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You Can't Keep Down a Working Toton; Let's Pull Together

J. J. MINER, Mgr. BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA CO., N. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1908. VOL. XIII. NO. 48.

20 KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Workmen in Excavation in Brooklyn are Roasted Alive.

A HERO LOST HIS LIFE

While Trying to Save Woman who was Facing Tons of Earth Covered Bodies of Victims.

New York City.—More than twenty persons lost their lives as the result of the explosion of a gas main at Gold and Front streets, Brooklyn.

Practically the whole street from the stoop line between Gold and Front streets was tumbled into a fifty foot excavation in which fifteen or more men were working, and several persons who were walking along the street were carried down.

It is believed that every person who went into the excavation was killed instantly or smothered or drowned. Fifteen tenement houses on the block were in such danger of falling into the trench that the occupants were ordered out by the police.

The most intense excitement prevailed for blocks around the scene of the accident, and the street were filled with wailing women and children, who were unable to get any word from relatives known to be in the vicinity when the explosion came.

The explosion tore the street to pieces for rods on either side and the twelve men who were working in the excavation for a big sewer pipe were buried by the debris which fell in upon them and smothered or burned to death in the fire that followed the explosion.

Samuel Trout, who lived near the scene, lost his life in attempting to save a woman who was passing through Gold street at the time of the explosion and fell into a trench.

Trout was caught by the flames from the blazing gas main and roasted alive. The woman was dragged out of the trench and saved by a boy.

The workmen were digging a trench through Gold street for the installation of a thirty-six inch sewer pipe. The excavation was to be nearly forty feet deep and as the laborers removed the earth the walls had been shored up by large timbers.

With Charles Schiffmeyer, a city inspector of sewers, overseeing the work at the bottom of the trench, when an accumulation of gas from a main which had been accidentally broken during the course of the work, exploded with tremendous force.

The supporting timbers were ripped away, and the high dirt walls toppled over on Schiffmeyer and his men.

A large water main also was broken by the force of the explosion, and a perfect torrent of water began to spurt up through the mass of wreckage. Almost side by side with these geysering roared the flames from the gas escaping from the broken main.

The explosion was followed by scenes of the most intense excitement.

FERTILIZER COMBINE PLANNED.

Independent Companies in South to Unite and Form Big Company.

Baltimore, Md.—Independent fertilizer men throughout the south met at New York to consider a proposition to join a new fertilizer combination, which will take out a charter under the laws of New Jersey and have a capitalization of \$75,000,000. Of this sum \$50,000,000 will be stock equally divided between common and preferred.

The new concern will be called the Independent Fertilizer company and will be controlled by interests identified with the Tennessee Copper company. The chief subsidiary of the new corporation will be the \$10,000,000 chemical company recently organized to handle the sulphuric acid output of the Tennessee Copper company.

Already options have been obtained on some of the largest independent plants in the country, including the two of the Armour Packing company, in Baltimore and those of the Swift Packing company at Wilmington, Del., and Atlanta, Ga.

OPIUM SMUGGLING PLOT.

Cement Barrels Half Filled With the Drug—Shipped to Manila.

Manila, P. I.—Evidences of an extensive plot to smuggle opium here from China have been discovered. Recently a workman employed on the military buildings at Camp Stoenberg discovered a quantity of opium concealed in cement which had been shipped from Hong Kong.

The opium has been turned over to the customs officials, and the government is now investigating.

\$50,000,000 FOR HARDOR.

\$400,000 Is Recommended for Savannah, Ga., River.

Washington, D. C.—Fifty million dollars is the aggregate appropriation recommended by Brigadier General William L. Marshall, chief of engineers, United States army, for the work on rivers and harbors and fortifications during the coming year. Some important estimates for river and harbor work follow:

North Carolina—Cape Fear river, \$500,000.

Georgia—Savannah harbor, \$400,000.

Alabama—Mobile, \$492,000; Tombigbee river, \$1,000,000.

Florida—St. Johns river, \$367,000; Jacksonville, \$215,000.

FINAL FLEA FAILED.

United States Supreme Court Dismisses Patrick's Appeal.

