

THREE MEN KILLED

BY AN EXPLOSION

Accident at Old Sharpville in Town of Sharpville.

WERE BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION

Shock Felt Fourteen Miles Distant—A Passenger Train Which Passed About a Quarter of a Mile from the Scene of the Explosion at the Time of the Accident Was Swayed by the Force of the Explosion.

Sharpville, Pa. (Special).—An explosion at the old Sharpville furnace wrecked the furnace plant and killed three men. Another workman was probably fatally injured.

The men were working at the top of the furnace when the explosion occurred, and Clay, Dickson and Bartlett were burned to death. Their bodies were recovered at 9 o'clock. Donnelly was injured by jumping.

The cause of the explosion is not known. No estimate has been made as yet of the loss.

Seranton, Pa. (Special).—An explosion in the barrel mill of the Moosic Powder Company at its Jermyn works wrecked the mill and several adjoining buildings and broke windows for miles around. The shock was plainly felt in this city, a distance of 14 miles.

Jacob Hiller, who was in the engine room of an adjoining building, was burned beyond recognition and cannot survive. John Gibbs, George Gebhardt and George Forkel, who were entering the mill yard, were caught by flying debris and seriously injured. Glass blown from a window in Albert Carey's house struck his daughter and cut a deep gash in her neck. It is feared she is fatally injured.

A Delaware and Hudson passenger train which passed about a quarter of a mile from the scene of the explosion at the time of the accident was swayed by the force of the explosion, and the passengers screamed with terror as the train gave a sudden lurch. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

NO COMMERCIAL IN SENTIMENT.

The McKinley Association Warns Against "Monument" Schemes.

Cleveland, Ohio (Special).—Judge William R. Day, ex-Secretary of State and president of the McKinley National Memorial Association, issued this statement:

"The public is especially cautioned against any enterprise attempting to make capital out of the sentiments of affection which inspired the desire to rear at the grave of our late President a memorial which shall fittingly honor his memory. It is the desire of the trustees that all contributions shall be the free-will offering of the people, and they respectfully request the public to discourage all propositions which may seem to have as their object the obtaining of money by giving all or part of the proceeds to the memorial fund.

CARNEGIE AND COLUMBIA.

Said to Contemplate Giving the University Over \$1,000,000.

New York (Special).—Andrew Carnegie, according to a well-defined report circulated here, has consented to provide a substantial fund for Columbia University.

The tender of the endowment, amounting to more than \$1,000,000, it is said, was made some days since, but none of the details were made public.

KILLED BY CRANE BREAKING.

Chicago Workmen Dead and Three Seriously Injured.

Chicago, (Special).—Three men were killed and three seriously injured here today in the breaking of the huge crane at the plant of the American Bridge Company.

Wild Run to Death.

Allentown, Pa. (Special).—Six persons were killed and a number injured by reason of an electric car jumping the track at a sharp curve at the foot of the Lehigh Mountain, between here and Coopersburg. The accident was due to the wet rails and snow. Motorist Stocker tried hard to stop the car when it slipped on the steep grade, but the car flew around the curve and swung against a guy pole, which tore off one side of the car and the roof. Those killed sat along the broken side of the car and were crushed by the post.

Bankruptcy Law Reform.

Chatanooga, Tenn. (Special).—The executive committee of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees has recommended an investigation made to determine of all sections of the national bankruptcy law.

Over a Hundred People Killed in Battle.

Columbia (By Cable).—News received here that General Martin, a Colombian revolutionary leader, attacked Honda, on the Magdalena river, December 9, with 1,200 men. The garrison, consisting of 430 men, fought from M. until 11 P. M. At 8 P. M. a garrison received reinforcements numbering 400 men. The battle started at 11 A. M. and ended at 1 P. M. The rebels won the day. About 3,000 pounds of cartridges and 100,000 pounds of powder were expended.

SUMMARY OF THE LATEST NEWS.

Domestic.

German warships are gathering off the coast of Venezuela, and the North Atlantic Squadron of the United States Navy is in Porto Rican waters, only a short sailing distance from Venezuela.

The Germans will likely blockade Venezuelan ports, and compensation of indemnity owed to German subjects.

