

THE BULLETIN.

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The Johannesburg Chamber of Mines offers prizes for practical suggestions for the cure and prevention of miner's consumption, which is thought to result from the fine dust made by the drilling machines. The following awards are offered for the three best practical suggestions on the subject: First prize, \$2500 and a gold medal; second prize \$1250; third prize, \$500.

There is nothing like having both feet on the ground, says Medical Talk. If a man should go barefoot, the contact of his bare feet with the earth and his head projecting into the atmosphere would make a perfect electrical conductor, through which the electricity of the air would pass through his body to the earth. While no apparent harm is done, yet being insulated from the electricity of the earth by wearing shoes, the electricity fails of its beneficial results. There can be no doubt that it would be better for everybody, especially nervous people if their feet were on the ground instead of in shoes.

The death occurred the other day at Moruya, in New South Wales, of a Crimean veteran who had a good deal of attention from the London newspapers at the time of the war. George Solly had for many years been a prosperous settler at Moruya, and was a popular figure in the district. He was one of the bluejackets landed from the Rodney in the Crimea, and had the clasp for Inkerman, Balaklava, the Alma and Sebastopol. While Sebastopol was burning and the fighting still going on he regaled himself and his comrades by dancing a hornpipe on the ramparts, and the incident was afterward made the subject of a cartoon in Punch.

J. F. Raffaelli, the well known French artist, has introduced an innovation—a revolution some call it—in oil painting in the way of a "paint stick." This dispenses with the use of brushes and palette and, according to some artists, is the most important invention of the kind since Jan Van Eyck discovered, in the 15th century, the method of mixing colors with oil instead of glue. The value of the invention for painting is now the absorbing topic of discussion among artists everywhere. The older men look upon it as a decided advance. W. Quiller Orchardson, the eminent Royal Academician, condemns it as a device merely to do things easily and an invention of the end. On the other hand an enthusiastic advocate of the "paint stick," after summing up its many advantages over the old brush and palette method declares that "Mr. Raffaelli's discovery is no longer a trial, its importance is now triumphantly proved."

An interesting contribution to the literature of vaccination was made by Dr. J. F. J. Sykes, a London health officer, in a report to the borough council of St. Pancras. To illustrate the difficulties he had to overcome, Dr. Sykes says: "When it is suggested to the average lodger in a common lodging house that he should be vaccinated he asks, either orally or through the glance of his eye, 'What am I going to get, gov'nor?' When he is told that he will get protection against smallpox, he says, 'Don't want it, gov'nor; I'd rather go into the country to 'orspital for a month. If it is suggested that he might die in the hospital, he (having nobody dependent upon him) says, 'Who'll care?' and 'Life ain't so lovely when yer allus at work!' When he is further told that his revaccination will not only protect him, but also others, having philosophized in a circle, he comes round to the original question, 'What are they going to pay for it?' 'What am I going to get?' The man's only possession is his own body, and he learns to make the most of it at the best price. A very natural impulse!" Perhaps this tells as much about British peculiarities as it does about the troubles of the official vaccinator. It is hard to believe that such a man as this "average lodger" could be found in the United States, comments the New York Times.

A COMPROMISE OFFERED

Latest Plan May Solve the Venezuelan Question.

MINISTER BOWEN WAITING ANSWER.

The Proposition Suggested by a Representative of One of the Allies, Is That for a Short Period of the Year the Allies Shall Exclusively Receive a Percentage of the Custom Duties.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Propositions involving a compromise of the allied powers' contention for preferential treatment in the settlement of their claims against Venezuela have been submitted to the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy by their representatives at Washington, and, while no answers have been received as yet, there is reason for the belief that the allies will see a way to accept the latest proposition. This compromise has been suggested by one of the representatives of the allies here, and while it has not formally received the indorsement of Minister Bowen, it is felt that he will not enter serious objections to its adoption, provided the United States and the other claimant nations outside the alliance can be convinced that their own interests in Venezuela will not be substantially injured by yielding to a plan which seems to offer a solution of the present serious hitch in the Washington negotiations.

The details of the proposition now under consideration by the three allied nations are not obtainable, but in a general way it is understood to be a modification of the allies' contention that they be recognized as Venezuela's preferred claimants in the payment of the indemnity. The plan suggested provides that for a short period, perhaps six months or a year, Great Britain, Germany and Italy shall receive exclusively a percentage of customs receipts of the ports of Porto Cabello and Laguayra, and that at the end of this period—the exact length of which is yet open to decision—that all the claimant nations be placed on the same footing, and at the expiration of that time the 30 per cent. of the receipts of these two ports be divided among all the claimant nations in ratio based on the amount of each nation's claim.

