

## FLOOD OF LAVA BRINGS TERROR

Four New Craters Open  
Aetna—There Is Death and  
Devastation—People  
Flee in Terror.

BUT HOPE IS HELD OUT  
THAT WORST IS OVER

Lava River, Four Streams United, Ex-  
tends Nine Miles from  
Its Mountain  
Source.

Catania, Sicily, March 25.—An official report of the volcano disturbances in Mount Aetna district made public this forenoon, while confirming the gravity of the situation, holds out hope that the worst is over. The craters that may properly be described as new appear to be only four in number. These have opened at the foot of Mount Castellazzo, four miles from the summit of Mount Aetna. One of the craters is at a spot called Tecca Albanelli. This is not throwing out much lava but is the noisiest of the four. Its loud detonations are chiefly responsible for the terror of the population miles around.

Four streams emitted from the craters have united at the foot of Mount Castellazzo and formed a great river of lava that is bringing death and devastation to the invaded districts. The lava river extends nine miles from its source. In the past, the advancing flood the people are in great terror. Thousands abandoned their homes at daylight. Caravans of peasants carrying all their household goods are moving to places of safety. They present a pathetic sight.

Began Wednesday.  
A pronounced movement within the crater of Aetna began Wednesday evening, steadily increasing in volume, and last night the gravest fears were entertained as to results if the eruption continues in its present violent form.

From Catania correspondents reported in the direction of the mountain. Passing the village of Mascali, 13 miles in a direct line from the crater, a thick curtain of smoke was encountered which entirely concealed Aetna. At Nicolosi, ten miles from the crater, the entire population had gathered in the square to watch the volcano, which appeared as a black phantom above. Now and then it was illuminated with flashes of light, appearing almost red. Higher up the rain of cinders became thicker and extended like a veil across the mountain. A deep roaring was heard and detonations like the sound of artillery followed one another in quick succession while the earth shook under foot.

One of the guides cried: "An earthquake!" and could hardly be induced to continue. The hot cinders covered the ground like thick carpets, rendering walking difficult. A peasant was encountered coming down. He said: "The fire is rushing down, burning everything. The lava is like a red-hot river."

The lava fell like a torrent from Mt. Caprioli, spreading out in the valleys below. The flow had already reached the vineyards above San Leo and Rinazzo, seven miles from the crater, and had buried a large number of peasant houses. It came in several streams and united in one great mass about 20 feet in height and 1500 feet wide. Its velocity was estimated at three to four feet per minute, varying according to the condition of the ground. This mighty wall of lava was yesterday not more than five miles from Belpasso and Nicolosi.

The meteorological station on the mountain side has been destroyed and the village of Corrello is in serious danger. The populace, terror-stricken, are fleeing from their homes. The earth shocks have reached about 50 in number, but there is a continuous vibration and trembling for many miles around. Everywhere the villagers are carrying images in procession and imploring mercy. Twelve new craters have been opened up.

Help for the people of the devastated region is being organized here. A detachment of soldiers and a large number of engineers and doctors have gone forward. The prefect of Catania, returning from the scene last evening, said:

"I have witnessed a spectacle of desolation and ruin which only those who saw the eruption of Vesuvius in 1906 can compare to no other."

The authorities have issued orders that no one shall be permitted to go beyond Belpasso and soldiers have been stationed at various points to see that these orders are obeyed. The village of Borelo is surrounded by the lava and the inhabitants have fled to Belpasso.

Professor Ricco, director of Mt. Aetna observatory, said last night: "The eruption is very grave, and I think it will become much more serious. The lava has covered five miles in 16 hours, and if my calculations are right the eruption of the volcano will not be short."

## THREE MORE MEN INDICTED TODAY

All Are Prominent Men, Former Members of the Pittsburg City Council.

Pittsburg, March 25.—The grand investigating grand jury returned three more important indictments today. The men indicted are William Brand, Hugh Ferguson and Charles Stewart, all former members of the city council.

The confessions of six men who appeared before Judge Frazer were accompanied by sensations. The climax came when George B. Anderson, a former select councilman, testified as the court asked him if he had ever received money for his vote. Robert K. Cochran, formerly a member of councils, admitted receiving \$600 to vote for the bank depositary ordinance and \$500 for the ordinance vacating South Seventh street. His admission startled Judge Frazer, who wanted to know how it came that he received so much for voting for these measures while other councilmen received much less. Cochran was unable to make a satisfactory explanation. He insisted that he had distributed none of the money. Judge Frazer reminded Cochran that this was a serious matter, and he would have to take the case under consideration. No suspension of sentence was granted Cochran and he left the courtroom a disappointed man.

