

**AN AWFUL CHAOS IN PITTSBURG.  
EIGHTEEN LIVES LOST.**

**By an Explosion of Whisky Terrible Havoc is Wrought—Loss \$1,700,000.**

A fire in the third floor of the Union Storage Company's building at Pittsburgh caused a death dealing explosion last Wednesday night.

In the building were stored hundreds of barrels of whisky, and without any warning these exploded, bringing down the walls of the huge building, crushing out the lives of at least a dozen persons.

The greatest consternation was caused by the explosion. From the surrounding houses people in their nightclothes, barefooted, were rushing out to places of shelter.

The helmeted firemen ran for their lives. Soon, however, they recovered themselves, and began the heroic search for their dead comrades.

The names of the dead are as follows:

Leut. of Police, John A. Berry, Thomas Claffey, John Deyer, Josiah McHanna, George Loveless, John Scott, William M. Wright, William J. G. Smith, Stanley Seltz, aged 14; William Smith and Albert Wolf.

Seventeen persons received serious injuries when the walls fell.

Twenty-three persons are missing, and most of these were last seen in the vicinity of the fire. It is believed their bodies will be found under the ruins.

Chief Humphreys of the fire department asserts that when the ruins are cleared more bodies will be found. Many spectators stood near a portion of the building where it was not known a fire was raging, and when the explosion occurred the chief believes many of the spectators were killed.

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Heavy telephone and telegraph poles bearing 60 and 70 wires as well as heavy cables, were snapped off short as far away as three squares, and the streets littered with live wires, adding to the dangers threatened from the fire. For squares away the window glass was broken, chimneys were toppled over and men were thrown from their feet. There was but little noise about the first explosion, except that occasioned by the fearful and terrifying roar of towering brick walls as they toppled down.

As the walls fell they crushed in many of the buildings surrounding the storage house. An entry for the flames was made in the window glass of the building by the flames and caused a loss to that structure of \$600,000.

The Chautauque Lake Ice Company's building was damaged to the extent of \$300,000.

The Union Storage Warehouse and contents sustained a loss of \$1,000,000. The total loss will amount to \$1,700,000.

The loss to the insurance companies by the fire will amount to \$350,000.

The buildings were located on Penn avenue between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets.

The entire Pittsburgh fire department battled with the flames and finally the Allegheny department also assisted in subduing the fire.

Ten thousand people visited the ruins of the great fire Sunday, and it was a day of funerals in Pittsburgh.

**TERRELY TOLD TELEGRAME.**

Clara Barton distributed supplies to 300 needy Cubans last Sunday.

Annie Shipski, aged 7 years, was killed by a trolley car at Trenton, N. J.

There are no indications of an early settlement of the New England cloth mill strike.

Robert Anderson is at Chicago arranging for a race with a locomotive next May.

40 per cent. of the milk cows in the vicinity of Pittsburgh are affected with tuberculosis.

Spain has requested the Clyde shipbuilders in London to hurry work on Spanish boats.

Excessive smoking of cigarettes killed Albert Howard, of McKeessport, Pa., last Wednesday.

John D. Rockefeller presented land worth \$25,000 to the city of Cleveland for park purposes.

The Illinois senate concurred in the house joint resolution favoring the annexation of Hawaii.

Pittsburg's famous criminal lawyer, Major Edward A. Montooth, died last Wednesday morning.

Rich deposits of lead and zinc are reported to have been discovered on the New Kaw reservation in Oklahoma.

Levi P. Morton's office building on Nassau street, New York, was destroyed by fire last week. Loss \$500,000.

The pen with which Lincoln signed the proclamation freeing the slaves was presented to the New York Press Club.

Miss Mollie Vincent shot her lover, Taylor Wyatt, and then committed suicide. They lived in Moroccan valley, Va.

The Hoyt building, corner of St. Clair and Bank streets, Cleveland, was destroyed by fire last Saturday. Loss, \$375,000.

Three men were killed in the Newport mine at Ironwood, Mich., a few days ago by an explosion of a giant powder.

At San Carlos, Ariz., 1500 Apaches assembled and gave the necessary consent for a railroad to go through their reservation.

By decree Cuban papers are prohibited from publishing anything that will hurt the prospects of peace or autonomy in Cuba.

