

# MANY DIE IN FIRE HORROR ON LAKE

## MEN PERISH LIKE RATS

Ninety Workmen Caught in Blazing Prison on the Chicago Water Crib Structure.

### LEAP FROM FLAMES TO WATER.

Hundreds of Persons, Powerless to Give Relief, Witness Struggles of Laborers from Shore.

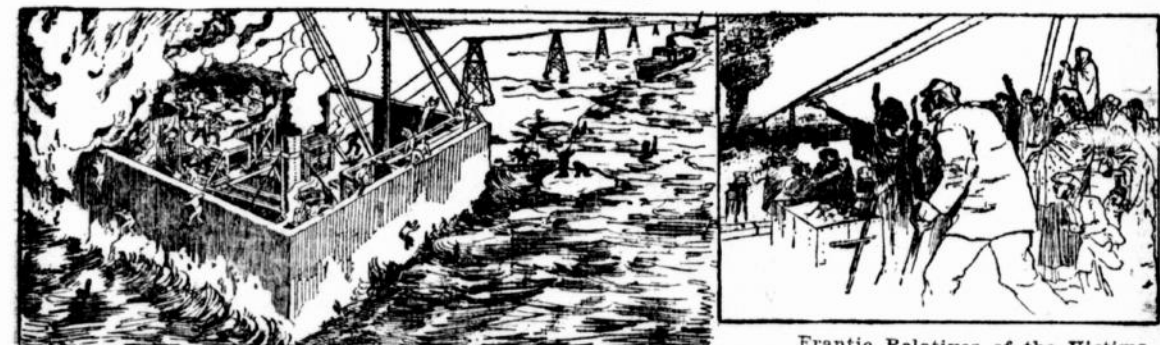
Over three score unfortunate workmen lost their lives and many others were badly injured Wednesday morning in a fire which destroyed the intermediate crib in Lake Michigan, a mile and a half off 71st street, Chicago, used by George W. Jackson, the contractor, in the construction of a new water tunnel. Estimates of the fatalities ranged from sixty to seventy. Ninety men, who lived at the crib and worked in shifts, were on the structure when the fire broke out. Many of these were burned to death before they could reach the doors. Others, their clothes aflame, leaped into the icy water regardless of the results. A number, unable to swim, sank beneath the surface.



Others swam to cakes of ice to support themselves until the arrival of relief.

**Starts from Powder Explosion.**  
The fire originated in the powder magazine on the first landing. Many of the employees were asleep in bunks, and others were just going to work, when a sheet of flame shot through the building. The alarm spread rapidly. Chicagoans who heard of the impending disaster were appalled when they learned that over seventy workmen

### SCENE OF THE TERRIBLE DISASTER IN LAKE MICHIGAN OFF CHICAGO.



Unfinished Water Tunnel.

at the crib were completely isolated from the shore. Smoke could be faintly seen puffing up 8,000 feet away, where a light mist lay over the water. Occasionally a tongue of red flame flared up. An alarm was sent at once to South Chicago, where the fire tug Conway was stationed.

Confined in a fiery prison, with all means of communication with the shore cut off and the icy waters of Lake Michigan all about them, the workmen made a desperate fight for their lives, which was witnessed by crowds on the shore. As soon as the alarm was given prompt measures of relief were taken, but the quick spread of the flames in the wooden structure and the distance to be covered made these efforts all but useless.

The crowds on the shore watching the distant blaze with its plume of black smoke, the squad of men on the adjoining crib and those working from the fire tug Conway, which had been hurried from the ice floes from its station in South Chicago to the scene of the conflagration, were greatly alarmed when it was learned that three tons of dynamite were stored in the substructure of the burning crib. The flames spread rapidly, and it was but a few moments when the crib was a mass of flames. Hundreds, helpless to aid, watched from the shore.



### PEOPLE NAME SENATOR.

Oregon's Republican Legislature Elects Democrat as Instructed.

Governor George E. Chamberlain, a Democrat, was elected Tuesday by a Republican Legislature as United States Senator from Oregon, thus solving the problem of choosing Senators by popular vote without infringing on the Constitution of the United States.

Popular will triumphed, backed by a strong people's lobby determined to see that the members of the Legislature carried out the instructions given at the polls. A suggestion of extreme measures for any violating pledges helped keep all in line. It was also declared that the "recall" would be used on offending lawmakers.

With the Republicans in a majority, many party leaders hoped to secure one of their political faith chosen as successor to Senator Charles W. Fulton, despite the voters' instructions, and a campaign with this object in view had been carried on, but without result.

