

TWO CENTS

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FEARFUL TORNADO

Sweeps Over the Southern Section of Birmingham, Ala.

TWENTY-FIVE ARE KILLED

Only Five of the Victims Are White. Eighteen Bodies Already Recovered from the Debris—Scores of Injured Have Been Removed to the Hospitals—Destruction of Property Estimated at a Quarter of Million Dollars—The Storm Strikes the City in the Extreme Southwestern Corner and Plows Its Way Eastward, Leaving a Path of Desolation 150 Feet Wide—List of the Dead and Wounded.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Birmingham, Ala., March 25.—Shortly before 10 o'clock this morning a fearful tornado swept over the southern section of this city, travelling in an easterly direction. The number of killed is estimated at twenty-five. Only five of them are white. The destruction of property is placed at a quarter of a million dollars. Eighteen bodies have been recovered from the debris up to dark and scores of injured have been removed to the hospitals.

Among the dead are: Dr. C. G. Chapman, of the firm of Kelly & Chapman, who conducted a private infirmary in this city, and the wife and infant child of Hon. Robert J. Lowe, chairman of the Democratic state executive committee.

List of the Dead. Following is the list of identified dead: G. C. CHAPMAN, MRS. ROBERT J. LOWE, INFANT CHILD OF Mrs. Lowe, ALEXANDER, LITTLE DAUGHTER OF B. B. Hudson, J. MYRO, colored, collector Union Mutual association of Mobile, CARBIE HUDSON, colored, MAGGIE BLYNNS, colored, CARBIE HENRY, LIZZIE BLISS, colored, SISTER OF B. B. Hudson, colored, UNKNOWN CARPENTER, struck by flying lumber.

The Injured. The following are injured: Mrs. B. H. Thomas, Mrs. W. H. Thomas, Mrs. Margaret Chin, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. Myrtle, Carrie Flint, colored. The more seriously injured among the white people so far as reported are: John Dillon, Hambricht Detro, Mrs. Souton, T. L. Holton, Mrs. Lynch and daughter, Frank Krimsey, W. B. Thompson.

Many colored people were also injured more or less severely. The storm struck the city in the extreme southwestern corner and plowed its way eastward, leaving a path 150 feet wide through the entire southern section extending from Green Springs on the west to Avondale on the east and continued its course on until its fury was spent in the mountains beyond Irondale, a small town six miles east of the city.

The morning dawned cloudy and sultry and grew more threatening as the day advanced. Clouds began to gather and shortly after 9 o'clock sharp lightning flashed from the southwest. The air became heavy and stifling. The velocity of the wind suddenly began to increase and soon from out of the overcast sky the dreaded funnel-shaped cloud made its descent. Hugging close to the earth, it passed through the city in leaps and bounds, with terrific force, and was away to the east before people generally realized what had happened.

Altitude of the Cyclone. The altitude of the cyclone was not more than seventy-five feet. The negro shanties and cottages in the lowlands in the path of the storm were the principal sufferers. The larger residences on the higher ground suffered only slightly. The large trees on the hillside of St. Vincent's hospital were torn up by the roots and large masses of stone were twisted out of the ground and broken and scattered all over the driveways of the entrance to the institution.

From Eighth to Tenth street the wind bounded like a rubber ball and when it again descended it struck and demolished five small houses. Skimming close to the earth, it then swept through a small pine grove, tearing the trees up by the roots and hurled them through the air like arrows. Beyond the grove the storm cloud swooped down on a negro settlement and the frail cabins were crushed like egg shells, not one being left in the pathway of the storm. Carrie Elma, a negro, was buried beneath the debris, but most of the negroes escaped with slight injuries. Eastward the storm swept, cutting its way through another strip of woods, striking the Second Presbyterian church, demolishing the structure.

East of the church is another negro settlement where much havoc was wrought among the frail shacks, seven of which were swept away. A number of small houses were levelled between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets. The storm then struck the more thickly settled residence portion of the city, and its work of destruction increased. Almost a clean sweep was made of the district lying between Eighteenth and Twentieth streets and Avenues H and I, two blocks. Here

VAUGHAN BILL PROGRESSING

Dr. McLeod and Mr. Daniels Unable to Arrest Proceedings at Harrisburg.

OBJECTIONS TOO LATE

Today, However, Mr. Coray, of Luzerne, Will Introduce a Resolution Giving the Opponents of the Bill an Opportunity to Put Forth Their Objections Tomorrow Evening. The Scranton Delegation of Objectors Greatly Exercised Over Their Failure to Obtain a Hearing—Will Petition to the Governor to Veto the Measure if the House Adopts It.

