

# IN MINE EXPLOSION

## Fifteen Known to Be Dead and Many Others Injured

### EXPLOSION IN WEST VIRGINIA

Disaster Caused by Gas in Shaft at Century Enrolls 15 Unknown Dead. From 25 to 85 Missing and Believed to Be Dead, and 25 Injured—Only Main Heading as Yet Explored by Rescuers.

Fairmont, W. Va., Special.—Fifteen men are known to be dead, 25 injured and from 25 to 85 missing and believed to be dead, as the result of an explosion of gas in the shaft of the Century Coal Company at Century, a small mining town situated 50 miles south of Fairmont, on the Belknap and Buckhannon branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. The explosion took place at 4:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon, and owing to the telephone wires being put out of commission by the high winds of the day details are lacking and the names of the victims, six of whom are known to be foreigners, had not been secured at a late hour. Had the explosion been an hour earlier, the loss of life would have been appalling. As it was, there were but few of the 250 men remaining in the shaft, the main body of the miners having quit work for the day. The giant fan which furnished air for the shaft was partially wrecked by the force of the explosion, but was repaired immediately, and within an hour after the accident Superintendent James Ward had a relief gang in the mine. The first trip out brought 10 men—five dead and five badly burned. They were found in the main heading, near the bottom of the shaft. The living could give no details of the explosion saying that they were on their way to the surface when the explosion took place behind them. A second expedition immediately went down and explored the main heading. Four more bodies were found and 20 injured men were making their way towards the bottom of the shaft and were brought to the surface by the rescuers.

Fourteen sub-headings, at midnight were yet unexplored, and Supt. Ward, who was still in the mine, sent word out that owing to the prevalence of gas he was undecided at that time whether or not to push the work into the sub-headings for an hour or so. The mine, however, was being readily freed from the fumes of the explosion by the fan, and the work of rescue will be pushed on throughout the night. Relief trains bearing physicians were hurried from Phillips and Buckhannon and the doctors immediately took care of the wounded in the office building, which was transformed into a temporary hospital.

### After Chattanooga Lynchers.

Washington, Special.—The Department of Justice will take official notice of the lynching in Chattanooga, Tenn., of the negro Johnson, in whose case the Supreme Court of the United States last Monday granted the right of appeal which acted as a stay of his execution. Steps have been taken by the Department looking to an investigation of the matter. The United States district attorney for that section will be instructed to make a thorough investigation of the lynching and if the facts obtained seem to warrant it, proceedings under the Federal statutes will be begun against the participants.

### Virginia Gets \$61,366 on Spanish War Claim.

Washington, Special.—The Comptroller of the Treasury has rendered a decision in the matter of the claim of the State of Virginia for reimbursement of funds disbursed by the State in aiding the government to raise a volunteer army in the war with Spain. The Comptroller allows a total payment to the State of \$61,366.

### Venerable University Professor Dead.

Romecke, Va., Special.—A Times special from the University of Virginia says: Colonel William Ewell Peters died here of pneumonia. He was for 37 years professor of Latin at the University of Virginia and was one of the most distinguished and beloved educators of the South. He served as colonel under General Jubal Early in the Confederate army from '61 to '65 and was regarded as one of the most chivalrous Southern leaders. He is survived by a widow and three sons. Interment will be at Marion, Va., Saturday.

### Telegraphic Briefs.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York has sued former President Richard A. McCurdy to recover \$2,370,311.66 and a subpoena was served on him prior to his departure for Europe.

Edward Pullman, a watchman at Sohus, was killed by bank burglars when he surprised drilling a hole in the safe.

### Virginia's Commissioners.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—The Jamestown Exposition Company was notified of the appointment by Governor Swanson of the following commissioners from the State of Virginia to the exposition: Col. A. M. Bowman, Salem; Col. C. Fenton Day, Smithfield; Captain W. W. Baker, Chesapeake; Colonel W. W. Sale, Norfolk; Robert W. Withers, Suffolk; N. B. Early, Jr., Madison. Governor Swanson is chairman ex-officio of the board.

