

# FREELAND TRIBUNE.

Established 1888.  
PUBLISHED EVERY  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY.  
BY THE  
TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY, Limited.  
OFFICE: MAIN STREET ABOVE CENTRE.  
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES.**  
FREELAND.—The TRIBUNE is delivered by carriers to subscribers in Freeland at the rate of 12½ cents a month, payable every two months, or \$1.50 a year, payable in advance. The TRIBUNE may be ordered direct from the carriers or from the office. Complaints of irregular or tardy delivery service will receive prompt attention.  
BY MAIL.—The TRIBUNE is sent to out-of-town subscribers for \$1.50 a year, payable in advance, pro rata terms for shorter periods. The date when the subscription expires is on the address label of each paper. Prompt renewals must be made at the expiration, otherwise the subscription will be discontinued.

Entered at the Postoffice at Freeland, Pa., as Second-Class Matter.

Make all money orders, checks, etc., payable to the Tribune Printing Company, Limited.

FREELAND, SEPTEMBER 3, 1900.

## MANY KILLED IN WRECK

### Frightful Disaster on the Reading Railroad.

#### EXCURSIONISTS WERE THE VICTIMS

##### Thirteen People Killed Outright and More Than a Score Seriously Injured—Fatal Accident at a Grade Crossing.

Philadelphia, Sept. 3.—Thirteen persons killed and over 30 others injured in the appalling record of a rear end collision between an excursion train and a milk train on the Bethlehem branch of the Philadelphia and Reading railway at Hatfield, 27 miles north of this city.

The killed are: Miss Annie Sherry, aged 21 years, South Bethlehem; Robert Miller, South Bethlehem; Richard Bachman, 40, South Bethlehem; William Ehret, 22, South Bethlehem; Ira Ehret, 20, a brother of William, South Bethlehem; Joseph Mordant, 22, South Bethlehem; Charles McGonigle, Allentown; Thomas Day, Allentown; Miss Mamie Keelin, 14, Telford; Geoffrey Keelin, father of Mamie; William Blackburn, Amblert; Harold Landis, Hatfield; — Ackerman, Philadelphia.

The wrecked train consisted of ten day coaches and was the first section of a large excursion made up of people from Philadelphia, Allentown and surrounding towns to Atlantic City. This section carried only those persons who lived in Bethlehem and Allentown and left the Union depot in Bethlehem 35 minutes behind the milk train. The latter train consisted of two milk cars and two passenger coaches and had stopped at every station on the road from Bethlehem en route to Philadelphia. The milk train drew up at the milk station at Hatfield, and in less than two minutes the special excursion train, running at the rate of 35 miles an hour, crashed into the rear of the milk train. The locomotive plowed through the two passenger coaches and crushed them as if they were eggshells. The milk car immediately in front was also badly wrecked. Four persons, Geoffrey Keelin, his daughter, Mamie; Harold Landis and William Blackburn, on the passenger car of the milk train were almost instantly killed. Fortunately there were very few persons on this train.

#### Indescribable Horror.

The excursion train was a picture of indescribable horror. The locomotive was a mass of bent and broken iron and firmly held the bodies of its engine and fireman beneath its great weight. Behind the engine six of the cars were also a mass of wreckage. The first car was broken in twain, and the other five cars were thrown on their sides, completely demolished.

Nine persons were killed in the first two cars, and the others in those coaches were badly maimed. As soon as the crash came a terrible cry arose from the smashed cars, and those who had not been injured quickly crawled or jumped from the cars and went to the assistance of the injured. Many were pinned down by wreckage and had to be freed by the liberal use of axes. With three or four exceptions the dead were killed instantly, the others dying on their way to the hospital.

All the injured were first taken to a shed at the Hatfield station, and the dead were removed to a barn. Messengers were sent to the nearby villages for physicians, and a relief train was telegraphed for from Bethlehem. With 15 doctors and half a dozen nurses a special train was sent from Bethlehem, but before it reached the scene of the wreck it was signaled to return to Bethlehem, as a special, carrying nearly all the injured, had started for the hospital at that place. On the run from Hatfield to the hospital three of the injured died. Great trouble was experienced in keeping the relatives away from the injured on the train so that the doctors gathered from near Hatfield could attend to the wounded.

