

GREAT FIRE IN BALTIMORE

Flames Swept Through Heart of Business District.

LOSSES WILL BE ENORMOUS.

Destruction of Many Buildings by Dynamite Failed to Check the Spread of Fire.

Fire which broke out a few minutes before 11 o'clock Sunday morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co. Baltimore raged continuously with unrestrained fury, and at midnight was still unchecked and steadily eating its way eastward on Baltimore street, after having destroyed almost all of the large stores and warehouses in the wholesale district south of Hopkins place and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore street from Howard to Holliday streets, from Charles and Baltimore and Charles and Lexington, and on Fayette street from Charles to Holliday, including a total of about 20 blocks of the most modern and substantial buildings in Baltimore, involving a loss which cannot now be estimated, but which certainly has already exceeded \$40,000,000.

The fire department, although aided by engines from Washington and the surrounding counties and suburbs, was utterly powerless to make any effective resistance to the consuming element, though for hours as many as 400 streams of water were thrown into the flames.

Chief Horton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings that threatened points and thus prevent, as far as possible a further spread of the flames. In pursuance of this plan a number of buildings on South Charles street between German and Lombard streets were blown up. Subsequently the structure of J. W. Potts & Co., notion dealers at Charles and Fayette streets, was dynamited, and then the "Daily Record" building, Ross drug store and others. But this heroic remedy merely delayed, but did not seriously impede the onward march of the conflagration.

BURNED AT THE STAKE.

Awful Ending of a Mississippi Tragedy Costing Eight Lives.

Luther Holbert and his wife, negroes, were burned at the stake at Dodsboro, Miss., by a mob of over 1,000 persons for the killing of James Eastland, a prominent white planter, and John Carr, a negro, on Wednesday at the Eastland plantation.

The burning of Holbert and his wife closes a tragedy which has cost eight lives, has engaged 200 men and two packs of bloodhounds in a four days' chase across four counties and has stirred this section of Mississippi almost to frenzy.

Following are the dead: Luther Holbert and wife, negroes, burned at the stake by a mob; James Eastland, white planter, killed by Holbert; John Carr, negro, killed by Holbert; John Winters, negro, killed by Eastland; three unknown negroes killed by posse.

The killing of Eastland, Carr and Winters occurred Wednesday at Eastland plantation. Poses were formed at Greenville, Itabena, Cleveland and other points and the pursuits of Holbert and his wife was begun with horses and bloodhounds. The chase, which was begun Wednesday morning, was continued until Saturday night, when Holbert and his wife, worn out from traveling over 100 miles of foot through canebrakes and swamps, were found asleep in a heavy bed of timber three miles east of Shepherdstown and captured by a posse without a shot being fired.

The two negroes were brought to Dodsboro, and burned at the stake almost in the shadow of the negro church.

Two negroes were killed by a posse near Belzoni, Yazoo county. One of the negroes bore a striking resemblance to Holbert and was mistaken for him by members of the posse. He was called on to surrender, but instead of doing so showed fight and both negroes were shot down by the posse men, as Holbert had sworn he would not be taken alive and was known to be heavily armed.

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

Refuses to Give Any Guarantee as to Manchuria.

The reply of Russia summarized very closely amounts to this:

Russia does not recognize Japan's interference with her relations with Manchuria, except that what she does not wish to interfere with any rights acquired by other nations, but she point blank refuses to give any guarantee.

The second point is that Russia is prepared to recognize the second part of Korea under latitude 39th degree as being within the sphere of Japan, which country must undertake not to fortify Littoral, nor to send any further troops there and at once to recall any troops sent there.

The third point is Russia will have full freedom of action in the northern portion of Korea above degree 39.

The fourth point is, neither country shall enjoy in the country at present belonging to Korea any privileges not enjoyed by any other.

Self-Playing Pipe Organs.

Prof. J. O. Funkhouser, of Hagers-town, Md., has completed an invention for the self-playing of pipe organs. He calls it the "symphonist." The invention consists of an automatic attachment that can be fitted on the inside of any pipe organ, and produces the tones by blowing air through the pipes in the regular way. One of the self-playing pipe organs is now being built for James E. Ingram, of Pimlico, Md., and another will be built for exhibition at the St. Louis Exposition.

