

ENTOMBED IN A COAL MINE. TWENTY-EIGHT BURIED ALIVE.

Breaking Dam Sends Flood of Mud Upon Miners Engaged in Mid-Valley Colliery, Near Mount Carmel, Pa.—Rescuers Work All Day to Reach the Victims and Recover Bodies. A Flood of Mud From the Inside—Entombed Men Are Alive—Loved Ones Who Linger at Mouth of Mine Are Reassured.

Pottsville, Pa., Feb. 17.—Twenty-eight miners were imprisoned in the Mid-Valley Colliery near Mount Carmel this morning by the breaking of a dam which caused a great flood of mud to rush down the shaft and entomb the men.

Among the men entombed are a number of experienced miners and it is believed it will be possible to effect the rescue of all the men unless some of them should have met death by being smothered in the rush of mud when the dam broke.

BEHIND A SEA OF MUD. Seven of the number are Americans. The men have been employed in No. 4 drift of the east side gangway driving a heading to the surface. The heavy rains and thaw of the last few days had caused a great dam of water to accumulate in No. 20 breast of No. 4 drift and the pressure became so heavy that it finally broke through and a great sea of mud flowed into the heading where the men were at work.

WORK OF RESCUE. The work of rescue is under the direction of the engineer James A. O'Donnell, of the fourteenth district, assisted by Inspector B. L. Evans, of the fifteenth district. O'Donnell has a force of 100 men working under him and they are expected to dig in regular relays of two hours work and four hours rest.

LOVED ONES REASSURED. During the day women and children were gathered about the mouth of the shaft and many of them were in the night. They include the families of entombed men.

VALUATION OF RAILROADS. Inter-State Commerce Commission Preparing Important Opinion Asked For by Senate Committee.

Washington, Feb. 17.—In response to a request of the Senate committee on inter-State commerce, the inter-State commerce commission is preparing a letter setting forth its opinion of legislation providing for a physical valuation of railroads.

THE RATE LAW IS KILLED. REDUCTION TO BE VOLUNTARY.

By the Narrow Margin of One Vote the Bill to Reduce Passenger Rates in South Carolina is Lost in the Senate—This Means a Voluntary Reduction—Circuit Court Bill Introduced Yesterday in the House.

The Senate to-night, by a majority of one vote, killed the railroad bill on a motion to continue. This means that the railroads will be allowed to voluntarily reduce rates in April.

The House to-night accepted the Senate amendment to its new judicial circuit bill. The bill as ordered enrolled for ratification provides for two new circuits, one in the piedmont and the other in the Fee section.

SALARY FOR ASSEMBLYMEN. The Senate passed a bill to-day to increase the pay of future members of the General Assembly. The bill as amended by Senator Walker, provides a straight salary of \$200 for each regular session, instead of a per diem.

BLAIR CASE TO SUPREME COURT. The spring term of the Court of General Sessions, which convened to-day will not determine the Blair case until next fall.

SUPREME COURT OPINIONS. Three opinions in criminal cases from Newberry were handed down in the Supreme Court to-day in which the point was raised whether a rural free delivery mail carrier and a magistrate are qualified under the constitution to receive depositions.

Fears For the Safety of an American Bark. Savannah, Ga., Feb. 17.—The bark Baltimore, Captain Noah Davidson, sailed from Cape Henry for Savannah on January 22d. She has not since been reported and it is feared she has been lost at sea.

One Death From Yellow Fever on Steamer Crispin. Galveston, Tex., Feb. 17.—Third Engineer William Davis, one of the crew suffering from yellow fever on the steamer Crispin in Galveston roads, three miles from the city, died early to-day.

Attempt to Wreck Train Frustrated. Americus, Ga., Feb. 17.—An attempt was made here this afternoon to wreck the northbound Central train. A cross-tie was placed in the tracks and the train was stopped.

No Change in Kentucky Senatorial Situation. Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 17.—Only a perfunctory ballot for United States Senator was taken to-day on account of the death of Representative McKnight.

West Virginia Jurist Dead. Grafton, W. Va., Feb. 17.—Judge William T. Lee, of Phillips, one of the most prominent jurists and lawyers in central West Virginia, died to-day, aged 83 years.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL. EARLY HEARING ON PARK BILL.

Through Efforts of Congressman Webb, the House Judiciary Committee Will Grant a Hearing on the Legal Aspects of the Appalachian Forest Reserve Project.

BY H. E. C. BRYANT. Observer Bureau, Congress Hall Hotel, Washington, Feb. 17.

Representative Webb has kept after the Postoffice Department here until he has the promise of free mail delivery for the Town of Hickory, the system to inaugurate the 15th of May.

On the 27th of this month the Appalachian Park bill will be taken up by the Judiciary Committee in the House and a hearing will be granted those interested in the project.

UNIQUE SLOT MACHINE. The Briggs-Williams stamp-vending machine invented and manufactured by two North Carolinians and now being installed in Washington is one of the most unique devices of the age.

