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FAVORS A DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINING

Bill for Establishment of Bureau of Mines and Mining Will Soon be Brought Up in Congress.

Washington.—The proposed establishment in the department of the interior of a bureau of mines and mining, was unanimously, but unofficially, concurred in by the house committee on mines and mining, and it is understood that within a week or two the sub-committee to which has been referred several bills to establish such a bureau will draft a bill to accomplish that purpose and report it favorably to the general committee.

The full committee was addressed on the subject by former United States Senator William M. Stewart of Nevada, who favored the creation of such a bureau in the interior department rather than in the department of commerce and labor, because of the natural and necessary connection it would have with the geological survey.

WILL ABANDON MINE.
As Soon as Bodies Are Recovered, Coal Mine at Hanna Will be Sealed Up.

Hanna, Wyo.—The bodies of only five of the fifty-nine miners and mine officials killed in the ill-fated mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific Coal company have been recovered. Other bodies will probably not be reached for several days.

The widows and orphans are being cared for and there is no destitution. The entrances of the mine where the dead miners are entombed have been sealed, and until the fire is smothered or some method is devised for lifting the lethal gases which fill the workings, and it becomes possible to go down the slope and fight the flames at close quarters, no effort to enter the mine will be made, for certain death undoubtedly would await those who dared venture. Meanwhile, great forces of men are laboring at both stope entrances, removing wreckage. So titanic were the blasts of burning gas that the lining of the stopes was stripped and hurled forth to fall in fragments over a wide expanse of prairie. Timbers as large as telegraph poles were thrown 1,000 feet from the pit.

Many suits for damages will be brought at once against the coal company by relatives of the victims, and it is estimated that this double disaster will cost the operators not less than \$500,000. The holocaust of 1903 cost the company more than \$1,000,000. It is announced now that this mine will be abandoned and sealed as soon as the bodies are recovered. There is talk of petitioning the governor to appoint a commission of experts to probe this disaster, and if the rumors about as to the unsafe condition of the colliery are verified, then efforts will be made to close it through process of law.

Long Forgotten Volcano Has Become Active.

San Francisco.—The steamer Panama brought news of a volcano in Guatemala, so long extinct that its name has been forgotten, having recently broken out. Its long sleep was terminated three weeks ago with such terrifying mutterings and spouting of lava and smoke, that the people living at San Felipe, at the base of the mountain, are fleeing for their lives.

Opposite the new volcano is Santa Maria, a volcano which during the last two hundred years has wiped out town after town. The inhabitants of the district fear a repetition of the Santa Maria catastrophe and are therefore deserting the mountain side. Already the country for miles is covered some inches deep with dust and ashes from the active mountain.

Second Desert Entries.

Washington.—Instructions have been issued to registers and receivers of land offices relative to the recently enacted law providing for making second desert land entries. The law permits any person who has lost, forfeited or abandoned a prior desert land entry to make a second entry as though the former entry had not been made. Instructions to local land officers provide that affidavits prescribed for use in making applications for second homestead entries may be used with necessary changes in support of applications for second desert entries.

Missourians Meet Bryan.

Kansas City.—Democrats from all parts of Missouri to the number of 2,000 attended a banquet in Convention hall in this city Monday night under the auspices of the Young Men's Democratic club of Missouri, at which William J. Bryan and Judson Harmon were the guests of honor and principal speakers and the recipients of repeated ovations from the 15,000 persons who thronged the great hall. The meeting was essentially a Bryan affair.

UNITED STATES BACKS UP CHINA

American Consul Refuses to Recognize Jurisdiction of Russia or Japan in Manchuria.

Attitude of Consul Fisher Prompts Russia to Seek an Explanation at the Embassy in St. Petersburg and Also From Washington.

St. Petersburg.—The Russian government is disturbed by the attitude assumed by Fred D. Fisher, the American consul at Harbin, in the matter of recognizing the jurisdiction of Russia in Manchuria. Mr. Fisher insists that Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria is supreme and furthermore he has supported the protests of China against the establishment by Russia of municipalities in the railroad zone at Harbin and Chialar independent of the Chinese government, and his attitude in this Russo-Chinese difficulty has prompted Russia to seek an explanation of his course both at the American embassy here and in Washington.

Washington.—It is admitted at the state department that the status of the American consul has been made the subject of representations to Washington by the Russian government, but while negotiations are pending the officials are loath to discuss it. The important fact is developed, however, that the American consul, Mr. Fisher, is not acting on his own initiative in declining to seek the permission of Russia to exercise his consular functions. On the contrary, it is understood that he is simply executing a carefully considered plan of the state department to bring through proper means a recognition not only by Russia, but by other nations interested in Manchuria, of the integrity of the Chinese possessions.

It was long ago perceived that to admit the right of political control of either Russia or Japan over the so-called "railroad zone" in Manchuria, including as it does the principal commercial depots, and capable as it is of indefinite expansion of boundaries at the whim of lease holders, would soon completely defeat John Hay's dream of "the open door" in Manchuria.

SENATOR IN STREET FIGHT.

Jeff Davis of Arkansas Has Row With Prosecuting Attorney.