The second section of the excursion, made up of persons from towns other than Bethlehem and Allentown, left soon after the first section, but was flagged before it reached Hatfield. As it could not get through on account of the blocked tracks, it was returned to Bethlehem, and there was great rejoicing at the narrow escape of its occupants from the catastrophe.

The coroner of Montgomery county visited the wreck early and spent the entire day at the scene. He at once directed the removal of the dead to Lansdale, a short distance south of Hatfield. He promises a rigorous investigation into the horror.

There are conflicting stories as to the responsibility for the accident. One version is that the engineer of the excursion train had been warned at Souderton, the station above Hatfield, that a milk train was a few minutes ahead of him. Another story is that a milk dispatcher's office in Philadelphia was at fault. The trainmen refused to talk.

#### Weather Forecast.

Fair; southerly winds; moderate temperature.

You will never find any other pills so prompt and so pleasant as Dr. Williams' Little Early Risers, Grover's City drug store.

## BREAKING THE CONCERT

### England Thinks Russia's Position Endangers Peace.

#### NEW GROUPING OF THE POWERS.

##### Action of the United States Said to Throw Balance of Power Into the Hands of Lord Salisbury—London Press on Chinese Situation.

London, Sept. 3.—The publication of the text of the Russian proposals has intensified rather than diminished the suspicions entertained by England of Russia's proceedings. The rupture of the European concert is considered an accomplished fact. Opinions differ, however, as to the way in which the powers will now group themselves. Some papers think that Great Britain, Japan and the triple alliance will stand together in refusing to leave Peking.

The Daily Telegraph, which expresses regret that President McKinley "has committed the United States to follow the Russian lead," considers, however, that Japan, "whose consistent policy since the war of 1894 has been to conciliate and effect a rapprochement with China," will throw in her lot with Russia and will be reluctantly followed by France, who does not dare to risk a divergence with Russia.

"Events have therefore conspired," says The Daily Telegraph, "to throw the balance of the diplomatic power into Lord Salisbury's hands, for Austria-Hungary and Italy must side with Germany, who will probably propose some compromise and be supported by England."

#### Times Voices England's Opposition.

"The Times feels perfectly clear, it says, that neither honor nor the interests of England will permit her to follow Russia's example. It trusts that Germany also will refuse to leave Peking and expresses the hope that the report that the state department at Washington disapproves the Russian suggestion may prove correct.

Most of the other morning papers express similar views and decline to believe in the sincerity of Russia's promise to evacuate Manchuria.

The Shanghai correspondent of The Times, writing yesterday, says: "Li Hung Chang has received a telegram from the Chinese minister in Berlin asserting that Germany is prepared to act in concert with Russia with a view to a settlement and that therefore it is probable Germany will follow Russia and withdraw her troops from Peking."

The Shanghai correspondent of The Daily News says that Earl Li's manner has become "objectionable and blustering."

According to a dispatch from Tientsin, dated Aug. 25, to The Standard, an epidemic of suicide has broken out among the Chinese in Peking, where entire families are hanging themselves.

"It is not doubted here," says the Vienna correspondent of The Standard, "that Russia's proposals will in the end be accepted by Germany, who cannot but shrink from a single handed war with China. The Austrian newspapers, though at first indignant, are now beginning to realize the possibilities of an acceptance of the Russo-American solution."

#### ROCKHILL'S OPINION.

##### Our Special Commissioner Gives His Views on the Chinese Situation.

Shanghai, Sept. 3.—William Woodville Rockhill, special commissioner of the United States government to investigate and report on conditions in China, in an interview emphasizing the importance of the harmonious action of the powers as a measure of self defense, said:

"If the Chinese government is able to break the concert of nations and to bring about a disagreement on the part of any government in such a way as to secure any relaxation of the joint demands, all the foreigners in China may as well pack up and leave.

