

EXPLOSION AND FIRE CLAIM SCORES OF VICTIMS IN MASSACHUSETTS FACTORY

Portion of Plant of R. B. Grover at Brockton Wrecked by Blowing Up of the Boiler.

TWO HUNDRED EMPLOYEES ARE CAUGHT

Ruins Take Fire and Many Who Were Maimed Perish—Entire Establishment and Other Buildings Burn.

Brockton, Mass., March 20.—Within an hour after about 600 employes at the R. B. Grover shoe factory began work today the boiler blew up in the engine room, wrecking a section of the building and starting a fire which destroyed the ruins and spread to other buildings nearby.

ESTIMATE OF LOSS IMPOSSIBLE.
Owing to the nature of the accident, the speed with which the flames seized upon the collapsed section, and the excitement, accurate estimate of the loss of life is impossible. It is understood upwards of 200 persons were at work in the department near the boiler room.

DWELLING HOUSES BURN.
Several dwelling houses and the Dahlberg block, across the street from the factory, were also destroyed. The financial loss is estimated at \$200,000. Most of the employes in the main part of the plant succeeded in escaping, although in a terrible panic. A number were injured.

FIFTY MISSING.
At 10:30 it was learned about fifty were unaccounted for, and it was believed many of this number might be dead or injured. The factory, a large four-story wooden structure, was destroyed.

MAY REACH FIFTY.
Brockton, March 20.—Fire Marshal Boyden stated reports made to him up to noon indicated the list of dead might reach 50.

Calls have been sent out for every person who escaped to indicate the fact at once. In this way it is hoped a fairly accurate estimate of the number of dead may be obtained.

FIND 25 BODIES.
Brockton, March 20.—Twenty-five bodies have been taken from the ruins up to 11:30. Many of them were so horribly mutilated and burned as to make identification almost impossible.

HAVE THIRTY-FIVE BODIES.
Brockton, March 20.—At 2:30 35 bodies had been removed from the ruins. None were identified. The list of injured numbered upwards of 50. An official of the Grover company expressed the opinion possibly 100 persons will be found to have lost their lives.

ACCOUNT FOR 250.
Brockton, March 20.—At 3:15 42 bodies were recovered, and 250 of the 400 employes accounted for.

Mile From City.
Brockton, March 20.—The factory was situated about a mile south of the city proper. A series of alarms summoned all the fire apparatus in the city to the scene. Aid was also sent from nearby places.

The firemen experienced the greatest difficulty in battling with the flames as the factory was of an extremely inflammable nature and nearly all the floors were saturated with oil.

Save Employes.
Their attention was chiefly given to the part of the factory nearest the boiler house, and in the early stages of the fire a number of employes were extricated from the ruins.

The flames, however, soon stopped the rescue work, and the entire plant, with those who failed to escape, has been abandoned.

Crowds Gather.
Meanwhile news of the accident had reached the homes of the operatives, and through the streets already near the burning factory, men and women were struggling wildly towards the center to get news of relatives. Cries which sounded above the roar of the flames were heard as frantic women learned there was little hope for anyone who was caught in the building.

Many Went Home.
After the explosion many of the employes went to their homes. This added to the difficulty of compiling a reliable list of the missing. The Brock-

SAY CONGRESS WILL MEET AGAIN OCT. 1

Des Moines, Iowa, March 20.—Senator Allison is authority for the statement that Roosevelt will call congress in extra session Oct. 1 for the purpose of considering the railroad rate question.

INFANT IS BORN ON SLEEPING CAR OF FAST ALTON TRAIN

Mexico, Mo., March 20.—A child was born this morning on board the sleeping car Brazoria, which was attached to the Alton "Hummer" speeding from Kansas City to Chicago. The mother, Mrs. W. H. Shinabar, of San Francisco is on the way to Toledo, Ohio, to visit her mother Mrs. H. M. Jones. At Chicago the mother and child will be taken to a hospital.

ITALY INVOLVED

Brought Into Venezuelan Controversy Through Seizure of Coal Mines.

FRENCH MAKE A PROTEST

United States Sends Cruiser Colorado South, Presumably For Venezuelan Waters.

Port of Spain, Island of Trinidad, March 20.—News has reached here that the governor of Barcelona, Venezuela, has received from President Castro orders to take possession at once of the coal mines of Guanta Narca, near Barcelona, leased in 1898 for 33 years by the Venezuelan government to an Italian company.

