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PRINCE AND CHANCELLOR

Bussia's Pinance Minister May

some the Nation's Prime Minister. St. Petersburg, March 25 .- In diplomatic circles here it is regarded as probable that M. De Witte, the finance minister, will be made imperial chan-cellor within a few years. They also believe the czar will first bestow princely rank upon him. M. De Witte's worst enemies do not deny his energy, mental capabilities and progressive



MINISTER OF FINANCE DE WITTE. tendencies. His desire to make Russia equally strong at home as abroad promises well for the world's peace. In the meantime his influence is growing so rapidly and steadily that it is considered that but a short time will elapse before he will actually exercise the chancellor's functions, even without princely rank.

M. W. Kovalevsky, one of the chief employes of the ministry of finance and director of commercial and industrial affairs, may be made assistant finance minister when M. De Witte becomes chancellor. Prince Boris Galitzine is mentioned as the successor of M. Bogoliepoff, the minister of public instruction, who was recently assassinated by Peter Karpovitch.

MITCHELL IN NEW YORK.

Receiving no Encouragement in Efforts to Confer With Mine Owners.

New York, March 26,-President John Mitchell, of the miners' union, sent the following statement to Wilkesbarre yesterday:

"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 avert a strike and are putting our most urgent efforts to that end."

John Fahy, Thomas Duffy and T. D. fury, demolishing trees and fences, Nicholls, left the Ashland House early until it reached Eleventh sireet, where morning turn until 8 o'clock last night. They would not say where they had been when they got back, but when asked whether there would be a strike Mr. Mitchell said: "I hope not."

Senator Hanna stated positively that he was not here to settle anything swooped down on a negro settlement concerning the proposed coal strike, and the frail cabins were crushed like and would not discuss the question.

The Herald says 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.

It seems to be pretty well established that Mr. Mitchell will not have an opportunity of holding any conference as the representative of the United Mine Workers with any of the anthracite coal operators or any person representing them. The operators are averse to giving any recognition to the organization.

THE CHINESE INDEMNITY.

By Increased Taxation It Could Be Paid Within Twenty Years.

Pekin, March 26.-The special committee of ministers appointed to consider the question of China's ability to meet the indemnity claims is already well forward with the work of investigating the resources of the empire. The annual revenue aggregates about \$65,000,000 gold. The largest two items are the land tax, which brings in \$14 .-000,000, and the foreign customs, which yields \$12,000,000. The land tax could be doubled and even tripled without much hardship and the salt tax could be raised from \$6,000,000 to \$20,000,000. It is believed that the total increase could be made to amount to \$150,000,-000, the imperial expenses could be reduced to \$45,000,000, and there would be left available for the liquidation of the interest on loans and the indemnity fund the sum of \$105,000,000. It would he possible to pay the indemnity within 20 years.

Storm Damage in Indiana. Crawfordsville, Ind., March 26 .- A severe wind storm amounting almost to a tornado and accompanied with electrical disturbances swept over East Fountain and West Montgomery counties. The loss amounts to thousands of dollars-barns, fences, trees and wind pumps being blown down. One farmer's barn was blown down, killing 20 cattle and a horse, and three cows were killed by the fail of Dr. Talbott's barn and his place damaged to the extent of \$2,000.

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VICTIMS OF A TORNADO. FATAL MINE EXPLOSIO:

Birmingham, Ala.

TWENTY-FIVE DEAD, MANY HURT

The Funnel Shaped Cloud Rushed Through the City by Leaps and Bounds, Leaving Destruction Wherever it Touched the Earth.

Birmingham, Ala., March 26.-Shortly before 10 o'clock yesterday forenoon fearful tornado swept over the southern section of this city, traveling in an easterly direction. The number of killed is estimated at 25. Only five of them are white. The destruction of property is placed at \$250,000. Eighteen bodies had been recovered from the debris, and scores of injured have been removed to the hospitals.

Among the dead are: Dr. G. C. Chapman, of the firm of Tally & Chapman, who conduct a private infirmary in this city; wife and infant son of Hon. Robert H. Lowe, chairman of the Democratic state executive committee; unknown carpenter, struck by flying tim-ber; J. Alexander, little daughter of B. B. Hudson, J. Myro, Carrie Hudson, Maggie Blevins, Carrie Henry, Lizzie Glenn and B. B. Hudson's cook. The last six are colored.

Fatally injured: Mrs. B. H. Thomas, Mrs. W. H. Thomas, Mrs. D. D. Mc-Laughlin, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. My-lum and Carrie Elma (colored). Of the others injured six have broken arms and one colored woman has an arm and leg broken. One badly fractured arm must be amputated.

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, 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 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.

The altitude of the cyclone was not more than 75 feet. The negro shantles 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 the 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 insti-

From Eighth to Tenth street, the wind bounded like a rubber ball and when it again descended it struck a two-story house occupied by Joseph Busenheiner and almost razed it to the ground. The 11-year-old daughter of John Krunzey, a rolling mill man, was caught under the debris and se-verely injured. A house occupied by Taylor Hinson, near by, was unroofed and three small negro houses demol-Mr. Mitchell, with his colleagues, ished. Onward the wind sped in its a house occupied by John Hayes was levelled to the ground. Skimming close to the earth it swept through a small pine grove, tearing the trees up by the roots and hurling them through the air like arrows.

Beyond the grove the storm cloud eggahells, 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 Sec ond Presbyterian church at the corner of Avenue H and Fifteenth street, demolishing the structure. The pews were piled on top of the debris. A small oak table, which was used on the rostrum, was deposited on the topmost point of the wreckage,

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 the scene is one of complete demolition. The frame cottages were reduced to flattened piles of debris; every tree, large or small, was either crushed down or uprooted, and fallen telephone poles and their tangle of wires made a mass of destruction.