# 7 LIVES CRUSHED OUT

## Representatives of Three Generations in the Neidig Family Killed by an Express Train.

Sambury, Pa., Special.—Seven persons, representing three generations of one family, were killed on the Philadelphia and Reading railroad at Hass crossing, one mile south of this place. The dead: G. H. Neidig, aged 63 years, Clarence Neidig, aged 36, sons of the first named. Mrs. Clarence Neidig, aged 30, and her three children, Mary, aged four years; Blanche, aged six, and Gilbert, aged two.

All of the victims were instantly killed with the exception of Blanche, who died later at a hospital. There were to have been a family reunion at the home of G. W. Neidig at Augustaville, a small village near here, and the latter had driven to the home of his sons to convey the party to Augustaville.

At Hass crossing the Pennsylvania railroad and the Philadelphia and Reading railroad run parallel a short distance apart. A curve renders one road invisible from the other and to this fact the accident was due. The wagon, containing the seven persons, had crossed the Pennsylvania railroad tracks and had just reached the Reading tracks when an express train, northbound from Shamokin, dashed into the vehicle. The occupants of the wagon were thrown or dragged many feet by the locomotive and their bodies were terribly mangled.

Millions of Tons Ready for Strike. New York, Special.—Announcement was made by the anthracite mine operators that they have on hand within a radius of less than 100 miles of New York city a supply of more than 9,000,000 tons good, marketable grades of anthracite coal. This is in addition to the supplies held by the dealers and larger consumers. In accumulating this vast store of coal an army of men have been steadily employed for months. Storage facilities have been increased very largely, in some cases by the leasing of farms along the route of railroads. Many of these spots are isolated but they are within easy transportation distance from New York.

Georgia Peach Crop Hard Hit. Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Reports received from many of the peach growing sections of the State indicate an average loss of 50 per cent. from the cold of Monday and Tuesday nights. Commissioner of Agriculture Hudson stated that he believed the damage will reach 40 per cent of the lowest estimate, but a week or ten days will be required to determine with any accuracy the injury that has been done. Fifty per cent. damage to the crop would mean a probable loss of two million dollars to Georgia growers.

Fire at Fayetteville, N. C. Fayetteville, N. C., Special.—Fire at midnight, Sunday night, starting in the rear of the Thornton dry goods store, destroyed half of the north-west block on Hay street, west and north-west Market square and the whole of the Highsmith block to the Highsmith hospital. The loss will reach \$250,000.

Boy Drowned at Fredricksburg. Fredricksburg, Special.—Ernest Tooms, aged four years, son of Chester Tooms, while playing with other boys on the banks of the Rappahannock river fell into the water and was drowned. The body was recovered.

Fanatics of Samar Fight with Troops. Manila, By Cable.—A telegram received by the government from the island of Samar says that an engagement has occurred between the constabulary and a force of fanatical Pulajanes. Gov. Geo. B. Curry is reported to be missing. Details of the affair are lacking.

Col. O. H. Dockery Dead. Baltimore, Special.—Col. Oliver H. Dockery, ex-Congressman, former consul general to Brazil, and one of the most prominent Republicans in the South, died here late Wednesday afternoon. Col. Dockery was brought to Johns Hopkins Hospital a few days ago, by his son, Marshal Dockery, of Raleigh, and son-in-law, Mr. Frank O. Landis, of Charlotte, for an operation which, it was hoped, would relieve him of a complication of diseases from which he had been a great sufferer for two years.

Boy Killed By Boiler Explosion at Anderson, S. C. Augusta, Ga., Special.—A special received from Anderson, S. C., says that Thursday afternoon about 5 o'clock an engine on the saw mill of L. A. Bolt, about five miles from here, exploded, killing Mr. Bolt's 12-year old son, Roy, and fatally injuring a negro. The lad's body was hurled a hundred feet and horribly mangled.

Snow Slide Kills Six Men. Granite, Col., Special.—An enormous snow slide came down in the Winfield and Clear Creek mining district, killing it is reported, at least half a dozen men. Among the dead is Harry Weinborn, the pioneer prospector and mining man of Chaffee county. A relief party was organized here by James Ball and has gone to the scene of the disaster. The news of the slide was brought to town by a courier.