Tuesday's ballot was by the houses separately, and the result was ratified by a vote in joint session Wednesday. In the House Chamberlain was given 34 votes and in the Senate 19, a total of 53, or seven more than was necessary to bring about the election.

Under the Oregon direct primary law political parties nominate a candidate as the choice of the party for United States Senator. For nominee of the Republicans in the last election Senator Fulton was defeated by Henry M. Calk. The Democrats had only one aspirant, Governor Chamberlain. Prior to the June election Calk and Chamberlain campaigned for the popular

### BILLIK'S NECK IS SAVED.

Sentence of Alleged Chicago Poisoner Commuted to Life Imprisonment.

Herman Billik, sentenced to hang on Friday, Jan. 29, was rescued from the gallows when Governor Deneen, on recommendation of the State Board of Pardons, commuted his sentence to imprisonment for life. The convicted slayer of Mary Vrzal, who five times was granted an eleventh-hour reprieve, fell on his knees at the county jail and wept when the news from Springfield was conveyed to him.

"Life imprisonment means liberty," he declared. "I shall now have the chance I have been fighting for to prove my innocence."

Communion of Billik's sentence is due to the testimony and subsequent confession of perjury of Jerry Vrzal, who, with his sisters, Emma Nelman and Bertha Vrzal, were the only members of the Vrzal family to escape death by poisoning.

"We are of the opinion that even with the elimination of this testimony there is evidence to support the verdict of the jury beyond reasonable doubt," says the pardon board. "But in taking into consideration statements later made by some of the jurors we feel we are warranted in the conclusion the death penalty would not have been inflicted."

Billik, who is 42 years old and was born in Volfort of Bohemian parents, was indicted more than two years ago for having poisoned five members of the Vrzal family. He was placed on trial in June, 1907, before Judge Alfred C. Barnes for the murder of Mary Vrzal, the oldest daughter, and was

### TWO SEA GIANTS VOTED.

House Grants Demands for Battleships to Cost \$30,000,000.

The war god held full sway in the House Friday and the navy appropriation bill, carrying \$135,000,000, including \$18,000,000 for two first-class battleships, was passed just as it came from the committee. The Japanese war scare was the sole topic in the discussion of which the leaders on both sides joined. In addition to the passage of the bill favorable action was taken by the committee on the fortifications bill, provisions for coast batteries in the Philippines, Hawaii and Fort Travis.

By a vote of 160 to 80 authorization was given for the construction by the United States of two of the greatest battleships in the world. This action was taken despite the opposition of some of the President's Republican enemies in the House, powerful lieutenants of Speaker Cannon, and over the heads of the few men of both parties who sincerely believe it a mistake to go on enlarging the American navy. The action authorizes the construction of two Dreadnaughts, leviathans of 25,000 tons each, carrying 14-inch guns, the largest on any warship, and the two vessels to cost when in commission nearly \$30,000,000. The vote was accompanied by a patriotic demonstration on the floor and in the galleries, participated in by both Democrats and Republicans and significant of what the spirit of the nation would be if a foreign war were actually threatened.

The opponents of the two battleship proposal, led by Chairman Tamm of the House Appropriations Committee, attacked President Roosevelt, virtually declaring that a rise cooked up at the White House to induce Congress to vote for naval increase. "I am tired of these annual wars with Japan, which always occur simultaneously with the consideration of the naval appropriation bill by Congress," declared Mr. Tamm. "All the rest of the time our relations with Japan are friendly, but as soon as we begin to consider the naval appropriation bill then we learn from the press and other sources that war is imminent."

### DROPS ANTI-JAPANESE BILL.

Governor of California Says Objectionable Measures Will Not Pass.

As the result of an urgent message from President Roosevelt protesting against the anti-Japanese measures pending before the California Legislature, Governor Gillett has announced that no bill of the kind will be passed. The Governor has authorized the following statement:

"After conferring with the leading members of both branches of the Legislature, I am convinced that no legislation directed against the Japanese will be enacted. I am satisfied that the people of California, and particularly the members of our Legislature, appreciate the efforts being made by the Federal government and the representatives of Japan to stop immigration to this country of Japanese laborers, skilled and unskilled."

"There can be no doubt that the Japanese government is acting absolutely in good faith in its endeavor to prevent its people from emigrating to our country, and in my judgment it would be a serious mistake while they are so doing to enact any laws directed against the Japanese people. This question is one in which the Federal government is particularly interested and its wishes should be carefully considered and will be, I am sure, by the people of this State."