Special from a Staff Correspondent. Harrisburg, Pa., March 25.—It is now possible for the Vaughan bill, relating to liquor license fees, to become a law before April 1. In the house tonight a resolution was adopted, by an overwhelming viva voce vote, making the bill a special order on second reading for Wednesday morning at 11.15 o'clock and on third reading at 11.15 o'clock Thursday morning. The efforts of the opponents of the bill to secure a recommitment for the purpose of granting them a hearing, were futile. Tomorrow, however, Mr. Coray, of Luzerne, will introduce a resolution giving the opponents of the resolution the use of the house, Wednesday night, to put forward their objections to such of the members as are to be enlightened.

Rev. Dr. James McLeod, representing the citizens committee opposing the bill, and Charles E. Daniels, attorney for the committee, came here today to secure a recommitment of the bill. Ex-Sheriff Charles Robinson and his private attorney, Hon. C. P. O'Malley, were on hand to oppose this project. Representative Scheuer, who has charge of the bill in the house, went away Friday with the appropriations committee, and before going asked Representative Philbin to introduce the resolution to make the bill a special order for Wednesday and Thursday.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT M'KINLEY

The American Peace Society Appeals to the Chief Magistrate to Bring the Cruel War to a Close.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Boston, March 25.—The American Peace society today voted unanimously to publish an open letter to President McKinley. The letter in part follows: The war made of these last few years outrages the conscience of the civilized world. The most advanced nations have been guilty. Our attack on Spain, justified by many on the score of humanity to the outside, is a war on the passions of war, which will reign in the Philippines.

We earnestly appeal to you to exert your power to the utmost to bring this cruel war to the earliest possible termination and merchandise to prohibit all those acts of torture by our soldiers, or under surveillance of our officers, which have been officially reported and which would have been immediately to America a few years ago.

We appeal to you to issue a proclamation to the Filipinos over your own signature, pledging to them the fullest rights and liberties, with all possible magnanimity in your own good judgment.

The war makes us equally ignorant in the bloody and protracted efforts of the British to crush and subvert the Republic of the Philippines. We regret that the influence of America is used to chain terms for the fierce spirit of national humiliation.

The war makes us spread into China and has threatened to engulf the Chinese and upon them. In our throats to combat the civilized nations in universal war.

REPUBLICANS ASKED TO SUPPORT GUFFEY BILL

Result of a Conference Held at the Governor's Mansion.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Harrisburg, Pa., March 25.—At a conference of the Republican leaders held at the governor's mansion tonight it was decided to request the Republican senators and members of the house to support the Guffey bill, return bill with the understanding that the bill will be introduced by the party caucus should be allowed to remain.

FIRST FATAL MINE EXPLOSION

One Man Killed Instantly; Five Others May Die from Injuries. Disaster at Connelville.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Connelville, Pa., March 25.—The first fatal mine explosion to occur in the new mining region of Fayette county happened today. One man was killed instantly, five will die and ten are burned and crushed so terribly that it is doubtful if they will recover. The injured men have been brought to the Cottage State hospital, and as a result of the explosion the mine is on fire. The cause of the explosion was an accumulation of gas in the heading of the Guffey mine, one of the new mines opened up this spring by the American Steel and Wire company, which has lately been merged into the United States Steel corporation. The list of dead and injured are as follows:

Dead: An Italian, name unknown. Injured: Robert Nelson, mine foreman, terribly burned, thought at first to be dead; will die before morning. Gibson Gilmore, of Danbar, an American miner, burned and blackened from head to feet; not expected to live. David Ramsey, small boy, a driver, burned from head to feet, also crushed and bruised; not expected to recover. James Murphy, of New Salem, American miner, burned about head and arms. Michael Solok, a Slav miner, badly crushed and holed. Alexander Pullyntov, Slav miner, crushed and arms broken. George Yonkora, Slav miner.

SOLDIERS GUARD MINERS

Extraordinary Scene at Monceau Les Mines. France—Trouble with the "Reds" and "Yellows."

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Monceau Les Mines, France, March 25.—An extraordinary scene was witnessed today in Monceau Les Mines, where a mining strike has been in progress for several months, when the government took the unusual step of utilizing troops to insure liberty of work to non-striker. A large number of men willing to work had been intimidated by the menacing demonstrations of the strikers, who call themselves "reds" and the non-strikers "yellows."