Washington, D. C.—The final desperate attempt of Albert T. Patrick, convicted of the murder of William Marsh Rice, the eccentric old Texas millionaire, in his New York home, to regain his liberty, has failed. The United States supreme court has dismissed Patrick's appeal, prepared by himself in prison, and denied his plea of habeas corpus. He must stay in prison to serve out his sentence, commuted from death in the electric chair to life imprisonment.

Patrick's case is remarkable and unique in the annals of crime. While still under sentence of death he managed repeatedly, through his own skill in the law, to get his case before the courts and it was brought several times from Sing Sing prison to New York on writs of appeals. He worked incessantly on his own case, but was unable to get a new trial, although he finally managed to obtain from Governor Higgins a commutation of sentence.

The murder of William Marsh Rice was accomplished by the aid of chloroform, in his apartments. Patrick had an accomplice in the person of the old millionaire's valet, Jones, who afterward confessed. It was through the confession of Jones, corroborated by a great deal of other testimony, that Patrick was convicted.

The motive for the crime was shown in a conspiracy between Patrick and Jones to possess themselves of the old man's wealth. Then Patrick, after making himself thoroughly familiar with the old man's affairs, through Jones, forged his signature to checks for round sums which he presented immediately after the old man's death.

RE-UNION SCOTTISH RITE MASONS

To Be Held in Atlanta's New Temple Next Spring.

Atlanta, Ga.—The dedication of Atlanta's new Masonic Temple, now about completed, will mark a general revival among that branch of the Masonic fraternity known as the Scottish Rite.

Plans are under way for a spring reunion of the Scottish Rite to be held in Atlanta next April, which will bring to the city many of the distinguished and prominent citizens of the country, including Hon. James D. Richardson of Tennessee, the grand commander of the southern jurisdiction, and the full official divan of the supreme council, the chief governing body of the rite, whose headquarters are at Washington, D. C.

During the reunion the degrees of the rite, fourth to thirty-second, inclusive, will be conferred with full ceremonies for the first time in Atlanta, on a dedicatory class of more than two hundred, representing every section of Georgia, and the handsome and perfectly appointed apartments of the rite on the upper floor of the Temple will be dedicated and formally opened. The apartments include the largest stage of modern construction yet erected in the southeast. Contracts for the scenery, more than one hundred pieces, necessary to properly execute the work, together with a mammoth lighting plant, to cost approximately 12,000, have been closed, and will be installed as quickly as the artists can complete the work thereon.

It is safe to assume that nothing so ambitious as this reunion has ever been undertaken by Scottish Rite Masons of the southern jurisdiction, and the indications are that Masonic students from all America will gather at Atlanta to witness the ceremonies and enjoy the work.

FIRE IN COAL MINES.

Flames Which Raged in Mine Started by Convicts.

Birmingham, Ala.—Fire was discovered in Mine No. 3 of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company at Pratt City, near here, in which is employed convict labor exclusively. No less than seventy-five convicts were at work at the time when the blaze was discovered.

The dead bodies of five convicts have been taken out and the officials of the company expressed the belief that there were seven others dead.

Many rumors prevailed of an explosion, and there was great excitement. The fire started in an old part of the mines in which officials say there were not more than twelve or thirteen convicts working, and it is believed the convicts started it themselves.

A later report from Pratt City was to the effect that the fire in convict Mine No. 3 had been gotten under control and efforts are being made to recover the other seven convicts in the place.

There is a chance, it was reported, for the missing men to be in secluded places and safe.

Animals Are Dentists.

Chicago, Ill.—Monkeys and large gray squirrels that overrun the jungles of Africa, are born dentists. They fill each other's teeth with great skill and often kill an aching nerve.

At least this is what Dr. Frank N. Pierce of West Roxboro, Mass., says, and he is going to lecture before Chicago dentists on the subject. Dr. Pierce, who spent several years in the African jungles, says that monkeys and squirrels have discovered a blue clay much the same in color as that which covers the diamond field and in this a great percentage of creosote. When the animals have toothache they plaster this clay into the cavity as a remedy.