SHIP TRUST FIGHT ENDED.

Plan of Re-organization Finally Agreed to by All Interests.

After frequent conferences the long fight between the Sheldon reorganization committee in United States Shipbuilding affairs and the bondholders' protective committee, represented by Samuel Untermyer, was settled by the formation of a new plan, which has been agreed to by both sides, and the litigation in which Charles M. Schwab has been the central figure will end. Max Pam has been removed from the reorganization committee, and Pliny Fisk, the banker, whose house will take part of the work of financing the new company, takes his place, while Max Nathan, of the International Pump Company, has been agreed on as an additional member of the committee to represent the protective committee.

The new plan made public by William Nelson Cromwell is put out as coming from Receiver Smith, and provides for a new company with a capitalization of \$30,000,000, half preferred and half common, Mr. Schwab, as owner of the Bethlehem bonds, to get \$9,000,000 of preferred and \$6,000,000 of common stock, and the first mortgage bondholders to get the remainder pro rata. Mr. Schwab gives up his prior lien on Bethlehem, and all the present stock is wiped out. The preferred stock is to be 7 per cent non-cumulative. There are to be issued \$3,000,000 of collateral trust sinking fund, 6 per cent 10-year gold bonds, which are to be taken up by a syndicate of which the Morton Trust Company and Thomas F. Ryan are to be managers and Harvey Fisk & Sons participants, the latter to market the bonds. These bonds are to be paid to the syndicate at 875 per 1,000.

Former Secretary of War Ellhu Root is counsel for the syndicate managers. The new reorganization committee will consist of George R. Sheldon, chairman, Charles F. Fairchild and John E. Borne, P. Fisk, Charles E. Wetmore and Max Nathan.

Other terms of the compromise to which both sides gave up many things which they have fought for up to the last moment, include a provision that the expenses of the fight of the bondholders' protective committee shall be paid as a part of the expenses of reorganization.

AMERICAN SAILOR KILLED.

Dominican Insurgents Fire on a Yankee Launch.

The insurgents of San Domingo deliberately fired on the launch of the auxiliary cruiser Yankee, killing J. C. Johnston, the engineer. The bullet entered his head above the eye.

United States Minister Powell has directed the captain of the Yankee to take drastic measures to avenge Johnston's death and this insult to the American flag.

The German Consul requested United States Minister Powell to afford protection to Herr Worman, the German Vice Consul, that he might bring his family into the city, as the insurgents gave Mr. Worman 48 hours to leave his station or suffer the consequences.

Mr. Powell secured a guard of 60 men from the United States cruiser Columbia and informed the German Consul that it was the intention of the German Consul and himself to bring Herr Worman's family into the city and asked the Government not to fire upon his party while it is on its mission. He said that if fired upon this party would protect themselves.

As soon as they passed outside the city they were covered by the guns of the Columbia. No attack was made and the Worman family was brought back in safety.

The insurgents are desperate and are destroying foreign property. Mr. Powell has received urgent appeals to protect foreign property against this pillaging and the Columbia may be compelled to land marines.

The bringing around the city continues. The situation is serious.

The Montana Supreme Court reversed the decision of Judge Clancy, in Butte, in the injunction suit of John McGinnis against the Boston and Montana Company, which caused the shutting down of all the Amalgamated properties last summer.

FOUR KILLED.

Tragedy Results From Trouble in Mining Town.

A bloody tragedy was enacted in the mining town of Coal Creek, 40 miles northwest of Knoxville, Tenn. As a result four lives were lost and three persons wounded, one perhaps fatally.

The clash was the culmination of the trouble between union and non-union labor. Three of the dead men were killed by guards employed by the Coal Creek Coal Company, while the fourth victim, a deputy sheriff, was killed by a guard he had gone to arrest.

The dead are: Monroe Black, miner, aged 24; W. W. Taylor, miner, aged 31; Jacob Sharp, section hand, a bystander, aged 35; Deputy Sheriff Robert S. Harman, killed by "Cal" Burton, a guard at the Briceville mine.

CONDENSED CABLES.

Uruguayan rebels won an important victory over Government troops at San Ramon.

Lillian Nordica, the famous singer, was divorced in New York from Herr Zoltan Dome.

Speaking in the House of Commons, John Redmond demanded home rule in behalf of the Irish.