The plan is regarded as a compromise which will enable the allies to withdraw their ships from Venezuelan waters without a serious loss of prestige.

Whether the claimant nations outside the tripartite agreement will assent to this scheme is not yet known. The British ambassador called by appointment on Secretary Hay this afternoon at 2 o'clock, and it is believed that some such plan as this was under consideration, the British ambassador wishing to acquaint himself with the exact attitude of the United States regarding Lord Lansdowne's contention for preferential treatment for the allies.

BOY MURDERER GETS 20 YEARS.

Judge Landis, at Lancaster, Pa., Thinks Sentence too Light.

Lancaster, Pa. (Special).—Clarence McCoy and William Guterman, the two Columbia (Pa.) boys convicted of murder in the second degree, were given the maximum sentence of 20 years by Judge Landis, who stated he was sorry he could not make the punishment more severe. The prisoners are each 20 years of age, and the crime for which they were convicted was the murder of Jacob H. Bostick, a trackwalker on the Pennsylvania railroad. After shooting and beating him over the head the murderers placed the body on the track, expecting that a train would run over it and hide the evidence of murder.

The body was discovered a few minutes before the passage of a train.

\$1,000,000 DEAL REPORTED.

Chicago Concern May Buy Four Mines of Perry Company.

Clarksburg, W. Va. (Special).—A report is current at Clarksburg that the Perry Coal Company will sell its holdings in this county to the Weaver Coal Company, of Chicago. The price is reported to be \$1,000,000. The Perry property consists of four mines—the Howard, at Wilsonburg; the Perry and Gore, at Adamston, and the Pooz, near Lumberport. The three latter plants are modern and were constructed at considerable cost. In the tract of coal lands is comprised 2,000 or 3,000 acres of the regular nine-foot "Pittsburg vein." It fronts on the Baltimore and Ohio and the Short Line railroads.

Will Work Day and Night.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—The three-shift system, by which work will be kept up day and night, has begun in the gun-carriage shop at the Washington Navy Yard. There is an imperative demand for completing the orders now on hand, and this step is taken with a view to expediting the completion of work the orders for which were given over two years. It is the purpose of the naval officials to keep the other shops at the yard in full operation during the entire day and night as soon as sufficient workmen can be obtained.

Fatality on the U. S. S. Boston.

Vallejo, Cal. (By Cable).—The blowing out of a plate in the engine-room of the United States steamer Boston cost Edward Lee Baker his life and another, Concord Tate, lies in a critical condition. The two men were naval machinists and were endeavoring to repair a leaky valve.

David P. Jones Dead.

Pittsburg (Special).—David Phillips Jones, Chief Engineer of the United States Navy, retired, died at his apartment at the Iroquois here. As father of modern engineering in the navy Chief Engineer Jones was prominently known throughout the United States. The distinction was earned by his establishment of the engineering department of the Naval Academy. After the course was opened he became one of the professors and was one of the most successful and popular ones ever at the naval school.

THE LATEST NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

Domestic.

The Pennsylvania Railroad's famous 20-hour special between New York and Chicago will be abandoned in order to aid in removing the traffic congestion.

Justice MacLean, of the Supreme Court of New York, has denied an application for separation based on an antemarital error on the part of the wife.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association has issued an appeal through its president, Admiral Dewey, for funds to erect a memorial to Jefferson at the capital.

At the Indianapolis wage conference the operators unanimously voted not to grant the demand of the miners for higher wages and certain changes in the method of mining. The question was discussed and referred to the scale committee.

C. B. Allison, an electrical contractor of Sheraden, a suburb of Pittsburg, was called to the front door of his house and shot down by an unknown person.

The Southern Pacific has reached an agreement with its firemen on the wage question. The increase granted averages between 6 and 12 per cent.

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad has voluntarily increased the wages of all its machinists, boiler-makers, blacksmiths and car repairers.

An appraisal of the estate of the late Augustin Daly, of New York, shows that it is not sufficient to cover his debts.

Jean Jules Jusserand, the new French ambassador, and his wife reached New York on the French liner La Lorraine.

The schooner Minnehaha sprung a leak and sank at the entrance to Winyah Bay, South Carolina.

The big department store of Wentworth, Lubin & Co., in Sacramento, Cal., was destroyed.

At the opening of the afternoon session of the Strike Commission in Philadelphia Attorney Wolverton, for the Reading, announced that at a conference held during the noon recess between John Veith, general mining superintendent of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, and George W. Hartlein, secretary of District No. 9, of the miners' union, it was agreed that the weighing of coal in the Ninth district, which takes in all of the southern coal field, is impracticable because of the pitching veins. This settles, so far as the lower fields are concerned, one of the principal issues in dispute in the other two regions.

