

Republican News Item.

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75C PER YEAR

PLAN TO PROBE COAL COMBINE

Resolution in Legislature Calls For Investigation.

QUESTION OF FREIGHT RATES

Committee to Be Directed to Inquire Into Cost of Mining and Transporting Anthracite and Other High Prices.

A resolution introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature provides for a sweeping investigation of the anthracite coal industry of Pennsylvania and to frame laws to reduce the price of coal.

As an indication that the proposed investigation will be thorough a committee is empowered to inquire into relations between mining and transportation companies and great banking houses, which are said to be closely affiliated with them, and which usually conduct their financial operations.

The resolution, which is understood to have the approval of the Republican leaders, gives the committee power especially to investigate freight rates, it being alleged that rates for anthracite are much higher than those for bituminous coal.

In the preamble it is said that the excessive cost of transporting and handling anthracite is due, in part at least, to "large fees and commissions paid by transportation companies to bankers to negotiate the sale of their securities and for loans of money."

And also to "excessive fees, commissions and other charges paid to brokers, commission agents, sales agents, factors and middlemen."

The committee is directed to inquire particularly into the actual cost of mining and transporting anthracite and the proportion paid to labor.

This with a view to determine whether the transportation rates for hard coal are excessive as compared with rates charged for bituminous and other commodities for equal distances.

Also whether the cost of anthracite to the consumer is in any measure due to "usurious fees and commissions paid by the transportation companies to private and other bankers who are in the directorate of or are closely affiliated with such transportation companies" for negotiation of securities.

The committee is also further to "inquire into the relation of private and other bankers, brokers, factors and agents who are in the directorate of the anthracite coal carrying companies to the mining and sale of anthracite coal."

WALLACE BASSFORD.

Former Newspaper Man Secretary to Speaker Clark.



News Writer Clark's Aid.

The new secretary to the speaker of the house of representatives is to be Wallace Bassford, a former Kansas City, Mo., newspaper man.

Mr. Bassford has been Champ Clark's private secretary for more than ten years and has taken most of the burden of managing Representative Clark's campaigns.

Should the boom for Mr. Clark for president be carried to a successful end Mr. Bassford will be secretary to the president.

Morse Must Stay Behind Bars.

From sources close to the president it was learned that the pardon appeals of the bankers, Charles W. Morse, of New York, and John R. Walsh, of Chicago, undoubtedly will be denied.

It is stated that the attorney general's recommendation in both cases is adverse and that the president will follow his findings.

Various reports as to the recommendations of the attorney general have been current, and two weeks ago it was rumored that Morse was to be pardoned.

This report was without foundation, for even friends of the banker had not expected anything better than a commutation.

It is said that the president will even deny a commutation.

Reports that Mr. Morse is in a critical condition in the Atlanta penitentiary are without foundation, according to an unofficial statement by the department of justice.

CHARRED RUINS YIELD BODIES

Known Dead in New York Horror is 143.

PITIFUL SCENES AT MORGUE

Firemen Find Bodies Beneath Sidewalk and Pick Up Arms and Hands In Building—Women Hysterical at Sight of Charred Victims.

Fire that destroyed the Asch building, at Washington place and Greene street, in New York, cost the lives of 143 employees of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, which occupied the three upper floors of the building. Nearly all the dead are girls.

How the fire started will perhaps never be known. A corner on the eighth floor was its point of origin and the three upper floors only were swept. On the ninth floor fifty bodies were found; sixty free or more persons were crushed to death by jumping, and more than thirty clogged the elevator shafts. The loss to property will not exceed \$100,000.

First Danger Sign Hideous.

Pedestrians going home through Washington place to Washington square were scattered by the whiz of something rushing through the air before them—there was a horrible plop on the pavement and a body flattened on the flags.

Wayfarers on the opposite side of the street shaded their eyes against the setting sun and saw the windows of the three upper floors of the building black with girls crowding to the sills.

"Don't jump! Don't jump!" yelled the crowd, but the girls had no alternative. The pressure of the maddened hundreds behind them and the urging of their own fears were too strong. They began to fall to the sidewalk in a terrible rain of flesh and blood.