# HIGH COURT ANGRY

## Serious Trouble is in Store For Tennessee Lynchers

### MAY BE SEVERELY PUNISHED

Supreme Court Justices and the Department of Justice Considering the Chattanooga Lynching.

Washington, Special.—Some of the members of the Supreme Court of the United States are considering the advisability of an attempt to secure the punishment of the members of the mob which Monday night took from the jail in Chattanooga, Tenn., John Johnson, the negro rapist, whose legal execution was stayed by an order issued by the Supreme Court. The Department of Justice also is considering action in the matter.

The Supreme Court is not now in session and will not be for a fortnight yet, but it is possible that a conference may be called at an early date to consider what course should be pursued. So far there has been no effort on the part of its members to teach a common understanding, but two roads of proceeding have been suggested: one contemplating the taking of the matter in hand by the supreme court and the other of turning the matter over to the Executive branch of the government.

In the first event the officers responsible for the custody of the prisoner would probably be called upon to answer to the court and in case the matter were turned over to the Executive branch there would be an effort to secure the arrest and punishment of members of the mob.

Chattanooga Saloons Closed. Chattanooga, Special.—The negroes employed in several large factories quit work presumably on account of the lynching of Ed Johnson by a mob Monday night. Johnson was a prisoner under Federal control, notification to that effect having been given and the members of the mob are amenable to indictment by a United States grand jury and a trial in a Federal court. Action by the Federal authorities is looked for. The police commission, fearing a race riot, Monday ordered all saloons in the city to close at once and remain closed until further orders.

Denounces Lynching as "Downright Murder." Knoxville, Special.—Hon. John R. Penland, United States Attorney for the eastern district of Tennessee, denounced the lynching of Ed Johnson as "downright murder." He condemned the sheriff severely and stated that he was now investigating the legal aspect of the case. If he becomes convinced that Johnson was a Federal prisoner he stated that he would call on Attorney General Moody for instructions and would prosecute the offenders to the fullest extent of the law.

\$140,000,000 for Pensions. Washington, Special.—In less than 20 minutes time the Senate Tuesday voted away \$140,000,000 of the public funds. The sum is carried by the pension appropriation bill which, being a brief document, was made the subject of very little discussion.

English Spinners Leave for America. Manchester, Eng., By Cable.—A delegation of Manchester cotton experts sailed from Liverpool Tuesday for Boston on the steamer Saxonia to join American spinners in investigating the process of baling, marketing and transporting of raw cotton, which, it is claimed, is conducted in an unsatisfactory manner.

Mrs. Roosevelt Going to Cuba. Washington, Special.—Mrs. Roosevelt accompanied by her sons, Archie and Quentin, and her daughter, Miss Ethel, and possibly by her son, Kermit, who is at school at Groton, Mass., will leave Washington the latter part of the week for Florida. At some convenient port there, possibly Fernandina, they will go aboard the naval yacht Mayflower and make a cruise to the West Indies. They will visit Cuba and Porto Rico, stopping at both Havana and San Juan. It is expected that the party will be absent ten days or two weeks.

Nineteen Perish in a Storm. Mexico City, Special.—Nineteen persons perished in a terrific norther which swept the coast of Vera Cruz. Two of the storm victims were pleasure-seekers from this city, B. Strittmatter, nephew of J. C. Strittmatter, president of the American Club, and Francisco Bena, a member of a prominent family here. The other 17 were fishermen. It is believed that there has been further loss of life.

News Notes. Miss Helen Miller Gould and Mr. Charles Steele, the latter of J. P. Morgan & Co., gave \$50,000, respectively, to the University of Virginia.

Samuel Streets, the oldest man in West Virginia, died near Arden, aged 113 years.

The unexplained presence of a yacht at Norfolk gave rise to a rumor that John D. Rockefeller was on board. Petersburg has appropriated \$1,600 to fight the smallpox in that city.

