

VESUVIUS IN DEMON FURY

Historic Volcano Wears an Awful Rose of Flame, the Earth Trembles Violently From Successive Explosions and Flood of Lava 200 Feet Wide Threatens Large Communities With Fate of Pompeii—Weeping Women Carry Statues of St. Anne to the Lava, Imploring Miracle—Observatory Director Holds Out Hope.

Naples, April 6.—The inhabitants of the villages in the vicinity of Mount Vesuvius are in a condition bordering on panic. Many homes have been abandoned for the open air, although there has been a thick fog all day and the atmosphere has been dense with volcanic ashes and the fumes of subterranean fires. The churches are crowded day and night with people praying for deliverance from an impending peril, manifestations of which are heard and felt in explosions which resemble a heavy cannonading and in the tremblings of the earth which are constantly recurring.

The main stream of lava proceeding from Vesuvius is 200 feet wide, and it advances at times at the rate of 21 feet in a minute, the intense heat obliterating vegetation before the stream reaches it. The peasants of Portici, at the west foot of Vesuvius, cleared their grounds of vineyards and trees in the effort to lessen the danger from fire, and resisted the progress of the lava to their utmost. The population of Bacotrecas, on the southern declivity of the mountain, have sought safety in flight, and Bosco Reals, to the eastward, is also threatened. Women of this village, weeping with fright, carried a statue of St. Anne as far as they could go, to the flowing lava, imploring a miracle to stay the advance of the consuming stream.

The cemetery at Bacotrecas has been invaded by lava. The scene at night is one of mingled grandeur and horror as from the summit of Vesuvius there leaps a column of fire fully a thousand feet in height, the glare lighting the sky for many miles. Occasionally great masses of molten stone, some weighing as much as a ton, are ejected from the crater. The village of Torre del Greco, which has been eight times destroyed and is often rebuilt, is again threatened and the inhabitants are in extreme terror.

Signor Matteucci, director of the observatory, is working indefatigably. He has had military engineers establish telephonic connection between the observatory and the districts within range of the volcanic activity. The director said that although eruption presented a grave menace, he did not believe it would reach the villages. Indeed, he said, the present volcanic activity was not altogether unmitigated with good; for if it had not come to pass, a violent and sudden eruption, having a far wider radius, might have occurred.

OFFER MINERS SAME MEDICINE.

Soft Coal Operators West of Pennsylvania Make Arbitration Proposal Identical With That Offered by Miners to Hard Coal Operators. New York, April 6.—Interest in the labor in the anthracite region was overshadowed to-day by the proposition that came out of the West for the arbitration of the disputes existing between the soft coal operators who have not yet agreed to the 1903 scale, and their miners. The offer of the soft coal operators is identical, word for word, except in the term "anthracite" is substituted for anthracite, with the one President Mitchell presented to the hard coal operators here yesterday. There was considerable speculation as to how the miners' leader would receive his own arbitration plan for another field.

Leaders of the miners' union who were at headquarters to-day did not think the international executive board would favor the proposition. It was denied by those in authority that a final decision on the arbitration offer had been reached. It was reported that the operators may accept arbitration, but with a different sort of tribunal. President Mitchell to-day concerned himself almost exclusively with business connected with the soft coal situation. It has practically been settled that if the operators refuse the arbitration offer, they will go out at once for a convention.

REMAINING WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA OPERATORS YIELD.

Pittsburg, April 6.—Peace is now assured in the miners' situation so far as the soft coal fields of western Pennsylvania are concerned. The organization of the independent operators who were holding out against granting the advance demand by the miners, at a meeting to-night decided to give up the struggle, and sign the scale. All those who were not representatives of operators who had bound themselves not to sign the scale. A number of other members were wavering as to entering the agreement. These latter were not present, and it is assumed that they, too, would sign upon learning of the action of the meeting to-night.

HELD FOR GREENSBORO WRECK.

Former Flagman Walker Charged With Manslaughter in Connection With Death of Five Trainmen Feb. 11. Greensboro, April 6.—C. Turner Walker, a flagman formerly in the employ of the Southern Railway, was arrested early this evening charged with manslaughter. He was immediately taken before Judge Ferguson, who fixed his bail at \$1,000. This Walker was unable to furnish and he was incarcerated in the county jail pending a hearing. Walker's arrest grew out of an indictment found by the principal grand jury of the Superior Court, which charged him with direct responsibility for the early Sunday morning wreck of Feb. 11 on the Southern Railway, near this city, in which five trainmen lost their lives.

TRIAL OF ALLEGED COUNTERFEITERS TO-DAY.

Special to The Observer. Greensboro, April 6.—The trial of Mrs. Alice Smith and her husband, George L. Smith, and her father, Jesse Fruit, charged with passing counterfeit money, will be started in Federal Court to-morrow morning, and will probably be concluded to-morrow.

FOR STRONGER RATE BILL

SENATOR ELKINS IN NEW ROLE

Addressing the Senate, West Virginian Declares That His Interest on Shippers' Side is Ten Times Greater Than on Railroad's and Declares That President Taft Does Not Go Far Enough to Suit Him—No Coal and Timber Roads Throttled at Will by Through Lines—Quintically Accuses Mr. Tillman of Making a Deal with the Railroads.