Four alarms were rung within fifteen minutes. Before the engines could respond and before the nets could be stretched or the ladders raised, five girls had fallen from the eighth and ninth floors so heavily that they broke through the glass and iron roofs of the sub-cellars and crashed through the very streets into the vaults below. In an hour the fire was out; in half an hour it had done its worst; probably the death list was full in twenty minutes.

Firemen who had begun to wade through the water in the basement before it had been pumped out felt around in the water under a hole in the sidewalk vault lights of Greene street, a hole made by falling bodies, many times, but discovered nothing beneath the surface of the water. One of the firemen happened to look upward while passing the spot and so found two bodies of young women, beneath which he and his companion had walked many times. The two dead girls were lying on a lattice of steam pipes about four feet below the hole in the vault lights. The girls' bodies had broken the concrete and glass vault lights of the pavement and had fallen through the sidewalk hole to the steam pipes.

Twelve hours later firemen working in the cellar of the building came across a body at the foot of the shaft of the two freight elevators on the north side of the building. It was so badly burned and mutilated that the firemen were unable to tell whether it was the body of a man or that of a woman.

Find Fragments of Bodies.

Charles Aichman, of fire patrol No. 12, found part of an arm and shoulder near the north end of the cutting room of the eighth floor, where the fire started beneath a pile of west plaster and bits of warped sewing machines. Shortly after this a hand was found on the window ledge of the fifth floor, evidently broken from the wrist of a falling body. Two charred arms and a burned foot were found on the ninth floor.

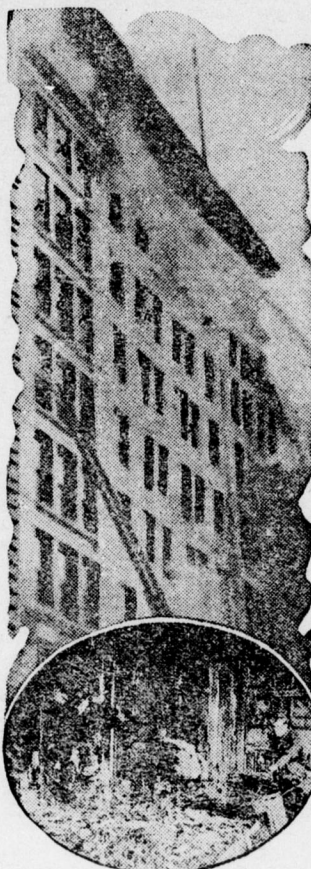
The windows of the burned floors begin so close to the floor that the sills are just a few inches below the knees of one standing by the window. It was evident that many girls, therefore, whether they wanted to jump or not, must have been shoved out of the windows by the press behind them.

Max Blanck, one of the proprietors of the Triangle company, said it was against orders to smoke in their lofts. The reporters while clambering over the debris on the eighth floor where the fire started, saw amidst the half burned pocketbooks, shoes and other bits of clothing, a scorched cigarette box. In another part of the building were a number of half-smoked cigarettes lying on the floor.

Chief Croker said he believed the fire was caused by a smoker who tossed either a match or a lighted cigarette on the floor among the piles of inflammable flimsy stuff used in the manufacture of waists and lingerie.

NEW YORK FIRE HORROR.

Cresces Show Windows Where Girls Jumped—Searching Ruins.



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When the body found at the foot of the freight elevator shaft had been sent to the morgue there was a row of fifteen pine coffins stretched along the south side of the covered pier and sixty-nine along the north side, each containing a body which in most cases was unrecognizable.

The relatives or close friends who were looking for their dead at the pier morgue began to come to the pier an hour or two after the arrival of the first body. With few exceptions those who arrived from the late fore-

noon were curiosity seekers who knew no one who worked in the burned building.

There were frock-coated young men, carrying canes, who laughed and chatted with well-dressed girls, as the line jostled slowly eastward toward the pier entrance. And there were many of these girls, who entered the scaffolded pier laughing, who, after a moment looking at the horrors, fell in a faint to the floor.