William Brand, former president of the common council, whose statement to the district attorney was so unsatisfactory, had his liberty cut short. He was sent to the penitentiary to begin serving the 18 months' sentence for bribery, on which he was convicted some months ago. District Attorney Blakeley insists that Brand did not tell the whole truth, and that he was shielding some one.

Former Councilman John Taylor, who was implicated in the graft scandal by Dr. W. H. Weiler in his confession, brought suit against Weiler for \$25,000 damages. Taylor has made a public denial and says Weiler's statement is untrue.

After handing down 25 indictments the grand jury reported six additional true bills, making a total of 31 indictments.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN INSURANCE INQUIRY

William N. Buckley, the Albany Lawyer, Had a Strong Hold on Legislators at New York Capital.

New York, March 25.—But by bill there was unfolded at the fire insurance inquiry the story of the career of William N. Buckley, the Albany lawyer who for years was a legislative agent at the state capital for the fire insurance companies. On the face of the documentary evidence produced Buckley was well nigh invincible at Albany.

If these letters which were entered on the records, contained statements of fact—and for the most part they were letters exchanged between Buckley and the late George P. Sheldon, who was president of the Phenix Fire Insurance company of Brooklyn. Buckley's power with the legislature was well worth the money he admits he received.

Buckley's influence at Albany went even further, according to his own words. He was able to learn in advance of a decision of the Court of Appeals, he said, and would keep Sheldon informed as to what was coming up in court.

Miles M. Dawson, a consulting attorney of New York, said under oath that Buckley had informed him that he could not get favorable action on a bill in which he was interested unless he paid some money to the "boys." While evidence was produced showing that E. E. McCall, now a state supreme court justice, had written Buckley's name above his own on a check for \$25,000 which was one of the three loans made by the Phenix Fire Insurance company, of Brooklyn, through Sheldon to Buckley, the latter became greatly aroused. He said that Mr. McCall knew nothing at all of the transaction, and had merely acted in the matter at his request. He admitted that he had not endorsed the check and identified the handwriting to which his name was written as that of Justice McCall. When seen yesterday afternoon Justice McCall said that he never had any relations or transactions whatever with Mr. Sheldon or with his company or with any fire insurance company except the Munich.

It was late in the afternoon when the letters relative to the Court of Appeals were read. There were two of them. The first dated April 29, 1902, was from Sheldon to Buckley. It read in part:

"I note that the Court of Appeals has decided that the franchise tax law is constitutional. I wish I could have got on to this early enough, for I am satisfied that this is one of the things that have been hanging over the matter, and if I could have learned previously what the decision was likely to be there would have been money in this for all of us. Whenever anything like this is pending in Albany, it will always be well for you to advise me, if you can, of the probable outcome."

Buckley replied the next day as follows:

"I am sorry that I did not let you know about it."

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"WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY"

## HIGH PRICE OF MEAT; HOW IT'S ACCOUNTED FOR

Twelve Million Increase of Population to Five Million Decrease in Food Animals.

Washington, March 25.—An increase of twelve million in the population of the United States during the past ten years, and a decrease of about five million in the number of available food animals, is the estimate made by the bureau of statistics.

It is also declared that the supply of food animals has decreased three per cent, while the value has increased 22 per cent.

## LIBERIA'S SITUATION IS A PRECARIOUS ONE

The Little Negro Republic of Africa Is About to Be Shoved Off the Map.

Washington, March 25.—Pressed upon one side by France, and beset by Great Britain upon the other, Liberia, the little negro republic of Africa, is between two millstones which threaten to grind it off the map, unless the nation has the support of some power commensurate in strength with Great Britain and France.

This is one of the principal conclusions expressed in the report of the American commission to Liberia, transmitted to congress today by President Taft, with a special message.

## BELIEVES CAPT. SCOTT WILL FIND SOUTH POLE

Shackleton, Arriving in New York, Says He Is Sure Peary Reached the Other One.

New York, March 25.—Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer, when he stepped ashore today declared that he felt no doubt Captain Scott's expedition will reach the South pole. Shackleton declared that he had no intention of attempting an expedition for the South pole while Scott is trying to reach it. The explorer declines to discuss Dr. Cook.

