

COUNSEL QUARREL

Operators Deny They Derive Benefits From High Price of Coal.

CHAIRMAN STOPS PERSONAL TILTS

Physicians Testify That the Work of Anthracite Miners is Not as Unhealthy as Represented.

Philadelphia, Special.—Having occupied nearly three days in calling witnesses to testify, the Delaware & Hudson Company closed its case before the Coal Strike Commission Tuesday afternoon and the commission's attention then was called to the conditions existing in and about the collieries operated by the Erie Company. This corporation managed the Hillside Coal and Iron Company and the Pennsylvania Coal Company, and its counsel before the commission is Wayne MacVeagh, of Philadelphia, and Major Everett Warren, of Scranton.

One of the principal witnesses called before the commission was Thomas F. Torrey, general coal sales agent of the Delaware & Hudson Company at New York, who testified that the company he represents is deriving no benefit from the present abnormal price which the public is paying for its fuel. Among other witnesses called by the Delaware & Hudson Company were two physicians who gave testimony tending to show that the occupation of a mine worker is not so unhealthy as physicians for the miners have stated, a real estate agent who testified to the amount of property owned by miners of the company and an employee of the Delaware & Hudson who made an investigation of wages paid to bituminous miners which showed their pay was under that received by the anthracite miners.

General Wilson, owing to the illness of Judge Gray, again acted as chairman of the commission and was several times called upon to intervene in the personal tilts between opposing counsel over the admission of certain evidence.

Major Everett Warren, for the Erie Company, in his statement, says the miners have it in their power to earn large wages, that the demand for an eight hour day is "most unreasonable" and that a 2,240 pound ton is impracticable. Major Warren says the Erie Company has no objection to labor organizing but said the local unions destroy individual effort, curb ambition, restrict earning capacity, encourage idleness and discontent, breed lack of respect of authority and destroy discipline.

Capt. W. A. May, of Scranton, the general superintendent of the two companies, was the first witness for the Erie. Before the strike of 1900 the witness said, the relations between him and the men were very pleasant indeed. Captain May was still on the stand when adjournment was taken.

Hired to Commit Murder.

Roanoke, Va., Special.—Details reached here of a tragedy near Bramwell, a little town in the coal fields of West Virginia. Mrs. Maggie Riley is alleged to have promised to pay her son Hiram, and Arthur Eller a sum of money to kill a woman named Mary Clark. The men it is charged went to the Clark woman's home and shot her to death. Eller and young Riley, together with Riley's mother, were arrested and lodged in the county jail charged with murder. The women were enemies and had frequently quarreled. It is alleged that jealousy was the cause of the killing.

Norfolk & Western Appointments.

Roanoke, Va., Special.—The Norfolk & Western Railway officially announced the following appointments: C. S. Churchill, chief engineer; J. C. Cassell, recently resigned as generally supposed, is made assistant vice president and general manager; Theodore Low, resigned as superintendent of the Norfolk division, becomes real estate agent; Jose B. Lacy, paymaster, is made assistant treasurer. All with headquarters at Roanoke. Treasurer W. G. McDowell in future will have his office in Philadelphia.

Coal Companies Combine.

Harrisburg, Pa., Special.—Application was made at the State Department for a charter for the Eastern Securities Company, which, it is said, is to be the vehicle for the consolidation of the anthracite coal interests of Pennsylvania. The application for a charter is made under a law passed by the Legislature of 1901. The nominal capital of the corporation is \$1,000,000.

THE WILCOX TRIAL

Sister and Cousin of Dead Girl Give Their Testimony.

Hertford, Special.—The State is nearly ready to rest in the trial of James E. Wilcox for the murder of Nellie Cropsey.

Miss Ollie Cropsey, the pretty sister of the dead girl, was the first witness to testify Friday. She told a very forceful story. Her testimony was direct and full. In part she said: "Ella Maude Cropsey was my sister. She was 19 years old and weighed 110 pounds when she disappeared. We lived in Brooklyn, N. Y., before coming to Elizabeth City, where we arrived in April of 1898. I had four sisters, Nellie, Lettie, Loula and Mamie. W. H. Cropsey is my father. We met Jim Wilcox in June, 1898. He sent Nell his card two weeks from that time and asked her to go driving and she went. From that day on he began to call on her, took her riding and sailing. He called Thursdays and Sundays. He gave her presents of flowers and pictures. He went sailing alone with Nell twice. She was scolded for accompanying him. During the summer before the disappearance of Nell she and Jim began to quarrel. They had been friendly up to that time. They were at outs in September. Nell attended Stuart's meetings during that month. I sat inside the room one night and heard Nell say to Jim: 'Jim, if you are going to act like this, you stay at home.' I knew they were quarreling, and, not caring to hear it, I left. They had not seen me. Jim went to the Stuart meetings sometimes with Nell and, sometimes by himself, but often did not go, except to wait outside for Nell. Nell joined the church on the 13th of October. From some time in September till the 23rd of October Jim and Nell quarreled. At times they did not speak. After October they were on better terms and spoke regularly. The Elizabeth City fair was in progress about that time. Jim sent two tickets so that Carrie and Nell could go. He was at work. Jim, Nell, Carrie and myself all went to the fair one day. Jim and Nell were friendly till November 7th, when they quit speaking to each other. Up to that time they had been going out together but all connections were severed then. He kept on calling at the house.