# DOINGS IN CONGRESS

## What is Being Done Day by Day By the National House and Senate.

### Statehood Bill Revived.

The statehood bill was taken from the speaker's table in the House and placed in the hands of conferees and a request made of the Senate for a conference on the disagreeing was not accomplished without many words and votes. It was developed at once however, that there were votes enough to carry out the programme of the leaders. Then followed 40 minutes of fiery speeches, some of which provoked the amusement of the large attendance of members and the crowded galleries. Then came the final vote on the adoption of the rule, which 175 members approved and 156 opposed. Messrs. Hamilton of Michigan; Brick, of Indiana, and Moon, of Tennessee, were appointed conferees on the part of the House.

The features of the debate were remarks by J. Adam Bede, of Minnesota, during which he told of his approval of the President, particularly because he had given his daughter in marriage to a member of the House of Representatives and not to a degenerate prince or to a representative of "that house of detestation at the other end of the capitol."

Mr. Dabzell, of Pennsylvania, championed the special rule, and Mr. Williams, the minority leader, suggested that Republicans would need the special prayer of the chaplain after they had made their record on statehood. Several other short speeches followed.

Would Ruin New England. The railroad rate bill occupied practically all of the time of the Senate. There were two speeches, one by Mr. Lodge and the other by Mr. Spooner. Mr. Lodge spoke in advocacy of his amendment looking to the enlargement of the inter-state commerce commission and in doing so replied sharply to some recent utterances by Commissioner Prouty. Referring to an interview by the commissioner, Mr. Lodge spoke first of an utterance of Eugene Debs, and then said that he was not capable of doing so much harm as Mr. Prouty's statement. He outlined New England's attitude toward the rate bill and said that with the mileage system established all the manufacturers in the New England States would be destroyed.

Mr. Lodge entered upon a plea in support of the various provisions of his amendment, first taking up the distribution of the commissioners throughout the country on the basis of the judicial circuits, when he was interrupted by Mr. Tillman, who objected to this method of selection because of the importance of the commission, and Mr. Foraker agreed with him, saying that location should not be considered in filling the commission. "If," he said, "we are going to have a rate-making commission, I shall insist upon the confining of the number to three and that all be residents of Washington and free from prejudice." As going to show how location might influence action by commissioners, he cited a case in which Mr. Clements, a member of the commission had written an opinion favorable to Rome, Ga., his own city, as compared with Atlanta, in the maximum rate case.

\$1,480,000 to Jamestown. The House Committee on industrial arts and exhibitions decided to recommend a total appropriation of \$1,480,000 for the Jamestown Exposition. Of this sum \$255,000 is a direct appropriation. The exposition sought a direct appropriation to \$1,000,000.

For the construction of a pier at the exposition grounds \$400,000 was approved, and other items were agreed upon as follows: Government buildings, \$250,000; government exhibits, \$200,000; rendezvous for army and naval officers, \$80,000; rendezvous for enlisted men, \$100,000; transportation for soldiers and arms, \$100,000; for an exhibit of negro development, \$100,000.

The proposed appropriation of \$40,000 sought for building a pier at Jamestown Island and improving the islands was referred to a sub-committee, which will investigate what rights the government will have on the island, which is owned chiefly by private parties. In case the government can improve the island on satisfactory terms, this appropriation doubtless will be agreed upon.

Pass Fortification Bill. Mr. Spooner concluded his speech in the Senate on the railroad rate bill and the fortifications appropriation bill was taken up and passed. The bill carries and appropriation of \$125,000 for the erection of a powder manufactory and Mr. Daniel spoke at length in support of the provision. He declared that the nation was entirely at the mercy of a "powder trust" and urged that the amendment should be adopted as a safeguard. As passed the bill carries an appropriation of \$5,278,993.

Mr. Tillman also spoke on the rate bill, suggesting that the interState commerce commission should have authority to enjoin the railroads from increasing their rates. He said the suggestion had been made by a "cornfield lawyer" in Oklahoma.