The same day the Venezuelan troops took possession of the mines by armed force, as in the similar case of the New York and Bermudez company, notwithstanding the protest of the Italian manager. This action was taken without a judgment by the court at Caracas.

The Italian legation has been notified, and Baron Allotti, Italian charge d'affaires, is represented as having entered a protest.

Bowen Cables French Protest.
Washington, March 20.—Minister Bowen at Caracas has cabled the state department that the French minister at that place has protested to the Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs against the action of the government, which has given notice to the French Cable company of its intention to annul its concession and seize its property. The nature of the protest is not given. No details accompany Mr. Bowen's dispatch.

Cruiser Sails for Venezuela?
Norfolk, Va., March 20.—The cruiser Colorado sailed from Hampton roads yesterday afternoon, and it is understood the ship is bound for Venezuelan waters. The Colorado has not completed the crew it is supposed to have, despite the fact that men intended for other ships in the Caribbean squadron have been sent aboard. Ten expert torpedo men were sent from the League Island navy yard.

The order for these experts was received in a telegram from Secretary Morton. The men were taken from the torpedo boat Hopkins.

Laundrymen Meet.
Bloomington, Ill., March 20.—The annual convention of the State Laundrymen's association opened in this city today with about 100 delegates present.

Ran For Governor; Dead.
Des Moines, Iowa, March 20.—Col. J. S. Tam, ex-nominee for governor of the democratic ticket, died today aged 60.

KILLED TRYING TO SAVE COMRADES

FOURTEEN MINERS ON WAY TO RESCUE TEN VICTIMS OF EXPLOSION IN WEST VIRGINIA MEET LIKE FATE—SECOND RELIEF PARTY ENTERS

Fire Creek, W. Va., March 20.—A second rescuing party entered the Rush Run and Red Ash mines today to recover the bodies of 24 men believed to have been killed by the explosions of Saturday and Sunday.

Charleston, W. Va., March 20.—Twenty-four dead is the record of the explosions in the Rush Run and Red Ash mines near Thurmond. Ten men were killed in the first explosion Saturday night, which set fire to both shafts. The 14 other victims were members of a relief party who heroically braved almost certain death from the flames and fire damp in an effort to rescue the bodies of their comrades.

Explosion Wrecks Havooc.
The relief party entered the mines early yesterday morning. An hour later a terrific explosion shook the mountain. Fire in great sheets blazed from the mouths of the shafts. The lowering clouds acted as great reflect-

FRANCE WARNS VENEZUELA TO KEEP HANDS OFF

Washington, March 20.—French cable complications have reached a crisis and Minister Bowen has informed the state department that the French minister at Caracas has notified the Venezuelan government there must be no further proceedings on its part toward the cancellation of the company's franchise or interference with its property. Bowen reports two French warships have been ordered post haste to Venezuela to act in accordance with the instructions of the French minister.

MESSENGER SAYS CAR WAS ROBBED

Packages Missing After an Assault Committed on Express Train.

Chattanooga, March 20.—Mal Pruett, the Southern Express company's agent on a Southern train, today was assaulted in his car near Lookout Station by Will Thomas, a former messenger. Thomas claims the assault was the result of a personal difficulty, but Pruett says that robbery was the motive. Pruett stated two packages of money and a package of vouchers are missing.

ALLEGHENY RIVER ON ANNUAL BENDER

Floods Lowlands About Pittsburg and Forces Shops to Close.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 20.—The water stage in the Allegheny river at 9 o'clock this morning was 25 feet and rapidly rising. Preparations for a flood are being made as a stage of 30 or more feet is predicted by nightfall. Already the lowlands are submerged and mills and factories on the river have suspended operations.

FEBRUARY IMPORTS HIGHEST

Total Was \$103,000,000, While the Exports Reached \$109,000,000.
Washington, March 20.—Imports during February were larger than in any previous month in the history of our commerce and the excess of exports over imports was smaller than in any month since June, 1897. The imports of February were \$103,000,000, and the exports \$109,000,000, against practically \$119,000,000 in February, 1904. The large increase in imports is chiefly in manufacturers' materials and articles of food.

MISSISSIPPI CLUBMAN KILLED

Shot by Police Chief as a Result of Raids on Club.

New Orleans, March 20.—As a result of three Sunday raids made by the police of Hattiesburg, Miss., on the Mississippi club, the principal social organization of that city, H. S. Morris, the secretary and treasurer of the club, was shot and killed by Chief of Police E. O. Burkin. Morris threatened Burkin with a revolver, but the chief fired before he could use it.