TO PROTECT FLORIDA

Increase in Duty on Citrus Fruits Is Favored.

"STARCH TRUST" UNDER FIRE

Trust Agents Admit That Corn Starch is Sold in England For Less than in the United States.

Washington, D. C.—The so-called "Starch Trust" was under fire at the hearing on tariff revision before the house committee on ways and means. The cross-examination of J. B. Walton, representing the Corn Products Refining Company, the so-called trust, formed the most interesting incident at the hearing on the tariff schedule covering agricultural products and provision. Citrus fruits also occupied considerable attention.

Mr. Walton admitted that his company sells corn starch at a loss in the United Kingdom, at a price forty cents less than it is sold in this country.

Florida fruit growers gave the committee information on citrus fruit, pineapples and vegetables, especially as affected by competition with Cuba, and requested either the retention of the present tariff on these articles or an increase in the duty.

The argument that "the states of Florida, Arizona, Louisiana and California can in time produce all of the citrus fruits used in the United States" was put forth by E. P. Porcher of Jacksonville, Fla., for a protective duty on oranges and lemons.

J. G. Chase, representing the Jacksonville board of trade, was urging protection duty on citrus fruits, when Representative Underwood of Alabama asked:

"Do you believe in the general idea of protection?"

"Yes," was the reply, "so far as it does not harm the people of the country."

"Is that the attitude of the Jacksonville board of trade?" questioned Mr. Underwood.

Mr. Chase answered affirmatively.

"And it's the attitude of all the people of Florida, isn't it?" urged Mr. Boutell, republican member from Illinois.

Again the fruit grower agreed, adding: "Of all the thinking people." "I just wanted to know about it," said Mr. Underwood, "because Florida gave its electoral vote for a party whose platform favors a tariff for revenue."

Representatives Clark and Sparkman of Florida asked leave of the committee to file briefs on the subject of tariff on citrus fruit, and F. G. McMullen for the Florida pineapple growers, asked for a 70 per cent duty on pineapples.

"OPEN DOOR" CAUSES TALK.

Japan and United States Exchange Diplomatic Views on Subject.

Washington, D. C.—Although President Roosevelt and Secretary Root formally deny that there has been any friction between the United States and Japan over the question of the "open door" in China and that no requests or demands had been made of Japan by the state department with reference to this subject, there can be no denial that a diplomatic exchange of views has taken place in the last few days.

Numerous complaints have been made by American and other foreign merchants in Manchuria to the effect that while ostensibly maintaining a policy of non-interference without taking side in the trade, Japanese officials really have been secretly favoring their own countrymen.

AMMUNITION APPROPRIATIONS

Granted by Government to State Troops Very Liberal.

Washington, D. C.—The division of militia affairs of the war department has announced the allowance of ammunition for the present fiscal year made to the national guard under an act of May 27, 1908, being fifty per cent of the allowance to the regular army.

The total which is set aside for this purpose is \$643,124, divided among the states according to the enlisted strength of their national guard:

Alabama, with 3,010 men gets \$17,681 for ammunition; Georgia, with 2,806 men gets \$17,559; North Carolina, with 1,835 men gets \$12,032; South Carolina, with 1,714 men gets \$11,718; Kentucky, with 1,590 men gets \$10,250; Tennessee, with 1,430 men gets \$9,595; Florida, with 1,160 men gets \$7,713.

SUED FOR \$3,624,121.

Government Brings Six Suits Against the Sugar Trust.

New York City.—The United States government has brought six suits against the American Sugar Refining Company to recover forfeitures and customs duties amounting to \$3,624,121 on sugar delivered at the Havemeyer & Elder refineries in Brooklyn during the past six years.

The complaints alleging violations of section 9 of the customs act of 1890, charge that the checker at the Brooklyn refinery so manipulated the platform scales as to conceal the true weights. The second and third suits involve amounts exceeding \$500,000.

FOR THEFT OF \$700,000

Peter Van Vlissingen Given 1 to 14 Years in Penitentiary.