Secretary Gage and Gen. Harrison addressed the Marquette Club at Chicago last Saturday. The occasion was Lincoln's birthday.

In a head end collision on the Louisville and Nashville railroad at Montgomery, Ala., last Thursday five trainmen were killed.

Judge Thornhill of the district court at Council Bluffs, Ia., decided the state law taxing collateral inheritance to be unconstitutional.

A successor to De Lome, the Spanish minister to this country who was recently compelled to resign for slandering McKinley, has not yet been chosen.

John Schofield shot and instantly killed Peter Pfeffer at the latter's home in Louisville, Ky., because the latter objected to his paying attentions to his daughter.

A filibustering expedition left Tampa, Fla., for Cuba last Saturday night. 5,000 pounds of dynamite and 200,000 rounds of cartridges made up the cargo.

Now that President Barrios of Guatemala is dead, his cabinet has resigned and the leaders are engaged in battle among themselves. Sixty-four men were killed in a riot last week.

An elevator in the Hoffman House, New York, shot upwards, Mrs. Arthur Levy fainting. She fell and her head was bruised by a projecting floor and she died instantly Sunday night.

For \$300,000 a Chicago man proposes to raise the capitol building at Columbus, Mo., so as to admit of another story until the Illinois constitution is amended in the legislature to that effect.

Mrs. Annie C. George, widow of Henry George, was awarded \$500 in her suit against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for \$5,000 damages for injuries sustained by a fall in that company's station in Philadelphia.

More than 3,000 ironers makers of New York, Brooklyn and Brooklyn, N. J., went on strike a few days ago for an advance in wages. They claim that they had to work 16 hours a day, getting from \$5 to \$9 per week as wages.

During a funeral service in the synagogue at Cincinnati, in Warsaw, recently, the woman's saltery collapsed. In a panic that ensued 21 women, 5 men and 3 children were crushed to death and many others were seriously injured.

Professor Samuel J. James, of the University of Chicago, has been nominated by the board of education to represent the United States at the international congress of commercial instruction to be held at Antwerp next April.

Chris Merry of Chicago, under sentence for the murder of his wife, suffered a fatal injury to the head some years ago. In the effort to save his life, his attorneys will have his brain examined with X rays before the date of his execution.

Secretary Bliss emphatically disapproves the senate bill to remove Indians from the Annette island, the main land of Alaska and throw the island open to settlement. It is represented that, isolated from the whites, as they now are, the Indians are making good progress in civilization.

A boat containing five men went over the falls at Oregon City, Ore., the other day. George Freeman, Sr., his sons, George and James, and L. J. Shannon were drowned. Harry Freeman held to the boat and reached shore. The present high water will probably prevent recovery of the bodies.

The Quebec express on the Intercolonial railway plunged over an embankment at Petit Roche, 7 miles from Ealhurst, near St. John, N. B., last Wednesday, killing the engineer, William Eastman, and badly injuring Fireman Pool. The cause of the accident is supposed to be a broken rail. The passenger cars did not go over the embankment and the passengers escaped injury.

Michael Davitt moved an amendment in the House of Commons in London the other day calling attention to the distress in Ireland, and the failure of the potato crop. The motion was seconded by John P. Hayden and was supported by John Dillon, chairman of the Irish parliamentary party, who said the misery in Ireland was a scandal to the government. Mr. Dillon added that the distress was aggravated by evictions of the starving and he called upon the government for immediate comprehensive proposals for the relief of the sufferers.

**Died Holding an American Flag.**

Mrs. Susanna Smith, wife of the well-known Brooklyn abolitionist, died with an American flag in her right hand and a portrait of Abraham Lincoln in her left, at her home in Brooklyn Saturday afternoon. She had gone to an upper room for the flag and the portrait, intending to use them to decorate her parlor in honor of Lincoln's birthday. While going downstairs she was tripped and fell, and, as she fell, the flag and the portrait came down. She died almost instantly.

**ARMY SAVED FROM A SINKING SHIP.**

**RESCUED BY THE ST. LOUIS.**

The Atlantic liner sees signals of distress and takes on board 212 passengers.

The attention of steamer St. Louis crossing from Southampton to New York was attracted by signals of distress while out at sea last week.