Early this morning strong detachments of infantry and cavalry were unexpectedly massed at Pit heads in various parts of the town. Before the "reds" realized the situation, bodies of "yellows" had descended into the mines. The strikers assembled quickly but were overpowered by the troops.

It was feared that there would be trouble when the "yellows" left the mines for the day. During the afternoon an immense and threatening crowd assembled, but the strikers were helpless in the face of the rigorous press of troops. The "yellows" are surrounded by a hedge of bayonets with fixed bayonets, which was again surrounded by a strong detachment of cavalry with drawn sabres, proceeded along the street amid a storm of shouting and shooting of "down with the yellows." The yellows of the strikers were especially violent.

The procession stopped before the home of each "yellow" and the entrance of each was the signal for renewed hisses and yelling, but there was no attempt to molest. The situation, however, gives rise to considerable anxiety. Boers Lost Heavily. Cape Town, March 25.—It is said the Boers lost heavily in attacking the garrison at Lichtenburg last week. Upwards of seventy Boers are reported to have been shot at one spot among the wire entanglements.

JAPAN READY FOR A WAR WITH RUSSIA

Her Leading Statesmen Believe That a Conflict with Minions of the Czar is Inevitable.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION

The Question is Whether the Struggle Shall Begin Now or Later. Russian Control of Manchuria, They Believe, Would Mean a Partition of the Chinese Empire and the End of the Open Door—Japan Has No Fear of Result of a Clash with Russia, but Hesitates on Account of the Effect of War Upon the Industries of the Country.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. London, March 25.—The Chinese minister, Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Lu, called at the foreign office and urged the British government to bring pressure to bear in order to prevent Russia from securing the necessary signatures of the Manchurian agreement. The foreign office is still in the dark tonight as to whether the agreement will be signed or allowed to lapse when the time expires, March 26. The officials of the Japanese legation are inclined to believe Russia will succeed in getting the necessary signatures.

The situation is still more complicated, owing to the fact ascertained by a representative of the Associated Press today that these are two secret treaties, one of which is to be signed at St. Petersburg, dealing with Russian military control of Manchuria, and another to be signed at Peking, dealing with her civil powers. The Chinese appeals for support have failed to produce any direct result. The British government has refused to support Great Britain or apparently from any other power to St. Petersburg, for Russia persistently adhered to her contention that the secret agreement concerns no one except herself and China.

On this ground Great Britain's request for copies of the agreement was abruptly declined. It is explained at the foreign office here that it would be a dangerous and useless breach of diplomatic procedure to endeavor to enter upon expostulations with Russia which would only be based upon information supplied by the Chinese.

In other words, the copies of secret treaties and alleged modifications of them recently given to the powers by the Chinese are worthless documents and will remain such unless Russia herself chooses to communicate the text of the actual treaties and modifications.

Objectionable to Japan. In the absence of the Japanese minister in London, Baron Hayashi, Mr. Matsui, first secretary of the Japanese legation, who was interviewed this afternoon by a representative of the Associated Press, made a comprehensive statement of the issues involved. He said:

Russia's insistence, China's helplessness and the probable victory of Russian diplomacy tomorrow will bring us to the brink of a dangerous situation in which none of the powers is so deeply concerned as Japan. Even if the secret treaties have been nullified as is alleged, the changes are so trifling as to make the documents thoroughly objectionable to Japan.

Assuming that China signs the treaties I suppose Great Britain, Germany and the United States will protest to Russia. But that is about as far as they will go and about as much as they will get. With Japan it is a matter of fighting.

The question is whether we are to fight Russia now or to fight her later on. She has no right to Manchuria, and if she secures Manchuria she will be on the way to securing Korea.

Our general feeling is strongly in favor of adhering to the crisis. Their eyes are wide open and they will not be driven to precipitate action by the jingals of Japan, who are openly clamoring for immediate war. Yet if they see that war is unavoidable they will not hesitate to strike.

No Fear of Result. Japan has no reason to be afraid as to the result. Many reasons occur to the average Japanese mind in favor of forcing at the present moment a struggle which must come eventually. The chief reason against so doing is the fact that Japan is just beginning a new industrial era which would be temporarily killed should we endeavor by force of arms to prevent Russia's encroachments.

If we follow the lead of other powers and endeavor to establish a new order of things, we must sit down tamely and see any other nation step in and make treaties similar to those which China seems on the verge of signing with Russia. This would mean the partition of the Chinese empire and the end of the "open door."