"This is the very best opportunity to settle for all time the status of foreigners in China. If that matter is not settled now, the Chinese will be encouraged to persist in their present policy, and the powers will have the whole trouble to thrash over again every two or three years. I believe that all the governments are impressed with this truth, and I believe most of them realize that a definite and permanent settlement of the status of foreigners and the establishment of freedom of trade are more important to them now than the acquisition of territory.

"This has been a deliberately planned movement on the part of the Chinese government to expel all foreigners. The Japanese printed in The Imperial Gazetteer prove this. The movement has been practically successful, since every foreigner in the interior has been obliged to seek refuge in the treaty ports. The imperial government merely utilized the Boxers as convenient accessories to its schemes.

#### Peking's Relief an Incident.

"The relief of Peking is merely an incident of the crisis. The really important work remains to be done hereafter. It is, probably the best informed man alive on eastern politics, said to me that the present was the greatest crisis in the history of China and that all preceding eastern questions sank into insignificance beside it. Are civilized nations to yield to the Chinese conceit of their own superiority?"

Mr. Rockhill and other officials in Shanghai, like the public, are utterly ignorant of the course of diplomatic and military events in Peking. The consuls of the various governments have sent frequent telegrams to their respective ministers, but have been unable to get replies. It is suspected that official messages are tampered with between Shanghai and Peking.

The attitude of the southern viceroys in protecting foreigners commands confidence in their good faith, and negotiations will probably be conducted through them.

There is a financial panic in Chinese business circles here. Probably an important factor is the money rate, which is now 36 per cent per month. The traders are trying to get the ear of the officials.

Li Hung Chang still remains in Shanghai. He is thoroughly discredited, but is intriguing to get the foreigners to quarrel among themselves. Yesterday he told American and English diplomats that the Russians had promised to withdraw from Peking regardless of the policy of other nations. His statement is not believed. On the contrary, it is thought probable that he is simultaneously assuring the

Russians that the Americans and British have promised to withdraw.

#### IN THE WAKE OF WAR.

##### Stories of Carnage and Rapine in the Pei-Ho Valley.

Shanghai, Sept. 3.—A correspondent sends the following from Taku, dated Aug. 30:

"The Chinese in the Pei-Ho valley are paying dearly for the folly of their government. The retribution they are suffering exceeds the ordinary penalties of war. Along the rivers and the roads traveled by the foreign troops between Tientsin and Peking an orgy of looting and destruction continues, with much useless slaughter of non-combatants. While the international forces were advancing the commanders, notably the Japanese and British, enforced a certain degree of protection for property not needed for military purposes.

"At that time most of the population except the fighting men had fled. But now the people are returning to their homes, only to find no shelter or rice or occupation. In the overcrowded famine threatened districts away from the river their lives and small possessions are at the mercy of bands of soldiers traveling about without officers.

"The conditions prevailing leave little ground for the favorable comparison of civilized warfare with Chinese methods. Robbery, ravishing and murder are so common that every responsible person one meets contributes stories from personal observation. The walled city of Tungchau was the only town in the pathway of the international forces whose people remained and attempted to continue business as usual. The Japanese patrolled the place efficiently, protected the people and prevented looting beyond the amount inevitable with an army. General Chaffee stationed a guard around the historic temple outside the wall, forbidding his troops to enter. The commanders encouraged the inhabitants to resume business, promising protection to peaceable persons.

"When the armies advanced, however, the guards were removed, only a small British and American garrison being left outside the wall. A correspondent returning from Peking found Tungchau stripped like a cornfield after a plague of grasshoppers. Everything portable of the smallest value had been taken, goods from shops, food and furniture. Parties of soldiers of every nationality were roaming about unrestricted and presumably in the spirit of devilry smashing furniture and glassware and trampling books and pictures under foot. Most of the Chinese were submitting to all this in abject fear. The few who dared to protest were kicked about.

"Several bodies lay in the streets, apparently those of non-combatants. The inhabitants, without food or clothing, were huddling in back yards in a pitiable condition.