Japanese troops seized the Seoul-Fusan railroad, in Korea, and carried artillery to Seoul.

The czar and Czarina gave a brilliant court ball at the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.

Nothing has been heard in weeks from Colonel Letwin, Governor of Goman Southwest Africa, who has been making a long march toward beleaguered forts.

WAR TALK IN THE FAR EAST

Hostilities Expected to Begin at Any Moment.

JAPS TIRED OF RUSSIA'S DELAY.

Japanese and Russian Ministers Withdrawn From Their Posts and Diplomatic Relations Cease.

Count Lamsdorff, the Russian foreign minister, has officially informed the Russian representative abroad that Japan has decided to break off negotiations with Russia and to withdraw her minister and the entire Japanese legation staff from St. Petersburg. Russia thereupon ordered the Russian minister, Baron De Rosen, and his staff, to leave Tokio.

The severance of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan appears to be only a step toward war, although when the ministers of Russia and Japan withdraw from their respective posts quick and decisive action is expected.

When Minister of Foreign Affairs Komura on Saturday notified Baron De Rosen, the Russian minister, of Japan's determination to sever diplomatic relations, he is reported to have declared to him that Japan is tired of Russia's delays, evasions and insincerity, and has decided to take independent action for the conservation of Japan's Oriental interests.

During the final negotiations Japan's repeated requests for an answer in what are regarded as important matters, Japan waited until convinced that it was useless to wait longer and has now ended the discussion.

The draft of the Russian response, tentatively by the czar, was telegraphed on the 5th. While the contents of the response are carefully guarded they are known to be in a conciliatory spirit and form and to contain what are regarded as important concessions, although maintaining Russia's former position on some of the main points covering Manchuria and Korea.

Minister Allen cabled from Seoul to Washington that all the Japanese in the Yalu river district of Korea have been summoned to Seoul at once.

This is taken to mean that Japan has abandoned all hope of peace and is preparing for war at once. State Department officials would not be surprised to hear tomorrow that hostilities have begun. Every bit of information they are receiving now points to war. Mr. Allen's dispatch also stated that active steps are being taken to protect Americans living in the interior of Korea.

The Japanese are flying panic-stricken, cables the Vladostock correspondent of the Novoe Vremya, and Japanese storekeepers are sacrificing all they possess in their haste to escape to Japan. Cases of oranges are being literally given away. They are practically running themselves in their hurry to get away before the outbreak of war.

HARWICK SURVIVOR TALKS.

Gonia Has Recovered and Remembers the Explosion.

Adolph Gonia, aged 17, the sole survivor of the terrible disaster, at Harwick mine for the first time since being taken to St. Francis hospital was strong enough to talk about the explosion which wiped out 172 lives and caused the death of others who attempted to rescue the entombed miners.

Gonia said the first intimation he had that something was wrong in the mine was when he was suddenly chilled by a strong current of cold air rushing toward the shaft mouth. He said he was almost frozen by the cold air and then fell forward unconscious on the timbers at the bottom of the shaft. While falling Gonia said he remembers seeing a flash of fire and then knew no more.

Gonia does not remember how long he lay there, but on recovering consciousness, which he said was brought about by the same cold which had overcome him, he heard voices near him, and called for some time before the men ventured to rescue him.

SIX BURNED TO DEATH.

Fire Destroys a Row of Houses in Mining Town.

Fire which started at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in a row of 12 frame houses at Park Place, about 17 miles from Pottsville, Pa., caused the death of six persons, five men and a boy, all foreigners, who worked as miners in the Park Place colliery, operated by Lentz & Co., by whom the houses were owned. The bodies of all the victims were frightfully burned. All of the victims met death in the house in which the fire started. The boarding house keeper, it appears filled the stove in the kitchen, closing the drafts. The stove evidently became red hot, setting fire to some clothing hanging near it and thus starting the conflagration.

The row of houses contained over 100 people and when the alarm of fire was given the inmates rushed out into the snow in their night clothes. The night was bitterly cold, below zero, and a high wind prevailed, which naturally added to the terrors of the situation. The excited foreigners were frenzied and made every effort to stay the course of the flames, but this dynamite one of the houses, but this seemed to have no effect, for the entire row was quickly destroyed.

BIG REVIVAL MOVEMENT.

