipated, nervous, sallow and can't get feeling just right, begin inside bathing. Drink before breakfast, a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it. This will flush the poisons and toxins from stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels and cleanse, sweeten and purify the entire alimentary tract. Do your inside bathing immediately upon arising in the morning to wash out of the system all the previous day's poisonous waste, gases and sour bile before putting more food into the stomach.

To feel like young folks feel; like you feel before your blood, nerves and muscles become loaded with body impurities, get from your pharmacist a quarter pound of limestone phosphate which is inexpensive, almost tasteless, except for a sourish twinge which is not unpleasant. Just a soup and hot water act on the acid, cleansing, sweetening and freshening, so hot water and limestone phosphate act on the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels. Men and women who are usually constipated, bloated, and have any stomach disorder should begin this inside bathing before breakfast. They are assured that this limestone phosphate is the best.