In a hand-to-hand fight between 18 men, Company E, Ninth Infantry, and bolomen near Dapado, Samar, Philippine Islands, Capt. F. H. Schoeffel was wounded and seven men killed and a number wounded.

An Ontario and Western train of 50 coal cars ran away on a down-grade near Scranton, Pa., and left the track at a curve at a speed of 90 miles an hour. Every car was completely wrecked and four men were killed.

The Erie Telephone and Telephone Company is reorganized, with a capital of \$12,000,000, and to be controlled by the American Telephone and Telephone Company.

The Unalaska Asphalt Company of San Antonio, Texas, has been awarded the contract for sewers and pavements in Havana, Cuba, at \$12,000,000.

The one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the battle of Trenton was celebrated with a sham representation of the historic battle, a meeting at the opera house, with Prof. Woodrow Wilson as the orator, and a fireworks display at night.

Company F, Twenty-first Infantry, had a desperate fight with Filipino insurgents in a gorge near San Jose, in which 22 of the insurgents were killed and two Americans wounded.

The Spanish squatters on the Island of La Costa, a government reservation off the Florida coast, who are suspected of being smugglers, have been ordered to quit.

Frances Ross, who is supposed to have escaped from a Portland (Ore.) convent was decided in Chicago to be suffering from religious melancholia.

In a fight between whites and negroes in Chicago, a white man and his son were killed and a white boy and a negro wounded.

Failure to obey orders caused a collision between a freight engine and a passenger train on the Canadian Pacific near Saulte Ste Marie.

Three men were killed and three seriously injured by the breaking of a crane at the American Bridge Company's works, Chicago.

Odus Reeder, second lieutenant Philippine scouts, committed suicide by shooting himself on board the transport Lattin.

The president Cleveland consented to serve on the commission appointed by the Civic Federation to promote industrial peace.

In defending her sister Florence Dobson, of Somerville, Mass., shot and seriously wounded her drink-crazed father.

Foreign.

France has notified the Venezuelan government that the rights of a French citizen have been infringed by the seizure of property of Manuel Matos, the leader of the new revolution, who had left the property.

General Marin, the Colombian revolutionary leader, attacked Honda, on the Magdalena river, with a force of 1,200 men. The battle lasted 17 hours and the government forces were victorious. Four hundred men were killed and wounded.

The civil ceremony of the marriage of Senator Dewey and Miss May Palmer took place in the United States consulate at Nice. The bride being a Catholic, there will be two religious ceremonies.

The German Government will attach agricultural experts to the consulates in the United States, with a view to the probable adoption of the American system of farming in Germany.

G. M. Wessels, Boer delegate, will visit the United States next month bearing a letter from Mr. Kruger to President Roosevelt.

The British losses in the ambulance near Bequidring, Orange River Colony, December 21, were 10 men killed and 15 wounded.

An anti-sale demonstration took place at Christiansted, on the Island of St. Croix, on the day of the Danish West Indies.

Max Nordau, the author and physician, delivered an important address before the Zion Congress, at Basle, Switzerland.

Emperor Francis Joseph expelled from Austria the principals in the Vienna bacchar scandal.

W. Curtis Wakefield, of New York, leased Ditton Park, near Windsor, for the coronation year.

Empress William, in his address at the celebration of the tercentenary of Ernest the Pious at Götting, said that the great aim of his life had been the union of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

American capitalists have offered the Russian government 36,000,000 roubles for a 30-year lease of a large strip of land in the Kirgizia Steppes, Siberia, which is rich in copper, coal and silver.

Signor Marconi arrived at North Sydney, N. S., and was cordially received by the government officials. He may select a site at Cape Breton for a permanent station for wireless telegraphy.

Financial.

The New York Subtreasury statement shows banks have lost \$1,461,000 during the week.

The Southern Pacific Railroad's cresting works at Houston, Tex., have been burned, loss \$100,000.

GEN. DE WET TAKES

A BRITISH CAMP

Night Attack in Eastern Part of Orange River Colony.

KITCHENER'S REPORT OF BATTLE.

The Scene of the Reverse is Within One of the Areas of the Boer Main Resistance, Where General De Wet Has Frequently Fought the British Commanders—Boers Used Tactics Similar to Those Employed by British.