"On the night of November 7th Wilcox spent a few hours at our home. He and Nell were at outs. He left at 9 o'clock. When he took his hat to go Nell said: 'Pull, Jim, pull,' meaning go, and followed him out to see him off, as was her custom. Nell returned, looked in on us, said good night and retired to her room. Jim came on just the same, but Nell never spoke to him. One day after the 7th I saw Carrie, Nell and Jim coming up the street. Carrie was next to Jim. I do not know whether Nell and Jim spoke that day or not.

"We sat in the dining room. Nell sewed on a jacket that she hoped to wear to New York. Jim and Roy were not on speaking terms. Jim was moody and talked but little. He started into space and kept looking at his watch. He appeared to be restless. By 10:45 all except Jim, Roy, Nell and myself had left the room. Jim arose, picked up his hat and said: 'It is 11 o'clock and I must go. My mother does not allow me to stay out after 11.' Before this time Jim had asked for before. I told him I would get him a glass. He said, 'No, he might poison it. When he got up to go we all rose and, while he rolled a cigarette, Roy caught Nell's chin in his hands and said: 'Nell, you are looking mighty sweet tonight.' Jim glanced his eyes at Nell and then at me. He went into the hall and turning, said: 'Nell, I want to see you in the hall.' She looked at me and followed him out. I never saw her again. She and Jim had not spoken since November 7th.

"I closed the door behind them as they went out. Roy and myself stood by the fire till 11:30, when I told him it was time for him to go. He said: 'You need not get snappy about it. Jim and Nellie are in the hall yet.' We went into the hall, and found the doors open, but Jim and Nell were not in sight. I remarked that it was strange that Nell had gone up and left me to lock up. I went to my room and retired. Nell was not there. I dozed off, thinking she and Jim were in the parlor. About 1 o'clock I gave the alarm. We searched everywhere, but in vain, for Nell. During the evening when the subject of suicide was brought up, Nell said she would not like to drown, for her hair would be such a fright. It would be frizzled up. She thought she might like to freeze.

Miss Carrie Cropsey followed Miss Ollie. She corroborated much of the latter's evidence. Among other things she said: "I asked Jim why he and Nell quarreled. He said: 'She has quit going to the door with me. I have decided to drop her.' Tuesday night Jim heard us talking about him. He told me that listeners never heard any good of themselves. Nellie had asked me why I did not call him squatty. I said that I felt like an elephant the night we went to the skating rink. We asked Jim to untie our horse on Tuesday. He said he was tired of being lummy."

Messrs. H. T. Greenleaf, Sr., and H. T. Greenleaf, Jr., civil engineers, were put in the stand to furnish figures of distances. The body of Nellie Cropsey was found in four feet of water at a distance of 300 feet, the exact place being 200 feet to the left of the house, 300 feet out.

Among those who testified this afternoon were: Leonard Owens, who met Wilcox on his way from the Cropsey home the night the girl disappeared; Mayor Wilson, of Elizabeth City, before whom the defendant had appeared; Sheriff Reid, of Pasquotank county, who arrested Wilcox, after the dead body was found, and W. H. Cropsey, the father of Nellie. By Mr. Owens' testimony, Wilcox had about 20 minutes to dispose of from the time he left the Cropsey porch till he met him, several hundred feet away. Wilcox seemed to be perfectly natural at the time. Sheriff Reid said that Wilcox was very indifferent but admitted that it was his way.

Caleb Parker testified. He said that he had passed the Cropsey place soon after 11 o'clock on the night of the 20th of November. He saw a man and woman of about equal size moving along the sidewalk. He did not know who they were.

Ollie Meades swore that he slept with Wilcox that night, but never knew anything from the time he went to sleep till the next morning. He said that Wilcox had on the same pants in court that he wore then. This fact was contradicted later by Miss Lettie and Ollie Cropsey, who were put on the stand for that purpose.

Fighting in Morocco.