Little Rock, Ark.—United States Senator Jefferson Davis and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Thomas Helm had a street altercation on Tuesday. Later Senator Davis was arrested, charged with carrying a revolver and with murderous assault. Helm says he accosted Davis, who, he asserted, had slandered him during the recent campaign. Helm says he struck Davis twice in the face and subsequently chased him into his office. Senator Davis made the following statement: "Helm attacked me from the rear as I was going to my office, using a loaded bat, which was attached to his wrist by thongs of leather. This is an attack such as I have warned the people of Arkansas would be made by political rings of Little Rock to further their desires. Helm simply acted under instructions of his superior."

COAL MINERS DROP PICKS.

Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Men in Bituminous Fields Are Idle.

Indianapolis.—Two hundred and fifty thousand picks dropped from the hands of as many bituminous coal miners of the United States Tuesday evening, not to be used again until a wage settlement has been reached and a scale adopted between the members of the United Mine Workers of America and the coal operators of the various fields.

The situation, however, does not indicate a prolonged strike. An open winter and industrial depression have left a large stock of coal on hand, and the differences between miners and operators are very slight.

Brownsville Affair Again.

Washington.—The five Democratic members of the senate committee on military affairs on Tuesday succeeded in defeating both the Warner and Foraker bills for restoration to duty of negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth infantry who were discharged without honor because of the affair at Brownsville, Texas. The success of the minority was accomplished by voting as a unit against the divided majority. The effect will be to cause both bills to be reported adversely. A majority vote of the senate would enact one of the bills, however, and Senator Warner is hopeful that his measure will yet become a law.

SIXTY MINERS MEET DEATH IN WYOMING COAL MINE

Gas Explosion in Same Mine in Which, in 1903, One Hundred and Sixty-nine Lives Were Snuffed Out.

Hanna, Wyo.—This camp was visited by another catastrophe Saturday afternoon, and the lives of probably sixty men were snuffed out by an explosion of gas in mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific Coal company. A fire had been raging below the tenth level for a week, and the force of 200 miners had been laid off for the day, fearing an accident might occur. Superintendent Briggs and Foreman Burton, with a crew of eighteen men, all experienced miners, with gas men and fire fighters, went down into the workings early in the morning to fight the conflagration, which was rapidly eating its way through the workings.

At 3 o'clock the men above the workings, the idle miners in their homes and about town, were startled by an awful roar, followed by a heavy boom and the shaking of the earth and trembling of the buildings. All knew what had happened, and there was a rush to the mine. Both entries had caved in and mine timbers had been blown great distances about the outside workings. Relief parties went to work to secure the bodies, for they knew there was little hope of any of the men being alive. While the relief party was at work, a second explosion occurred.

The second explosion occurred at 10:30 o'clock at night, snuffing out the lives of the members of a rescue party, including State Mine Inspector D. M. Siles. The names of the men killed in the first explosion were ascertained from the company's books, but those of the rescuers were not known, as no record was kept of those who volunteered for this dangerous work.

That none hesitated in responding to the call for volunteers in the rescue of their fellow workmen after the first explosion, is shown in the fact that not a working official of the three mines of the Union Pacific Coal company in this camp is left. All were in the mine seeking to aid their stricken friends when the second explosion transformed mine No. 1 into a shambles.

A further evidence that the leaders of the men of the camp were there is shown in the fact that every official member of the local lodge of United Mine Workers of America is missing, supposedly dead in the mine.

The disaster brings the number of victims of explosions in mine No. 1 during the twenty years of its operation to the neighborhood of 300. The greatest previous loss of life occurred on June 30, 1903, when 169 men fell victims to deadly gas.

ANARCHISTS ATTACK OFFICERS.

Bomb Explodes in Hands of Would-be Assassin and He is Mortally Wounded.

New York.—As the result of the explosion of a bomb in the hands of an anarchist, two men were fatally injured and four others were slightly hurt.

The bomb was intended for the police, who, with rough firmness, had broken up a meeting of 10,000 unemployed. It exploded prematurely in the hands of the assassin, horribly wounding him, killing his companion, injuring slightly four policemen, and throwing to the ground a score of those who were massed in the vicinity.

Little is known of the bomb-thrower beyond what he has told himself. Rendered unconscious at first, he later regained his senses at a hospital, and under prolonged questioning declared that he had been commissioned to kill the police. They had beat him, he said. At first he had insisted that he acted alone, and later when he said that his act was inspired, he refused to reveal the identity of his companions.

Issue of Bonds by Union Pacific Will Benefit Employees.

Omaha, Neb.—With the issue of \$50,000,000 new bonds by the Union Pacific railroad comes the announcement that the road will soon re-employ most of the men recently discharged in the mechanical department of that road. No official announcement has before been made of this fact, but a minor official, who issues the orders of his superiors, on Saturday stated that all shops on the line would quickly put back most of the men recently laid off.

Plans for Fleet to Visit New Zealand.

Washington.—It has practically been decided by the navy department that the Atlantic battleship fleet shall make a short visit to Auckland, New Zealand, on its way from Samoa to Sydney, Australia. There is an ample supply of good coal at the New Zealand port, and a stop there would afford an excellent opportunity to fill the bunkers of the ships for the long trip to the Philippines and Japan, and also to show the appreciation of the United States government for the prompt and cordial invitation received from the New Zealand authorities.

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