He says, however, that he believes Commander Peary reached the North pole. "I have absolutely no doubt about it," he added.

## THE SITUATION IN PHILADELPHIA

Transit Company Standing Pat, and Peace Negotiations Have Apparently Not Availed Anything.

Philadelphia, March 25.—Good Friday found the situation in the street car strike practically unchanged. Although the strike leaders declare they will eventually force the Transit company officials from their "stand pat" attitude, there is no indication that the company will recede from its terms, given the men through Mayor Reihorn.

## SENATOR THOS. F. RYAN; HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

Friends of Traction Magnate Says He'll Probably Be Urged, in Case of Daniel's Death.

New York, March 25.—Friends of Thomas Fortune Ryan, the traction magnate of Virginia and New York, declared today that in all probability he would be put forward as a candidate to succeed Senator John W. Daniel of Virginia, in the event of the latter's death.

Ryan was born in Nelson county, Virginia.

## ENRAGED, SHOT WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN

New Orleans Man Did This Simply Because His Wife Had Gone to the Theater With Her Brother.

New Orleans, March 25.—Enraged because his wife went to the theater with her brother last night, Alfred Mitchell, a carpenter, today shot and fatally wounded her, wounded his twelve years old son, and seven years old daughter, then shot himself in the head, dying instantly.

TO WELCOME ROOSEVELT.  
Preparations Being Made to Give Him A Formal Reception in Brussels Late in April.

Brussels, March 25.—Preparations are being made to give a popular welcome and formal reception to Theodore Roosevelt upon his visit here late in April.

Col. Roosevelt has been invited to lecture before the Belgian Academy of Sciences.

## TWELVE PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES IN A FIRE

One Girl Jumped from the Third Story Window of Chicago Building Where Fire Occurred.

Chicago, March 25.—At 1:30 p. m. 11 bodies had been recovered from the ruins.

Chicago, March 25.—Twelve persons are reported dead in a fire which attacked the L. Fish Furniture company building, on Wabash avenue today.

Forty employees escaped. A girl who jumped from the third story window died on the way to the hospital. The dead were trapped on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors, when an explosion of benzine on the fourth floor wrapped the building in flames.

It was said later that there were 22 employees on the fifth and sixth floors of the fish building.

While some of those may have escaped, it is believed by many that all are dead. It will be many hours, if not days, before the exact number can be ascertained. Meanwhile Fire Marshal Heran expresses the opinion that 12 will cover the list of the dead.

## CENSUS REPORT SHOWS TOTAL COTTON SUPPLY

Figures for the Past Six Months, Ending February 28, Are Given, Showing 11,552,361 Running Bales.

Washington, March 25.—The census report shows the total supply of cotton for six months ending February 28, was 11,552,361 bales. The distribution is as follows: 2,526,933 bales consumed; 4,599,682 exported; 1,674,331 held in mills; 1,922,521 held in independent warehouses; other stocks, \$18,844.

The number of bales held on September 1, 1909, was 1,483,585; gained during the six months period, 9,974,995; net imports, 93,778.

ASSEMBLING AN ARMY.  
Madrid Making Ready to Proceed Against Enemy, Says Reports From New Orleans.

New Orleans, March 25.—Cable advices today announced that the converted yachts Lark and Esmeralda, recently captured by the Madrid forces, had arrived at Greytown and were being used there in assembling an army to proceed against the enemy.

Revision of French Tariff.  
Paris, March 25.—The senate today concurred with the chamber of deputies in the adoption of a bill revising the tariff.

## NO INSURGENTS MADE OBJECTION

Vote on New Rules Committee Is Declared Unanimous by Speaker Cannon.

MEMBERSHIP WAS SELECTED BY THE PARTY CAUCUSES

Record Is Made Clear That No Insurgent Raised Any Objection to the Personnel.

Washington, March 25.—By unanimous vote the house today adopted a resolution naming the committee on rules, composed of six republicans and four democrats, in pursuance of the provisions of the Norris resolution. Representative Currier of New Hampshire reported the resolution, naming as the committee on rules: Daboll of Pennsylvania, Walter I. Smith of Iowa, Boutwell of Illinois, Lawrence of Massachusetts, Fassett of New York and Smith of California, all republicans, and Clark of Missouri, Underwood of Alabama, Dixon of Indiana and Fitzgerald of New York, democrats.

