

AN AWFUL EXPLOSION

Scores of People Enveloped in Burning Oil While Viewing Fire.

TWENTY-TWO BODIES RECOVERED

Freight Wreck On Erie Road Was Followed By Fire, Which Caused Tank Cars to Explode—Many Bodies Incinerated.

Olean, N. Y., March 10.—A score or more people were killed and a larger number were injured by an explosion of oil near here last night. A freight train on the Erie, made up principally of tank cars filled with oil, broke in two near this city at about 9 o'clock. The two sections came together with a crash and one of the oil tanks was demolished. Fire broke out almost instantly and the sky was lighted up for miles. A large crowd of people left this city for the scene of the fire.

While they were lined up along the tracks a terrific explosion occurred. The flames communicated quickly with the other tanks, and a second and a third explosion followed each other in rapid succession. Sheets of flame shot out in all directions. Scores of people were caught within the zone of the fire and enveloped in the flames. Men and boys ran screaming down the tracks with their clothing a mass of flames. Others fell where they stood, overcome by the awful heat. Just how many were killed is not known, as many of the bodies were incinerated.

Sydney Fish, a prominent business man, returned from the scene of the fire at midnight. He said: "I was attracted to the scene of the fire between 9:30 and 10 o'clock. When I was within a quarter of a mile of the wrecked train there was a terrific explosion. Flames shot outward and upward for a great distance. I saw several persons who started to run away from the railroad tracks, and they never moved again. Others, who had been standing close to the train, were hurled through the air for hundreds of feet. The scene was awful. Half a dozen young boys ran down the tracks with their clothing on fire. They resembled human torches. I could hear their agonized screams distinctly from where I stood. They ran some distance down the track and then threw themselves to the ground, grovelling in the ditches in their frantic efforts to extinguish the flames. Then they lay still, some of them unconscious, others dead. I don't know how many were killed, but I counted 20 bodies before I came away."

Word was sent at once to Olean police headquarters by telephone. Every doctor and ambulance in the city was summoned. Grocery wagons and carriages of all kinds were pressed into service and everything possible was done to bring the injured to the hospital.

At midnight the first of the injured arrived at the hospital. They were four young boys. Their injuries were frightful. Great patches of flesh were burned off and hung in shreds from their bodies. Large crowds gathered at the hospital and the faces of the injured were anxiously scanned as they were borne into the building on stretchers. Heart-rending scenes were witnessed when one of the poor, blistered bodies was recognized by a father or a mother or a brother, and it was with difficulty that persons were restrained from invading the operating room.

Twenty-two bodies have been taken from the wreckage. It will be difficult to ascertain the names of the dead, as most of their bodies were burned to ashes in the intense heat.

BURGLAR SHOT BY COMPANION

Dispute Over Division of Plunder Will End Fatally.

New Brunswick, N. J., March 9.—A supposed burglar was fatally shot near here yesterday by a companion in the course of a dispute, apparently over the division of plunder. The victim of the shooting, accompanied by two other men, entered a saloon at Highland Park, and after a violent dispute, during which frequent reference was made to some property which one of them refused to share with his companions, they were ordered to leave the place. As they passed out of the door one of them drew a pistol and shot the man who had the valuables through the head, after which he and the third man fled and disappeared.

The wounded man was taken unconscious to a hospital, where it was found that a bullet had lodged in his brain. On him were found six watches, a revolver and a bunch of skeleton keys. The trio are supposed to have formed the gang who have committed many recent burglaries in this vicinity.

Ungrate Conscience Contribution.

Washington, March 10.—The secretary of the treasury has received from an unknown person a unique conscience contribution in the shape of a watch, with a gold-filled case. The watch came in a package postmarked "March 10, 1903." This, says in an accompanying letter: "Such as I have I give you for the conscience fund. The money I gave for the watch is more than I consider I owe the government."

Director Merriam Resigns.

Washington, March 9.—Governor Merriam, director of the census, has placed his resignation in the hands of the President. It will take effect on May 15. Governor Merriam resigns to accept the vice presidency of the International Mercantile Agency of New York, and will remove from Washington to that city.