Union Services by Evangelical Churches in Allegheny County.

The movement for the greatest simultaneous revival ever held in the county was inaugurated in Allegheny county, Sunday, when many of the ministers of 13 evangelical denominations exchanged pulpits and preached upon "Personal Work."

SENATOR HANNA VERY ILL

Has Typhoid Fever and is in Weakened Condition.

Senator Hanna has a well developed case of typhoid fever, and has had it probably for three weeks. He is in such a weak physical state that his friends and the members of his family are greatly worried. The fact that the Senator has typhoid fever was very clearly shown by the microscopic examination of the blood. Surgeon General Rixey would not believe his patient had the fever until after Dr. Magruder made the examination and showed him the results of the test. Then the doctors were informed that the Senator was at Columbus, where the pollution of the Scioto river, whence the city draws its water supply, has caused over 1,000 cases.

THEATERS CLOSED.

New York Places of Amusement Considered Unsafe.

Mayor McClellan of New York, ordered closed the following theaters: Grand Opera House, Madison Square Theater, Princess Theater, Vaudeville Theater, Hurtig and Seamons and the theater part of Huber's museum. Last week the Mayor served notice on 19 theaters that unless certain alterations for safety were made by midnight, Tuesday he would order them closed. The closing of the Madison Square and Princess Theaters interrupts two successes of the season at the height of their career. The Mayor said that the houses are unsafe for public use and that reasonable requests for alterations have been either resisted or ignored.

BEARS AGAIN ACTIVE.

Claim Tendency of Prices Will Be Downward for Some Time.

The old bear party that was a factor in the stock market last autumn and early in the winter and which withdrew from speculation for a time following the late 10 to 20-point rise in prices is said to be again aggressive with H. G. Well and his associates, active leaders. That contingent has resumed operations for the decline on a rally, that the real tendency of values is downward, that the market is entering a protracted period of depression, and that railroad earnings are going to fall off in every direction.

Sigsbee Will Assume Command.

Rear Admiral Sigsbee will leave the League Island navy yard next Saturday for San Juan, Porto Rico, where he will assume command of the South Atlantic squadron. This is the first opportunity the "hero of the Maine" has had to fly his rear admiral's flag at sea, he having been advanced to that rank since coming to League Island in May.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEVITIES.

The Harwick mine relief fund has reached \$38,000.

Cotton and coffee prices continued to decline in New York.

A gas blowing 90 miles an hour wrecked a number of buildings at Pierce station, Cal.

Both branches of Congress have accepted Wisconsin's gift of a statue of Marquette for Statuary Hall.

September futures in the New York Coffee Exchange sold at 9 cents, the highest price for several years.

Photographic records of the voices of great men will be kept at Harvard University and at Washington, D. C.

Four million dollars of American capital is invested in an electric street railway system about to be constructed in Manila.

The price of July cotton reached 17.55 cents in New York and 18 cents in New Orleans, the highest price since 1874.

James Smith, alleged counterfeit, arrested with his son and another man at Greenport, L. I., was said to be worth \$100,000.

"Rev." F. W. Sanford, head of the "Holy Ghost and Us Society" was convicted at Auburn, Maine, of cruelty to his little son.

At his own request Senator Dietrich (Rep., Neb.) had a committee appointed to investigate charges recently made against him.

Winter wheat sold for \$1 a bushel in Chicago.

J. K. Murrel and others give sensational testimony against the accused in the trial of Col. Edward Butler, at Fulton, Mo.

The conference of bituminous coal mine owners and miners adjourned at Indianapolis without reaching an agreement on the wage scale.

Penn Cooper, an engineer, was killed and seven other persons were injured in a collision on the Delaware railroad, near Wilmington, Del.

The post of commander-in-chief of the British Army, now held by Lord Roberts, will be abolished and other radical reforms in army administration introduced.

John I. McFarland, the Akron school principal who was found guilty of assault and battery in police court last week, has resigned. McFarland says that since the arrest he can maintain no discipline.

Brooding over political criticism County Auditor John H. Miller, committed suicide at Chillicothe, O. He was recorder of the Chillicothe Knights Templar for many years, and was formerly manager for the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Minister Squires asked President Palma, of Cuba, for the punishment of Cienfuegos rioters who threw mud on the United States escutcheon.