Indict Jacksonville Mayor.
Jacksonville, March 20.—The Morgan county grand jury, which has been investigating charges against city officials, returned its final report Saturday, indicting Mayor John R. Davis for receiving a bribe of \$2,000 and for malfeasance in office. Indictments were returned also against Police Captain Kennedy, Street Commissioner Harney, Joseph Price, a contractor, and a number of saloon men for operating slot machines.

Son Plays Dead; Father Dies.
Good Hope, Ala., March 20.—During school exercises here last night J. M. Woodall dropped dead when he saw his son, who was impersonating a corpse, borne onto the stage by some of his companions.

Prohibition Leader Dead.
Muscatine, Iowa, March 20.—Frank Bacon, one time nominee for president on the prohibition ticket, is dead at Los Angeles. He was a former resident of Muscatine.

German Minister Dead.
Berlin, March 20.—Baron Von Hammerstein, Prussian minister of the interior, is dead of asthma complicated by heart weakness.

Emperor at Buda Pest.
Buda Pest, March 20.—Emperor Francis Joseph has arrived here in connection with the ministerial crisis.

FORTUNE TELLER IS KILLED AND ROBBED

St. Louis, March 20.—Miss Mary B. Page, a fortune teller, aged 70, was found dead in her home today, having been bound, gagged and strangled to death. Robbery was the probable motive for the crime.

OPPOSING ARMIES IN DESPERATE RACE NORTHWARD ON PARALLEL HIGHWAYS

CEDRIC HAS VERY ROUGH PASSAGE; JABEZ WHITE, PUGILIST, A PASSENGER

New York, March 20.—More than three and a half days behind her best record time for the voyage the big White Star line steamer Cedric came into port today after the most turbulent voyage of her career. The force of the gales was terrific and at times assumed hurricane proportions with tremendous seas. In the most violent period of the storm, March 12, Mrs. Whitney, a steerage passenger gave birth to a child.

PACK CAUCUSES

Galesburg Church People Execute Coup to Defeat Shumway for Mayor.

WIN MAJORITY OF DELEGATES

Charge Present City Executive With Failure to Enforce Laws Governing Vice.

Galesburg, Ill., March 20.—In the primaries of the citizens' party Saturday night it developed that the pastors of the city had formed a political combine to prevent the renomination of Mayor George Shumway, on the ground that he has not enforced the ordinances. The result was a remarkable coup.

The preachers laid their plans so well and secretly that they were able to pack the primaries in four of the seven wards with voters belonging to their churches. These voters were furnished with tickets containing lists of delegates prepared in the study of one of the pastors.

Ministers in Full Control.
Shumway's friends had no knowledge of the movement until the time of the primaries and the anti-Shumwayites were in full control. In the Third ward the church voters, headed by Rev. Joseph Bell and the Rev. J. Y. Aitchison, were 200 strong, and took everything. In the Second ward, under the leadership of the Rev. C. A. Vincent, who acted as teller, and the Rev. Edson Reifsnider, they captured the delegation.

On final returns, the anti-Shumwayites will have 41 delegates in the convention, against 40 for Shumway, with contesting delegations from one ward. The preachers are highly elated over the success of their strategy and the convention tonight promises to be exciting.

Trouble Two Years Old.
The trouble between the preachers and Shumway dates back to the time of his nomination two years ago on the citizens' ticket, on the law enforcement platform. It was discovered the law enforcement platform was against the saloons and gambling rooms, and several pastors hired detectives and secured much evidence.

On the showing made, Shumway again promised he would enforce the ordinances, but in the last year the preachers declare much laxity has developed. They charge gaming rooms have been running with full equipment and that saloons have been allowed to operate slot machines.

The preachers assert Shumway has violated his pledges and has deceived them, and that the town never was more "wide open." They and the good government element say openly that

they will not support Shumway, if he is nominated. Shumway, notwithstanding this opposition, has a large following among business men and working people, owing to his zeal in bringing factories and conventions here.

COURT JUSTIFIED MURDER

Ends Trial of Mrs. Jessie Hopkins at Chicago for Killing Spouse

Chicago, March 20.—The case of Mrs. Jessie Hopkins, on trial for the murder of her husband, was taken out of the hands of the jury today by Judge Kersten, by whom the charge against her was summarily dismissed. Judge Kersten held Mrs. Hopkins was justified.

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BEEF TRUST HEARING IS TAKEN UP

VENIRE FOR FEDERAL GRAND JURY SWORN IN TO MAKE IMPOR-TANT INVESTIGATION—THREE HUNDRED WITNESSES SUMMONED—PROCEEDINGS ARE SECRET.