**Germany's Trade in Decrease.**  
The export and import trade of Germany for 1908, according to estimates based on the prevailing prices of 1907, amounted to \$2,184,500,000 in imports, which is a decrease of \$98,250,000 from the 1907 figures, and to \$1,701,250,000 in exports, a decrease of \$64,750,000.

**Threatens Pastor with Death.**  
Rev. W. A. Amis of Hot Springs, leader of reform measures before the Arkansas Legislature, has received anonymous letters which threaten him with death. "Within thirty days," he says, "I have received seven anonymous letters."

# CRIPPLED LINER SINKS INTO ATLANTIC OCEAN

Crew Leaves Republic at Last Minute and Finds Safety on Revenue Cutter.

## SIX ARE KILLED IN COLLISION.

Passengers of Both Vessels on Baltic Taken Into New York Harbor Through Fog.

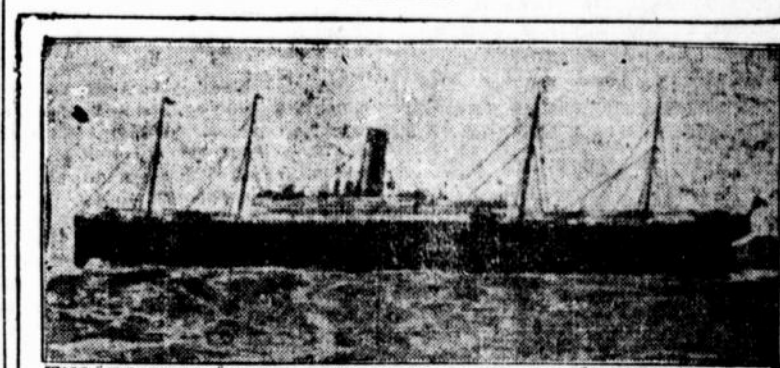
Six lives were lost and two persons were injured when the Florida of the Lloyds-Italian Line cut her way through the sides of the Republic, the White Star Mediterranean liner, in the fog-bound waters of the Atlantic off Nantucket early Saturday morning. Despite valiant efforts on the part of half a dozen other vessels to save her, the Republic sank at half past 8 o'clock Sunday night off No Man's Land, near Martha's Vineyard, while the Gresham, a revenue cutter, and the Seneca, a derelict destroyer, were towing her to New York and the Furnessia of the Anchor Line was steering her aft.

The Republic is sunk in 150 feet of water off No Man's Land, and is gone forever. Efforts to raise her from this depth would be useless. Captain Sealby and his crew, who had returned to their ship when she was taken in tow, remained aboard until the last moment, when they were carried off in small boats and transferred to the Gresham.

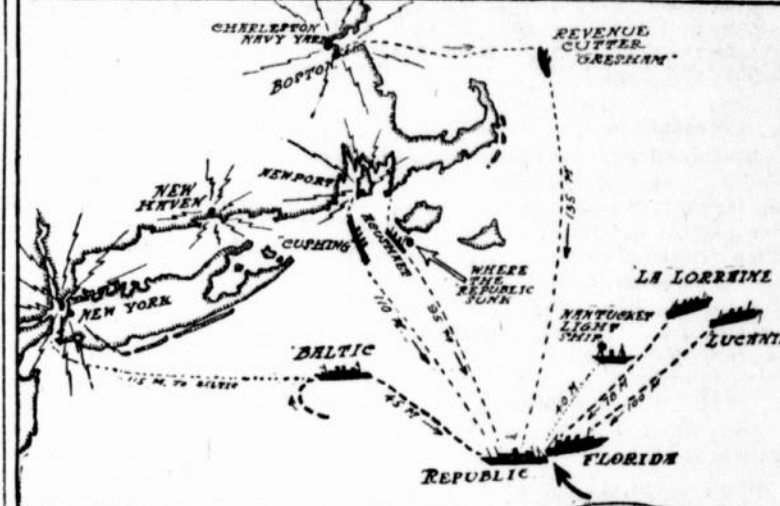
Meantime the Baltic, carrying the passengers of both the Republic and the Florida, numbering more than 1,000, was making all speed to the port of New York. Two of those killed were passengers on the Republic, as were the two injured. The other victims were seamen.

Seven hundred persons, in round numbers, were transferred from the

### BIG OCEAN LINER. DIAGRAM SHOWING WHERE IT SANK, AND THE CAPTAIN.



THE REPUBLIC WHICH WAS RUNNED BY THE FLORIDA.