Washington, April 6.—In making an effort to-day to get the Senate to agree upon a date for taking a vote on the rate bill, Mr. Tillman made the important statement that one week more probably would exhaust the general debate on the measure. He failed, however, to secure the consent of Mr. Aldrich, who said that he would not be willing to agree to vote on the bill until it was more nearly perfected than it now is.

Mr. Elkins addressed the Senate upon the rate bill, and said that while he favors the pending bill he wanted to make it "better and stronger." He continued: "Because of my supposed interest in railroads, it is charged and believed that I favor the railroad side of this question. My interest on the one side of the shipper is ten times greater than on the side of the railroad, and my interest in the railroad is confined to those in my own State."

SOME EVILS LEFT UNTOUCHED.

He declared his principal objection to the bill to be that it does not go far enough in remedying evils. He indicated the respects in which, according to his opinion, the bill falls short of accomplishing all that should be accomplished by railroad legislation. Among these were the following: A prohibition against railroads producing, selling and shipping their own coal and other like articles in competition with other owners; a requirement that switches shall be built where needed to accommodate business; a requirement compelling interstate roads to make connections with connecting lines; and a requirement for the fair and just distribution of cars among shippers.

THROUGH LINES DESPOTIC.

He had, he said, introduced amendments covering these defects. Mr. Elkins said: "In West Virginia and the other States a number of men who have made large investments in agricultural, coal, timber, iron ore and other lands who are able and desirous of building short lines from 10 to 100 miles long to reach these lands and carry their products to market, but they will not build them under present conditions."

STIRS UP MR. TILLMAN.

Mr. Tillman made inquiry concerning railroad regulation, and Mr. Elkins replied that the South Carolina Senator was showing a tendency to friendship for the railroads, and declined to discuss the subject further. Mr. Elkins retorted that the remark that he must not "throw rocks" without giving an opportunity to the man that is struck to retaliate.

WAS ONLY JOLLYING.

Later Mr. Elkins took occasion to say that he had meant merely as a jest his remark of an hour before to the effect that the handling of the rate bill was a disgrace to anyone. "I accept the apology," said Mr. Tillman.

DEAD BODY OF NEGRO FOUND FLOATING IN CREEK.

Special to The Observer. Washington, N. C., April 5.—The dead body of Rufus Butts, a colored man of this city, was found floating in Jackson creek under the bridge at the foot of Main street. He was lying face downward when found. The coroner was immediately notified and held an inquest over the body. The jury returned a verdict of death from drowning. Butts was about 30 years of age. He had been missing for several weeks and no trace of him could be found until to-day.

\$25,000 FIRE AT BUTLER, GA.

Special to The Observer. Butler, Ga., April 6.—The business portion of the town of Butler, Ga., was destroyed by fire to-day. The loss aggregated \$25,000. The total insurance at only \$500.

BEN WILLIAMS TO HANG

MOORE AND BURCH ACQUITTED

Ben and Garfield Williams, Found Guilty of Murder in Wake Court, the Former Being Sentenced to be Hanged on Railroad and Declared 12 Years—Alleged Slayers of Negro Watchman at Standard Oil Plant Found Not Guilty—Hearing in Goldsboro Depot Case—New Charges Granted—News of State Capital.

Observer Bureau. 129 South Dawson Street, Raleigh, April 6.

Wake county Superior Court for the trial of criminal cases adjourned to-day and Judge Council, who sat for the first time in this court, left on the afternoon train. He will also sit at Goldsboro. The jury rendered a verdict of not guilty in the case against Frank Moore and Burch Burch, for the alleged murder of the night watchman at the Standard Oil Co's plant in Raleigh. Ben Williams and Garfield Williams, two negroes, who were tried for murder, were sentenced, the one to be hanged in May and the other to serve 12 years at hard labor. An appeal was taken.

The case against Moore and Burch Burch occasioned great interest. The jury listened to a splendid charge from Judge Council, and after a long deliberation rendered a verdict of not guilty. Comment has been made on the fact that the State did not prove the existence of one George Williams, Commissioner of the State, in Raleigh, in no wise a myth. He was an associate of Earl Jones and Frank Moore in the city of Raleigh. He had figured in the Raleigh police courts and had been arrested in Henderson where he was shot by a policeman when resisting arrest. Later he was turned over to the United States authorities, being wanted for desertion from the United States Army. The man was a native of Brunswick county, Va., and had lost himself from public notice by going West. When the jury returned the verdict Moore and Burch Frank Moore up, and commented on his past conduct, telling him that he supposed "there was nothing he could say to him that could be of any possible benefit to him."

ONE CAUSE OF DELAY.

"We are trying to get the facts in regard to several suspicious matters which we think should be investigated. Among this is the statement, as made by Senator Tillman, that he returned certain rebates to a distiller. We wish to find the credits on the books of the distiller showing the amount of rebates which Senator Tillman has returned and a gift for the gratuity he felt to the liquor concern crediting the State of South Carolina. Besides this there has come to my ears a rumor, the source of which I do not now recall, but which I think is worthy of investigation. In this case, when Governor, was presented with a piano by a liquor concern. It may be that receipts may be shown for the rebates, which may have been returned, and for payment of this piano. It has been suggested, as was rumored to be the satisfactory explanation in the case of the Towell horse matter. 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