The National Board of Education, which was incorporated by a recent act of Congress, organized by electing W. H. Baldwin, Jr., president, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is a member of the board. John D. Rockefeller, Sr., has given \$100,000 for 10 years.

Levy Ankeny, the millionaire banker and farmer of Walla Walla, was elected United States senator by the Washington legislature.

Mr. Abraham Gompers, son of Mr. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, died in Denver, Col.

While crazed by drink at Titusville, Pa., John Fiddler shot and killed his wife, tried to kill his son and then killed himself.

John Beard Allen, a former United States senator from Washington, is dead.

Foreign.

A story is current in the provincial and Berlin papers that the Crown Prince of Saxony is determined to renounce his succession to the throne in favor of his son, George, who is 10 years old.

United States Minister Powell and a representative of the Dominican government signed a protocol to submit an American company's claim to arbitration.

Brazilian generals, with guns and ammunition, have gone to the Bolivian frontier to take command of the Brazilian troops there.

The French Chamber of Deputies, amid a patriotic demonstration, adopted the first chapter of the army budget.

The engineers of the Netherlands Railroad struck, stopping traffic between Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

Sousa's Band played American airs in Waterloo Castle, London, for King Edward.

Serious floods have been caused in Scotland by the melting of the snow.

Herr Ballin, director general of the Hamburg-American Line, explained that the French Line has renewed the usual traffic agreement, but has not entered into the shipping combine.

Dr. van Lynden, the Dutch foreign minister, announced that Carnegie's offer of \$250,000 for a library for the International Court of Arbitration had been rejected.

Countess Isabella Wesienska Kwilecki was for the second time arrested in Berlin on the charge of palming off a bogus child as the heir to a large Polish estate.

Foreign Minister Prinetti, of Italy, had an attack of paralysis while attending a conference of the ministers with the King at the Quirinal.

An American chamber of commerce was organized with 101 members, who are engaged in business in various German cities.

The Crown Princess of Saxony has been excluded from all rights and dignities of a member of the Saxon royal house.

It is reported that Ben Hamara, the pretender to the throne of Morocco, has been defeated.

Financial.

The Reading is producing an average of 33,000 tons of coal daily.

Standard Oil brokers freely sold St. Paul when it had risen to 179.

St. Paul Railroad is putting Eastern freight in storage, the railroads being so badly blocked.

European exchange rates were unchanged, money conditions running smoothly despite Venezuela.

Storage battery jumps about very nicely. It is so closely held the insiders can do anything they care to with it.

Chicago Great Western is to be transferred to one of the big railroad systems, says Vice-President Oppenheim.

Of seventy-nine independent tin plate mills only eighteen are now running owing to a reduction from \$4 to \$3.60 a box. There are 227 out of 264 trust mills in operation.

\$50,000,000 WAS IN DANGER

Fire in United States Assay Office, New York City.

BLAZE STARTED IN WOODEN FLUE.

The Employees Hastened to Save the Millions of Treasure Before Looking for Their Own Safety—Damage Was Slight to the Building—Cause of Fire Unknown—Building an Historic One.

New York (Special).—Fire broke out in a laboratory on the second floor of the United States assay office, which is next door to the Subtreasury, and destroyed a portion of the roof and upper story and some apparatus. Chief Assayer Torrey said the loss on the apparatus probably would not exceed \$2000, and that the loss on the building would be nominal. He thought the business of the assay office, which amounted to about 75 assays a day, would not be interrupted longer than three or four days.

Mr. Torrey believed that nitric acid, which is used in testing bullion, was the cause of the fire. He said it might have eaten into the wooden flue which leads from the glass basins when the gold and silver bars are melted and subjected to chemical action.

The flames, which were first seen in one of these flues, soon got beyond control. An alarm was turned in, and the 65 government employes in the building hastened to save the millions of treasure in their care. There was about \$40,000,000 in bullion in the vaults and about \$1,500,000 lying outside in various parts of the building. The \$1,500,000 and about \$100,000 in a melted state, as well as the books of account and record, were hastily locked in the vaults.

Then the employes hurried out of the building for their own safety. Assayer Torrey, who has been employed in the building for 40 years, said it was the first serious fire in the assay office. Several times the flues for conducting the fumes up the chimney had caught fire, but the flames always had been put out easily by men in the laboratory.

The building used by the assay office is historic. Before it began to be used as an assay office, 40 years ago, it was the United States or Government Bank. The structure is of gray stone and brick and very old-fashioned.