Chicago, Ill.—Peter Van Vlissingen, a real estate dealer, for several years classed among the first of Chicago's prosperous and reputable business men, confessed to having obtained, through forged deeds and notes, more than \$700,000, and a few hours after his arrest, on his own urgent appeal to be punished, was sentenced to the penitentiary. The arrest, the indictment, the confession and the sentence were the work of less than four hours.

Taken in the midst of business from an office desk shortly after the noon hour Van Vlissingen, a venerable looking man, appeared before the court in tears, confessed that for from eighteen to twenty years he had been securing money through the sale of forged documents, and that though he had bought back many of these spurious instruments without detection, at least twenty-five people would lose an aggregate of more than \$700,000 through the paper which he has not yet redeemed; in forging notes, he declared, he had perfected a unique device. This consisted of a plate glass desk top, so arranged that by an electric light thrown up beneath, he could readily trace from originals forged signatures on to worthless paper. Throughout his arrest and sentence, the prisoner made no effort to defend himself, but only asked that his punishment be speedy.

His term in the penitentiary was fixed as indeterminate from one to fourteen years.

WILL SELL CANAL BONDS.

Cortelyou Announces Terms for \$30,000,000 Bond Issue.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Cortelyou has made public the announcement that he would receive bids up to the close of business on December 5 next for \$30,000,000 of Panama Canal bonds, or any part thereof, to bear 2 per cent interest. The bonds will be dated November 1, 1908, thus making this a new issue, and interest will begin as of that date. The bonds, by the terms of the law authorizing their issue, will be redeemable in gold in ten years from their date and payable in thirty years. As an evidence of good faith the secretary requires each bid to be accompanied by a certified check, payable to the secretary of the treasury, for 2 per cent of the amount of the bid.

The bonds will be issued in denominations of \$20, \$100 and \$1,000 of coupon bonds, and of \$20, \$100, \$1,500 and \$10,000 of registered bonds. They will be exempt from all taxes or duties of the United States, as well as taxation in any form by or under any state, municipal or local authority. The bonds will be available to national banks as security for circulating notes and receivable as security for public deposits in national banks. The law forbids their sale at less than par and provides that all citizens of the United States shall have equal opportunity to subscribe therefor.

In considering the bids the secretary will award the first allotment to the bidders offering the highest price. Of two or more bidders offering the same price, those asking for the smaller amounts of bonds will receive priority in the allotment.

The secretary of the treasury will issue the bonds under authority vested in him by acts of congress, approved June 28, 1902, and December 21, 1905, which authorizes the borrowing on the credit of the United States of the sum of \$120,000,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary in carrying on the work of constructing the Panama canal.

Big Tobacco Deal Closed.

Louisville, Ky.—The big deal between the American Tobacco company and the Burley Tobacco company for the 1906 and part of the 1907 crops of tobacco, which has been hanging fire for several weeks, was closed here. The price agreed on in the transaction, which is the largest of its kind ever put through, is an average of 20 1-2 cents for the 1906 crop and 17 cents per pound for the 1907 product.

The deal involves nearly 80,000,000 pounds of tobacco held in the pool by the Burley Tobacco society and an outlay of something like \$14,000,000 on the part of the American Tobacco company, practically all of this money being placed in circulation at once.

The deal was the largest tobacco deal ever consummated in this country involving leaf tobacco.

70,000 Attend Jubilee of Pope.

Rome, Italy.—Seventy thousand people jammed the way into St. Peter's to celebrate the priesthood jubilee of the pope. Many women fainted in the terrific crush. Several were injured and the gowns torn to shreds, confederates.

Mexican Cotton Tree 12 Feet Tall.

Washington, D. C.—Consul Clarence A. Miller of Mexico sends the following clipping concerning the cultivation of the cotton tree in Texas: "The trees, which are now two years old and are bearing this year for the first time, resemble greatly the ordinary pear tree both as to shape and to height. I should say that the trees were fully twelve feet tall. The yield is much heavier in proportion to the size of the bush than on the ordinary cotton plant, the staple is better quality, and the fact that it is only necessary to replant them in a score of years is a great saving of labor.

LATE NEWS NOTES.

General.

