

DEATH IN FUMES OF BURNING ACID

FATAL CONFLAGRATION.

Milwaukee Firemen Breathe Poisoned Air and Four Are Dead—Others Expected to Die.

Four firemen are dead and nine others were made seriously ill from the effects of inhaling the fumes of nitric acid while fighting a fire at the plant of the Schwab Stamp & Seal Company at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

MIDDIES RECEIVE DIPLOMAS.

Annapolis Cadets Are Given Some Wholesome Advice.

The 50 midshipmen of the class of 1903 at Annapolis, Md., received their diplomas from the hands of Secretary of the Navy Moody February 2.

Children Plot to Burn.

Two 10-year-old girls, named Reeves and Curtis, serving sentences for general incorrigibility at Ogden, Utah, confessed that they set fire to the dormitories in the State Industrial school.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

Secretary Root transmitted to the House a statement that the militia numbers 109,338 men and 8,291 officers, while 10,853,396 are available for militia duty.

The Senate Committee on Postoffices has authorized a favorable report on the bill authorizing additional pay to postmasters who served between the years 1864 and 1874.

The sub-committee of the House Naval Affairs committee discussed what report it should make on the Lesser-Quigg-Dobbin bribery case, but reached no agreement.

John F. Vinley, of Pottsville, until a few days ago Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia, has been appointed bank examiner for the Middle district of Pennsylvania.

The nomination of Dr. W. D. Crum, colored, to be collector of the port at Charleston, S. C., was discussed by the Senate committee on commerce, but action was again postponed.

The Great Memorial Commission, appointed under the act of Congress of 1901 to select plans for a monument to General Grant, has decided to select the model submitted by Henry Merwin Shady of New York.

Bridadier General Wade will be promoted to the grade of Major General on the retirement of Major General Hughes in April next. He will relieve General Davis of command of the Division of the Philippines in July.

Representative Hemenway, of Indiana, introduced a bill to pension all soldiers and sailors who served at least 90 days in the Civil war at \$12 per month and all widows of such soldiers and sailors who were married prior to July 27, 1890.

The House Committee on Pensions has authorized a favorable report on the Senate bill to increase the pension of all Mexican war veterans from \$8 to \$12 per month. The number of Mexican war survivors on the pension rolls is shown by a report from the Pension Commissioner to be about 3,900.

President Roosevelt is to take fencing lessons. He has decided that the work will exercise all the muscles of his body and prove a pleasant relief from the gymnastics and wrestling matches with which he has kept in trim during the last few years.

The president vetoed the house bill providing for additional terms of court in the western judicial district of South Carolina. His veto message, among other things, stated that the attorney general had advised that much expense would be incurred and that the necessity for the measure was questioned.

In an opinion rendered by Justice Shiras the Supreme court, it is held that State laws for the regulation of State banks are not applicable to National banks. The president of a National bank at Decatur, Ga., had been convicted in a State court of receiving a deposit when he knew the bank to be insolvent. The court held that National banks are only subject to the laws of Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

LVII. CONGRESS.

Amended Bill.

The Senate Monday had up the army appropriation bill, which took precedence over Mr. Quay's statehood bill. Amendments were adopted appropriating \$2,000,000 to arm and equip the State militia the same as the regular army and to appoint an officer of the signal corps as chief of the telegraph and cipher bureau of the White House with the rank of major.

Seal Killing.

In the House Monday Mr. Bates, Pennsylvania, moved the passage of the bill to permit the Secretary of the Interior to exchange arid and semi-arid lands within the limits of railroad and wagon grants for public lands of equal value in order to assemble public and private lands in more compact bodies, so as to permit them to be advantageously used. The bill was rejected.

Railway Rebates.

The Senate Tuesday passed the army appropriation bill after eliminating from it the section providing for a general staff. Mr. Quarles, Wisconsin, spoke for two and a half hours without concluding in opposition to the Statehood bill. The bill to prevent the giving or receiving of railway rebates was passed.

Claim Bill Defeated.

In the House Mr. Payne, New York, renewed his fight against the claims bills left over from Friday, and succeeded in defeating three out of 13. The bills to pay the widow of Samuel A. Muhleman, of Wheeling, one of the victims of the Ford Theater disaster, \$5,000, and George C. Ellison, former engineer at the capitol, \$5,000 for expenses incurred in defending himself against the charge of murder, were defeated.

Diplomatic Bill.

The Senate Wednesday adopted the conference report on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, and amended the army staff bill to place the chief of staff under the direction of the President or Secretary of War, under the direction of the President. The House bill appropriating \$63,820 to N. F. Palmer & Co. for losses in the construction of the first battleship Maine, destroyed in Havana harbor, was passed, as was the House bill appropriating \$1,500,000 for a new building for the Department of Agriculture.