As soon as the St. Louis got close enough to the ill-fated ship signals were run up informing that the vessel was in sore distress and that the passengers and crew desired to be taken off as soon as possible. With the aid of glasses it was discovered that the ship in distress had an immense hole in her side to the aft and was slowly but steadily settling. A high rolling sea was running at the time. A storm had been raging a few hours previously, but the sea had calmed considerably.

The Veendam, a Holland ship from Amsterdam to New York, was laboring in a heavy sea and the work of rescue was difficult. The passengers were lowered from the ship's side by means of life-slings. The excitement on board of the Veendam was intense, but Captain Stenger and his crew managed to keep the passengers in some kind of discipline. After all the children had been taken from the Veendam, the women were transferred to the lifeboats. Next came the men and last of all the ship's crew. Many of the women were so overcome that they had to be picked up and dropped overboard into the arms of the lifeboat crew. Captain Stenger behaved like a hero. Not only did he direct the efforts of his officers and crew, but he personally assisted in lowering the children and more than 212 passengers were transferred from the wrecked steamer to the St. Louis.

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**REVIEW OF TRADE.**

**Unusual Demand for Pig Iron. Spring Trade Indications Good.**

R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly review of trade reports as follows for last week:

Business is pushing toward spring activity rather early. Events which have controlled are good buying of iron by the largest makers, the rise in cotton with strength in goods, the great railway consolidation and the Cuban insurrection. The latter, with its possibility of a brake on speculation, and foolishness of local traders gave foreigners a much desired opportunity to buy stocks, on balance about 50,000 shares. January earnings, \$38,017,417 already reported, are 16.5 per cent better than last year, and 9.5 better than in 1892, showing the best month in six years at least, and February returns thus far are promising.

The output of pig iron February 1 was 232,575 tons weekly, the largest in the history of the business, but the reported buying of 130,000 tons of Bessemer iron by the Carnegie Company and 100,000 by another of the largest steel concerns, nevertheless means a decided drop in prices. Bessemer iron rose to \$19.15, and gray iron to \$9 at Pittsburgh, with finished products generally stronger, and in larger demand than ever at this season. Rail contracts for 1900 are being sold more than last year's production, the railways buying earlier than usual. Bar contracts for cars, wagons, agricultural implements and other manufactured goods are heavy at the West, structural contracts very active here, and the East large, with 50,000 tons estimated for New York buildings alone this year, while plate and sheet contracts for the season are unprecedented.

January was one of the biggest months in Connellsville coke output, 23,975 tons, and furnace continued at the same price. Tin rose to 14 cents in spite of heavy shipments, and copper 11 cents, or better for like, in spite of enormous American supplies. Iron ore averaging 37.5 per cent. from last year is readily maintained. The opening of works idle for years, in spite of the heavy production already assured, is a striking feature in this, as in the iron and other industries, and implies heavy demands for products that are now met by the unprecedented output.

Wheat has been strong, with spot advancing 2 cents and May 2 1/4 cents, though western receipts have been, for two weeks, 5,269,718 bushels, against 3,178,505 bushels last year, but Atlantic exports have been 5,274,428 bushels (four included), against 4,026,896 bushels in two weeks last year, with Pacific coast receipts, Corn exports are also surprisingly well sustained, 3,164,762 bushels, against 7,823,805 bushels last year, and the price has advanced a trifle.

Business shown by bank clearings is again larger than ever before, 647 per cent. larger than last year for the week, and for the month to date, 44.3 per cent. larger than last year and 18 per cent. larger than in 1892.

Failures for the week have been 235 in the United States, against 267 last year, and 43 in Canada against 61 last year.

**OBJECTED TO EUROPEAN OFFICERS.**

**MUTINOUS JAPS.**

**Forty Englishmen Held at Bay an Entire Night by Drunken Sailors.**

Japan, while keeping her eye steadfastly on the Chinese situation, has now an unlooked for difficulty to contend with.

Continual trouble is being reported from vessels manned by Japanese crews, the Japanese resenting any instructions or surveillance from European officers and reserving an especial grudge for European passengers. Several cases have been reported where officers already marked for attack by the Japanese crew whenever they left their own state rooms after nightfall.