As we see it, we naturally think we would have the moral support of the United States which has been the champion of these principles since the days of the Revolution and Germany.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: RAIN, WARMER.

1 General—Tornado Sweeps Over Birmingham, Ala. 2 A Hearing in the Ripper Case. Japan Wants to Fight Russia. Vaughan Bill Advanced. 3 General—Carnegie Department. 4 Local—Bad Sanitary Condition of No. 25 School. Opinion on the Election Contest. 5 Editorial. Note and Comment. 6 Local—Committee Goes to Harrisburg to Protest Against the Vaughan Bill. Estimates Committee Uses the Pruning Knife. 7 Local—West Scranton and Suburban. 8 General—Northeastern Pennsylvania. Financial and Commercial. 9 Local—Tangle in the Sills Strike. Court Proceedings. Live News of the Industrial World.

PRESIDENT MITCHELL HAD NO CONFERENCE

No Conference with J. P. Morgan. Senator Hanna Has Nothing to Do with the Strike.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, March 25.—President Mitchell, of the miners' union, sent the following statement to Wilkes-Barre today: "I have had no conference with J. P. Morgan or any other railroad president or coal operator. Contrary to reports, we, the committee, did not come to New York in response to any invitation. So far as I know, the miners have not up to this time been offered or granted any concessions. Of course, we all hope to assist the strike and are putting our most urgent efforts to that end. We came to New York for the purpose of holding a conference, if possible, and in doing so we are simply carrying out the wishes expressed by a majority of those who attended the last conference at Hazleton."

Senator Hanna, who is in town, visited several places in the financial district today. When asked whether his presence here had any connection with coal strike rumors, the senator replied emphatically that it had none. "I am here on other matters," he said. "I have nothing to do with this affair, and I know nothing about it save what I have heard and read these last few days. I have not been consulted with regard to this matter at all."

The Herald tomorrow will say that the operators of the anthracite coal mines and the executive officers of those railroads that are largely interested in that industry are unanimous in the opinion that there will be no strike until after April 1 in the Pennsylvania coal region. They seemed to be equal positiveness in the assertion that as an organization the United Mine Workers will not be recognized by the operators. It seems to be pretty well established that Mr. Mitchell will not have an opportunity of holding a conference as the representative of the United Mine Workers with any of the anthracite operators or any person representing them. The operators are averse to giving any recognition to the organization.

Robert M. Oliphant, president of the Delaware and Hudson company, said: "I do not believe Mr. Mitchell will have the temerity to order or advocate a strike. The Mine Workers have no grievances; they are being paid liberally for their work. The large coal carrying roads are not at all concerned."

RECORD TO BE SOLD

Master in the Suit to Set Aside the Assignment for Benefit of Creditors Files Report.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Philadelphia, March 25.—Assistant Attorney General James M. Beck, master in the suit pending in the United States Circuit court to set aside the assignment of the Philadelphia Record, property to Assignees George Hettler, Jr., and Richard Y. Cook, and the transaction was therefore void. He decrees that the Record shall be disposed of at public sale and settle claims in dispute amounting to over two million dollars.

The master filed a voluminous report reviewing the entire litigation. After deciding that the United States Circuit court had jurisdiction to decree a sale of the Record, the master discusses the various claims against the Singery estate, which he finds aggregated over \$2,900,000. The indebtedness of the Chestnut Street National bank alone was \$1,140,000.

The main question was the validity of a certain assignment by which Singery, shortly before his death, transferred his interest in the Philadelphia Record to George H. Earle, Jr., the plaintiff, who was the receiver of the above bank. This assignment was claimed to be invalid, it being argued that Singery was insane at the time he executed it. Mr. Beck decides that Singery was sane, and that the transfer is valid, and that the court should enter a decree to sell the stock and bonds of the Philadelphia Record, which were the subject of the assignment. The litigation affects 9,000 out of 10,000 shares of the capital stock of the Record company, and 475 bonds of \$1,000 each out of the total issue of 500 bonds.

Bed of Coal Discovered. Cumberland, Md., March 25.—There is much excitement at Cherry Hill, N. Va., on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, sixty miles east of Cumberland, over the discovery of a rich vein of anthracite coal at the depth of eight feet, while being a well on the Anderson farm.

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, March 25.—Forecast for eastern Pennsylvania: Rain, warmer Tuesday; fresh to brisk southeasterly winds; Wednesday, probably fair.

HEARING TO BE ALLOWED IN RIPPER CASE

Prominent Scranton Attorneys Appear Before the Supreme Court at Philadelphia.