Madrid, By Cable.—Fighting is proceeding between the troops of the Sultan of Morocco and the forces of the pretender to the throne, according to a dispatch received by the Globe from Fez. The followers of the pretender are said to be overcoming the imperial troops. The correspondent of The Globe adds that the inhabitants of Fez have risen against the Sultan and that anxiety reigns at Rabat, where the Europeans are in fear of an immediate attack. The Sultan's representative at Tangier has been ordered to seize cattle and to dispatch reinforcements to the Sultan.

Abram S. Hewitt Dead.

New York, Special.—Abram S. Hewitt, former mayor of New York and Representative in Congress from 1874 to 1887, died at 6 o'clock Sunday morning. He was in his 81st year and had been critically ill for ten days. With him at the moment of his death were his wife, his three sons and three daughters. Mr. Hewitt, who had been in feeble health for some months, was attacked with obstructive jaundice on January 8th, and from the first it was recognized by his attending physicians that there was practically no hope for the aged patient's recovery. Only his wonderful vitality kept him alive until this morning.

Steamer Goes Ashore.

Gibraltar, By Cable.—The North German Lloyd steamer Lahn, Captain Malchow, from Mediterranean ports for New York, went ashore at 4 o'clock Sunday morning at Tumará, 10 miles east of the Rock of Gibraltar. There was a heavy fog and rain was falling at the time. Aboard the steamer are 300 sailors and 200 emigrants. She is in no danger and is waiting for high tide to get off. The Lahn is stern on to the sea. The weather is moderate, but there is a heavy sea.

Editor Wounded.

Gainesville, Fla., Special.—City Editor P. A. Ruhl was cut Sunday morning by Linotype Operator Sauls, a gash 5 inches long and three-fourths of an inch deep being made in his neck. Ruhl was taken to his home, where he lies in a dangerous condition. Details are unobtainable, because Mr. Ruhl is not permitted to talk and Sauls has disappeared. Mr. Ruhl is city tax assessor and is prominently connected.

Italy has proposed to establish the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy between Peking and Taku.

Truth will have to get up pretty early, in the morning, to be stronger than some of the current fiction.

KILLED OR INJURED.

Powder Charge Explodes on Board the Massachusetts.

CAUSED BY PERCUSSION PRIMER.

Which Was Accidentally Discharged While the Breech on an Eight-inch Gun was Open.

Washington, Special.—Admiral Higginson cabled from San Juan, Puerto Rico, that by an explosion of powder in the 8-inch turret of the battleship Massachusetts, five men were killed and four injured. None were commissioned officers. The text of Admiral Higginson's dispatch is as follows:

"San Juan, P. R.—Secretary of Navy, Washington: Powder charge exploded accidentally in 8-inch turret Massachusetts. Cause being investigated by board. Dead, A. Hendrickson, boatswain mate; F. H. Loesser, apprentice; S. F. Malinowski, landsman; K. J. Platt, ordinary seaman. Robert Rule, ordinary seaman. Injured: W. W. A. Schert, apprentice; A. S. Tacke, coxswain; J. G. Patterson, ordinary seaman; A. N. Dasset, ordinary seaman."

The records of the Navy Department show that of the dead Loesser and Hendrickson lived in New York, Malinowski, Chicago; Platt, in Troy, N. Y., and Rule, in Mount Washington, O. Of the wounded Dasset, landsman, enlisted at Durham, N. C., July 20, 1901. Next of kin Newton Dasset, father, 1003 Pettigrew street, Durham, N. C. Patterson was from Pittsburg, Tacke from St. Louis and Schert from Chicago.

It is realized here that it will be very difficult for the board referred to in Admiral Higginson's dispatch to ascertain the cause of the explosion, for, from the heavy casualty list, it is surmised that the entire turret crew was either killed or disabled. The 8-inch guns are next in size below the 13-inch turret guns carried by this battleship and just above the rapid fire gun limit. So their charges were not contained in fixed metallic cases and the powder was put up in canvass bags. The regulations require that the powder bags referred to should be conveyed from the magazines to the breech of the gun in can-like metal receptacles to guard against just this kind of an accident.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

San Juan, P. R., By Cable.—Five men were killed and four others were wounded, two of them probably fatally, by the explosion of a powder charge of an 8-inch gun on board the United States battleship Massachusetts, last week, while at target practice off Culebra Island.

The following is the list of the dead: K. J. Platt, 369 Eighth street, Troy, N. Y. S. F. Malinowski, 1438 Ontario avenue, Chicago, Ill. F. H. Loesser, 313 East 86th street, New York.

Andrew Hendrickson, Norway. R. R. Rule, Walnut Hill, Cincinnati. The following men were seriously injured:

A. N. Dasset, Durham, N. C. J. G. Patterson, 32 Soho street, Pittsburg. W. A. Schert, 355 Cleveland avenue, Chicago.

A PERCUSSION PRIMER.