POLICEMAN MURDERED

Trolley Car at Waterbury, Conn., Attacked By Masked Men.

Waterbury, Conn., March 9.—Violence in its worst form has broken out anew in Waterbury as a result of the high feeling in connection with the strike of the motormen and conductors of the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company. This time it is murder, and Policeman Paul Mendelsohn is the victim.

John W. Chambers, a non-union motorman, was injured, and his conductor, George Weberndorfer, was wounded almost into insensibility.

The scene of the crime was at Forest Park, the terminus of the North Main street line. The spot is an isolated one, and when the car reached the end of the line the crew made preparations for the return trip. Immediately after the conductor turned the trolley pole and the motorman reversed his levers, eight masked men sprang from the bushes by the roadside, entered the car and discharged their revolvers, every man being armed. Officer Mendelsohn fell at the first shot, and a later examination showed that the first shot was fatal, having pierced his heart. The motorman was also hit and leaped from the car with a cry of pain. Some of the men followed him, while the remainder turned their attention to the conductor. He was thrown to the floor of the car and pounded and kicked until he was almost unconscious. The men then left him and joined their companions outside.

The conductor retained his feet with difficulty and went to the side of the wounded officer, but he saw that the officer was dead. Weberndorfer, hardly able to stand, went to the controller and started the car back toward the city with the dead officer. On the way he met another car, the crew of which relieved the injured man and hurried to the city for assistance.

An alarm was immediately sent around the city by the police, and in a few moments the entire detective department, accompanied by 13 policemen, went to the scene of the murder. The diligent search of the policemen and detectives, not a clue was found as to the perpetrators of the murder.

POPE'S REAL CONDITION

It is Said the Only Thing the Matter With Him is a Stubborn Cold.

Pope, March 10.—A special dispatch from Rome says a correspondent has obtained an interview with a prelate attached to the Vatican, showing the real state of the pope's health.

"The perception of 5000 pilgrims Sunday did not fatigue the pontiff seriously," the correspondent asserts. "In fact, the stress and recent solemnities have the effect of stimulating the vital forces of the aged man. His sources of fatigue have been the giving of long, private audiences and serious work with the cardinals and officials of the Vatican. The only thing the matter with the pope is a rather stubborn cold, which cannot be expected to be cured before a fortnight. It is only then that Dr. Lapponi can form an opinion as to whether the pope's present prostration is accidental or a step in progressive weakness, the result of which may prove fatal. Although it has been denied, the symptom which is causing Dr. Lapponi the greatest anxiety recently is a slight disorder of digestive and intestinal functions. For the present the catarrh with which the pope has been suffering is slowly but continuously improving."

REPORT ON CANAL

Senate Committee Approves Treaty With Colombia.

Washington, March 10.—When the Senate met yesterday a letter was read from President pro tempore Frye appointing Mr. Keane (N. J.) as presiding officer in his absence. There being no legislative business to transact, the Senate went into executive session.

Mr. Cullom, of the Foreign Relations Committee, then favorably reported the Colombian Canal Treaty, and it was read at length, as the rules of the Senate required. Under the rules an objection carried the treaty over for one day before it could be considered, and Senator Morgan objected to its consideration. No action was taken on the Cuban reciprocity treaty.

It is pretty well understood here that most of the Democratic senators will obey the dictum of their new leader, Senator German, to the effect that the Panama Canal treaty must not fail of ratification through their opposition.

Will Enter Henley Regatta.

Philadelphia, March 10.—At a meeting last night of the Vesper Boat Club it was decided to send the famous oarsman, James B. Juvonal, to England next summer to participate in the Henley regatta. It is the intention to have him compete as the representative of Philadelphia in the race for the diamond skulls. Although several Americans have endeavored to win this big event, Ned Ten Eyck, of the Massachusetts Boat Club, of Worcester, Mass., is the only oarsman who ever succeeded.

Will Paint Henderson's Portrait.

Washington, March 9.—Colonel Freeman Thorp has been commissioned to paint the portrait of ex-Speaker Henderson, to be hung in the lobby of the house of representatives. It is customary to have the portrait of each speaker added to the collection, already in the lobby, of previous presiding officers of the house.