The English house of commons has decided that Lord Fairfax, an American and a member of the famous Fairfax family of Virginia, had established his claim to a seat among the peers. Albert Kirby Fairfax, twelfth baron Cameron, was hustling around in Wall street, New York city, and watching the stock market when the house of commons decided that he was entitled to a seat among the peers. The fact that this honor had not seem to interest him nearly so much as the fluctuations of Steel Trust common and Pennsylvania.

The contributions of the democratic national committee in the presidential campaign were not sufficient to meet the expenses, according to Norman E. Mack, chairman of the committee. Mr. Mack said that he would make the deficit good out of his own pocket and that he would regard it as a personal obligation to see that every bill is paid.

Herman Billek of Chicago, Ill., convicted of the murder of five members of the Vzral family, was sentenced by Judge Barnes to hang on December 11. The fight of Billek and his friends for liberty, which carried the case before the United States supreme court, has attracted attention.

It is rumored here that several Venezuelan politicians, followers of the former Revolutionary leader "El Mocho" Hernandez, have been arrested by order of President Castro and imprisoned at Maracaibo. Among them is a priest who was captured while officiating in church.

The greatest victory in the history of forty years' agitation for equal suffrage in Illinois was won at Chicago, Ill. The charter committee by a vote of six to four, adopted a resolution by Alderman Milton J. Foreman, declaring for a bill giving women the right to vote for all municipal offices and on all questions of policy which have to do with the municipality.

The American Sugar Refining company, which is being sued by the United States government to recover \$3,600,000 in custom duties, has issued a statement denying "most indignantly" the charge of the government's suit of fraud on the part of the company in the weighing of sugar importations.

Emperor William, in conference with Chancellor Von Buelow, promised to take concessions to public opinion in future, exercise more reserve, interfere less in governmental affairs and be more careful of what he says, both in private and public utterances. As a result of these assurances Von Buelow will remain in office.

Passengers arriving at San Francisco from Manila in the transport Buford quote military officers who have recently been in Japan as authority for the statement that thousands of Koreans have been killed by Japanese since the mikado occupied the "hermit kingdom" with his troops. The Koreans killed up to the end of August last since the conclusion of the Japanese protectorate treaty of 1907, number 12,014, of whom 11,664 are certified to by the Japanese garrison, 796 by the gendarme and 553 by the native police, while 5,892 surrendered. The official returns to only 169 killed, 254 wounded and 8,162 invalidated, of whom 796 subsequently died.

Mrs. Katherine Clemons Gould, wife of Howard Gould, was awarded \$25,000 a year according to a decision of Justice Blachoff in the supreme court of New York. Mrs. Gould is awarded this alimony pending the trial of her suit for separation. She originally asked for alimony of \$120,000 a year, claiming that a woman in her station in life could not get along on less.

Washington.

Letters are being sent out by the navy department to about one thousand and employes of navy yards throughout the United States notifying them of an increase in salaries ranging from 4 to 10 per cent.

Major General W. P. Duval has been selected to succeed Major General John F. Watson in command of the troops in the Philippines. General Duval is assistant chief of staff and in that position probably will be succeeded by General Thomas H. Barry, now in command of the American army in Cuba. General Weston will leave the Philippines for home December 15, and will turn over the command to General Tasker H. Bliss, pending General Duval's arrival.

Despite the fact that there has been no publication of the orders from the Washington officials the men of the Philippine squadron are worked up to a high pitch of excitement over the prospect of a chance to sail into Chinese waters. Replenishment of coal and store supplies of the vessels continues, and all the officers of the fleet and marine corps who have been absent on leave are reporting to their commands.

Condolences of the United States government on account of the death of the empress dowager, were cabled to the government of China. The message was from Secretary Root to the American minister at Peking.

The new derelict destroyer Seneca, of the United States government, the first vessel ever built exclusively for this purpose, and which was recently completed at the Newport News Shipbuilding yard has arrived at New York city.

Justice Harlan of the United States supreme court denied that it was his intention to retire from the bench. "Whenever I come to retire voluntarily," said Justice Harlan, "I will let the public know. Just now I see no reason to quit the bench."

