

COMMISSION SURPRISED

Coal Miners Did Not Get Straight to Per Cent. Increase in 1900.

SOME MYSTERIOUS FIGURING

Witnesses Tell of Markle & Company's Manner of Treating Employees—General Wilson Objects to President Roosevelt Being Called "Teddy."

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 9.—The coal strike commission yesterday heard evidence presented by the mine workers of their side of the controversy with G. B. Markle & Company in the Hazleton region. The Markle Company was not represented before the commission by its own lawyers, although it had ample notice that testimony affecting their collieries would be presented. The commissioners expect the company to bring in evidence in rebuttal to the stories told by witnesses on Saturday and yesterday.

The powder question came before the commission yesterday afternoon and caused considerable discussion. It was brought about by Commissioner Clark asking for the recall of Paul Dunleavy, a Markle miner, who had testified at the morning session. Mr. Clark read to the witness the statements of wages submitted by him, which showed that some months he owed the company money for powder. The witness could not tell clearly how it was that he was in debt, and added that in his way of thinking the 10 per cent. increase granted by the company in 1900 was not an increase at all. He explained that the company, along with the other coal companies, granted the men a reduction in the price of powder from \$2.75 to \$1.50, but that the reduction in the powder was to be considered in the 10 per cent. increase in wages. In other words, they got a 2½ cents increase in wages, and the powder reduction amounted to an increase in wages of 7½ per cent., or 10 per cent. in all. This information came as a great surprise to the commissioners, who stated from the "bench" that they all were under the impression that the advance was a straight 10 per cent.

In some way of figuring, the Markle Company, it was testified to, placed some of the men in debt for the powder. No one seemed to know how it was done, and as none of the attorneys or independent operators present knew how the Markle Company figured it out.

John D. Hughes, the Scranton manager for Armour & Company, gave the wholesale prices for all meats, comparing them with the prices prevailing in 1900 and 1901. He presented a large mass of figures, all of which showed that the prices of meats of all kinds have increased 23½ per cent. over the prices of 1900.

Ira M. Burns, lawyer for the independent operators, who in cross-examination tried to show that the high grocery prices were due to short crops, making grain dearer for the feeding of animals, then took Mr. Hughes in charge and brought forth a rebuke from General Wilson. Mr. Burns said: "Don't you know that the rise in the prices of meats was due to the meat trust?"

Witness—"I don't know of any such institution."

Mr. Burns—"Do you agree with what 'Teddy' Roosevelt says about the trusts?"

Witness—"I believe in some of it." Before the witness could finish his answer General Wilson jumped up, and with rising indignation, said: "Mr. Chairman, I object to any person before this board referring to the president of the United States in that manner."

This caused a flurry, but Mr. Burns calmly replied, "He sometimes calls himself that."

Chairman Gray, however, smoothed matters out by saying: "I think the objection is well taken," to which Mr. Burns replied, "Well, we will call him the president of the United States."

Mrs. Andrew Chippie, the mother of the 12-year-old breaker boy who testified on Saturday that he had to work out the debt of his father, took the stand and substantiated all the boy had said. She gave the additional information through an interpreter that the Markle Company wanted her to sign a paper waiving all right to sue the company for the killing of her husband in their mines. The company promised her rent and coal free for six months, but she refused to sign. Upon her refusal to do so they charged up rent and coal, and the little boy was compelled to work at four cents an hour in the breaker, but his wages are so small the debt is increasing.

Another Hungarian woman, whose husband was killed at the same time Mrs. Chippie's husband lost his life, was called, and she told precisely the same story in every detail. Her son was given a job in the mines as a driver boy at 80 cents a day, and in five or six months never received anything but \$5, all the wages being retained by the company for rent and coal. Both women received \$50 each for burial expenses from the company, as explained by a witness in the morning session, but the funeral expenses in each case were greater than \$50. When their husbands were killed the company took out of the wages coming to the men the house rent and coal bill due the company.

CONSUL DIES OF YELLOW FEVER

Thomas Nast, Representative to Ecuador, Succumbed to Short Illness. Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dec. 8.—Consul General Thomas Nast died yesterday at noon after three days' illness from yellow fever. He was interred at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The funeral was attended by the governor, the consular corps, the American colony and by many friends. The coffin was wrapped in the stars and stripes. The British consul recited a prayer in the cemetery.