CUBA CLAIMS ISLE OF PINES.

Governor Nunez Says Americans There Must Pay Taxes.

Havana (Special).—General Nunez Governor of the Province of Havana, in which the Isle of Pines is included, stated that the Government had directed the municipal officials in the Isle of Pines to collect taxes which the American residents there decline to pay.

In default of payment the officials will have recourse to the courts for the collection of the money. Governor Nunez attributes the memorial on the subject, recently sent to Washington by the American residents, solely to land speculators who, he alleges, misinformed the buyers to the effect that the island was bound to belong to the United States.

The Cuban officials do not believe that the United States desires the Isle of Pines. They say that, aside from sentimental considerations, Cuba's only advantage in continuing her sovereignty over the island will be the prevention of an easy means of smuggling through the Isle of Pines into Cuba, which smuggling would be carried on if the former were in the possession of the United States.

CARS CRASH AND TAKE FIRE.

One Struck Wagon, Went Back and the Other Ran Into It.

Pittsburg (Special).—One of the worst wrecks the Pittsburg Traction Company has experienced since its organization occurred here. A score of passengers were injured and two cars were destroyed. Traffic was stopped for several hours. Eight victims are in a hospital, the others having been taken to their homes.

A car on the Homestead branch was on its way to Pittsburg. Just as it passed Forward avenue it struck a nuckster's wagon. After going some distance it was backed up the hill to learn what damage had been done. Just then it was met by a second car coming down the hill at a terrific speed. When the collision occurred the trolley wires were crossed, causing a fire which consumed both cars. Fortunately all of the injured passengers were taken out before the flames reached them.

Young Postoffice Robbers.

Newark (Special).—Commissioner Jones had before him George Melius, 14 years old, of Minebrook, charged with recent robberies of the Minebrook postoffice. Two other boys, aged 9 and 10, were implicated, but on account of their youth, they were not arrested. Melius pleaded guilty and was remanded. The boy had been janitor of the district school, and had learned that they key of the schoolhouse door fitted the door of the postoffice.

Selected to Kill King.

Barcelona (By Cable).—A Belgian Anarchist, named Martin, has been arrested in this city. He has confessed that he was selected to kill the King of the Belgians, but was prevented from carrying out the deed by being arrested during the strike in Barcelona a year ago.

South China to Secede.

Hongkong (By Cable).—The revolutionary movement which led to the arrest here of seven Kwangsi rebels is said to be a very serious attempt to overthrow the central power and establish a separate government in the South of China. None of the arrested men is prominent; the real leaders are said to be in the interior collecting forces. The revolutionary organization embraces the provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Kwei-Chau and Fokien. The insurgents are posing as reformers and are anxious to secure foreign sympathy.

WITH THE NAVAL

Accepts Staff

The Senate Committee on Appropriations agreed to place the bill on the appropriation bill as a rider.

This proposition was strongly antagonized, but it carried by a two-thirds vote. Senators Henry C. Hansbrough, Addison G. Foster (Wash.) and M. S. Quay (Pa.), Republicans, and William B. Bate, Henry Heifield and F. McL. Simmons, Democrats, voting in the affirmative and Senators Redfield Proctor, J. P. Dolliver and J. V. Quarles, Republicans, in the negative.

Senator F. E. Warren (Wyo.) and H. D. Money (Miss.) were absent and were not recorded. It is stated, however, that Senator Money would vote for the amendment if present.

Includes General Staff

The army appropriation bill was reported to the Senate amended in various particulars, the most important additions providing for the retirement with an advance rank of officers who served in the civil war, and for the creation of a general staff. The retirement amendment is in the exact language of the bill recently reported by the Senate Military Committee, while the staff amendment is in the language of the staff bill recommended by the Secretary of War, with the Military Committee's amendments added.

The committee recommended increases aggregating \$3,366,000, the total carried by the bill as reported being \$77,241,277.

Free Postage for Blind.

The House Committee on Post-Offices and Post Roads has directed Mr. Boutell, of Illinois, on motion of Mr. Swanson, of Virginia, to report favorably a bill to promote the circulation of reading matter among the blind. It allows the transmission of all reading matter in raised characters for the blind through the mail free of charge when sent by public institutions for the blind as a loan to blind readers or when returned by the latter to such institutions.

The bill was passed by the Senate June 25 last, and will very probably pass the House at an early day.

Marking of Confederate Graves.