Postal Service.

In the House Wednesday the post-office appropriation bill being under discussion, Mr. Loud, California, chairman of the Postoffice committee, who retires from Congress on March 4, warned those who were to follow him in the House of the insidious methods employed to increase expenses of the postal service. A motion made by Mr. Talbert, South Carolina, to strike out the \$142,000 for special mail facilities between Washington and New Orleans was pending when the House adjourned.

Anti-Mormon.

The Senate spent Thursday discussing the Statehood bill. The discussion turned upon polygamy and the influence the Mormon church would exercise in New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma, if they are admitted as States. Adjournment was taken without definite action.

Industrial Proceedings.

After the House had passed the post-office appropriation bill Thursday and conferred in the conference report on the diplomatic appropriation bill it adopted the bill by 104 to 107. The bill to expedite judicial prosecution of trusts under the Sherman law was passed. The Littlefield bill was discussed up to adjournment.

HUNTER PRESSES CHARGE.

Declares Consul General McNally is Chief Conspirator.

According to a statement made by W. A. Hunter, of Louisville, Ky., son of the retiring minister to Guatemala, charges preferred by Dr. Hunter against Consul General James C. McNally are to be pressed as quickly as the minister and his family can reach this country. In the cablegram to his son advising of the acquittal of his eldest son, W. Godfrey Hunter, Jr., of the murder of W. A. Fitzgerald, Dr. Hunter declared Consul General McNally was the chief conspirator.

Military Camp Site.

Capt. Sibert's report on the availability of Somerset, Pa., for a permanent camp site for joint maneuvers of the regular army and militia of the eastern states, to Secretary Root, is favorable. That much was learned at Washington from an official of the war department, but access to the captain's report was denied.

Cuban Treasury Report.

The Treasury report of Cuba for January gives the balance in hand at the end of the month as \$2,180,841, against \$1,824,882 at the close of December. The January receipts were \$1,523,400 and the disbursements \$1,172,450.

Ship Believed to Be Lost.

The ship Florence, owned by the California Ship Building Company, at San Francisco, has been given up as lost.

CLAIM TO PREFERENCE REJECTED.

CASTRO'S ULTIMATUM.

Venezuela Will Not Consent to Any Preference in the Payment of Claims.

Herbert W. Bowen, Venezuela's representative in the negotiations for a settlement of the claims against that country, has sent through the British ambassador at Washington what is practically an ultimatum to the allied powers of Great Britain, Germany and Italy regarding their insistence for preferential treatment in the settlement of their claims against Venezuela. This note was cabled at once to London, copies of it being transmitted to the Italian and German embassies for transmission to Rome and Berlin. It is in reply to the proposition submitted at a joint conference of the negotiators this afternoon by the British ambassador that the allied powers be allowed two-thirds of 30 per cent. of the custom receipts of the ports of Lagunayra and Puerto Cabello and that the United States and the other claimant nations, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Spain and Norway and Sweden, content themselves with the remaining one-third of this percentage. Mr. Bowen refuses point blank the proposition for a 20 and 10 per cent. division on the ground that to recognize the principle would be offensive to modern civilization. In view of the fact that the negotiators are agreed on all save the question of preferential treatment the ambassador is informed that Venezuela has decided to submit that question to The Hague arbitration tribunal.

Lewis Kare, arrested at Buffalo for the murder of his daughter, confessed that he beat her brains out with a hammer. A crowd attacked a bus at Waterbury, Conn., run by strikers and several persons were hurt. Strikers badly beat a soldier. P. W. Wellford and Palmer Keller were instantly killed and L. E. Payne fatally injured at Roanoke, Va., while thawing dynamite.

Levis Well, aged 46, a New York broker, died of heart disease while in a rolling chair on the board walk at Atlantic City, N. J.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt gave their annual reception to Congress at Washington. Colonel and Mrs. Myron T. Herrick were present. Masked men at Mt. Gleason, Ky., bound John Ferrow and wife and robbed them of \$5. Being refused more, they wounded Ferrow fatally.

The power house of the Pennsylvania railroad at the Walden avenue yards in Jersey City, N. J., was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$30,000.

Amelia Sach and Annie Walters, "baby farmers," were hanged at Halloway jail, London. They showed remarkable nerve on the scaffold.

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Angelo Spinoccolo was held in \$500 bail at Altoona, Pa., by United States Commissioner James H. Craig for procuring naturalization papers by fraud.

Mrs. Annie Peterson, of West Chester, jumped from a rapidly moving street car at Sixty-third and Market streets, Philadelphia, and was instantly killed. Jordan Watkins was probably fatally injured and William Taylor and Charles Watson were seriously injured in a dynamite explosion at Cumberland, Md.