The death of Mr. Nast is deeply lamented by the natives, who held him in high esteem. Thomas Nast was born in Landau, Germany, on September 27, 1840, and came to this country with his parents when he was 6 years old. When he was only 14 he began drawing for publications, and during the succeeding years he worked for Frank Leslie's and the London Illustrated News both here and abroad. Mr. Nast held undisputed the title of "The Father of American Caricature."

Mr. Nast's civil war pictures, which appeared in Harper's Weekly, secured for him a national reputation. President Lincoln said that they were the best recruiting sergeants on the side of the Union. These cartoons and those following from the same hand were for many years by far the most popular of the time.

He invented the tiger as the symbol for Tammany Hall and the elephant as an emblem of the Republican party came from his brain. In derision of the Democrats he represented their party by a donkey.

Mr. Nast is credited with an immense service in his work that helped to break up the notorious Tweed ring. His vigorous illustrations of the iniquities of the Tammany chieftain and his band, though published in the early '70s, are well remembered to this day, and are as much a part of the history of New York city as anything that has been written.

DR. LORENZ IN PHILADELPHIA

Famous Surgeon Will Conduct Clinic in Jefferson Medical College.

Philadelphia, Dec. 9.—Professor Adolph Lorenz, the celebrated Austrian surgeon, arrived here from Baltimore last night, accompanied by his assistant, Dr. Mueller. Professor Lorenz will remain here until Friday. He is the guest of the Jefferson Medical College. Today he treated a number of charity cases and tomorrow will be devoted to the treatment of private cases. Thursday he will conduct a clinic at Jefferson College. Twenty patients will be submitted to him, and he will operate upon as many of them as time and his strength will permit.

Professor Lorenz stated that since his arrival in this country he has performed more than 100 operations, all of which, he said, were uniformly successful. From this city Professor Lorenz will go to New York and Boston, returning to his native country about Christmas. He will stop en route in London, where he expects to remain a week.

The case of Lolita Armour, of Chicago, Professor Lorenz said, would not require further attention until spring. Then he will either return to this country or the child will be taken to Vienna.

ST. LOUIS WOMAN IN A TRANCE

Restored to Semi-consciousness by Vigorous Massage Treatment.

St. Louis, Dec. 9.—Vigorous massage treatment yesterday afternoon resulted in restoration to semi-consciousness of Mrs. James Abernathy, who had been asleep since last Friday morning. After the vigorous rubbing yesterday she opened her eyes, but she has not spoken and apparently does not recognize even her own husband. Liquid nourishment was given her and she swallowed it slowly. After talking the food she was permitted to lie back on her pillow. Her eyes remain open, her breathing continues regular, her color natural, but, with the exception of swallowing some broth, she has not moved a muscle.

Had His "Rabbit" Amputated. Clearfield, Pa., Dec. 8.—Eleven-year-old J. Potter, of Carthaus, is a stolid. He fell under a train and his right arm was crushed at the elbow so that the forearm dangled about. He tucked the injured arm under his overcoat, and on his road home he met his father, to whom he exclaimed: "I've got a rabbit under my coat," and ran on home. When the doctors had amputated the arm and the boy regained consciousness, he laughingly said: "You had to take it off, did you? It's too bad it wasn't the other."

Dying Man Summoned Doctor. Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 8.—Staggering to a telephone, George W. Holloway, one of the best-known druggists of Syracuse, called up his physician last night: "Come to my rooms quick, doctor," he cried; "I'm dying. Run; my life depends on it." Without waiting to hang up the receiver, the physician dashed to the druggist's apartments, two blocks away. He found him dead on the floor. Heart failure was the cause of death.

Countess of Dudley Operated On. Dublin, Dec. 9.—The Countess of Dudley, the wife of the lord lieutenant of Ireland, was operated upon yesterday for appendicitis by Sir Frederick Treves. There have been many anxious inquiries at the Vice Royal lodge as to Lady Dudley's condition, and the king and queen have asked to be constantly informed. The latest bulletin says that the patient's progress is satisfactory.

COERCING VENEZUELA

British Minister and German Charge d'Affaires Leave Caracas.