NO ARGUMENTS HEARD

Judge Knapp, Representing Recorder Moir; Joseph O'Brien, Representing Retainer McDonald, and Deputy Attorney General Fleitz, Representing the Commonwealth, Petition for Hearing in Ripper Case—Justice Mitchell Allows Petition to Be Filed, but Will Hear No Arguments Upon Judge Archbald's Opinion Regarding the Constitutionality of the Ripper Bill—The Petition Filed.

Philadelphia, March 25.—Ex-Judge H. A. Knapp, representing Recorder Moir; Joseph O'Brien, representing Retainer McDonald, and Deputy Attorney General Fleitz, representing the commonwealth, joined in a petition to the Supreme court, this morning, to advance the time for hearing the appeal in the second-class city "ripper" case. Ex-Judge Knapp presented the petition, and made the brief accompanying explanations: "I would ask the court to indulge me—Judge Knapp was proceeding to say, when Justice Mitchell interrupted with a remark: 'We will not hear arguments on the matter at this time.'"

"I do not wish to make an argument," Judge Knapp rejoined. "I simply want to orally impress upon the court one matter contained in our petition. It is this: If this act is declared unconstitutional, the city of Scranton will be left without any organized form of government. It is therefore urgent that the act should be finally passed upon by your honorable court before the legislature adjourns, so that in case the act is unconstitutional a new form of government can be supplied for Scranton."

"The appeal is actually pending," queried Justice Mitchell. "It is," answered Judge Knapp. "Let the petition be filed," said Justice Mitchell.

Mr. O'Brien and Deputy Attorney General Fleitz signified the acquiescence of their parties to the motion to advance the case, and at this the incident closed. The case is as follows: The Petition.

As petition is informed and believes, the governor has not yet appointed the recorder for the cities of Pittsburg and Altoona, the only other second class cities in the state besides Scranton, and is delaying action with reference to such appointments as long as the limitation of thirty days fixed by said act will permit, for the purpose of avoiding the possible confusion which would result from such appointment in case the said act for any reason is declared unconstitutional.

It is of the utmost importance to the cities of Pittsburg, Altoona and Scranton, the cities of the second class, that the constitutionality of the said act should be determined at the earliest practicable moment. Under previous legislation for cities of the second class the chief executive officer was the mayor, who was elected for a term of time by vote of the people. By the present act the office of mayor is abolished and the governor is required to appoint in his place a city recorder, who becomes mayor under the provisions of the act, the chief executive officer of the city.

Under preceding legislation the heads of departments who controlled all the executive branches of the city government, in case the vote of the city council. Under the act of March 7, 1901, all heads of departments are appointed by the city recorder and are removable by him at pleasure. The heads of departments, in turn, have power and authority to appoint and remove their deputies and subordinates.

In consequence of these radical changes in the organization of all of the executive departments of the city government, in case the petition should proceed to exercise the powers and duties conferred upon him by the said act, and it should afterward be determined that that act was unconstitutional, great confusion would be created in the city of Scranton and great injury result to its citizens and taxpayers. The city of Scranton has just passed from a city of the third class to one of the second class, and the departments have not yet been fully reorganized. The cities of Pittsburg and Altoona, upon the other hand, have for years been cities of the second class and their executive departments are organized under the present law relating to that class of cities. The uncertainty and confusion which would result from an effort to reorganize the executive departments of these two cities under the act of March 7, while its constitutionality was subject to question and was the object of direct attack, would be as great as to practically paralyze all public action.

Urgent Necessity. Your petitioner is informed and believes that these cities and officers of existing cities of the second class who from conviction or interest have questioned or are prepared to question the constitutionality of the said act, agree with your petitioner in the conviction that it is of the utmost importance that the question of the constitutionality of the said act should be determined at the earliest possible moment by the court of last resort.

Your petitioner believes and believes that the provisions of the act approved June 14, 1896, P. L. 621, section 16, is provided with reference to writs of error from judgments in cases so organized as follows: "Every such writ of error may be made returnable forthwith if the Supreme court shall be in session in the proper district, and shall be heard and decided by the judges thereof as the term to which it is returnable."

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays your honors, in compliance with the spirit of the last cited act of assembly, and in view of the large and important public interests involved, to take the earliest practicable time for the hearing of the above stated appeal. And he will ever pray, etc.

It is customary for the Supreme court to pass upon petitions of this kind during its first recess. Consequently an order can be looked for tomorrow morning, fixing an early day for a hearing, or else refusing the petition. T. J. Duffy.