Judge Wright, vice governor of the Philippines, left for his home in Memphis, preparatory to his return to Manila. He expects to start from San Francisco about March 10.

James F. Shiras, of Pittsburg, was sentenced at New Orleans, La., to 180 days in prison, accused of forgery and embezzlement from the Home Co-operative Building Company.

Four men who robbed the First National bank at Cambridge, Ill., of \$10,000, were tracked through the snow to a barn and arrested in their hiding place under the hay.

The British government has revoked the proclamation issued last year, placing 13 districts in Ireland under martial law, and conferring summary jurisdiction on magistrates.

George H. Daniels, general passenger agent of the New York Central, denied that the Central contemplates the withdrawal of its 20-hour train between New York and Chicago.

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The New York banking house of Brown Bros. of San Francisco, Cal., has closed the contract with the underwriting syndicate, furnishing the \$27,000,000 consolidation of San Francisco street railways.

In the Girard yards of the Erie railroad, Youngstown, O., Timothy Mahoney and John Lewis, stepped in front of a switching engine. Mahoney was decapitated while the right leg of Lewis was cut off.

The Austrian Industrial association has reported against participating in the St. Louis exposition because of the cost and because the United States tariff is an obstacle against obtaining a profitable market.

President Roosevelt is suffering from the effects of a cold contracted recently. It has not incapacitated him and he is attending to his usual duties without serious inconvenience, but he is troubled by an aggravated hoarseness. This is yielding to treatment and is expected to pass away in a few days.

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad company conceded the demand of the 1,000 conductors and trainmen for an advance of wages of 15 per cent. for the freight men and 12 per cent. for the passenger men.

Edward M. Sturges, a prospector from Mexico, at El Paso, Tex., reports a tremendous gold strike in the Terres mountains, about 40 miles from Cos.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

Congestion on eastern roads was so great that western roads issued a blockade notice.

Gen. Wade was ordered to relieve Gen. Davis in command of the department of the Philippines.

The death of the former Boer commandant, General Prinsloo is announced at Cape Town, South Africa.

At a meeting of the Blauitt & Cracker Manufacturers' association, George S. Ward was chosen treasurer.

Fifty-six members of the United Lumber Dealers' association arrived in New York from a trip to Cuba.

A bill providing for the executing of criminals by electrocution was introduced in the House at Springfield, Ill.

Mobs attacked street cars at South Bend, Ind., being run by non-unionists, and caused a suspension of operations.

Minister Bowen offered three months' preferential time to allied powers as limit of Venezuelan concessions.

Thomas E. Reed and Jerome Hulet, each 65 years old, were found frozen to death in a cornfield at Mt. Rose, N. J.

President Roosevelt refused to pass upon claim of allies to preferential treatment in claims against Venezuela.

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\$50,000,000 FOR MILL EXTENSION.

LITIGATION ENDED.

New Jersey Court Dissolves the Injunction Against the U. S. Steel Corporation.

All litigation standing in the way of the conversion plan of the United States Steel Corporation, by which \$50,000,000 is to be created for improvement, is at an end, except for the possibility of appeal to the supreme court. The court of errors and appeals in Trenton, N. J., dissolved the temporary injunction granted to J. Aspinwall Hodge and others. This removes all court decrees against the steel corporation proceeding with its great plans of betterments which are of special and far-reaching importance to Pittsburgh. The plan to erect the \$10,000,000 tube mills at McKeesport has been in a measure held up by the court proceedings, although it was the purpose to go ahead with funds from other sources, and steps have been taken with this in view. Last year the Steel Corporation planned to spend \$50,000,000 on improvements, but the court proceedings stayed this, and probably half that sum would cover the expenditures for improvements and renewals, a little more than in the first fiscal year of the corporation. Now the corporation plans to revolutionize operations in its tin plate mills, which will involve an expenditure of millions of dollars. It is planned to erect and rebuild several furnaces in the Pittsburgh district and to erect new tube mills at Lorain, O., at a cost of about \$8,000,000. Bonds to the amount of \$250,000,000 are to be issued, making a fund of \$50,000,000 available for improvements at once.

The New Jersey court was unanimous in its finding for the Steel Corporation.

MURDERED IN PENITENTIARY. Victim Assaulted in His Sleep and Beheaded With Knife.

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The report of the Italian commission at Rome which has made a study of yellow fever in Brazil, is published. It rejects the theory that the disease is transmitted by mosquitoes.

The Porte at Constantinople has notified the Embassies that it has reports showing that the Macedonian Committee is organizing seven large bands for the invasion of Macedonia in the spring.

Dispatches from Helsingfors, Finland, announce that the czar of Russia has decreed severe disciplinary measures for all Finlanders who failed to comply with their military obligations in 1902. The total is 14,798 men.