Republic to the Florida, and then 1,650 from the last named vessel to the Baltic. That this transfer of nearly 2,500 persons was effected without the loss of a single life is considered a marvelous performance, though the fortunate occurrence of a placid sea and mild, almost springlike weather was an important factor in this work.

Throughout all of Sunday the only information which reached New York or elsewhere of the situation on the fog-bound waters off Nantucket came diffidly in the detached and sometimes conflicting wireless dispatches, but without these nothing might have been known for days. Thousands of homes would have been plunged into grief and anxiety but for the reassuring news that the accident was not so grave as had been feared, and that the loss of life was small.

### U. S. GRANT ACCUSES BANKER.

Financier Arrested as Embezzler of \$750,000.

Homer G. Taber, former president of the United States Bank of Los Angeles, former president of the International Bank of San Diego, and now president of the San Diego Bank and Trust Company, has been arrested, and will be taken to Picoche, Nev., to answer to nineteen indictments said to involve altogether \$750,000. It is charged Taber embezzled \$400,000 worth of telephone bonds from U. S. Grant, Jr., of San Diego. S. K. Williamson, cashier of the Lincoln National Bank of San Diego, was arrested simultaneously with Taber.

**Throws Robber Into Creek.**  
William Cain, a miner, 50 years of age, put to rout in summary fashion a holdup man who attempted to rob him not a block away from the police station in Denver. Cain seized his assailant and tossed him over a bridge railing into the bed of the creek.

**Bryan's Daughter Seeks Divorce.**  
Ruth Bryan Leavitt, daughter of William J. Bryan, has filed suit for divorce from William H. Leavitt in Lincoln, Neb. The petition was immediately withdrawn. T. S. Allen, brother-in-law of Mr. Bryan, is the attorney for the plaintiff. Leavitt is now in Paris.

**60,000 Acres of Grain Ruined.**  
San Jacinto valley, Cal., was flooded the other day by the greatest freshets of the State's history. All telephone communication with the flooded region has been cut off. Up the river the water has destroyed 60,000 acres of grain.

### GUARD AGAINST WASTE.

President in Special Message Tells Congress of Nation's Peril.

President Roosevelt in a special message to Congress urged upon the nation the necessity for conserving its resources, and told of the duty of the citizens of to-day to the generations to come. The message transmitted to Congress the report of the National Conservation Commission showing the peril confronting the country if the present waste is permitted to continue.

"We should do all in our power to develop and protect individual liberty, individual initiative, but subject always to the need of preserving and promoting the general good," said the President. "When necessary, the private right must yield, under due process of law and with proper compensation, to the welfare of the community. The man who serves the community greatly should be greatly rewarded by the community; as there is great inequality of service, so there must be great inequality of reward."

In the message the President reviewed practically all the accomplishments of his administration and asked for the development of the inland waterways and for the preservation of the forests and minerals, besides making a plea for the "square deal."

Some of the striking points made in the message as showing the reckless waste of the natural resources of the nation were as follows:

Mineral production of United States, 1907, value \$2,000,000,000; waste more than \$300,000,000.

Available Coal Supply—1,400,000,000 tons; threatened with exhaustion by middle of next century.

High Grade Iron Ore—3,840,000,000 tons; threatened with exhaustion by middle of next century.

Petroleum Supply—20,000,000,000 barrels; wastage enormous; supply not expected to last beyond middle of present century.

Natural Gas Daily Waste—More than 1,000,000,000 cubic feet; enough to supply every city of more than 100,000 population.

Fire Losses per Year—\$450,000,000; four-fifths preventable.

Forest Burned Yearly—50,000,000 acres.

Of 70,000,000,000 cubic feet of water an

# COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL

## CHICAGO.

Sustained gains in payments through the banks and a low commercial mortality add further testimony to improved conditions. Despite the unfavorable weather, trade activity reflects healthy progress, leading distributive branches showing a seasonable volume and forwarding of general merchandise increasing in response to numerous requests for prompt deliveries. Farm products show heavier marketings, together with larger outgo of breadstuffs. A shortage of hogs received adversely affects the live stock aggregate, and prices of the principal cereals and provisions average higher, those of hog product recording sharp advances. Factory outputs contribute more tonnage for transportation and movements of raw materials run closer to normal. Earnings of the Chicago steam roads steadily recover and to some extent exceed those at this time last year.

