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FIGHTING AGAINST NATURE.

Southern Pacific Railroad Trying to Change Course of Colorado River.

YUMA, Ariz., August 23.—It is believed by competent engineers that the problem of diverting the flow of the Colorado river into the Salton sea is about to be solved. The Southern Pacific company has more than 1,500 men employed in the construction of a new channel for the river and is building a headgate and dam with the view of changing the course of the stream. It is estimated that the cost of changing the flow of the river will amount to nearly \$1,000,000. The construction of a railroad twelve miles long to afford means for transporting the materials for the dam is one of the big items of expense. This road is nearly finished. The preliminary arrangements for diverting the big volume of water which has been pouring into the Salton desert for the last 18 months or more will soon be completed and the first real test of the plan adopted by the engineers will be made. If the dam and headgate are capable of resisting the tremendous pressure of the river's flow the project will be successful; otherwise, it will be defeated and the permanency of the great Salton sea will probably be assured. There is a fall of 425 feet in the new canal of the river from the point where it leaves the old bed until it reaches the Salton sea. This fact makes the flow especially hard to contend with. No ordinary obstruction can withstand its pressure.

The attempt which is now being made to divert the flow by means of a dam and headgate is the second of the same kind that has been tried since the new channel was formed. The first attempt was unsuccessful because the water found a soft spot in the dam embankment and soon tore through the structure with gigantic force.

It is stated that if this second attempt to control the flow of the river results unsuccessfully no further efforts will be made and that the permanency of the Salton sea will be accepted by the Southern Pacific and its plans for changing its route will be made accordingly. If the water is permitted to continue to flow into the new inland sea the size of the latter will be greatly enlarged as time passes. It still lacks many feet of being up to sea level. The sea will be more than 100 miles long by 70 miles across in places when the big basin is completely filled. Some of the old stations on the Southern Pacific railroad are already more than 100 feet beneath the water. The permanency of the new body of water will necessitate the building of its main line far up in the foothills, where the construction cost will be heavy and the expense of train operation much greater than upon the original line through the former desert.

It is the opinion of scientists that if the flow of the water into Salton sea can be diverted it will not take more than a few months for the water now in the sea to be evaporated. The torrid heat of the sun will soon dispose of the water and the desert will again make its appearance.

Some people are so certain that the sea is there to stay that large boat lines have already been established thereon. These boats ply between many points and are used principally in the forwarding of mining machinery and supplies from the railroad to the distant foothills. Companies have also been organized to establish pleasure resorts upon the shores of the new sea.

Engineers Are Wanted.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The reclamation service has need of several constructing engineers of experience in earth work, tunneling, concrete masonry and similar operations. It has called upon the civil service commission for an examination to be held October 1 to secure eligibles. This, in general form, is similar to the previous examination held on April 1, 1904, from which a large number of engineers have been selected.

The examination does not necessitate the appearance of the candidates at any particular place, but, on the contrary, papers are to be prepared and sent to the commission to be received by them before October 1. The markings will be made on the basis of the paper submitted, special weight being given to experience in one or more of the various lines of construction work. The salary offered at first is from \$180 to \$250 per month and will be determined with reference to the particular work to be done and the ability of the eligibles.

After Squatters In Wyoming.

CHEYENNE, Aug. 23.—Upon request of Sheriff Stough of Fremont county,

Governor Brooks last night ordered out Company B of the state national guard, stationed at Lander, to proceed to the Shoshone reservation to aid the sheriff in preserving order on the new townsite on the reservation. August 14, the day before the reservation was opened, 300 "sooners" gathered on the border of the reservation, and on the morning of the 15th every town lot on the new townsite was occupied by a squatter. Some bad feeling exists among squatters who were off and who may have difficulty in regaining their claims, but no serious trouble is expected.

Will Rebuild Valparaiso.

VALPARAISO, Aug. 23.—The governor of the state of Valparaiso today issued a proclamation saying there will be plenty of food and medicine for all sufferers and that there will soon be sufficient shelter for all those in need. He warned the people that the authorities are fully able to control the situation and that no disorders or lawlessness would be permitted.