#### The Brutality of Russians.

"The villages to the southward are even worse despoiled. One week after Peking was taken the traveler to Tientsin was seldom out of sight of burning houses. Fires are started daily, although the shelter will be much needed if the troops are to hold the country during the winter.

"The soldiers are having 'fine sport' in using natives who creep back to their houses or attempt to work in the fields as targets. The sight of a farmer being taken out of sight of burning houses, grain or an armful of other produce nearby, is quite common. The Russians are the chief actors in this style of conquest, but the French are remarkably conspicuous, considering their small numbers. The Indian troops and the Japanese are participants only when beyond the ken of their officers.

"From the beginning of the conduct of the Russians has been a blot on the campaign. The recital of notorious facts speaks more forcibly than any adjectives.

"A Peking correspondent saw Cosacks smash down Chinese women with the butts of their guns and pound their heads until they were dead. The Cosacks would pick up children barely old enough to walk, hold them by the ankles and beat out their brains on the pavement. Russian officers looked on without protest.

"While General Chaffee was watering his horse at a stream under the wall of Tungchau the Russians found a feeble old man nearly blind in the mud and dragged him out by the ear, shooting, gleefully. They impaled him on their bayonets. General Chaffee remarked: 'This is not war. It is brutal murder.'

"American officers at Taku, days after the fighting was finished, saw Russians bayonet children and throw old men into the river, clubbing them to death when they tried to swim. The Russians killed women who knelt before them and begged for mercy.

"Everybody was disposed to be friendly toward the Russians in the early days of the fighting at Tientsin because of their bravery, but such incidents as the foregoing have been so prominent a feature of the campaign that no one who is supposed to report important facts can ignore them. They are too numerous as to compel the conclusion that they are not isolated episodes, but the ordinary practices of Russian methods of warfare."

#### To Relieve Destitute Miners.

San Francisco, Sept. 3.—The United States transport Lawton, which has arrived in ballast from Seattle, is to be sent to Cape Nome to relieve the destitute miners, many of whom have petitioned through General Randall for transportation south before the hard Alaskan winter sets in. The Lawton will sail for the north as soon as she can get ready, probably within a few days. She has accommodations for about 700 men.

#### Deposed Official Restored.

Scranton, Pa., Sept. 3.—A. C. Salisbury, who was deposed from his office of main line superintendent of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad two weeks ago by former General Superintendent E. G. Russell, who resigned last Thursday, has been replaced by order of President Truesdale. Mr. Salisbury is expected to enter upon the duties of the superintendency next week.

#### Bryan's Labor Day Sentiment.

Chicago, Sept. 3.—In response to a request from the press for a sentiment on Labor Day Mr. Bryan wrote the following: "The laborer is worthy of his hire." On this day set apart for the consideration of the wage workers' interests let each one inquire whether the man who toils enjoys a fair share of the proceeds of his labor, and, if not, let him apply a remedy."

## THE TRANSVAAL ANNEXED.

### Roberts Said to Have Issued a Manifesto to That Effect.

London, Sept. 3.—It is reported that Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation formally annexing the Transvaal to the dominions of the British crown.

General Christian De Wet, according to The Daily Mail's Cape Town advices, is reported to have appeared again along the railway near the Winburg road.

A dispatch from Pretoria says: "Mr. Kruger and Mr. Steyn have gone to Barberton. It is believed that they are preparing for flight. The general opinion is that the war is now very near the end, but should the Boers construct strongholds in the bush, on the veldt or elsewhere and begin a system of raids the British would require further large supplies of horses."

"General Buller moved 14 miles northwestward along the Lydenburg road and crossed the Crocodile river to Badfontein. He found the Boers concentrating in the Crocodile mountains.

"A force of Boers under Commandant Them broke through the British lines and captured and burned a supply train at Klip River Station, taking 35 prisoners. Brabant's horse proceeded thither, recaptured all the prisoners and drove the Boers into the hills.

"Colonel Plumer dispersed a small commando under Commandant Pretorius east of Pinar's river, capturing 26 Boers, a number of wagons and a quantity of cattle and rifles."