The House Committee on Military Affairs reported favorably a bill to appropriate \$50,000 for marking the position of the regular organizations, infantry, artillery and cavalry, on the Gettysburg battlefield. The positions of the volunteer organizations were marked by the States. The committee also ordered a favorable report upon the Foraker bill to appropriate \$200,000 to mark the graves of Confederate soldiers and sailors who died in Northern prisons.

Sovereignty Over Isle of Pines.

Senator Carmack introduced a resolution calling upon the President for information as to whether the government of Cuba is exercising the right of sovereignty and control over the Isle of Pines; whether steps have been taken to transfer the island from the United States, and, if so, what steps have been taken to protect the property of citizens of the United States on the Isle of Pines.

Wellington's Wealth Limit.

Senator George L. Wellington, of Maryland, introduced an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the holding of fortunes exceeding \$10,000,000 by any one individual in the United States.

In case of such holding the amendment provides that "the excess shall all be condemned, whether or not as a public nuisance, a public folly or a public peril, and be accordingly forfeited into the United States Treasury."

Statutes Are Accepted.

The statutes of Charles Carroll of Carrollton and John Hanson, gifts of the State of Maryland for Statuary Hall, were formally accepted by the Senate and House. Speeches were delivered in both bodies and resolutions adopted.

\$100,000 for the President.

Representative Bristow, of New York, introduced a bill increasing the salary of the President of the United States from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per annum. The bill provides that the increased salary shall be effective on and after March 5, 1905. The bill seeks to amend the act of 1874, which increased the President's salary to \$50,000.

In the Departments.

An important conference was held at the White House between the President, Secretary Hay and Senator Cullom regarding the status of the Panama Canal Treaty.

The Gridiron Club gave its annual dinner, one of the features being hits at the expense of J. Pierpont Morgan, who was one of the guests.

The Postoffice Appropriation Bill was discussed in the House.

The President sent to Congress a message in relation to the currency and the coinage of the Mexican and Chinese governments accompanied by papers from the representatives of those governments. He recommended legislation which would enable the government of the United States to assist in carrying out the proposed arrangement.

The Army Appropriation Bill, which was reported to the Senate, contains the Root Staff Bill as reported from the Committee on Military Affairs some time ago; also, the Retirement Bill, which was also reported from the same committee.

In the Senate Mr. Hanna moved to disapprove the amendments of the House to the Department of Commerce Bill and agree to a conference. The chair appointed Messrs. Hanna, Nelson and Clay on the part of the Senate.

Representative Bristow, of New York, introduced a bill to increase the President's salary to \$100,000 per annum.

In the Senate the resolution offered by Mr. Rawlings calling upon the Secretary of War for information regarding certain trials by court-martial in the Philippines was called up and provoked a lively debate.

Because of the absence of a member the House Naval Committee did not report the findings in the investigation of charge of attempt at bribery preferred by Mr. Lessler.

The House agreed to the Senate amendments to the Bankruptcy Bill. The Interstate Commerce Commission will give a hearing February 26 on the recent advance in freight rates.

EXPLOSION KILLS FOUR

Packing Plant at Fort Wayne, Ind. (Special)

Fort Wayne, Ind. (Special).—Four men were killed, one fatally, others seriously injured and others more or less severely injured by an explosion which wrecked a portion of the Eckhart Packing plant in this city.

The explosion occurred here after operations had begun to and is believed to have been due to accumulation of natural gas in the section of the plant destroyed. There were a score at work in the several departments of the plant, and one escaped injury of some nature.

The explosion completely wrecked a building 50 by 100 feet and buried in the ruins those yet living was in following the explosion of large quantities of gas in the basement. The will probably reach \$100,000.

ANOTHER TRAIN

Express and Freight In Head-on Collision—Two Killed.

Hazleton, Pa. (Special).—A press train from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and a freight train of the Pennsylvania Railroad head-on with a freight train, nine miles south of Hazleton, Pa., on the morning of the 25th inst., the engine of the freight train was killed; the engine of the press train seriously hurt, and several slightly injured. Between Hazleton and Hazleton, Pa., there is a single track used by both the Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania Railroads.

Understanding of orders was not on this single stretch of track before the engineers saw that it was too late to avert the collision.

Wireless Training

Berlin (By Cable).—The military railroad between Zossen in connection with the moving train in connection with communication with the have been completely severed by the destruction of the Braun system was used.

Congressman Dies of Cholera

Washington, D. C. (Special).—A telegram received here announced the death of Representative John R. Rumble, of the Second Iowa District, who had been in the St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, for several weeks. He had been in the hospital since the winter.

Charged With Killing

Hazleton (Special).—A 50-year-old man, died here of bullet wounds inflicted by a quarrel. Mrs. R. was arrested.