

THOUSAND PEOPLE PERISH

A Mighty Tidal Wave Sweeps Over Society Island.

HURRICANE RAGES SEVERAL DAYS.

Eighty Islands Devastated by the Wind and Wave—Makeno and Hao Completely Depopulated—On Hikura Island, Where 1,000 Were Engaged in Pearl Diving, Nearly Half the Number Were Drowned.

San Francisco (Special).—News of a terrible loss of life in a storm that swept over the South Sea Islands last month reached here by the steamer Mariposa, direct from Tahiti. The loss of life is estimated at 1,000 persons. On January 13 last a huge tidal wave, accompanied by a terrific hurricane, attacked the Society Islands and the Puamotu group with fearful force, causing death and devastation never before equaled in a land of dreaded storms.

The storm raged several days, reaching its maximum strength between January 14 and January 16. From the meager news received at Tahiti up to the time of the sailing of the Mariposa it is estimated that 1,000 of the islanders lost their lives. It is feared that later advices will increase this number.

The first news of the disaster reached Papeete, Tahiti, January 23 by the schooner Eimeo. The captain of the schooner placed the fatalities at 500. The steamer Excelsior arrived at Papeete the following day with 400 destitute survivors.

The captain of the Excelsior estimated the total loss of life to be 800. These figures comprised only the deaths on the three islands of Hao, Hikura and Makoko, the ordinary population of which is 1,800. On Kikura Island, where 1,000 inhabitants were engaged in pearl-diving, nearly one-half were drowned. On an adjacent island 100 more were washed out to sea.

Makeno and Hao are depopulated. Conservative estimates at Tahiti place the number of islands visited by tidal wave and hurricane at 80. All of them are under the control of the French government at Tahiti.

The surviving inhabitants are left destitute of food, shelter and clothing, all having been swept away by the storm.

The French government, upon receipt of news of the disaster, took prompt measures to relieve the distressed districts, and dispatched two warships with fresh water and provisions. The Italian man-of-war Calabria accompanied the French vessels on their errand of mercy.

As the supply of fresh water and provisions was totally exhausted by the storm, it is feared that many lives will be lost before the relief ships can arrive. So far as is known, eight white people were among the drowned.

As the islands were barely 20 feet above sea level and were not surrounded by coral, it was necessary for all the inhabitants to take to the coconut trees when the tidal wave began to cover the land. These trees grow to an immense height, many reaching an altitude of 100 feet. All of the lower trees were covered by the raging seas, which swept with pitiless force about and over them. The natives in the taller trees were safe until the coconut roots gave way, and then they too, were swept out into the sea.

REFUSES TO PAY AMERICAN CLAIMS.

Minister Powell Informs San Domingo He Will Not Submit to Delay Any Longer.

San Domingo (Special).—A public meeting has been held under the auspices of the Dominican government to consider the demands of the United States, made through Minister Powell, for a settlement of the Clyde Line and Ros claims. The meeting declared that the government of the United States should not interfere in the cases and that the Clyde Line and Ros should settle their differences with the Dominican government in the courts here. It was decided to submit the minister of finance, Senor Emiliano Tejera, to Washington to announce this decision to the government of the United States.

Meanwhile Mr. Powell continues to demand a settlement of the claims, refuses to accept the terms proposed and has announced that he will not submit to any further delay. It is asserted here that the Dominican government is seeking to evade by all possible means a settlement of the American claims.

Caught at Last.

New York (Special).—Byram H. Winters, for seven years in charge of the customs bureau at the postoffice here, was arrested on a charge of embezzling money belonging to the United States. The alleged theft is over \$8,000, and the time exceeds over seven years. Collector Stranahan was the complainant. Winters was held in \$10,000 bail by Commissioner Shields for trial, examination being waived. Collector Stranahan made this statement concerning the arrest: "Byram H. Winters, a clerk in the customhouse, who for seven years has been in charge of the customs bureau at the postoffice, has been found short in his accounts."

At Last He Killed Himself.