Fatally Injured by Son.

Richmond, Va., March 10.—J. M. Webb, a prominent farmer of Floyd county, and his son had an altercation, which resulted in the son's shooting the father twice and fatally wounding him. Young Webb has fled.

KILLED IN THEIR BEDS

Miners' Union Investigates Shooting of Men in West Virginia.

HAD NO CHANCE TO SURRENDER

It is Said Deputy Marshal Cunningham's Posse Fired Into Miners' Homes at Night, Killing Them Without a Moment's Warning.

Indianapolis, March 9.—The official report of Chris Evans, who was sent to the West Virginia coal fields to investigate the killing of the colored miners at Atkinsville, has been received at the headquarters of the United Mine Workers.

The report says that General St. Clair, the attorney for the coal companies, created an agitation to have the men arrested and taken to Charleston, and that immediately afterward arrangements were made with the United States marshal by the Mine Workers' officials to give bond for all who were arrested, but that later, on account of the agitation created by Deputy Marshal Cunningham, the agreement with the marshal was broken, and Cunningham was sent to arrest the men.

According to the report, there was great feeling against Cunningham, and the men decided not to allow him to arrest them, and he was driven away. Mr. Evans says that he sent a telegram to the men to submit quietly, but that the coal companies, who own all the telegraph and telephone lines into the town, refused to deliver it, and before he could get any message to the men Cunningham and his deputies, who, he says, were the worst characters he could collect, went to the town a second time and killed the miners in their beds at night.

Mr. Evans says that he went to the scene of the trouble the next morning, and that 48 men had been arrested for conspiracy to kill Cunningham. He found in a house occupied by a colored man, called "Stonewall" Jackson, the dead bodies of William Dodson, William Clark and Richard Clayton, all negroes.

The report continues: "We found that the wife of Jackson and her four children, with eight negroes, were in the house, and that about daybreak all were awakened by shots fired into the house from the outside. This shooting took place without warning, and the three colored men were found dead on the floor. Two were in their night clothes, and the other one was partly dressed. We visited another house, where Joseph Hizer lay in bed, mortally wounded, having been shot as he was dressing. Hizer lived with his sister, and she made the statement at the inquest that she pleaded with those shooting not to kill her children, and in reply said: 'Women and children must take care of themselves.' In no instance could we find where these people had been asked to surrender, until after the deputies had commenced shooting at the occupants of the houses.

"We next went to the house of Lucien Lawson, who was considered mortally wounded. I understand that after the shooting referred to, this man, with others, returned the fire of the posse, and this is the only instance where any attempt of resistance was made by the miners. During the shooting, in many instances, the men and women pleaded with the men outside to have mercy on them, but their cries were met with derision and curses. Our investigation proves conclusively that no effort was made to shoot or resist, except in the one case mentioned, but that all would have been glad to surrender if they had been allowed the opportunity."

Mr. Evans says that the coroner's jury has returned a verdict of felonious killing against Cunningham for the killing of William Dodson.

ABSCONDED WITH \$7,000

Charles T. Moloney, of Woodbury, N. J., Disappears.

Philadelphia, March 7.—The disappearance of Charles T. Moloney, general superintendent of the Pennsylvania Warehousing and Safe Deposit company, has resulted in the discovery that he negotiated what is now believed to be a forged check for \$7,000 on the Girard National Bank last Saturday morning, and the cashing of this check explains to the satisfaction of the bank officials the reason for Moloney's disappearance.

It now appears that on Tuesday the Girard National Bank was informed that the check was a forgery and a claim was then made on the bank for restitution. When the board of directors of the bank met yesterday the matter of the check and the claim of the warehousing company were considered and then it was that the facts were first made public.

Concerning Moloney, all that could be learned was that he has not been at the office of the company since Saturday. He telephoned, they say, on Monday, from Woodbury, N. J., where he lived with his wife and child, that his eyes troubled him, and that he would not be at the office. Then the investigation began, which resulted in yesterday's exposures. It is further reported that a woman has been responsible for Moloney's desertion of his wife and child. Mrs. Moloney moved from Woodbury last Wednesday. Nothing definite could be learned either of her movements or of Moloney's whereabouts.