In a fight at Wilton, Ky., Deputy Sheriff Helton shot and killed David and Thomas Fletcher and wounded a man named Brock while attempting to serve a warrant.

George A. Rose, cashier of the Cleveland Produce Exchange Bank who embezzled \$187,000 of the bank funds, was sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary.

PORTO RICO IN CONGRESS

Representative of the Island in the House.

CHAMPIONED BY MR. DALZELL.

New Delegate Immediately Introduces Bill for Citizenship of Natives.

By unanimously agreeing to a resolution amending the rules of the house, the resident commissioner to congress from Porto Rico was given additional authority, equal in all essential respects to that of a delegate from a territory, the action not requiring the concurrence of the senate.

Resident Commissioner Degetau of Porto Rico taking advantage of the enlarged powers granted him by the house, introduced a bill to expressly declare the citizens of Porto Rico citizens of the United States. The bill provides as follows:

"That the citizens of Porto Rico, whose permanent allegiance is due to the United States; the organic law of whose domicile was enacted by the United States, and is enforced through official sworn to support the Constitution of the United States, are hereby expressly declared to be citizens of the United States."

The bill was referred to the committee on Insular Affairs.

A bill which provided for a "delegate from Porto Rico" passed the house during the last congress, but was amended by the senate to such an extent that it failed. A bill duplicating the action of the house at the last session is now pending, but meanwhile Porto Rico will receive, under the action taken to-day, practically all of the benefits extended in the measure.

A lively parliamentary debate preceded the adoption of the resolution, which was reported from the committee on rules as a "privileged" matter. The minority members of the committee wished to set a date in the resolution for the consideration of the bill in question and to extend in the meantime all the privileges of a delegate to Mr. Degetau, the resident commissioner. Falling in this, the minority members, after criticizing the majority and also the senate for its action of last session, supported the resolution.

Mr. Dalzell explained that at the last session of congress Commissioner Degetau was granted the right to the floor, but it was desirable in the interests of Porto Rico to grant him further privileges.

Mr. Williams announced that the resolution was good legislation but did not go far enough. There was no reason why Porto Rico should not be entitled to a delegate as well as Hawaii. Mr. Williams called attention to a bill now on the house calendar for the insular affairs committee, giving Porto Rico a delegate.

Mr. Jones (Va.) stated that the house had passed the same bill unanimously in the last congress.

MILITARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Great Mass of Colombian History Sent to Congress.

The president sent to the senate a mass of correspondence in response to Senator Gorman's resolution calling for the dates and circumstances under which the United States used military forces in the internal affairs of New Grenada or Colombia, and whether such uses of military forces were in the initiative of the United States by the request of New Grenada or Colombia, or in consequence of any official representation of either. The resolution also called for copies of the order by the navy department relating to such use of military force.

The circumstances under which forces were landed are given by the president in detail, but orders by the war and navy departments concerning the inner workings of such departments, and which constitute a part of the records of the offices of military and naval intelligence, are withheld. On the grounds that the disclosure of such confidential matters would be incompatible with the public interest.

END OF COUNTY COURTS.

Ancient Virginia System Now a Thing of The Past.

The ancient system of county courts that has existed in Virginia since Colonial days has become a thing of the past. Under the provisions of the new State Constitution these courts were abolished, their existence ending with the month of January.

In the Constitutional Convention of 1903 the final change was made. This ancient County Court was abolished and a Circuit Court, in which was centered the powers of both the old County Court and the old Circuit Court, was established. The State is now divided into 24 circuits.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The senate voted an appropriation of \$4,600,000 to the St. Louis Exposition.

Mr. Sheppard (Dem.), Texas, one of the youngest members of the House, made a determined and persistent effort to bring about a reform in the distribution of seeds by the Government. The section was sustained.

Service Pension Bill.

Senator Penrose introduced a bill which provides that not less than \$3 per month pension shall be paid any soldier who served at least 30 days during the late civil war, provided that such soldier saw any service during the month, outside the state from which he enlisted. This is a measure which if passed will practically give every man who enrolled his name as a soldier during the civil war a pension of \$3 a month.

DEATH OF W. C. WHITNEY.

Failed to Survive Second Operation for Appendicitis.