Details of the explosion were obtained when the Massachusetts arrived here. The explosion occurred in the starboard aft 8-inch turret, shortly before noon, and was due to the accidental discharge of a percussion primer while the breech of the gun was open. The full charge exploded in the turret and killed or injured all the crew of the gun numbering nine men. Ensign Ward W. Wortman, who was in charge of the turret, escaped injury, though he was standing near the scene of the explosion.

Magnificent discipline was immediately shown by the officers and crew of the battleship. Captain Harry Lee, commanding the marine guard of the vessel, and Ensign Clarence A. Abele immediately flooded the turret with water and Lieut. Chas. F. Hughes and Gunner Kulwein went below to the magazine, picking up powder charges, and prevented further explosions, while Lieut. William C. Cole and Gun Captain Stoneman entered the turret and withdrew the charge from the other gun, whose breech was open. The survivors of the gun's crew when rescued were burned, mutilated and nearly dead.

One man whose clothing was on fire jumped overboard.

In less than 3 minutes after the explosion three streams of water were pouring into the turret, preventing the charge in the other 8-inch gun from exploding.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

The Crown Prince of Germany is a skillful violinist.

Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson has just celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday.

Joaquin Miller, the "Poet of the Pacific Slope," has, it is said, made a fortune out of Texas real estate.

The eminent German playwright, Gerhardt Hauptmann, recently celebrated his fortieth birthday. He was born at Obersalzbrunn in Silesia. His father was a hotelkeeper.

President Hadley, of Yale, is the first man in his position to take an active part in college athletics. He recently played in the Yale tennis tournament, easily beating his opponent.

Senator Mitchell has presented to the President Major William Hancock Clark, of Portland, Ore., the oldest living descendant of Colonel Clark, of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Commissioner-General Sargeant, of Washington, who was Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen for seventeen years, has been presented by the order with a handsome silver service of 101 pieces.

Former President Steyn has been spending some months at Clarence, on the Lake of Geneva, where his children go to school. When he first went there he was so worn out that he could hardly speak, but his health was soon restored.

The man who invented the Swedish safety match, Karl Kieselwetter, died a few weeks ago in Roumania in great poverty. His invention had brought him a fortune, which, however, he lost through unlucky and risky railway speculation. He was born in 1819.

As a sort of reward, after preventing his relative from becoming a member of a London stock-broking firm, King Edward has allowed Prince Francis of Teck \$10,000 a year until the prince can obtain some remunerative position more in keeping with his standing as a member of the royal family.

LABOR WORLD.

Uncle Sam employs nearly 7500 women in the various departments at Washington.

A musicians' union is the latest addition to the ranks of organized labor in Quincy, Ill.

Hotel and restaurant employees' unions have doubled their membership since January 1, 1902.

At Bridgeport, Conn., 200 buffers, polishers and platers, who struck six weeks ago, have voted to return to work.

Broom makers recently won a strike for an increase in wages at Des Moines, Iowa, gaining an increase of twelve per cent.

Since the craft became organized steel and copper plate printers at St. Louis, Mo., have secured increases in wages amounting to forty per cent.

Tacoma (Wash.) carpenters will ask for an advance in their wages of seven and a half cents an hour, or sixty cents a day of eight hours. They have been receiving \$3.

At Strelitz, Austria, the Government has ordered the different cities, towns and communities to provide pensions for their old schoolteachers, and that no pension below \$24 a year should be offered.

All the women teachers in the Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, schools, except one, have gone on strike to enforce a demand for better wages. The teachers are supported by practically every leading man in town.

The Russian workers seem to have scored a victory at Rostoff. They have received arrears of pay, have obtained the dismissal of the foreman who caused the trouble, and have obtained a permit to celebrate holidays.

Girls for check-off rolling are in great demand in Birmingham, Va. While learning they are allowed \$2.50 a week. After six weeks, practice usually they are able to earn \$4 to \$5 a week, and when they become expert they earn from \$6 to \$7 a week.

Death of Kossuth's Sister.

News of the death of Louise Koscuth Ruttkay, at Buda-Pesth, has come to hand. Mrs. Ruttkay was sister of Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, and wife of the late Joseph Ruttkay. She was over eighty-six years old. After the rising against Austria in 1853, furthered by Kossuth, then in England, his mother and three sisters were banished and the mother, soon after died at Brussels, while the sisters came to this country. Of the three Mrs. Ruttkay was the last survivor, and made her home in America until 1881, when she went to live with her brother at Turin and was with him when he died. In his last years she kept up his correspondence with his old comrades in this country.