Extraordinary measures will be adopted to prevent looting of the ruins. Some business was resumed today. The wire communication to Santiago has been restored, but the lines are being used exclusively by the government. Martial law still prevails. The government has appropriated \$4,000,000 for the relief of the destitute. A company is to be organized with government backing for the rebuilding of the city.

Coldburst Hits Kansas City.

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 23.—A terrific rain storm prevailed in Kansas City and in this vicinity early today, causing more or less serious damage. In Kansas City 5.93 inches of water fell, this being the record for the time, three hours and a half. Low-lying lands were flooded and the police and fire departments were called upon to rescue persons from basements in Little Italy, in the north end of the town, and in the east and west bottoms, where the water entered many small houses.

Several down-town basements were flooded and goods damaged. Trees were stripped of their foliage and hundreds of sparrows were killed. At Elmwood cemetery, three miles east of the business district, serious damage was done. Practically the entire cemetery grounds were flooded, and in the lower grounds a strong current formed. This resulted in the washing out of dozens of graves. At least 200 bodies were exposed.

Uncle Joe Would Not Decline.

NEW YORK, Aug. 23.—A dispatch to a morning paper from Plattsburg, N. Y., says:

Speaker Cannon arrived at the summer home of J. C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, from New York, yesterday. He knew nothing of the resolutions adopted by the Illinois state convention endorsing him for the presidency until he saw the papers, and said he was very grateful to the people of his state for their confidence, but he was in no sense an active candidate for the nomination.

When asked if he would accept it if it was tendered him, he said no man could decline so high an honor at the hands of his party. He will remain at Congressman Sibley's residence until September 1, when he will leave for Maine, where he will speak.

Against Joint Statehood.

TUCSON, Ariz., Aug. 23.—The republican party in Tucson and Pima county, at the primary held today, went on record as opposed to joint statehood. In Tucson the anti-joint ticket received 402 votes, against 263 cast for jointure. In outside precincts the vote was similar.

Great feeling was exhibited between the opposing factions at the polls. There were many challenges and several fist fights. A feature of the voting was that the Mexican electors voted almost solidly in favor of jointure.

Low Rates to Boise.

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 24.—It is announced that the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways, which are not included in the Western passenger association, have determined to more than duplicate the rate granted by that association a few weeks ago for the coming session of the National Irrigation congress, to be held in Boise September 3 to 5.

The Western Passenger association granted a round trip rate of one fare plus 50 cents and the two Hill roads now come forward with a round trip rate of a straight one fare, from any point in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho or Washington.

LAND FRAUDS CONFESSED.

The Oregon Conspiracy Case Proved By Several Witnesses.

PORTLAND, Aug. 24.—In the Blue Mountain forest reserve case today, former Forest Inspector Salmon B. Ormsby testified, on cross examination, in the United States district court, that his own conduct, in making a favorable report to the government on the proposed establishment of the reserve, was influenced by two half sections of school land, deeded to him by Defendant Franklin P. Mays, as well as by his friendship for Mays. Counsel for the defense, however, secured an admission from him that, if he had not himself believed that the proposed reserve would be for the public good, the other considerations would not have been sufficient to cause him to make a favorable report.

A feature of the examination was a statement by Professor Hency that Ormsby was a conspirator in the plot, but that he had not been indicted because the government wanted to use him as a witness.

Ormsby's cross examination was finished early in the afternoon. He was followed by W. M. Laforce, who testified to having held the deeds to the two half sections Ormsby was to have for making a favorable report, pending the establishment of the reserve.

Daniel W. Tarpley, under conviction of land swindling in connection with the notorious "11-7" case, was the next witness. He told of having learned through Captain Ormsby of the proposed reserve, and that he obtained from Ormsby's son, the proposed boundaries.