#### Denial From President Fahey.

Shamokin, Pa., Sept. 3.—John Fahey, president of No. 9 district, United Mine Workers of America, comprising the counties of Northumberland, Schuylkill, Columbia and Dauphin, has issued a statement that the claim made by the operators that by a poll of the miners it was found 75 per cent of them would not strike is incorrect. He says all members of the organization will cease work, as will the unorganized men, who are in sympathy with the invitation of the organized men for a conference with the mine operators. He also denied the truth of the published statement that bituminous mine operators are fomenting a strike in the anthracite region.

#### Where Did the Money Go?

City of Mexico, Sept. 3.—The popular organ here, La Nacion Espanola, wants to know what has become of the big patriotic fund raised here by patriotic Spaniards for the purpose of purchasing a warship for the Spanish navy. It calls for an open statement of the committee's accounts and declares that the war contribution account will not be permitted to be liquidated in silence. The newspaper charges there is a deep mystery about the fund which should be cleared up. The article has caused excitement in the Spanish colony, which liberally subscribed for an addition to the Spanish navy during the war with the United States.

#### Letter Carriers in Session.

Detroit, Sept. 3.—Several hundred members of the National Association of Letter Carriers have arrived to attend the annual meeting of the association to be held this week. The early arrivals came quite largely from the east and middle west. The presence of the letter carriers resulted in two Labor day parades. Officers of the association announce that it has now a membership of 16,000, with 745 local branches, and that all the government letter carriers in the country, with the exception of about 1,000, are included in its membership.

#### The Bank Note Circulation.

Washington, Sept. 3.—The monthly circulation statement issued by the controller of the currency shows that at the close of business Aug. 31, 1900, the total circulation of national bank notes was \$324,223,810, an increase for the year of \$82,152,018 and an increase for the month of \$4,208,454. The circulation, based on United States bonds, was \$296,641,356, an increase for the year of \$84,468,907 and an increase for the month of \$4,193,922.

#### Trying to Free Powers.

Lexington, Ky., Sept. 3.—Ex-Governor John Young Brown, Judge James Smas and H. C. Faulkner, counsel for Caleb Powers, are here en route to Georgetown to appear before Judge Campbell relative to a bill of exceptions in the Powers case. Governor Brown said the bill of exceptions was not completed and could not be completed in the time allowed by the court.

#### Our China Policy Commended.

Denver, Sept. 3.—The Colorado conference of the Methodist church in session at Salida almost unanimously passed a resolution commending the Chinese policy of the administration and also applauding the "course of all those in the senate and houses of representatives who have supported the administration in the foreign policy which means an open door for Christianity as well as for trade and the protection of American life and property all over the world."

#### Bad Fire in Mexican Town.

Nogales, A. T., Sept. 3.—Fire at Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, consumed the general merchandise establishment of P. A. Aguilera. The building covered an entire block and was the largest of its kind on the west coast of Mexico. The stock of goods carried was valued at nearly \$1,000,000, on which a loss of \$300,000 was sustained. The insurance was only about \$20,000.

#### Death Caused by Fall.

Binghamton, N. Y., Sept. 3.—Mrs. Cecilia Watson, aged 65, is dead at her home in Lestershire from the effects of a fall down stairs two weeks ago. She broke her ankle, and the left leg had to be amputated above the knee, but it was what were supposed to be unimportant bruises about the back and hips that caused her death.

#### Chile Railway Opened.

Santiago de Chile, Sept. 3.—In the presence of President Errazuriz and the local authorities the electric tramway system of Santiago was formally inaugurated yesterday. The public was greatly delighted at the outcome, and the installation of similar methods of transportation will rapidly multiply.

#### Peru Fears Chinese Influx.

Lima, Peru, Sept. 3.—The Peruvian senate has under consideration a proposal for preventing Chinese immigration in view of a possible exodus from China as a result of the present disturbances. The government publicly announces that the new Peruvian customs schedule will come into force Jan. 1, 1901.

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