LOOKOUT INN BURNED

Famous Hotel Destroyed Together With all its Contents.

FIRE A SPECTACULAR ONE

Many Persons of Note Have Been Guests at the Inn—Prince Henry of Prussia Pronounced it an Ideal Spot.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Famous old Lookout Inn, on the crest of Lookout Mountain, was burned to the ground, together with all its contents. The owners, Messrs. Jung & Shamotuski, stated that a deal had just been consummated for the sale of the inn property for a consideration of \$135,000, and but for the fire would have been closed this week. There was but \$25,000 insurance on the hotel and its furnishings.

Aside from the hotel, four cottages and their contents were destroyed, entailing a loss estimated at \$16,000. The amount of insurance on these could not be learned.

The incline power house was badly damaged and the trestle on the face of the bluff was ablaze for a considerable time. There was a streak of fire almost from the top to the base of Lookout Mountain along the line of the incline, and a force of men fought it to prevent spread to the timber and many cottages which dot the slope of the mountain.

The fire started in the south wing of the hotel building, but the exact cause has not been ascertained.

The building was as dry as tinder and a high wind, which was sweeping across the mountain from the west, quickly carried the flames the entire length of the building, and the structure was consumed in a very short time.

From the city the fire was a spectacular one during its early progress, but soon the mountain was entirely enveloped in a dense cloud of smoke and all that could be seen from high points in the city was what appeared as a terrible storm cloud rolling from the southwest.

With the coming of darkness, however, the smoke cleared and the outline of the crest of old Lookout was marked by a rim of red fire, with the downward mark resembling a huge figure "8."

It is definitely known that there will be no attempt in the near future to rebuild the inn.

The hotel was completed in 1889 at a cost of \$150,000, and contained about four hundred rooms.

Each succeeding season following its opening it has been visited by persons of note from all over the world. Prince Henry of Prussia pronounced it the most ideal spot he had ever visited and the scenery more gorgeous than that of the Swiss Alps.

ROCKEFELLER GETS \$150 FEE.

Was Peevish Until Deputy Paid Money With Subpena.

New York City.—John D. Rockefeller and his lieutenants, J. D. Archbold and James A. Moffett of the Standard Oil Company, were subpoenaed by United States Marshal Henckel to appear before Special Referee Franklin Ferris in the "trust busting" proceedings which have been begun by the government. Incidentally Mr. Rockefeller and his aides received \$150 a piece when they accepted the subpoena. The tendering of the \$150 which is a fee for witnesses provided by the government, tickled Mr. Rockefeller immensely. He seemed to be rather peevish when Mr. Henckel strode into his private office on the fourth floor of No. 26 Broadway and handed him the court paper.

But when Mr. Henckel drew from his pocket a crisp \$1 bill and a 50-cent piece and handed them to the richest man in the world, Mr. Rockefeller seized it with alacrity and smiled broadly.

KILLED IN AUTO RACE.

In Attempt to Lower 24 Hour Record, Emile Strickler is Killed.

Birmingham, Ala.—While making a strong dash in the effort to lower the twenty-four-hour record on the fair grounds one-mile track here the Renault car being driven by Emile Strickler, the well-known automobilist, who had just a little while previously relieved Lewis Strang, was smashed and Strickler was almost instantly killed and Leon Barrows, a Birmingham chauffeur, driver for President Crawford of the Tennessee company, was seriously, though not fatally injured.

The car was traveling at the rate of sixty miles an hour when the accident happened on the west end of the track. One tire exploded as the car dashed around the curve, followed by another circled for several minutes.

JUDGE APPOINTS WOMAN

To Manage Shoe Factory—Plant Valued at Five Hundred Thousand.

Boston, Mass.—The value and status of the working woman were boosted another notch when Judge Chamberlain appointed a Brockton business woman in preference to male competitors to have complete control of the big five hundred thousand dollar shoe factory of the late James T. Packard, who died without a will. His death left his heirs, a brother and two sisters, one of the latter blind, who are wholly without knowledge of the shoe business. Mrs. Jennie L. Doane, formerly secretary to the late Mr. Packard, was made special administrator.