Third Recent Jail Delivery. Dawson, Ga., Special.—For the third time in the past few months, Dawson had a jail delivery Thursday night. Fletcher Murphy, Frank Clark and Elder Brown, negroes getting their freedom, Clark, a one-armed negro, was charged with assault and attempt to murder W. H. Cobb, a Dawson merchant, a few weeks ago. Sheriff Oxford has offered \$25 reward each for the capture of the fugitives.

# TO THE LABOR MEN

## President Roosevelt Gives a Respectful Hearing

### VIEWS ON ALLEGED GRIVANCES

Committee Composed of 100 Members of American Federation of Labor's Executive Council and Representatives of Nearly All Important Labor Organizations Present Memorial and Receive Detailed Response—Decent Treatment for Exempt Chinese No Ground For Scare—Demand for 8-Hour Day on Panama Canal Absurd.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt received a large body of the representatives of organized labor at the White House and talked to them about their urgent request for the enactment of labor measures now pending before Congress.

Samuel Gompers, president, and Frank Morrison, secretary, of the American Federation of Labor, headed the delegation, which consisted of about a hundred members of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and officials of practically all the important labor organizations of the country.

Secretary Morrison read to the President a memorial of the executive council of the American Federation, urging action on the various demands for legislation being made by the organized labor interests of the country. The memorial dwelt particularly on the eight-hour law and its enforcement of the Panama Canal; the immigration laws, especially the Chinese exclusion laws. President Roosevelt replied in an extended address. The president said:

ANTI-INJUNCTION BILL, STRONG ENOUGH. "Mr. Gompers: If your body objects to the passage of the proposed anti-injunction bill, I have no question that you can stop it, for there is not a capitalist concerned who, simply as capitalist, is not against it, though I believe that a goodly number of capitalists and wage-earners who are concerned primarily as citizens favor it. The law was worked and substantially whittled into its present shape at a number of conferences between representatives of the railroad organization, of the Department of Justice, and of the Bureau of Corporation, with me. It goes as far as I personally think it should go, in limiting the right of injunction; at any rate, no arguments have hitherto been advanced which make me think it should go further. I do not believe it has any chance of passing because there has been great criticism in both houses of Congress against the attitude of the administration in going so far as we have gone; and if you think it is not far enough, why, you will have no earthly difficulty in killing the bill. Personally, I think the proposed law a most admirable one, and I very sincerely wish it would be put through.

HAS ENJOINED ONLY CAPITAL. "As for the right of injunction, it is absolutely necessary to have this power lodged in the courts, though of course any abuse of the power is stonily to be reprobated. During the four and a half years that I have been President, I do not remember an instance where the government has invoked the right of injunction against a combination of laborers. We have invoked it certainly a score of times against combinations of capital; I think possibly oftener. Thus, though we have secured the issuance of injunctions in a number of cases against capitalistic combinations, it has happened that we have never tried to secure an injunction against a commission of labor. But understand me, gentlemen: if I ever thought it necessary, if ever I thought a combination of laborers were doing wrong, I would apply for an injunction against them just as quick as against so many capitalists."

Referring to his legislative references, the President said he would not receive the petition but for its affecting the Executive. Regarding their criticism of his signing the Panama canal appropriation bill containing the provision for non-application of the eight-hour law, the President said that if their statement meant that no opportunity was given for a hearing before him, that statement is not in accordance with the facts. He says there was no request to him for a hearing. He announced his emphatic belief in the eight-hour law "for our own people in our own country," but that an eight-hour law for the Panama canal "is an absurdity," as the conditions of labor are so different. The President said that "we are driven to extremes in the effort to get any kind of labor at all" in Panama and that the government is working chiefly with negro labor from the West Indies, and he commented on their habitual dropping off from work. "You hamper me," he said, "in the effort to get for you what I think you ought to have in connection with the eight-hour law when you make a request that is indefensible, and to grant such would mean indefinite delay and injury to the work on the isthmus.

"As to the violations of the eight-hour law, Mr. Morrison, could you give me no specifications? At your earliest convenience please lay before me in detail any complaints you have of violations of the eight-hour law. Where I have power I will see that the law is obeyed. All I ask is that you give me the cases. I will take them up, and if they prove to be sustained by the facts, I shall see that the law is enforced."