Monongahela, Pa. (Special).—Simon Lilly, of California, who made two attempts at suicide during the week, tried it again and was successful. He escaped from his house and, running to the Monongahela river, plunged in and was drowned before anyone could interfere. Tuesday night he shot himself and Wednesday he cut his throat. It is said he was worth half a million dollars.

Second to Dewey at Manila Bay.

San Francisco, Cal. (Special).—Rear Admiral Frank Wildes, of the United States Navy, died suddenly on board the steamer China. He was on his way home from China, on sick leave, when death overtook him. The Admiral had been in ill-health for sometime, and was invalidated home on account of a general breakdown of his physical constitution. Rear Admiral Wildes was junior squadron commander on the Asiatic Station, flying his flag on the Rainbow.

THE LATEST NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

Domes'tic.

A Cincinnati court set aside the stenographic report of the will made on his deathbed by millionaire John McCormick, by which he left his estate to Miss Henrietta Cecelia Wolfe, who married him shortly before he died.

Col. F. N. Wicker, United States appraiser at New Orleans, and who was second in command to Colonel Buckley in the Russo-American telegraph expedition to Alaska in 1867, died at New Orleans.

The miners and operators in the soft-coal districts of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana and Illinois agreed upon a scale of wages which is a general increase for the men.

The grand jury failed to find a true bill against Miss Katherine V. Richardson, who was arrested in Revere, Mass., on the charge of administering poison to her mother.

Mrs. Catherine Bender, aged 50 years, disappeared January 31 from her home, in Bridgesburg, Philadelphia, and her children and friends believe she was murdered.

It is semi-officially stated that the proposed increase in the capital of the Pennsylvania Railroad will be from \$235,000 to \$400,000.

Dr. Edward Vanderhanf, a former prominent physician of New York, died at a hospital from excessive use of drugs.

A silver service of 64 pieces was presented by a delegation of the City of Albany to the cruiser bearing that name.

Fireman McCarthy, of the Philadelphia and Reading express locomotive, told the jury at the hospital at Plainfield, N. J., that he did not know that anything obstructed the engineer's view, but at Trenton Junction the locomotive was leaking.

General Manager Allen, of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, announced that the differences between his company and the trainmen had been settled. The conductors say their demands were conceded.

The body of Mrs. Tracy Peck, wife of Professor Peck, of Yale University, was found in a park at Morris Cove. She had been afflicted with grippe, wandered from her home and died from exposure.

Samuel Martin, colored, testified at the trial of Dr. J. C. Alexander, at Indianapolis, that he had an agreement with the latter to furnish him with bodies taken from the cemeteries.

The National Petroleum and General Construction Company of London has secured 333 oil wells in Ohio, 4,000 acres of leases and a monthly production of 20,000 barrels for \$85,000.

By direction of his physician Maurice Grau has decided to give up his work for a year, and the Metropolitan Opera Company decided to abandon business until he returns.

Robert Gould Shaw, of Boston, whose wife recently secured a divorce in Charlottesville, Va., was married in New York to Mrs. Mary Converse, of Newton, Mass.

Agents of a New York syndicate are forming a combination of mine car and supply companies in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Judge Lacombe, in the United States Circuit Court, in New York, granted an order temporarily restraining the sale by the Mercantile Trust Company under foreclosure of the securities under the Boston United Gas bond trust agreements.

Foreign.

King George and the Council of Ministers of the Saxon Court have decided that the former Crown Princess Louise cannot see her son Christian, who is dangerously ill.

Deputy Selle, a Socialist, struck Deputy Lasies, an anti-Semitic, a blow in the face in the corridor of the French Chamber of Deputies and a duel will be the result.

Dr. Lewald, commissioner of Germany to the St. Louis Exposition, in an address to manufacturers at Stuttgart, said they could achieve great success at St. Louis.

Christian de Wet informed Secretary Chamberlain that he would foster spirit of discontent against the British government in the Transvaal.

The European powers look askance at the action of the Sultan in mobilizing a large army in Macedonia.