Chicago, March 20.—The government investigation of the "beef trust" began today. Judge J. Otis Humphrey, of Springfield, administered the oath to the veniremen whose names have been kept a profound secret for three weeks by officials of the United States district attorney's office. The government is represented by Assistant District Attorney C. B. Morrison and Assistant Attorney General Oliver H. Pugin. Attorney John S. Miller represents the packers.

Have Much Information.
Much information bearing on specific instances of alleged violation of the Sherman anti-trust law is said to be in the hands of the federal prosecutor.

Independent packers, headed by Schwarzhild & Sulzberger, have arranged to submit evidence to the government tending to show the manner in which the smaller packers have been forced to follow the dictation of the so-called "Big Five."

Witnesses From Out of City.
Witnesses from out of the city have been assigned dates for their appearance at the grand jury session. Several reported to the district attorney's office today. Of 300 subpoenas issued, Clerk MacMillan reports all except four have been properly served.

Attorney Miller denies any witnesses for the government have been spirited away and are on "vacations" as has been reported.

After selecting 15 jurymen Judge Humphrey adjourned the session until tomorrow.

Japanese 20 Miles West of Russians Aim to Cut Rear.

LINEVITCH HEARD FROM

Confesses He Has No News of Two Divisions of His Army --Force Divided.

St. Petersburg, March 20.—Anxiety regarding the fate of Linevitch's force continues, the main danger to them being the Japanese columns which are hurrying northward along the great trade route 20 miles west of and parallel with the line of retreat. The heads of these columns were officially reported to be passing Fakoman, 30 miles northwest of Tie pass, on Friday.

Hunted the Russians.
Their appearance doubtless hastened the Russian retreat, which may now have become literally a race northward, as once the Russians are headed it would be easy for the Japanese by a short cut to throw themselves across the line of retreat.

Divided Forces.
After leaving Kalyun, Linevitch is believed to have divided his army, the main portion clinging to the railroad and the other falling back along the mandarin road which runs to Kirin.

Linevitch Heard From.
St. Petersburg, March 20.—A dispatch from Linevitch dated the 19th says:

"The commander of the second army reports he has had no further fighting.

"No reports were received from the first or third armies.

"I have inspected the troops which have arrived from Russia. They are in excellent spirits and good health."

Losses Placed at 120,000.
St. Petersburg, March 20.—Complete details of the losses at the battle of Mukden are not yet available at the war office, but reports thus far received indicate 120,000 men were killed, wounded or made prisoners, and about eight field guns captured. Almost every siege gun, it is affirmed, was removed.

Eating Their Horses.
Tokio, March 20, 3 a. m.—The remnants of the Russian army retreating from the direction of Shinking are in a pitiable plight among the mountains. They are without food and are killing and eating their horses. They are completely enveloped by the Japanese. Yajien and Kirin will soon be occupied by the Japanese.

The Russian main retreat is continuing toward Harbin. The activity of the pursuing Japanese gives the Russians no time to rest.

Kuropatkin in Poor Health.
St. Petersburg, March 20.—The story that Kuropatkin remained at the front in command of Linevitch's old first army is untrue. He is proceeding to Irkutsk, where he may stop a short time to recuperate before returning to St. Petersburg. His nerves are said to be badly shattered.

Admit Peace Possible.
St. Petersburg, March 20.—Novoo Vremya, editorially for the first time today admits the possibility of peace.

TRAIN GOES INTO A DITCH

Flyer From New York Topples Over Embankment Near Winfield, Ind.

Hammond, Ind., March 20.—Running 60 miles an hour down a steep grade, the New York and Chicago Limited train on the Erie railroad was ditched yesterday morning near Winfield, Ind., and although no one was killed, 12 persons were injured, three probably fatally. The accident was caused by a part of the engine becoming disconnected and throwing the train from the track.

Japanese War Loan.
Berlin, March 20.—The Frankfurter Zeitung says that negotiations with Berlin banks for a Japanese loan is nearing completion. The loan will be at 5 per cent, but its amount is not stated.

Senator Hawley is Dead.
Washington, March 20.—Gen. Joseph R. Hawley, formerly a senator from Connecticut, is dead. The remains will be taken to Connecticut for burial.

JEWES KILL POLICE CHIEF IN RUSSIA

Borisov, European Russia, March 20.—Three squadrons of dragoons started for Borisov where armed Jews are reported to have killed the chief of police and a number of his assistants.