William C. Whitney, former secretary of the navy, died at his home, 871 Fifth avenue, New York, while under the influence of ether administered preparatory to a second operation for appendicitis.

William C. Whitney was born at Conway, Mass., on July 15, 1841, of old Puritan stock, his father being Brig.-Gen. James Scollay Whitney, a prominent Boston financier, and descendant of John Whitney, one of the early Massachusetts colonists, while on his mother's side he traced his descent back to Gov. William Bradford, of Mayflower fame.

Mr. Whitney was graduated from Yale and studied law at the Harvard Law School. He came to New York when a young man and entered the law office of Abraham B. Lawrence. He was corporation counsel of New York in 1875, 1876 and 1880.

Mr. Whitney was married in 1869 to Miss Flora Payne, daughter of Henry B. Payne, then United States senator from Ohio. She died in 1893, leaving four children—Pauline, who married Almer Hugh Paget of England; Harry Payne Whitney, Payne Whitney and Dorothy Whitney.

Mr. Whitney entered politics in 1871 when he organized a young men's Democratic club. In 1872 he became leader of the County Democracy. He was actively interested in politics until the close of President Cleveland's first administration, during which he served as secretary of the party.

It was while acting as secretary of the party that Mr. Whitney first came into national prominence through his aggressive efforts toward improvement and enlargement of the American navy. At that time the navy consisted of wooden ships and a few antiquated ironclads left over from the civil war.

Mr. Whitney urged upon congress the necessity of establishing a new navy on modern lines, and as a result of his efforts the first steel armor-clad ships flying the United States flag were built, and Mr. Whitney's fame as the father of the new American navy became established.

Soon after leaving the cabinet Mr. Whitney began his career as a financier. Buying the old Avonlea horse-racing line, he built around that as a nucleus the present Metropolitan Street Railway Company, which has gradually acquired all of the surface lines on Manhattan island.

PARLIAMENT OPENED.

Morley Will Introduce Free Trade Amendment to King's Speech.

The king opened parliament on the 2d with the usual ceremonial and the old-fashioned incidents of the past. Ruler and Queen arrived in state, and occupied the throne, as of yore, and the prince and princess of Wales also had a royal procession. The king congratulated the nation on the settlement of the Alaskan boundary dispute. On the far eastern situation, the speech said England would do all possible to maintain peace.

The fiscal problem was the principal topic in moving and seconding.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman severely arraigned the government's attitude on the fiscal question and announced that John Morley would in a few days introduce a more comprehensive amendment, involving the whole situation.

Premier Balfour was laid up with influenza, and therefore was unable to be present. When Austen Chamberlain arose in reply in behalf of the party of which his own father is believed to be the most powerful member, the house was spellbound. Until that moment Mr. Acheson-Dodgson, secretary of state for home affairs, was generally expected to take Premier Balfour's place, and interest in the proceedings was heightened by the fact that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, had just concluded a merciless satire on Austen Chamberlain's father.

Maryland Senator Chosen.

After a deadlock lasting over two weeks, the Democrats in the Maryland legislature met in caucus on the evening of the 3d and nominated Isidor Basner, of Baltimore, for United States Senator to succeed Louis E. McComas.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Seoul-Fusan railroad has been occupied by Japanese troops, according to a dispatch from Vladivostok, which adds that the Japanese have taken field guns to Seoul for the protection of their legation and that they are building barracks for the accommodation of cavalry.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says the Russian general staff has given Viceroy Alexieff authority to declare war and open hostilities on his own responsibility if circumstances render it necessary. The dispatch adds that an imperial manifesto declaring war is expected if the Japanese government does not accept the conditions proposed in Russia's response, which, it is asserted, will be Russia's last word.

15 Miners Buried Alive.

Word has been received in Guayaquil, Ecuador, by mail from the Zaruma gold mining district that, on January 24, a wall in a mine belonging to some American capitalists collapsed and buried alive 15 miners. The wall was 75 feet high.

Money Wanted for Levees.

Gov. Curd and several other prominent Mississippians appeared to-day before the committee on rivers and harbors arguing for an appropriation of \$15,000,000 to further strengthen the levees along the Mississippi river. The general government has already expended some \$7,000,000 and private and state monies to the extent of some \$40,000,000 have been expended to harness the great Mississippi river.