London, (By Cable).—General De Wet has taken revenge for the recent successes of the British on rushing laagers at night, and has captured a British camp on the eastern part of Orange River colony by the use of tactics similar to those employed by the British.

The scene of the reverse is within one of the areas of the Boer main resistance, where General De Wet has frequently fought the British commanders.

The following brief dispatch from Gen. Kitchener tells all that is at present known of the affair:

"Runde reports that Colonel Firman's camp, at Tweefontein, was successfully rushed on the night of December 24 by a considerable force of Boers, under De Wet. I fear the casualties were heavy. Firman's column consisted of the Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth and Fifty-third companies of Imperial Yeomanry, one gun of Seventy-ninth Battery and one pom-pom. They were guarding the head of the blockhouse line, from Harrismit to Bloekheim. The First and Second Imperial Light Horse have gone in pursuit of the Boers."

GOV. SHAW HAS ACCEPTED.

His Appointment is Now Officially Announced—Two Members from Iowa.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Governor Shaw has accepted President Roosevelt's tender of the Treasury portfolio and it was accordingly officially announced at the White House that he will be the next secretary of the treasury.

There will be no change in the office of secretary of agriculture, Secretary Wilson, also of Iowa, continuing to retain that portfolio.

The date of transfer of the Treasury Department will depend on the mutual convenience of the outgoing and incoming secretary. Mr. Gage having signified an entire willingness to remain at the head of his department until such time as it may be agreeable to his successor to take hold. It is supposed, however, that Governor Shaw will be inducted into his new office some time in January. It has been known for two or three days that Governor Shaw was slated for appointment to succeed Secretary Gage.

The definite announcement of Governor Shaw's selection gave the greatest gratification to the Iowans resident here. They regard him as a man well equipped for the place and feel confident the appointment will give general satisfaction.

Secretary Wilson, who voiced these sentiments when asked about Governor Shaw, and he added that the Governor was better known to the people east of the Mississippi River than any man in private life west of the Mississippi on questions of finance.

KILLED ON WRECKING TRAIN.

Fatal Accident Occurred on the Way to Another Accident.

Cincinnati, (Special).—Unable to see the flagman's signal on account of fog the engineer of the south-bound Chicago express on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton road did not stop his train at Hartwell until it had struck a freight train, which was crossing the track, and demolished three freight cars. Four passengers and two trainmen on the express train were injured.

The wrecking train on the way to Hartwell met with an accident, killing Patrick McCoy and fatally injuring William Nipper and Louis Tenbrink. The chain of the wrecking crane broke and it struck the three men while the train was in motion.

Hail Insurers Fail.

Kansas City, Mo., (Special).—A receiver has been appointed for the Farmers' Mutual Hail Insurance Company, which was incorporated on January 21, 1901, to insure crops against damage from hail on the mutual assessment plan.

While the company was incorporated in Missouri and had offices here, it operated only in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana and Colorado. The company did more than \$2,000,000 worth of business, but heavy losses in Colorado and South Dakota, with the shortage of crops, are said to be the cause of failure.

Perish on a Burning Steamer.

Memphis, Tenn., (Special).—The stern-wheel steamer Sun, plying between this port and Fulton, Tenn., burned to the water's edge at her moorings, at the wharf on the city front. The boat arrived from Fulton about midnight with 15 passengers, all of whom were asleep on board when the fire broke out. Of these three are known to be lost—O. Rano and wife, of Old River, Tenn., and Mrs. G. M. Tims, of Richardson Landing, Ark. Their charred remains have been recovered from the wreck. The three-months-old child of Mrs. Tims is missing.

Girl Shot Her Father.

Somerville, Mass., (Special).—In defending her sister from an assault by her drunk-crazed father, Florence Dobson, 22 years of age, shot her father and is now under arrest. The man has a serious wound, but it is thought he will recover. James P. Dobson, the victim of the shooting, is said to have been abusing his family at intervals during the whole day. At last he attacked his oldest daughter, when Florence procured a revolver and shot him.

Steeple-Climber's Escape.