On New Year's day all the Japanese sailors and waiters, "mad drunk" and clad only in breech cloths, made an organized attack on the English officers and passengers of the Hakata Maru.

The Japanese were armed with knives, crowbars and belying pins, brutally beat the chief engineer and his assistant and attacked a passenger, Thomas Hall, in his berth, cutting his head open with a marlin spike. According to the accounts in the Telegraph, the officers and most of the passengers were driven to the bridge, drunk, unarmed, 40 Englishmen kept 100 Chinese from attacking them during the entire night by brandishing their walking sticks.

Three Chinese were hanged simultaneously in the Victoria jail, at Hong Kong, on January 12, the drop being made to accommodate all three and the tripping together. They were supposed to be members of an armed gang of shop thieves, and in raiding a store killed a Chinese employee. The criminals were disbanded soldiers.

**AN INSULT TO MCKINLEY.**

**The Spanish Minister Said to Have Called the President a Low Politician.**

Representatives of the Cuban Junta at New York gave out copies of a letter signed "Enrique Dupuy de Lome," who is minister of Spain in Washington, and addressed to Jose Canalejas, who went to Cuba last September as Premier Sagasta's representative. In this letter the Spanish minister refers to President McKinley as "weak and catering to the rabble" and as a "low politician, who desires to stand well with the jingos of his party."

The Washington correspondent, and the New York Press says that when a copy of this letter was shown to Minister de Lome he promptly pronounced it a forgery. He also says that an official of the state department discussing the matter said: "De Lome did not write that letter; the Cuban Junta has been imposed upon by somebody."

On the other hand Horatio L. Ruhens, counsel for the Cuban Junta, says: "We know absolutely that this letter is genuine. A man risked his life to obtain it. We do not hesitate to acknowledge that it was stolen from Canalejas. It is written on the paper of the legation. The handwriting is De Lome's and the signature is his."

As a result of this letter, the state department has communicated with the authorities in Spain, and Minister de Lome will likely be recalled.

**ALONE ON AN ISLAND.**

**A Solitary Watcher Will Not Desert His Post Until Relieved.**

Alone on a coral reef in the Pacific ocean, 100 miles from any other land and out of the usual course of vessels, Theodore Gussmann is waiting to be rescued. A letter to a friend at San Francisco, Captain Charles Hartig, which he sent by a French schooner that called to cruise in his locality, describes the awful solitude in which he has been isolated for months.

Gussmann might have left his imprisonment by the vessel which brought his letter, but to have done so would have been deserting his post of duty. He is one of three men sent down to Clipperton island last July by the Oceanic phosphate company to keep possession of the company's property and of the island. His companions deserted him at the time the Mexican man-of-war Democrata hauled down the American flag and hoisted the Mexican standard. Gussmann refused to leave the island. He has not seen a soul since he reached it. He has had to make his own food. In order to remain at his post of duty Gussmann practically marooned himself, swimming ashore from the warship with evidence of his employers' neglect, the island concealed in one of his shoes.

**FOR AN EIGHT HOUR DAY.**

**A Million Men Soon to Make a Stand for Shorter Work Days.**

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has been in New York to get the unions to make this demand a general one for an eight-hour work day. According to the present plans of labor leaders a demand for the eight-hour day will be made on May 1 next that will involve fully 1,900,000 men.

The American Federation of Labor will make this demand in one trade at a time, and according to the leaders great strikes are expected before the battle likely to follow is decided.

Previous attempts to force the large employers to grant the eight-hour work day have failed, and the success of the recent strike of miners, in which more than 200,000 took part, has encouraged the American Federation of Labor to prepare for undertaking a tremendous fight. The leaders are now well organized and are confident of success.

Mr. Gompers intends to confine his work until May 1 to interesting the unions affiliated with the American Federation in the movement. He will superintend the operations of a powerful and well organized staff of organizers from his headquarters at Washington, D. C. He will superintend many of the arrangements personally.

**CAPITAL CLEANING.**

Available cash balance, \$223,876,942; gold reserve, \$165,169,121.

The Minnesota members are working hard for the bill against "mixed" flour.

Commodore Bunch has been nominated by the president to be rear admiral.