Onward the cyclone swept, and at Irondale again repeated its work of destruction. Up to this writing several bodies had been recovered. A number of injured were reported, and great property loss was entailed.

Besemer, Pratt City, Ensley, North Birmingham and other suburban towns were visited by the storm, and in each of these places much destruction was rought, but no loss of life is reported. Many houses were demolished at Pratt City, including a number of churches. At Powderly there was also much damage and destruction, and at Cleveland Mrs. George Hatt was struck by lightning and will probably die.

Carnegle For Mayor of New York. New York, March 26.-The district committee of the Twenty-first assembly district Republican club, at a meeting held last night, adopted resolutions endorsing Andrew Carnegie as mayor of greater New York. A committee was also appointed, of which Abraham Gruber is a member, to communicate with Mr. Carnegie and secure his consent to be a candidate.

Emperor William's Wound. Berlin, March 26.—Emperor William seems to have entirely recovered from the general effects of the attack upon him at Bremen, but below the eye there is a long, scraggy wound, which, though closed, is still suffused with

It Carries Death and Desolation to One Dead and Five Are Dying as

TEN OTHERS TERRIBLY INJURED.

It Is Doubtful If Any of the Wounded Will Recover-Fire Follows the Explosion, Which Was Caused by an Assumulation of Gas

Connelisville, Pa., March 26.-The first and most fatal mine explosion to occur in the New Klondike region of Payette county happened yesterday. 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 body of the dead man, an unknown Italian, is missing. 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 Gates mine, one of the new mines opened up this winter by the American Steel and Wire company. which has lately been merged into the United States Steel corporation.

The fatally injured are: Robert Nelson, mine foreman, terribly burned, skull blown open and brains scattered out; Gibson Gilmore, of Dunbar, an American miner, burned and blackened from head to feet; David Ramsey, of Adelaide, a driver, burned from head to feet, also crushed by the force of the explosion; James Wilson, of Oliphant, American miner, frightfully burned about the head, face and body and crushed and bruised; Michael Goble, of Gates, a German miner, terribly crushed.

The Gates plant is located just across the Monongahela river from Ma-sontown. The fire boss of the new mine is Michael Callaghan, but recently appointed. He made his rounds early yesterday morning, as usual, and found no gas. At 8:50 o'clock a blast was prepared in a heading parallel to the main heading. A group of 16 miners had gathered in a cross entry abou: 600 feet from the bottom of the shaft and 50 feet from the face. The charge of powder was put into the blast as usual and touched off by Michael Goble, the "blaster." In the meantime a pocket of gas had accumulated at the face and gradually drifted out to-ward the heading. It is supposed that the slight fall or a sudden issue along the floor of the heading caused the presence of the gas. The same instant that the fuse was touched off there was a blinding flash, which suddenly filled the entry in which the miners had taken refuge.

The American miners who are able to tell anything of the accident say that there were really two explosions The first was so terrific that it lef: them dazed and stiffened, when there was another rush of air following the flash and noise, bringing with it a sec-ond puff of gas. This, too, was ignited by the fire which had already enkindled the mine. The miserable miners were thus buffeted between two explosions.

The news of the explosion spread rapidly and soon the people were flocking to the mouth of the mine. A wild crowd gathered at the pit mouth Meantime in the black depths of the mine groans, prayers and imprecations filled the black tunnel. A row of new mine cars stood near the scene of the blast and the men stood near them laughingly waiting for the boom of the explesion of the blast. In an instant they were mixed in a horrible mass of LIIIIUU writking burned bodies and wrecked pit wagons. The rescuing party were remarkably

quick in the work of going to the aiof the entombed men. When all the burned miners were brought to the surface they numbered 16. Six of them were taken to their homes at Gates. The others were placed in an empty box car, which was half filled with clean straw, and brought to this place, clean straw, and brought to this place, and soon all the available physicians Sewing Machines were attending to the wounds of the

Death For Felonious Assault. Baltimore, March 26.-Wiley Kirk, a negro. 19 years of age, was yesterday found guilty of felonious assault upon Mrs. Barbara Green and sentenced to be hanged on a day to be fixed by the governor of the state. The crime was committed at Sparrows Point, near this city, on the 7th inst. Kirk escaped but was arrested several days later and has since been kept in the Baltimore city jail to avoid lynching. He was tried in Towson, Baltimore county, before three judges, and confessed on the witness stand to having committed the crime.

Train Blown From the Track. Columbus, Ga., March 26.-A mixed train was blown off of the Central of Georgia railroad tracks on mile east of Buena Vista, 37 miles from Columbus, late yesterday afternoon. The engine was lifted from the track, the tender was turned over, and the bag-gage car, two coaches and three freight cars were thrown on their sides. No one was killed.

Ground to Death by a Train. Dubois, Pa., March 26.-While crossing the Reynoldsville and Falls Creek tracks at Main street, Reynoldsville, last evening Mrs. R. W. Kuntz, the wife of a prominent official of the Star Glass company, of that place, slipped on the rail and fell in front of a coal train. The unfortunate woman was ground to death before the eyes of a dozen persons, who were powerless to

Murder in the First Degree. Harrisburg, March 23. — Harrison Kelper and Henry Rowe, of Lykens, who shot and killed Cashier Charles W. Ryan, of the Halifax Na-tional bank, of Halifax, on Thursday of last week, in an attempt to rob the bank, were yesterday convicted of first degree murder.

Drunkennes a Disease. Toledo, March 25.—Police Judge L. W. Wachenhelmer has decided that drunkenness. as a disease and not a grime. Prisoners charged with that of fense appearing before him are dis-charged and the costs remitted.



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