White-capped nurses had more to do with the handling of the lines than the police. It was a common sight to see a nurse leading an aged woman or one of middle age along the line of coffins. On the south side of the pier was a white enameled table, such as is used in operating rooms. Many times there would be heard a shriek and a nurse would clasp her arms around the woman, who had either begun to grow hysterical upon recognizing her dead or who had fainted from the horror that lay stretched all about.

A policeman or many of them and surgeons would then run to the spot and help the nurse lift the woman on the table until a stretcher could be brought to the spot.

Then the woman, shrieking in a way that caused some of the curiosity seekers who were entering the pier to hurry away crying without looking at the rows of mangled beings stretched on either side, would be carried to a room at the pier entrance to be revived.

A pale girl bent over a misshapen mass long and doubtfully. Then, with a final effort, she grasped a hand that protruded from beneath the canvas, and with a shriek collapsed. The blackened mass, she sobbed, had been her sweetheart, to whom she had become engaged the night before the disaster. A ring on his finger told her of his identity. She asked if the dead man had a watch. They brought it to her, she opened it and gazed at her own features.

Twenty Sicilian women became hysterical at once upon recognizing their kin in the pine coffins. A man whose face was marked by a scar of flame found his brother among the dead. The two had worked side by side, pouring water upon the fire.

A cutter identified his dead sweetheart by their engagement ring and her purse. It contained her week's wages, \$3. The bodies of two sisters, horribly mangled, sat propped up in their coffins, while a sobbing brother left them to search for his aged mother, who also had perished. The fire had left him without a relative.

MADERO PREDICTS PEACE IN MEXICO

It Will Come Inside of Month, Revolutionist Says.

DIAZ WILL SOON RESIGN

Declares He Will Hold Office Until Reforms Are Put In Force—Peace Conference Arranged.

Francis I. Madero, Sr., father of the provisional president of Mexico, has arrived in San Antonio, Texas, with his son, Gustavo, straight from New York, and he has announced that by arrangements which had been concluded between himself and Jose Yves Limantour in New York definite measures of peace between the insurgents and the Diaz government in Mexico were in process of being formulated. He even allowed himself to prophesy that within thirty days there would be peace over the entire territory of Mexico and without the intervention of American troops. He also said that President Diaz would resign within a few months.

"There will be a peace conference held within the next few days, possibly in San Antonio, although it may be held in Mexico," he said. "I do not know yet who will be the representatives of the Mexican government."

Francisco Madero, Sr., Alfonso Madero and Gustavo Madero will be the representatives of the revolutionary party at this conference, it was said at the revolutionary junta.

This is a part of the program of conciliation that Francisco Madero outlined as the basis of the reconciliation between the revolutionists and the federal government:

"There will be no armistice between the Maderists in the field and the federal troops opposing them during the time that whatever negotiations now contemplated may be in the making."

"Under no conditions will the rebels lay down their arms. They will simply guarantee to disperse upon the conclusion of a final treaty, each man carrying his arms to his home."

"Peace will not become a fact unless two things are guaranteed:

"A free election and the incorporation in the national constitution of a law prohibiting the re-election of all government officers."

"Certain changes in the newly appointed cabinet, looking toward the inclusion therein of men who are known not to be allied with the old Diaz regime, must be one of the conditions established before the revolution shall come to an end."

Francisco Madero, Sr., said that President Diaz would probably continue to hold his office for a few months longer while some reforms agreed to by the new cabinet are being put in force.

In the meantime, said Senor Madero, the resignation of Vice President Corral will be received by the Mexican congress shortly after it meets next Saturday. This, he said, will leave Senor de la Barra, as minister of foreign affairs, next in line for the presidency, but Senor de la Barra and the Mexican congress will take steps to have another election for president held.

TO OPEN MORE POSTAL BANKS

Postmaster General Resignates 45 Offices to Receive Deposits.

Postmaster General Hitchcock has designated forty-five additional post-offices as postal savings depositories in as many states and territories, mostly at industrial centers.

Among the offices designated were: Havre de Grace, Md.; Burlington, N. J.; Berwick, Pa.; and Alexandria, Va.

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