Chicago (Special).—John Kelly, working on a church steeple 150 feet above the street, experienced a remarkable escape from death here. He slipped from the top of the steeple and fell 65 feet, where the edge of the roof interfered with his fall in such a manner that his body was thrown against a small pole through almost unconscious, he was held for three minutes by his arms, when he rescued him, and injured internally, but not fatally.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

The Incident is Closed.

Gen. Nelson A. Miles has returned from his holiday trip to New York. He refused to say a word in regard to the reprimand administered to him last week by the President and Secretary Root for his Schley-Dewey interview. It was known before General Miles returned to the matter pass without a reply or statement from him. He regards the incident as closed and settled, and his friends, who have a right to speak for him, say that he will not be the one to reopen it. There is no disguising the fact that the cordial relations hitherto existing between the General and the Secretary of War are strained by the recent episode, and it is likely that future relations between the two officials will be confined to formal communications on official business.

Wireless System for Navy.

The Navy Department has taken steps toward the adoption of wireless telegraphy as a means of signaling between warships at sea.

To this end Admiral Bradford, of the Bureau of Equipment, has asked that the armored cruisers of the Pennsylvania class have their masts and rigging so arranged that the wireless system can be introduced. This will necessitate the lengthening of the masts of the ships and the insulation of the metal rigging by the use of hemp covering for half-ways. It is intended to get test sets of instruments of the various wireless systems now being operated. These include the Marconi system.

The British Navy already has a number of its ships equipped with the wireless system.

Decrease in Revenues.

The monthly statement of the collections of internal revenue show that the total collections for November, 1901, were \$23,178,954, a decrease as compared with November, 1900, of \$4,165,330. Sources of revenue are given as follows:

Spirits, \$12,080,812, increase \$1,330,492; tobacco, \$4,264,700, decrease \$60,306; fermented liquors, \$4,973,188, decrease \$474,598; oleomargarine, \$212,816, decrease \$24,526; miscellaneas, \$1,888,768, decrease \$2,379,955.

For the five months of the present fiscal year the total receipts were \$120,654,305, a decrease as compared with the corresponding period in 1900 of \$10,625,392. This decrease is wholly due to the decrease in the rate of taxation under the Revenue Reduction act passed at the last session of Congress.

Minister Wu May Return.

It is said that, according to private advices from the Imperial Court of China, Minister Wu Tingfang's term of service here will be extended for another period of three years. Minister Wu is a holdover, as his first term expired last spring, and the present term, therefore, has yet more than two years to run.

There has been for some time much uncertainty as to the attitude of the Chinese court toward Minister Wu. Some say that the court has been somewhat concerned over his too progressive Western ideas, and it is reported also that some ministers of the Gospel and others have been trying in this country to prevent Mr. Wu's reappointment, mainly on the ground that he has expressed too much regard for Confucius and exhibited a too earnest indorsement and interpretation of the great philosopher's sayings.

Volume I of the Census.

Director Merriam, of the Census Bureau, announced the publication of Part I of the report on population, to be known as Volume I of the Census Reports.

It contains 1,229 pages, and embraces statistics on population of the States and Territories by minor civil divisions, the center of population, the median point; population of incorporated places, urban and rural populations; the population by sex, general nativity, foreign parentage, citizens and years in the United States, and an appendix giving a statement of territorial acquisition.

Capital News in General.

The Civil Service Commission notified Maclay, the dockyard historian, in response to a query received from him, that there was violation of the Civil Service Law in his discharge.

The War Department has received advices from Manila of the surrender of the insurgent chief Samson, with his officers and men.

United States Consul Horton, at Harput, in his first report states that American goods are finding a ready market in his district.

The Navy Department has taken initial steps, with a view of adopting the wireless system for signals between warships.

Farmer Shot to Death.

Hudson, N. Y. (Special).—Peter A. Hallenbeck, a well-known farmer in Columbia county, while alone in his house was shot to death by three men. The men were afterward seen driving toward Catskill Station. Eleven shots were fired into Hallenbeck's body. The farmers have lately been annoyed by poultry thieves, and it is thought the murder was done by some of them. Three men were seen later driving toward Catskill Station, and it was supposed Hallenbeck had been shot by robbers.

ODDS AND ENDS OF THE NEWS.