# DARING BANK ROBBERY

## One of the Most Daring Jobs on Record Performed by Twenty Russian Cracksmen—The Credit Mutual, One of the Largest Banks in Moscow, Plundered at Dusk.

Moscow, By Cable.—The Credit Mutual, one of the largest banks in Moscow, was mysteriously robbed by masked men at dusk Tuesday night, the robbers securing \$42,500. It was an extremely daring job. The facts already developed raise the question that the robbery was committed by or under the direction of some one at present or previously employed in the institution. The bank is situated in Hlinka street, in the heart of the city.

A Negro Arrested For Horse Stealing. Greenville, Special.—The arrest of a notorious negro named Will Gammell will possibly put an end to the numerous horse stealings that have occurred in Greenville recently. In three weeks eight horses and mules have been stolen in the business centre of the city. The arrest was made by a plain clothes man, and it is said that Gammell has confessed to being responsible for all eight thefts. He has also implicated John Carter and two other negroes. Carter has also been arrested. All the negroes mentioned are known by the police as a bad lot.

Heavy Loss to Texas Fruit Growers. Houston, Tex., Special.—The cold wave which prevailed over Texas on Tuesday night was one of the most severe ever known at this time of the year. Freezing temperatures extended far down the coast, and considerable damage was done to vegetables and strawberries. In east and northeast Texas, the orchardists made efforts to save their peach crop, but to little avail, and from reports now at hand, it is estimated that the crop is damaged at least 50 per cent, in round figures, equalling a million dollars. The weather continues cold and another heavy frost is feared.

Track Boss Killed. Knoxville, Tenn., Special.—Reuben Bird, aged 26, white, employed as a track boss on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad work fifteen miles from this city, was shot and fatally wounded by negroes of his working gang who refused to go to work. Two bullets entered his body, in the right side and the other in the abdomen. Bird was hurried to a hospital in this city, where he died within 15 minutes after he had entered. Several suspects were arrested by members of sheriff's posse, but none proved to be the right parties.

Killed His Divorced Wife. Memphis, Tenn., Special.—Leon Croft, a night watchman, shot and mortally wounded his divorced wife, Mrs. Lena Croft, late Monday night at the residence of his brother-in-law J. E. Murray and then committed suicide. Croft had called to see his little daughter. Mrs. Croft died at the city hospital Tuesday.

Clubbed Seven to Death. Bristol, Tenn., Special.—Information received here from Marion, N. C., is to the effect that in a fight between a foreman and Italian laborers on the South & Western Railroad, the foreman, in defending himself, clubbed seven of the men to death with a crowbar.

News Items. The legal contest for the fortune of Mrs. Margaret Todd, who was found dead along the Reading Railroad tracks in Philadelphia, began in New York.

Witnesses in the complaint against certain railroads for rate discrimination told about the methods employed by the Standard Oil Company to kill competition.

Mrs. Georgie O. Carr, of Louren county, Virginia, sued her husband, William Carr, a prominent Washingtonian, for divorce alleging infidelity.

The Virginia Legislature met and adjourned after doing little business. Governor Swanson appointed a number of officials.

Louis De Lange, a writer of plays, was found dead in his room in New York with his throat cut, and it is believed he was murdered.

The hunt of the Wickett band of outlaws continues, and later reports show that only one deputy was killed outright last Sunday.

Judge Alton R. Parker delivered an address at Jackson, Miss., to the Legislature on "Democracy."

A Chicago paper says John Alexander Dowie and Mrs. Dowie have parted.

Friends of Senator Depew, who is in seclusion somewhere in New York State, say he is wasting away.

The latest figures give total number of victims of the French mine disaster as 1,212.

It is said that the officers of a guards regiment at St. Petersburg resigned in a body rather than go to the Baltic provinces to take part in "pacification" there.

Another railroad strike is threatened in Moscow.

Five persons were killed in a conflict between two religious sects near Lodi, Russian Poland.

Countess de Castellane has formally applied for a separation to one for absolute divorce from her husband.