Senator Pettigrew spoke against the Hawaiian annexation treaty in the executive session.

Three propositions were introduced in the senate last Tuesday for the relief of Cuban insurgents.

President McKinley will address the University of Pennsylvania students on Washington's birthday.

For ten years the United States has been so busy with the volume of foreign trade, and is displaced by Germany and now ranks third.

First Assistant Postmaster General Heath ruled that it is not necessary for newspaper publishers who may be appointed postmasters to give up their jobs.

The secretary of the treasury sent to congress the draft for a bill to reduce the number of customs districts from 152 to 65, and it is contemplated it will cause a reduction in expenses from \$20,000 to \$281,000.

The secretary of the treasury issued a warrant in favor of the treasurer of the United States for \$7,515,255.15, to be used for the payment of first mortgages on the eastern and middle divisions of the Kansas Pacific railroad.

The Indian office will soon issue advertisements for the purchase of lands in the Osage and Kaw Indian reservations in Oklahoma. There are about 200,000 acres to be leased and the period is to be three years from April 1.

The house committee on commerce killed the senate bill to permit the state of North Carolina to import liquor brought into the state in original packages. The motion to report it favorably was lost on a tie vote.

**ENGLISH INTERESTS NOT SUFFERING.**

**Executive Officer of the Cushing Expire After Being Rescued From the Water.**

Dashing at full speed through the combing waves, the little torpedo-boat Cushing entered Havana harbor Saturday morning. On board she had the body of Ensign J. R. Breckinridge, of Lexington, Va., who had been washed overboard and rescued in the water before.

A call was sent to Consul General Lee for physicians, but it was to late.

Breckinridge was executive officer of the Cushing, which had a stormy passage from West to Havana. She left Key West Friday morning with stores for the Maine. The boat pitched heavily in a fearful sea. Ensign Breckinridge, who was stationed forward, was carried off his feet by a heavy sea. He clung to the gunwale as she was swept aft. The line parted, however, and Ensign Breckinridge went overboard.

Seaman Everett and Coppage started to go to rescue in the lifeboat, but it was swamped in lowering and the men were thrown into the water.

The Cushing finally obeyed her helm and swung around and maneuvered near the men in the water. Atkins, Coppage and Everett were rescued by lines, and Ensign Breckinridge was taken to hospital in the same manner. Atkins fastening the line to him.

On the arrival in Havana a message was sent to Consul General Lee, who sent Dr. Burgess. Dr. Burgess said it was doubtful if medical aid, if available, would be of any service.

Breckinridge's father is inspector general of the army in Washington.

**STARVATION IN CHICAGO.**

Mrs. Carolina Lang, 85 years of age, died at the county hospital at Chicago the other day of starvation, and her husband, Cornelius Lang, 75 years old, is in the same institution dying slowly from the same cause.

When the police broke down the door to the room, they found the bodies of the two old people lying on the floor near the door. He had started to crawl to the door to bring aid for his wife, but had fainted through weakness. Neither of them was able to speak when found.

**THE ASSASSIN KILLED.**

The official confirmation of the assassination of President Barrios of Guatemala to the state department is in the following cable from United States Minister Hunter at Guatemala City:

"President Barrios was shot and instantly killed while walking with two military officers near the palace. The assassin, a Cuban, was shot and escaped, was immediately killed by the president's staff. Manuel Estrada Cabrera, temporarily the tribunal successor, has been peaceably installed. All quiet."

**RUSSIA'S INDEPENDENT STAND.**

Much importance is attached to a communication appearing in the official "Messenger" in which Russia abandoning the candidature of Prince George of Greece for the governorship of the island of Crete, threatens all concerned, declines all responsibility for the consequences of further dragging the question and says: "Russia will not allow any increase in the number of Turkish troops in Crete."

**DE LOOME RESIGNS.**

Having slandered McKinley the Spanish Minister Steps Out.

At a meeting of the Spanish cabinet, held at Madrid Thursday under the presidency of the queen regent, the president of foreign affairs, Don Quiroga, read a dispatch from Senator Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister at Washington, saying that the published letter to Senator Canalejas was written by him and that his position, consequently, was untenable.