A banquet given by the Cuban veterans to the officers of the United States warships at Havana was a splendid demonstration of gratitude on the part of the Cubans toward the American Navy. Rear Admiral Higginson, Captain McCalla and others made speeches, and a coroner's jury is inquiring into the death of a six-year-old child of Pete Hall, at Kabetown, W. Va., which is believed to have died as the result of a beating inflicted by the father.

All the appointments made by the carpenter Mayor of Ansonia, Ct. were found to be illegal because the aldermen had confirmed them by acclamation instead of by ballot, as the law requires.

Charles A. Budensick, who in 1885, was convicted in New York of erecting unsafe buildings and being responsible for an accident that caused the death of several persons, and who was sent to Sing Sing for 10 years, died at Plainfield, N. J.

The new protocol between Chili and Argentina has been signed, but the armies are continuing their warfare in preparation.

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MISS CROPSEY'S

BODY FOUND

The Coroner's Jury Declares She Was Murdered.

CONDITION OF GIRL'S REMAINS.

The Autopsy Discloses a Mark on the Temple Which the Coroner's Jury Says Was Caused by a Blow—The Jury Recommends That James Wilcox, the Girl's Lover, Be Held for Further Investigation.

Elizabeth City, N. C. (Special).—The body of Miss Ella Maud Cropsey, who disappeared from the home of her father, Justice Cropsey, at midnight, November 20, was found in the Pasquotank River in front of the Cropsey home, and a coroner's jury of prominent and substantial citizens rendered a verdict that she had met her death by violence, but accused no one of the murder pending a further investigation. The verdict is as follows:

We, the coroner's jury, having been duly summoned and sworn by Dr. I. Peering to inquire what caused the death of Ella M. Cropsey, do hereby report that, from the investigation made by three physicians of Elizabeth City, and from their opinion and also from our personal observation, that said Ella M. Cropsey came to her death by being stricken by a blow on the left temple and by being thrown into the Pasquotank River. We have not yet investigated nor heard any testimony touching as to who inflicted the blow and did the drowning. We are informed that one James Wilcox is charged with same and is now in custody. We recommend that investigation be had by any one else's probable guilt be had by one or more magistrates in Elizabeth City township, and that said Wilcox be held to await said investigation.

THIEVES GET \$50,000 IN GOLD.

Shipment of 10,000 English Sovereigns Stolen in Transit.

New York, (Special).—Somewhere between London, England, and Lima, Peru, are 10,000 English sovereigns, worth \$50,000 in the hands of persons who don't own them. Where or when they were stolen in transit nobody knows. Suit has been brought in England to make the carriers who accepted the gold for shipment pay up, and recently Sullivan & Cromwell, of Wall Street, were retained to look after the American interests involved in the case.

The Bank of Mexico, of London, shipped the money in five sealed boxes, each containing 5,000 sovereigns, or \$25,000 in gold. Their destination was the Bank of Lima. Three lines were used in shipment—the Royal Mail to New York, the Panama Railway Company and the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. All the boxes arrived in Lima in due season. When they opened the treasure the bank officials found the gold in the boxes filled with lead shot, and not gold. The seals were still intact.

"The shipment was expected," avers the bank's complaint, "and some person or persons had prepared boxes identical with those containing the gold, and substituted the lead shot."

Suspicion soon pointed to two employees of one of the companies. They resigned soon after the shipment passed through their hands. One of them was traced to Central America, where he has bought a big plantation. Both were finally arrested.

Help Up on the Street.

Fairmont, W. Va. (Special).—Louis Ring was held up on Park avenue shortly before 11 o'clock and robbed of \$475. He had intended to leave for New York City and had just purchased a ticket for that place. While he was returning to his home he was assaulted by two men, who choked him until he was insensible and robbed him.

Killed by Incandescent Lamp.

Akron, O. (Special).—D. P. Wheeler, cashier of the Citizens' National Bank, was found dead in front of the vault in the bank. He had been killed by an electric shock through handling a socket of an incandescent lamp and opening the vault door at the same time, thus forming a fatal circuit.

Grain Elevator Destroyed.