He said he reported to Horace G. McKinley, also convicted in the "11-7" case, and that McKinley interested a Wisconsin man, named Hyde, in the scheme to the extent of \$4,000. Taking this money, they went to Salem and fled on 16,000 acres of state school lands within the reserve, paying therefor the initial installment of 25 cents an acre to the state. Later, Tarpley said, he and McKinley together filed on 100 acres more in the same manner.

Railroad Magnates at War.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—The Herald today says that representatives of the two great railway systems of the northwest that are at dagger's points about invasions of each other's territory arrived in this city yesterday. They were James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railway, and Sir William C. Van Horne, chairman of the directors of the Canadian Pacific railway. Sir William promptly threw down the gauntlet to Mr. Hill when asked for his opinion of the latter's plan to build a Canadian line from the Pacific ocean to Winnipeg, Man., in retaliation for the Canadian Pacific's encroachment on the Great Northern preserves.

"I don't know what Mr. Hill's plans are," said Sir William. "Mr. Hill may be seriously planning the building of some lines into Canadian Pacific territory, and while I am little more than an individual director in that company now, I do not hesitate to say that two miles of line in the interest of the Canadian Pacific will be built in his territory to every mile he builds in that of the Canadian Pacific."

Sir William expressed a belief that the real motive for Mr. Hill's project to build a Canadian line was the active competition of the Canadian Pacific in through business from Chicago to Spokane.

Uncle Sam May Interfere.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—A special to the World from Washington says: A close watch is being kept by the American government on the developments of the revolutionary movement in Cuba for the purpose of determining whether this government will be forced to intervene in the interests of peace. The question now being considered is whether the United States shall interfere of its own volition, or wait until President Palma asks for assistance.

No definite information has yet been received as to whether the Cuban government can put down the present revolution. If Palma finds the situation beyond his control, it is believed he would not appeal directly to the American government, but the request would come through the American minister at Havana or the Cuban minister in Washington. If the situation there becomes serious this government will interfere.

Great Northern Car Shops.

SUPERIOR, Wis., Aug. 24.—It is reported on seemingly reliable authority that the Great Northern road is

about to establish at Superior a large carbuilding plant that will furnish employment for about 1,000 men. Negotiations for a site have been on for some time and it is reported that the road has secured an option on land belonging to the old Stinson estate southwest of the city. According to the outlined plan it is the intention not only to build cars for the Great Northern, but also for the Northern Pacific and Burlington roads.

Favor New Style Spelling.

OYSTER BAY, Aug. 24.—Uncle Sam is thru with "through" and probably hereafter Uncle Sam will be officially known as "Onkel Sam." President Roosevelt today, announced that the spelling reform recommended by the Carnegie committee will hereafter be accepted in all department correspondence and in all official documents. The printers, stenographers and clerks in the government employ and the cabinet officers will be required to "unlearn English as she is 'writ,'" and to begin over according to the Carnegie rules.

The public printer has been ordered to prepare a list of 100 of the most frequently used words with the new method of spelling and distribute copies to all departments. The president thinks the American language should have an individuality and that the present innovation will result in saving time and trouble for both natives and foreigners who are trying to learn the language. This order means that the pending treaties with foreign countries will be so changed that the English cousins of America will hardly recognize the language of the offspring nation.

Depositors Stormed the Bank.

CHICAGO, Aug. 24.—Sixty policemen were overwhelmed today by a mad rush of men and women who were determined to get the first money paid out of the vaults of the ruined Milwaukee Avenue State bank. Receiver Fetzer had made arrangements to pay 20 per cent to 5,000 of the 22,000 depositors, and everybody was anxious to be among the 5,000. At daybreak the crowds swarmed around the bank, and by 8 o'clock the bank was surrounded by 15,000 people. Sixty policemen had been sent to the bank, but they were unable to handle the crowd. The greater number was able to speak the English language.

Forty more officers were finally sent to the bank and order was even then restored with difficulty. It seemed impossible to make the depositors comprehend that, although only 5,000 were to be paid today, the others would be paid just as much within a few days. At one time the crowd threatened to fairly storm the bank, as, waving their pass books in the air, they rushed for the door, shouting in Bohemian, Polish, Norwegian and Italian. The receiver was all day paying the 5,000, and will pay as many more tomorrow.