John N. Carroll, United States consul at Cadiz, Spain, died of consumption.

The Turkish government is taking a record of steamers available for use as transports should it be necessary to send troops to the European provinces in connection with the Macedonian troubles.

The Brazilian forces have captured Puerto Alonso, in Acre, where Bolivia has heretofore maintained a custom-house. Bolivia is said to have rejected a proposal by Brazil for arbitration.

Emperor William and other members of the royal family and the German government attended the Potato-Alcohol Exposition, in which the Emperor is greatly interested.

During a row in the Hungarian Parliament a deputy accused the Minister of National Defense of cowardice in refusing to fight after he had insulted him.

The Liberal press in London blames the failure of the Alaskan Treaty on the inability of the British government to understand American sentiment.

It is reported that the Moorish pretender, Ben Hamara, is a prisoner in the hands of the tribesmen, who want to sell him to the Sultan.

The trial of Gennaro Rubino, the Italian anarchist, for attempting to assassinate King Leopold of Belgium was begun in Brussels.

The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs denies that any representations have been made to the Cuban minister at Madrid regarding the hoisting of the Cuban flag over his residence.

Financial.

Very cheerful things are being said about Baltimore & Ohio.

Professional traders are all bullish. They see no rocks ahead.

Canada is importing Scotch pig iron as a result of the fuel famine.

Diamond Match has recalled its usual 1-2 per cent. semi-annual dividend.

Atlantic Coast Line had a bad December, the net revenue declining \$50,000.

International Marine shares find a very poor market on the New York curb and in London.

REFUSES TO ARBITRATE

President Roosevelt Again Avoids Delicate Position.

HAGUE TRIBUNAL MUST NOW DECIDE.

All Questions Except that of Preferential Treatment Have Been Agreed Upon Between Mr. Bowen and the Representatives of the Allies, and the Protocols Have Been Submitted to Him.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—President Roosevelt refused the invitation extended by him by Sir Michael Herbert to act as arbitrator on the question of preferential treatment for the allies in the settlement of the claims against Venezuela.

The new department will consist of the Bureau of Corporations, the Bureau of Labor, the Lighthouse Board, the steamboat inspection service, the Bureau of Navigation, the Bureau of Standards, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the commissioner of immigration, the Bureau of Immigration, and the immigration service at large, the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, the Bureau of Navigation, the shipping commissioner, the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, now in the Department of State; the Census Bureau and the Fish Commission.

WITH THE NATIONAL LAWMAKERS.

Department of Commerce.

The bill creating a department of commerce and labor was agreed upon by the conferees of both houses, and it is expected that in the form agreed upon it will become a law. The main point of difference has been in relation to the Interstate Commerce Commission, and by the terms of the bill this commission cannot be transferred to the new department.

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Anti-Trust Bill Passed.

By a unanimous vote—245 to 0—the House passed the Anti-trust Bill. The closing chapter was devoid of excitement. The bill as passed requires corporations "hereafter organized" to file returns covering its articles of incorporation, financial composition, condition, etc., with the Interstate Commerce Commission on penalty of being restrained from engaging in interstate commerce; prescribes penalties for false returns, etc. The commission is given authority, in its discretion, to call for similar returns from existing corporations doing an interstate business. The commission is given power to compel the answer to questions, and a fine of not to exceed \$500 is imposed for failure to obey the commission in this respect. Rebates by carriers is made punishable with a fine of not less than \$1,000, and corporations violating the provisions of this section are forbidden the use of the instrumentalities of interstate commerce.

Small Hope for Treaty.

Practically all hope of ratifying the Alaskan boundary treaty at this session of Congress has been abandoned.

So formidable is the opposition that the friends of the convention are convinced that in all probability favorable action cannot be secured. The President has been informed of this fact and says that the Administration, having done everything possible to bring about a settlement of the question, is prepared to lay the blame for failure on the Senate.

Agreed on Judge's Salary.

The conferees of the two houses of Congress on the bill increasing the salaries of United States judges reached an agreement. The measure as it will become a law fixes the salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States at \$13,000 a year and of of the other judges at \$12,500 each.