# UNUSUALLY SEVERE

## Entire Country Feels the Force of Equinoctial Weather

### RAIN, WIND, SNOW AND COLD

All of the United States east of the Mississippi in grasp of a storm, with heavy rains in the South and snows in the North, and Unseasonably Low Temperatures in Both Sections.

Washington, Special.—The whole of the country east of the Mississippi river, according to reports to the Weather Bureau, is experiencing effects of the prevailing storm, with temperatures below the average for this time of the year. There have been heavy rains in the South and snow in the North. The storm began Sunday night in the South and extended into New England, New York and the lower Lake region and the upper Ohio valley, where the rain turned into snow. The rivers in the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas are bank-full and stages above the danger line are expected to-morrow in a majority of the big waterways.

The storm is expected to pass down the St. Lawrence valley during the next 24 hours.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Owing to incessant rains, the Coosa, Tallapoosa and Alabama rivers are on a rise, and the predictions are that the waters will go over the danger line at Wetumpka, Montgomery and Selma. Owing to warnings, it is believed that comparatively small damages will result.

Railroad traffic has been disarranged by washouts, and at Ormore, on the Louisville & Nashville Railroads, 100 feet of trestle are reported washed away. At Bletshier Monday morning a freight engine of the Mobile & Ohio was overturned because of the weakening of the roadbed by water.

State Commissioner of Agriculture R. R. Poole said Monday that crops in Alabama are at least two weeks behind as a result of the heavy rains.

Meridian, Miss., Special.—During the past 24 hours Meridian and vicinity has experienced the heaviest rainfall in many years, the total for the period being 5.78 inches, at Shubuta it reached 5.50 inches and at Enterprise 7.54 inches. Sawashee Creek bounding the city on the south, is a raging torrent and spread half a mile beyond its banks. Stock and cattle are reported as drowned in several places, and fences and outhouses are washed away. No lives are reported lost as yet.

Partial Tie-up in New York. New York, Special.—Six inches of snow fell here Monday and for a time interfered seriously with the service on all surface roads. The subway Monday night was taxed more severely than at any time since the tunnel was opened. The snow storm of last Thursday had left most of the down town streets in bad condition and the added fall made heavy trucking an impossibility. Only a few of the more important thoroughfares had been cleared when Monday's storm set in. Monday night it was raining hard, with fair and colder weather predicted.

Suit Against Observer. Charlotte, Special.—The suit of Dr. A. J. McKelway for \$50,000 damages for libel was called in the superior court here Monday. The case was made up by counsel and given to the jury. The defendant was adjudged guilty and fined one penny and each party to pay his own costs.

Formosa Earthquake Deadly. London, By Cable.—The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent, telegraphing concerning the earthquake Saturday morning in the vicinity of Kagi, Island of Formosa, says the railway lines were twisted, telegraph poles thrown down and houses destroyed. The correspondent says that The Nichi Shimbu states that the casualties exceed 100 and that The Jiji Shimpu places them as high as 800. An official dispatch, he adds, reports 60 deaths and many more persons injured and 200 houses destroyed.

Socialist Meetings Pass Off Quietly. Berlin, By Cable.—One hundred and four Socialist meetings which were held in Berlin and its suburbs outbreaks of 1848-49, and to protest against the three-class suffrage system of Prussia, passed off with complete quiet. The meetings were addressed by Herr Bebel, leader of the Socialists in the Reichstag, Herr Bernstein and other members of the Reichstag, and several women Socialists.

Strychnine Found in Dead Woman's Stomach. Fitzgerald, Special.—The State chemist, who made a chemical analysis of the stomach of Mrs. Reason Handley, states that he found strychnine, and this is supposed to have caused her death. Reason Handley is held in the Irwinstville jail on the charge of murder of his wife and will be tried at the coming term of court.

Alabama Fruit Crop as Yet Uninjured. Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Specialists to the Advertiser from towns in the northern part of the State say that so far no material damage has been done the fruit crop, although at some points the thermometer registered as low as 30 degrees. It is feared, however, that injury will be done as the predictions were for colder weather.