The cabinet decided to accept the resignation of Senator Dupuy de Lome and the ministers subsequently met and decided to telegraph to Senator de Lome, asking his resignation and entrusting the first secretary with the conduct of the current affairs of the legation.

The candidature of Senator Muruga to succeed Senator de Lome has been abandoned. The government maintains its reserve, desiring to secure the approval of Washington, according to diplomatic custom, before appointing Senator de Lome's successor.

Senator Sagasta, the premier, and other members of the cabinet state publicly that the De Lome incident will not affect the relations between Spain and the United States, and that a new envoy competent to conduct the commercial negotiations will be selected.

**MILITARY POST NEEDED.**

**War Department Receives a Report Concerning Klondike Needs.**

In a report from Apt. Kay of the war department, who was sent to Alaska to study the needs of the miners, the Captain recommends that the mouth of Mission or American creek be chosen as the site with a sub-post, if necessary, at Circle City. The best interests of the service, he says, require permanent garrisons to be located well away from mining towns, so that the troops, if required to act, will not be influenced by local prejudice.

On the question of food, he says: "The question of food is a very serious one, and the action of the North American Trading and Transportation Company is causing much friction. I used my best endeavors to reconcile all differences between the people who are without provisions down to Fort Yukon as soon as possible, where there is an abundance of food. I learn that while food is scarce in Dawson City, the miners in the outlying camps are fairly well supplied. The stores that are selling very conservatively. The eating houses are all closed save one. While I consider the situation critical I do not believe there will be any great loss of life beyond that incident to a climate so rigorous as this. The weather will be much suffering along the river and the train owing to the rashness and ignorance of people unaccustomed to this climate, no well-informed person here will deny that there is nothing that should cause undue anxiety or alarm among people in the states who have friends in this country. There are fabulous stories being circulated and will be published about the prices paid for food and supplies, instances where \$100 was paid for 50 pounds of flour, but such cases are rare, were outside deals and not the prevailing price."

**LETTERS FOUND GUILTY.**

Adolph L. Luertger was Wednesday night convicted of the murder of his wife, and sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for life. The big prisoner was calm to all appearances, and did not seem nervous in any degree.

After the announcement was made in a manner that showed plainly that he did not think the verdict a serious matter, comparatively speaking. The trial lasted 72 days, and was his second.

**ANTHONY HOPE'S COMPLAINT.**

Anthony Hope is now talking freely regarding America since he returned to London. He says he believes half the population of the United States is composed of interviewers "whose predominant characteristics are conceit, us, while everyone asked me innumerable questions as to my opinion of the United States and its literature, past, present and future, no one asked me a single question regarding England or the English."

**A CHAIN OF SUICIDES.**

Miss Lizale W. Huffman, of Brightwood, Ind., is dead from the effects of a narcotic poison taken with suicidal intent. Several weeks ago her daughter Edith committed suicide, previous to Edith's death her lover, Harry Phillips, committed suicide. The daughter was dependent over her lover's death, the mother could not stand her sorrow over her daughter's death.

**THIRTEEN PEOPLE DROUGHT.**

Tuesday morning 16 inmates of a four-story tenement house at Albany, N. Y., narrowly escaped death. As it was a very bad fire, Mrs. Mrs. William Farris was seriously burned.

**DEATH OF A VIOLET.**

George MacCoun, aged 22, of the Protestant Episcopal church, committed suicide at Baltimore a few days ago by shooting himself over the heart at the residence of his mother. The act was done apparently in a cool and studied manner. He removed his coat and other clothing. He stood before a mirror, opened his shirt and fired the fatal bullet. It is stated he has been suffering greatly from pains in his head and had been afflicted with melancholy. He was a son of the late Dr. MacCoun, surgeon in the United States navy.

**LIQUOR CAUSES A TRAGEDY.**

After shooting his sweetheart, May Martin, until he felt certain that she would die, William Jacob, living in Pittsburgh, Wednesday afternoon turned a 22-caliber revolver over his own head and fired. He lived for half an hour, and the death of the young woman is expected at almost any moment. Jealousy and liquor are attributed as the cause of the suicide and murder.

**JUDGE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST.**

Judge J. J. Harlow, one of the best-known lawyers of Ohio, to his own head a fine library, turned his lucrative practice over to others, closed his office and became a Christian science healer.