To Open Oklahoma Lands.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs authorized a favorable report on the bill introduced by Representative John H. Stephens (Rep., Texas) to open to settlement 505,000 acres of land in the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indian reservations in Oklahoma Territory.

Inquiry Into Navajo Question.

Representative Sulzer, of New York, introduced a concurrent resolution providing for the appointment of a joint committee of the two Houses of Congress to investigate the present policy of international navigation of this country and to trace its effects upon the merchant marine of this country and to report bills for the development of American shipping.

Strength of State Militias.

Secretary Root transmitted to the House an abstract of the returns made by the adjutants general of the various States showing the militia strength of the States to be as follows: Officers, 8,921; enlisted men, 109,338. The aggregate number in the United States available for militia duty is given at 10,858,396.

In the Departments.

Senator Patterson introduced an amendment to the Philippine Currency Bill providing for an international commission to fix upon a commercial exchange value of gold and silver.

Filibert Roth, of New York, has resigned as chief of the Forestry Division, General Land Office, to return to the Forestry Bureau of the Department of Agriculture.

The Erie Railroad Company filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission the same reasons as were given by the other companies for advancing freight rates.

M. Jussendran, the new French ambassador, presented his credentials to President Roosevelt and the usual exchange of felicitations were indulged in.

The central committee of the Twentieth Century National Gospel Campaign has issued an appeal for a national Lenten gospel campaign.

The Senate committee reported the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill. It carries a total of \$9,300,000.

Senator Wetmore, from the Committee on Library, favorably reported bills providing for the erection in Washington of statues of Count Piusi and Baron Steuben.

The Naval Appropriation Bill as reported to the House provides for the construction of more war-ships and for doubling the present enrolment at the Naval Academy.

Senator Morgan discussed the Isthmian Canal question in the House and predicted war with Colombia if the present course was persisted in.

William A. Wilson, a disbursing clerk connected with the Philippine government, was arrested on the charge of embezzlement.

Captain Hobson has received a letter from Secretary Moody accepting his resignation from the naval service.

The sentence imposed on James Green for violating an injunction against intimidating miners of the Pocahontas Company in Virginia was commuted by the President, to expire at once.

Opposition to the nomination of Dr. W. D. Crum for collector of the port of Charleston developed in the Senate Committee on Commerce.

INCREASE MINERS' WAGES

New Soft Coal Miners' Scale Affects Over 300,000.

MITCHELL AND THE ORGANIZATION.

Are in the Central Competitive District, composed of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Pittsburgh District of Pennsylvania—Miners in the Southern and Southwestern States Directly Affected.

Indianapolis, Ind. (Special).—The national executive committee of the miners met here Monday. The district conferences will be held between now and April 1.

All the dates for the joint conferences in the several states have not been fixed.

Of the conventions which have been arranged are Michigan's convention at Saginaw March 15, and the joint conference immediately afterwards at Bay City, and nine joint conference in Ohio during the month of March.

Vice President Lewis said that during the spring of next year he will be in Indianapolis, at the headquarters of the United Mineworkers, the greater part of the time. It is the intention of the officers to devote much time this year to the unorganized districts of the country.

The wage scale signed directly and indirectly affects the 300,000 miners. Those directly affected are the miners in the states of the central competitive district, composed of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and the Pittsburgh district of Pennsylvania. Of these 25,000 are in the Pittsburg district, 33,000 are in Ohio, 6,000 are in the Indiana bituminous fields, 3,000 are in Illinois.

Those whose wages are indirectly affected are the 30,000 miners of Central Pennsylvania; 3,000 of Michigan; 14,000 of Iowa; 4,000 of Kentucky; 15,000 of Alabama; 15,000 of Tennessee; and about 20,000 of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory. All of the latter base their wage demands on the scale adopted in the central district.

Vice-President Lewis has calculated the scale of wages which will prevail in the several States and districts. The old and new scales are as follows