When Colonel Snell died in June, 1907, he left an estate of \$3,000,000. To his son Richard he left only \$100,000, the balance to a grandniece, Mabelle Snell McNamara.

NEW COUNTY OF LEE. New Officers Qualified and Took Oath. Mark the Event, But a Large Crowd Assembled.

Sanford, Feb. 17.—Pursuant to the statute creating Lee county as amended by the special session of the General Assembly the officers qualified and assumed charge of the county.

Senator Latimer Very Ill. Following an Operation For a Serious Trouble He Lies in Washington Hospital in a Dangerous Condition.

Michigan Central Train Wrecked; One Killed. Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Five persons were injured, one probably fatally, when a Michigan Central passenger train, running 25 miles an hour, crashed into and telescoped a New York Central yard engine at Black Rock, late last night.

Attorney General's Office. The chief of police went with a posse to the scene and arrested John Hodges, a discharged section hand. Hodges denied placing the tie but it is said he admitted he knew it was there before the engine struck it.

THE EXTENSION REFUSED. PETITION OF GEORGIA, SOUTHERN & FLORIDA RAILROAD COMPANY.

Washington, Feb. 17.—A petition recently was filed by the Georgia, Southern & Florida Railroad Company with the inter-State commerce commission, requesting that the time of putting into effect the so-called nine-hour law be extended from March 4th next to such time as the commission might determine.

After reading the story of the Republican revolt in North Carolina, reprinted in this morning's Observer from The Washington Post, which mentions the name of Mr. Tyre Glenn as one of the leaders in the fight against the organization.

TAFT NOT AN IDOL. No surprise should be expressed that Secretary Taft is not idolized by a large element of the Republican party in North Carolina.

SNELL WILL CASE MISTRIAL. Jury Out 16 Hours and Cannot Agree—Suit Brought by Eccentric Millionaire's Son to Break His Will on the Ground That the Old Man Was Insane Over Women.

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GLENN WOULD NOT TALK. FEDERAL OF MR. BRUNER.

High Officials Are Fall-Bearers at the Bier of Man Who Had Done So Much For His Commonwealth—Rev. Mr. Morton Pays Deceased a Final Tribute For His Work For Church and State—Dr. Alexander Sprunt Declines Call of Presbyterians—Third District Appeals to Be Taken Up by Supreme Court—Today—Important New Enterprises Given Charge Yesterday—Baptist University For Women to Celebrate Because of Large Enrollment—Republicans to Have Negroes on Their Hands.

Observer Bureau, The Beville Building, Greensboro, Feb. 17.

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FEDERAL OF MR. BRUNER. STATE DEPARTMENT CLOSED.

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Observer Bureau, The Holman Building, Raleigh, Feb. 17.

The funeral of Secretary Thomas H. Bruner, of the board of agriculture, and whose death occurred yesterday a little before the noon hour, was held this afternoon from the First Presbyterian church, of which he had long been a member.

MUCH SYMPATHY SHOWN. There was a great many callers at the house yesterday and to-day and Mrs. Bruner and her boys were shown to the full how much the people here appreciated and loved Mr. Bruner.

DR. SPRUNT DECLINES CALL. To-day the special committee of the congregation of the First Presbyterian church received to its regret a letter from Dr. Alexander Sprunt, of Charlotte, S. C., declining the call to the pastorate of the church here.

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WAR CLOUDS OVER RUSSIA. CLASH WITH TURKEY POSSIBLE.

The Turkish Army Reserve is Being Hurried to the Frontier—Russian Military Authorities Call For Horses—Alarmists Reports Permeate Every Strata of Russian Society and the Duma Will Be Called Upon to Prepare For the Nation's Defense—Ambassadors of Five of the Leading Powers Consider Turkey's Preparations Only a Gigantic Bluff.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—The alarmist reports of the possibility of hostilities between Russia and Turkey, which have permeated all strata of Russian society, have assumed the proportions of a veritable war scare.

WANTS SERIOUS PREPARATION. The Duma, according to M. Guchkoff, will be guilty of criminal negligence if it permits the country again to be drawn into war for which it is wholly unprepared.

THE BARRON DEBATE. Diplomats friendly to Austria endeavor to acquit Baron von Aehrenthal, the Austrian foreign minister, of the responsibility of disrupting the current situation.

Coast Line Freight Train Wrecked and Track Torn Up. Special to The Observer.

Hope Mills, Feb. 17.—This afternoon about 4:30 o'clock second 29, on Atlantic Coast Line southbound through freight train, jumped the track about a mile north of Hope Mills. The wreck occurred in an entirely new place.

Special to Mother Account. Fayetteville, Feb. 17.—An extra A. C. L. coal train was wrecked this afternoon near Big Rockfish creek eight miles from Fayetteville.

THE 400 MARK PASSED. To-morrow morning in the chapel of the Baptist University for Women there will be a celebration in honor of the passing of the 400 mark in the student enrollment.

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