Failures reported in the Chicago district number 23, against 33 last week, 20 in 1908 and 24 in 1907. Those with liabilities of more than \$5,000 number 7, against 10 last week, 16 in 1908 and 8 in 1907.—Dun's Weekly Review of Trade.

## NEW YORK.

Trade is expanding slowly but steadily, wholesale and jobbing lines noting some good orders for immediate delivery and rather more confidence in placing orders for spring. Conservatism is, however, noted in many sections, and some markets report a feeling of disappointment at the rate of progress making.

In the leading industries the tendency is still toward gradual resumption, but in few cases is the output up to a good normal.

Uncertainty as to tariff changes is still widely mentioned as a bar to fullest activities, this being notable especially in iron and steel, where present demand is below expectations, and in some lines of textiles. Reports from the railways are of an increased merchandise traffic Northwest and Southwest, but this is to a certain extent offset by restricted movement of grain to market.

Business failures in the United States for the week ending with Jan. 21 were 307, against 319 last week, 408 in the like week of 1908, 252 in 1907, 276 in 1906 and 228 in 1905.

Canadian business failures for the same period numbered forty, as against thirty-six last week and fifty-one in this week last year.—Bradstreet's.

# THE MARKETS

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$4.00 to \$7.00; hogs, prime heavy, \$4.00 to \$6.50; sheep, fair to choice, \$3.00 to \$5.50; wheat, No. 2, \$1.00 to \$1.05; corn, No. 2, 58c to 59c; oats, standard, 49c to 50c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 77c; hay, timothy, \$8.00 to \$12.50; prairie, \$3.00 to \$11.50; butter, choice creamery, 27c to 30c; eggs, fresh, 27c to 30c; potatoes, per bushel, 65c to 78c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$7.00; hogs, good to choice heavy, \$3.50 to \$5.00; sheep, good to choice, \$2.50 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2, \$1.00 to \$1.04; corn, No. 2 white, 58c to 60c; oats, No. 2 white, 48c to 51c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$4.50 to \$7.40; hogs, \$4.00 to \$6.00; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.25; wheat, No. 2, \$1.10 to \$1.13; corn, No. 2, 58c to 60c; oats, No. 2, 50c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 77c to 78c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$6.50; hogs, \$4.00 to \$6.50; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.00; wheat, No. 2, \$1.00 to \$1.11; corn, No. 2 mixed, 61c to 62c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 80c to 81c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.50; hogs, \$4.00 to \$6.15; sheep, \$2.50 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2, \$1.04 to \$1.06; corn, No. 3 yellow, 61c to 62c; oats, No. 3 white, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 78c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, \$1.07 to \$1.10; corn, No. 3, 61c to 62c; oats, standard, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 1, 75c to 77c; barley, No. 1, 64c to 65c; pork, mess, \$15.50.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, \$4.00 to \$6.70; hogs, fair to choice, \$4.00 to \$6.00; sheep, common to good mixed, \$4.00 to \$4.75; lambs, fair to choice, \$5.00 to \$7.40.

New York—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.50; hogs, \$3.50 to \$6.00; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.00; wheat, No. 2 red, \$1.07 to \$1.09; corn, No. 2, 60c to 61c; oats, standard white, 55c to 57c; butter, creamery, 23c to 33c; eggs, western, 25c to 28c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, \$1.05 to \$1.07; corn, No. 2 mixed, 60c to 61c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 50c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 77c to 78c; clover seed, \$5.62.

### TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Soap men from twenty-four different points in the Middle West met at Burlington, Iowa, and entered a protest against increase in freight rates.

During the last year L. A. Sweet of Martin county, Minnesota, produced and sold \$24,000 worth of produce from his forty-acre farm, the greater portion coming from his cows.

The independent glass manufacturers have decided to stand pat on the wage scale made by their employees last September and to make no concessions. This means that 12,000 men on strike will remain out of work until they come to the terms of the employers. There are about 7,500 skilled workers who made the demand for an increase said to average from 25 to 40 per cent.

"Wash sales" on the floors of produce exchanges or chambers of commerce are aimed at in a bill offered by Senator B. E. Sundry of Kentucky. A penalty of from \$500 to \$5,000 is to be imposed when a member of a firm makes a sale to another member of the same firm.

William B. Dickson, second vice president of the United States Steel Corporation, has been elected first vice president to succeed James Gayley, who retired several weeks ago. David G. Kern of Pittsburgh, who has been connected with the raw material department of the corporation, was elected second vice president to succeed Mr. Dickson.