Rich Men Were Swindled.

SEATTLE, Aug. 24.—A confidence game of incredulous proportions has been worked in this city since last December, although it has only recently been unearthed. Moneyed men of the northwest have been taken down the line for sums aggregating \$150,000, and Montana, Oregon and California men are among the victims.

The plan has been to hold fake fights and wrestling matches at obscure points about Lake Washington. The victims believed that they were jobbing sporty capitalists who liked to watch a private bout. Apparently by mere accident, the fighter who was supposed to win, would slip and fall knocking himself unconscious and the jobbers would be jobbed.

The game is an old one and as successful as the gold brick scheme, and far more popular among the confidence men of today. Other fake propositions were pulled off by wrestling matches where the man who was slated to win would break a bone or be knocked unconscious. Butte and Anaconda men are mentioned among the victims. Charles Cunningham of Pendleton, Oregon, is said to have lost \$12,000 on the deal.

BOZEMAN, Aug. 24.—The heavy rain storms of the past week have seriously damaged the spring-sown crops and timothy hay. Hardly any of the spring grain had been cut previous to the storm, and the wind and rains have flattened out the heavy oats and barley crops so that many of the fields have the appearance of having a heavy roller run over them. Should the weather change and turn warm, the loss to farmers will be about 75 per cent. Owing to the grain being flattened out, it will be difficult to harvest it.

THE CUBAN INSURRECTION.

President Palma Offers Amnesty To Insurgents Who Quit.

HAVANA, Aug. 26.—The anxiety of President Palma to extend every possible opportunity for peace without bloodshed and his desire to permit those who joined the insurrection under misguidance to report and return to their homes unmolested, combined with the general wish to end the situation fraught with so much loss and suffering, has led to consideration by the president and his cabinet of a project decreeing a 30-day amnesty period, during which the insurgents are invited to lay down their arms and return to their peaceful pursuits. It was proposed to issue the decree tomorrow, but persons close to the president strongly opposed the measure, and the matter was deferred and may be relinquished.

So far as actual conflict went, Sunday proved to be a day of inactivity, but preparations proceeded without abatement. A fund of \$2,000,000 has been set aside by the treasury for defense and drafts on it are heavy and constant.

The situation is so increasingly serious that it is tacitly admitted in all government circles that the enlargement of the army will not stop at any given number, but will continue indefinitely.

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Arms and ammunition for the Cuban government were shipped from here today in haste on board the Ward line steamship Mexico. The steamer had stowed away in her hold 15,000 Remington repeating rifles, 800,000 rounds of ammunition and six Gatling rapid-fire guns for the use of President Palma's forces. The shipment, it was said, would have been larger, but the vessel could carry no more. The steamer Kansas, which will sail next Thursday, will carry 3,000,000 rounds of ammunition and 5,000 Remingtons for the Cuban government.

Gompers Plans Political Boycott.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—"He who is not for us is against us" is the motto which President Gompers has adopted as the slogan in the fight which his organization purposes to make in the approaching campaign to encompass the defeat of those congressional candidates who are considered unfriendly to union labor.

The test adopted to decide who is for organized labor is the unequivocal indorsement of the bill of grievances which was addressed by the American Federation of Labor to the people, the president pro tem. of the senate and Speaker Cannon. A circular letter, containing this bill and certain questions, has been addressed to each candidate as nominated. The candidates who have qualified their answers and have not announced full acceptance of the declarations in the bill of grievances are to be denied an indorsement by the federation. They will be labeled "evasive," "doubtful," or "ignorant," notwithstanding their assertions of friendship for organized labor. Those who oppose any of the policies will be known as "hostile."

Object To Negro Troops.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Army officers are at their wits' end to decide what is to be done with the negro troops of the United States. The Brownsville, Tex., episode has brought the matter to a crisis and although the troops which offended the citizens of Texas are to be transferred to Fort Reno, Okla., the authorities of the department by no means feel sure that this will end the difficulty.