Chicago, (Special).—Fire destroyed the grain elevator of A. F. Mueller, at Fifteenth street and the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad tracks. The loss on machinery and grain is \$20,000. A number of families living in nearby cottages were driven from their homes by the flames.

Blown Up by Natural Gas.

Muncie, Ind. (Special).—Two probably fatal natural gas explosions occurred in the city within an hour. The first, at the Dickey spoil factory, terribly injured Lewis Stagg, aged 31 years. He was hurled some distance by the force of the explosion. Almost at the same time a stove burning natural gas in the grocery of W. E. White, in the western part of the city, exploded. White and a clerk, Claude Dunn, aged 21 years, were caught, and both were horribly burned about their face, arms and necks.

Wm. J. Sewell Dead.

Camden, N. J. (Special).—United States Senator William J. Sewell died at his home here at 9:30 o'clock Friday morning. He suffered from a complication of stomach and heart trouble. Senator Sewell's illness had extended a period of two years, but his condition was not considered serious.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

recent convention at Chattanooga of the National Association of Letter Carriers decided to submit to a referendum vote of the local branches about the United States a proposal that after next year, meeting at \$25,000, the national convention shall be every two years instead of annual.

any labor organizations have the biennial plan as an incentive in expenses with less results. The Granite Cutters' more conventions, transacting business, through a national

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

General Trade Conditions.

"Retail trade," says Bradstreet's, "has easily held the center of the stage the past week, stimulated as it has been by the dual influences of exceptionally cold weather throughout the country and a rather more pronounced holiday demand, which was of record-breaking character, not only as to volume, but as to quality and grade of goods purchased." While jobbers in many lines, notably shoes, clothing and rubber goods, report a good reorder business growing out of the above conditions, wholesale trade as a rule has been seasonably quiet, exceptions to this being noted in woolen goods, raw wool, lumber, leather, coal and steel but by no means least, iron and lead in a myriad of forms. The spectacular feature of the week in prices has been the continued marking down of copper and sympathetically therewith the drop in tin and lead.

Wheat, including flour, exports for the week aggregate 3,228,212 bushels, against 3,579,809 bushels last week and 4,123,500 bushels in this week last year. Wheat exports, July 1, to date (25 weeks), aggregate 1,470,656,547 bushels, as against 89,084,070 last season. Corn exports aggregate 3,300,947 bushels as against 2,830,397 last week and 5,465,578 last year. July 1 to date corn exports are 20,126,479 bushels against 8,167,239 last season.

"In the textile industries new lines of woolen goods opened satisfactorily, some being almost immediately withdrawn, owing to the volume of business secured. Advances are paid for certain lines of woolens. In cotton goods there has been business offered, but sellers are unwilling to accept large contracts for future delivery while the raw material market remains unsettled. Print cloths are unchanged for regulars, with narrow odds form and cotton yards generally higher. Last week's gains in these lines are fully maintained.

Failures for the week numbered 265 in the United States, against 293 last year and 27 in Canada, against 18 last year."

"The picture of the Trenton man who was recently captured in Syracuse. They promptly identified it as the picture of the man who defrauded them. The supposed priest has represented himself as the rector of some church, and paid for goods with bogus checks in excess of the purchase price, pocketing the difference.

Harvey Hain, aged 14 years, of Reading, with his brother and several companions went out for a walk, each taking with him a rifle received as a Christmas present. In climbing a hill near the electric camp the rifle carried by the eldest brother was accidentally discharged, the bullet entering Harvey's abdomen. When the boy was taken to the Reading Hospital it was found that his wound was similar to that which caused the death of President McKinley. An operation located the bullet, which was removed. It had penetrated the abdomen, passing through the stomach.

Franklin Robling, Jr., superintendent of the Scranton bureau of police, was removed from office by Director of Public Safety Wormser, by request of Recorder W. L. Connell. Mr. Wormser refuses to make any statement concerning the reasons for the removal, further than to say it is for the good of the police department. It is understood that the removal is due to the failure of the police department to put an end to the dynamite outrages that have occurred in that city since the beginning of the street car strike, or to catch any of the perpetrators.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Flour.—Best Patent, \$4.00; High Grade Extra, \$4.40; Minnesota Bakers, \$3.00-3.50.

Wheat.—New York No. 2,