BOTH LEGATIONS ARE CLOSED

After Presenting Ultimatum Demanding Satisfaction of Claims, Both Representatives Left and Boarded the Warships.

Caracas, Dec. 9.—The British minister, W. H. D. Haggard, and the German charge d'affaires, Von Pilgrim-Baltazzi, left Caracas at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon for La Guaira, where Minister Haggard went on board the British cruiser Retribution, and Herr Von Pilgrim-Baltazzi boarded the German cruiser Vineta. Both the British and the German legations have been closed.

Sunday afternoon the British minister and the German charge d'affaires deposited at the private residence of Foreign Minister Lopez Barralt separate demands, the British demand being for the payment of the interest on the German loan and other claims. The demands are without any specification as to the time given for an answer, but are in the form of an ultimatum.

At 3 o'clock yesterday Minister Haggard, his secretary, Grant Duff, and the chancellor of the legation, Godfrey, left Caracas in company with the German charge d'affaires, von Pilgrim-Baltazzi, for La Guaira. On the arrival of the train at the latter port at 5 o'clock 30 officers met the diplomats at the station. Minister Haggard and the other members of the British legation went on board the British cruiser Retribution, while the German charge d'affaires boarded the German cruiser Vineta. The ministers left Caracas without previously notifying the Venezuelan government, probably in order to avoid any hostile demonstration.

Sunday and yesterday being festivals in Caracas, all the public offices were closed, and it was impossible to see any one in authority regarding the departure of the ministers. The handing in of a demand of such a nature at the private residence of a minister, forgetting diplomatic rules, is believed in some quarters to be without precedent.

The actual situation is incomprehensible here. No one appeared to know anything about the Anglo-German projected demonstration. The foreign minister said that he considered a menace on the part of Germany to be inadmissible, and that any threat would be only a "ballon d'eau" (a feeler), while as for England, said the minister, she has no grounds for aggression.

It is said that one of the chief officers of the German cruiser Vineta told a German family at La Guaira that a blockade of the coasts of Venezuela was imminent.

STORE ODDLY WRECKED

Five Persons Hurt in Mysterious Explosion at Thoroughfare, N. J.

Woodbury, N. J., Dec. 8.—Five persons were badly injured in an explosion in the general store of Wilkins Brothers, at Thoroughfare, Saturday night, the origin of which is shrouded in the deepest mystery. The explosion was felt all over the town, and the residents were greatly excited.

Those injured are: Charles W. Wilkins, frightfully burned about the head and lower limbs; Faunce Crowley, burned about the head, hair nearly burned off; Miss Hannah Richards, face disfigured, hair burned and badly bruised; Wm. Mitchell, hands and face burned; Wood Wynne, mustache burned off, face scarred and burned on the arms.

Charles Wilkins was lighting one of the kerosene lamps, and as he threw the dead match on the counter the explosion occurred. The concussion seemed to come from underneath the counter or the cellar below. None of the injured knew anything until they were carried from the debris in the cellar. Miss Richards remembers seeing a ball of fire flying toward Mr. Wilkins. She was in the rear of the store and remembers being tossed upwards, but thought she landed in the room above, and cannot recollect going down into the cellar.

It has been suggested that some enemy of the firm may have exploded dynamite under the building, the complete wreck of which would seem to sustain the idea that dynamite was the force.

Steamer Burned at Her Dock.

Philadelphia, Dec. 6.—The steamer Saxon, of the Boston and Philadelphia Steamship Company, was burned at her dock at midnight. The vessel is a total loss. She is a sister ship of the steamer Norman, which went aground in the Delaware river near Chester Thursday. The fire originated in the engine room, and Captain Briggs and the crew of 21 men aided the local fire department in fighting the flames. The loss is unknown.

Predicted Husband's Death.

Anbury Park, N. J., Dec. 8.—Alfred R. Toland, who served as postmaster of Anbury Park under President Cleveland, died here Saturday of apoplexy. He was a veteran of the Civil War and a member of the Pioneers' Society, of this city. Two weeks ago Mrs. Toland predicted her husband's death to the clerks in Cook's store. She said: "Mr. Toland will die inside of 10 days; I know it."

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