The alleged forged check bore the names of A. M. Bright, treasurer of the company, and William Rommel, Jr., secretary. It is alleged to have been made payable to "cash," and as Moloney is well known to the Girard Bank officials it was cashed without hesitation.

A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED.

Wednesday, March 4.

Two trainmen were killed in a collision on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad near Huntington, W. Va., yesterday.

Arbor Days in Pennsylvania will be observed on April 3 and 17, in accordance with Governor Pennypacker's proclamation.

Dave Johnson, one of the best known bookmakers in New York, says he lost \$1,000,000 in the last few years, and will quit the turf for good.

The Olive Stove Company's plant at Rochester, N. Y., was completely destroyed by fire. Loss, \$75,000. One employe was fatally burned.

Thursday, March 5.

Six persons were hurt, two seriously, in a collision on the Manhattan Elevated Railroad in New York yesterday.

Fire of unknown origin yesterday destroyed the four-story tobacco warehouse of M. Abenheim & Co., at Farmville, Va. Loss, \$75,000.

Robert B. Armstrong, formerly private secretary to Secretary Shaw, yesterday took the oath of office as assistant secretary of the treasury.

A spark from a miner's lamp fell into a keg of powder at Big Mountain colliery at Shamokin, Pa., yesterday, causing an explosion in which two miners were horribly burned.

In a bloody fight near Huntersville, Ala., yesterday between the Taylor boys and Buckleys, one person was killed and three others seriously injured.

Friday, March 6.

The playing season of the American Base Ball League will open on April 20, with Philadelphia at Boston.

A person whose identity is not revealed has given Barnard College, New York, \$1,000,000 to purchase land adjoining the college.

The carpenters' strike at Wilkesbarre, Pa., was declared off yesterday, the men returning to work today. They received an increase in wages and an eight-hour day.

Owing to the refusal of the engineers to abide by an agreement with the manufacturers, 23 hat factories in Danbury, Bethel and New Milford, Conn., closed yesterday.

Saturday, March 7.

Fire on the water front of Fair Haven, Wash., yesterday, destroyed \$150,000 worth of property.

While blasting coal yesterday in a colliery near Wilkesbarre, Pa., William J. Nolan was instantly killed.

The planing mill of Billmyer & Small, at York, Pa., was damaged by fire yesterday to the extent of \$15,000.

Secretary of State Hay and wife have gone to Thomasville, Ga., to visit their daughter, Mrs. Payne Whitney, and infant daughter.

Captain William A. Winder, one of the most prominent government officials in the west, died at Omaha, Neb., yesterday. He was a brother-in-law of Admiral Dewey.

Monday, March 9.

The cruiser Chattanooga was launched Saturday afternoon at Elizabeth, N. J.

Saturday was the hottest March day in Atlanta, Ga., since 1878. The temperature was 72.

General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, sailed from New York for London Saturday.

A strike in the Illinois soft coal fields has been averted by the Miners' Union and the operators signing a wage agreement for one year.

Edwin L. Bretnik, a farmer, of Egypt, Lehigh county, Pa., scratched his hand with a pin recently, and yesterday died in great agony from blood poisoning.

Tuesday, March 10.

The general officers of the W. C. T. U. have selected Cincinnati as this year's convention city.

The North Carolina general assembly has appropriated \$10,000 for an exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition.

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Accounts of Individuals, Firms and Corporations Solicited.

Auditors' Notice. Notice is hereby given to all parties claiming against the estate of David J. ... of Philadelphia, Pa., on Saturday, April 11, 1903, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, when and where those having claims as aforesaid must come in on said fund. CHAS. P. URICH and

First National Bank of Middleburg, Pa. Capital, - \$50,000. Surplus, - \$50,000. G. ALFRED SCHUCH, Pres. W. W. WITTEMYER, Vice Pres. JAS. G. THOMPSON, Cashier. DIRECTORS: G. Alfred Schuch, W. C. Pomeroy, W. W. Wittenmyer, A. Kreeger, J. N. Thompson, M. Millard, Jas. G. Thompson.