When it was suggested today that they might be transferred to the northwest, to such isolated posts as Fort Assiniboine, it was said that, not only was that post one for cavalry purposes, but there was no question that the people of Montana, learning that this particular body of men had been objectionable to Texas, would put up just as strong a protest against their presence in Montana.

According to the statements made at the war department it seems probable that congress, at its next session, will be asked to repeal that section of the law which calls for the enlistment of negro troops.

A second suggestion for the disposal of the negro troops was that they be sent to the Philippines. In answer to this the same authority said that the Filipinos objected to them fully as much as did the whites in this country, and as a result they were only stationed in the Moro country, Mindanao. It is said that this is the only portion of the islands where they can be used, and that they can be used there only because the Moros are in a constant state of insurrection, and,

therefore, have no voice in the selection of the soldiers who are to maintain order.

For Life Insurance Reform.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 25.—Millions will be held in reserve for the policy holders of life insurance companies and the cost of insurance will be materially lowered if a bill approved by the insurance commissioners meets with the approval of the various legislators next winter.

The bill, which requires an annual apportionment and accounting of the surplus of life insurance companies, it is maintained by many of the commissioners, strikes at the root of all the evil of the life insurance companies, by holding their officers accountable for the enormous surplus of the dividend contracts under which nearly all the life insurance companies operate.

Over a Million Insurance.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 26.—The insurance loss on the Palace hotel building has been adjusted at \$1,302,610.22. This is more than the insurance companies will have to pay, for the total insurance on the building was only \$1,265,000. It being a total loss, therefore, a liability of a trifle over a million and a quarter will be distributed among 98 companies.

KILLED BY WOMAN ANARCHIST.

Russian General Added to List of Victims of Revolutionists.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 26.—Saturday's unsuccessful attempt on the life of Premier Stolypin, with its useless slaughter of 28 persons, was followed by another revolutionary outrage, in which General Min, commander of the Simonovsky guards, was killed on the station platform at Peterhof by a young woman, who fired five shots into his body from an automatic revolver and then, without resistance, submitted to arrest.

The capture of the girl was effected by General Min's wife, who held her until the arrival of an officer.

This was the third successive attempt on the life of General Min, who was condemned to death by the terrorists immediately after the Moscow revolt, last December, on account of stern repression practiced by a battalion under his command, and especially for the wholesale execution of persons condemned by drum-head court-martial for being caught with arms in their hands.

General Min was returning from his summer residence at Peterhof and had just greeted his wife and daughter on the platform when a young woman—almost a girl—approached from behind and fired two shots into his back and then three more into his body as it sank to the ground. Further shots were prevented by Madame Min, who threw herself upon the murderers and seized the hand which held the pistol.

The woman did not attempt to escape, but she cautioned Madame Min not to touch a handbag which she had placed on the platform before shooting General Min, adding that it contained a bomb. To the police she admitted that she had done the deed, saying that she had executed the sentence of the fighting organization, but she refused to give her name.

Big Land Steal Suspected.

SANTA FE, N. M., August 25.—Gigantic thefts of immensely valuable coal lands in New Mexico are said to lie on the eve of exposure and as a result a number of prominent territorial officials and prominent citizens are on the anxious seat. A secret investigation by experts has been going on for some time, and enough crookedness, it is alleged, has already been uncovered to warrant the immediate cancellation of scores of entries which were obtained through collusion of entrymen.

The ramifications of the various deals extends over several years, and coal land worth well into the millions has simply been stolen from the territory.

Agents for the United States land office at this place have been quietly at work for some time inquiring into alleged fraudulent entries in the rich Hagan district in Bernalillo and Terrence counties, and as a result of their work a notice has been served on Dr. J. H. Sloan, territorial insurance commissioner, to appear and show cause why extensive coal land entries on file in the land office in which he is interested should not be cancelled and legal action taken against himself and associates. The coal entries in question have been filed on at a cost to Dr. Sloan, it is stated, of \$32,000. The land in question, it is claimed, at the lowest, is worth at least \$500,000.