Several unemployed persons marched through the streets at Valladolid, Spain, demanding work or bread. They looted bread wagons and were charged by the gendarmes. Shots were exchanged, some men were injured and many arrests were made.

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A special from Dawson says a shaft sunk on the Eldorado struck ground bed rock 65 feet below the first bed rock, with six feet of pay gravel running as high as \$25 to the bucket. The strike was not far from the famous gusher, which is now under control.

C. C. Craig (Unionist), at Dublin, Ireland, has been elected to represent South Antrim in the house of commons, by a majority of 949 over Dr. Keightley, the farmers and laborers candidate. The campaign was fought on the land question, Dr. Keightley supporting compulsory sale.

The prospect of war in Macedonia has prompted the Turkish government to notify the Idarel Massoussieh Steamship company to send in a return of the number of steamers available for use as transports in view of the possible dispatch of considerable bodies of troops from Anatolia, Asiatic Turkey, to the European provinces of Turkey.

In the discussion of the budget of public instruction in the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, France, Nationalist Deputy Syveton attacked the government on the ground that it had encouraged and forced teachers in the primary schools to use their influence with the pupils for political purposes.

A big agitation on the Macedonian question has been started in London, England, a special commissioner at Dublin, Bulgaria, describing Turkish atrocities, as related by the fugitives, declares that 3,000 refugees from Macedonia have fled to Bulgaria.

At a meeting of the McKinley Memorial Commission at Columbus, O., the design for the proposed memorial was selected. It will be neither an arch nor a shaft. It is more like an arch lying flat on the ground. A life-like statue of McKinley will decorate the center. His position will be that which he generally assumed when making an address, the figure showing his manuscript in one hand. At either end of the memorial will be a figure, one representing "Peace," the other "Prosperity." The memorial will be erected on the State House grounds.

At a meeting in Philadelphia attended by a number of capitalists of New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, the American Explosives Manufacturing Company was formed, having for its purpose the combination of all the manufacturers in this country of dynamite, powder and other explosives. The authorized capital of the concern is \$1,000,000, and this, it is stated, will be increased to \$5,000,000. Samuel W. Register, of Baltimore, is president of the company, which is said to have obtained a number of plants.

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Propose to Carve It Out of Montana and North Dakota.

Nine members of the North Dakota Legislature and J. N. Tolman, a Legislative representative of Carbon county, Mont., have held a conference to arrange for the segregation of Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota and the creation of a new State, to be known as Montague, extending from the Belt mountains in Montana to the Missouri river in North Dakota. Glendive, according to their plan, is to be chosen the capital.

The Successor of Maurice Grau. Only two candidates have yet appeared for director of the Metropolitan Opera Company, New York, to succeed Maurice Grau, retired. They are John Schoeffel, manager of the Tremont theater, Boston, and formerly of the theatrical firm of Abbey, Schoeffel & Grau, and George H. Wilson, manager of the Pittsburgh orchestra.

Battle With Robbers. A desperate battle occurred between a posse headed by Postoffice Inspector S. C. Kile and four robbers in the little postoffice at Huntingburg, Ind., which the men attempted to rob. About 70 shots were fired and it is believed that two of the robbers were shot. All four escaped.

Aimed at Bucket Shops. The managers of the New York Produce exchange have aimed a blow at bucket shops by framing a draconian amendment to the laws of the exchange.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

Despite Handicap of Freight Congestion Business Continues Remarkably Good.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says: Vigorous vitality is conspicuous in trade and industry, despite the handicap of overstrained and inadequate facilities for transportation. Concentrated efforts to reduce the congestion at a few favored points apparently intensified the blockades elsewhere, and inclement weather added a new disturbing factor of an already complicated situation. Retail dealings in most staples are fully sustained, especially of seasonable wearing apparel, but distribution at many points has suffered through weather conditions. Wholesale and jobbing trade is steadily improving, although deliveries cannot be guaranteed. Railway earnings during January were 8.4 per cent larger than last year, and 17.7 per cent in excess of 1901. Conditions in the iron and steel industry are without essential alteration. Trade difficulties increased; deliveries of fuel and pig iron are uncertain, and at Chicago coke is nominally \$10 a ton, while Connellsville ovens produce freely. Purchasers in some divisions of the market show an inclination to postpone placing contracts in expectation of better terms, but the general level of quotations does not recede. Numerous contracts are taken abroad because domestic plants cannot make shipments within the specified time, and one result of the excessive activity has been a decided improvement in the foreign industry. This has militated against imports, as prices are firmer in European markets, yet engagements continue on a moderate scale. Plans for railway extension assure much new business, while carriage and implement makers are constantly in the market for material. Failures in the United States were 254 this week, against 263 last week, 205 the preceding week and 261 the corresponding week last year, and in Canada 32, against 39 last week, 27 the preceding week and 25 last year.

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