After brief discussion which made it a matter of record that the members named in the resolution had been selected in party caucuses, the house by viva voce vote adopted the resolution. "The vote was unanimous," declared Speaker Cannon, who by that statement made the record clear that no insurgent objected to the personnel of the new, enlarged committee on rules.

Ship Subsidy Lobby?  
Judiciary committee of the house, in its report which will be filed tomorrow, recommends that a committee of five be named to investigate the charges that a lobby is at work to induce congressmen "by intimidation and threats" to support ship subsidy legislation at the present session.

## MR. LOGAN FORWARDS BOND TO DEPARTMENT

The New Marshal Has Indicted no Intention of Making Changes in the Office Force.

W. E. Logan, the newly appointed marshal of the Western District of North Carolina has forwarded his bond to the department at Washington, and is making all arrangements to assume his new duties April 1. The bond is for \$20,000, and covers the four-year period of the appointment. Mr. Logan has announced no intention of making any changes in the present office force, and it is thought that practically all, if not all of the deputy marshals will be reappointed.

J. M. Bailey, who has been acting as marshal since the resignation of J. M. Millikan, will resume his duties as chief office deputy. Mr. Logan's commission, now in the hands of Judge J. E. Boyd at Greensboro, will be delivered to him on April 1, when Mr. Logan takes charge of the office.

## REFUSE TO REMIT DUTY PAID BY THE DAUGHTERS

Appraisers Make Them Pay 45 Per Cent. Tariff on Bronze Statue at Yazoo, Miss.

New York, March 25.—The board of United States general appraisers has refused to remit the tax of 45 per cent. imposed by the collector of customs at New Orleans on a bronze group imported for the daughters of the Confederacy at Yazoo, Miss.

The importers claimed the group should have been free of duty as statutory.

## CAPT. FOWLER FOUND. Was Hidden in Granada—Delivered to Admiral Kimball, Who Is Asked to Send Him Away.

Managua, March 25.—Capt. Godfrey Fowler, the American, who was wounded while commanding the insurgent artillery at the battle of Tisnaga, has been found hidden in Granada. The government today voluntarily delivered him to Rear Admiral Kimball, with the request that he be sent out of the country.

FLEET LEAVES GUATAMALO.  
Will Resume Target Practice on the Southern Drill Grounds Off Chesapeake Capes.

Washington, March 25.—The Atlantic battleship fleet which has been engaged in target practice off Guantanamo, Cuba, left that place yesterday for Hampton Roads.

The ships will resume their target practice on the southern drill grounds off the Chesapeake capes.

The Nomination Confirmed.  
Gazette-News Bureau, 46 Post Building, Washington, March 25.  
The senate has confirmed the nomination of Luther as postmaster at Baltimore.

## MOST OF THEM WERE FOR PEARSON

Facts Relating to That Swain County Republican Convention Are at Last Secured.

SEVENTEEN FOR MR. PEARSON SEVEN WERE FOR MR. GRANT

Information That Two-Thirds of delegation Are For Mr. Pearson Contained in Letter From Messrs. Elmore and DeHart.

Having in mind the widespread interest in the matter felt by all concerned in political affairs, this paper has sought diligently for the facts relating to the recent republican convention in Swain county, when delegates were chosen for the congressional convention. In response to an inquiry, the editor of the Bryson City Times, certainly an unbiased source when a contest between republicans is concerned, telegraphed that a majority of the convention were for Mr. Pearson, but not knowing whether he would accept the nomination, no instructions were given. Meanwhile a reporter had been sent to Bryson City to look into the situation, as the moral effect of Swain's action must be regarded as a matter of moment. This paper's representative, who was sent out under instructions to get the facts without reference to whom they might favor, telegraphed today that a vote was taken in the convention to determine the relative strength of the men whose names were mentioned as candidates, and while it was not known whether Mr. Pearson would accept the nomination if tendered him the result of the vote showed that 17 of the precinct delegates were for Mr. Pearson, while seven were for Mr. Grant. As the attitude of Mr. Pearson was unknown, the chairman, Benjamin Henry, was instructed to name the nine delegates and nine alternates, the gentlemen so named being free to act as they saw fit after reaching the convention in this city Saturday week. The dispatch added that Mr. Grant had numerous opponents in Swain.

As to the original report which appeared in this paper, the following self-explanatory letter will doubtless be read with interest:

Bryson City, March 19, 1910.  
Hon. Richmond Pearson, Asheville, N. C.

Dear Sir:—We hold our congressional county convention and Swain county instructed two-thirds for you, and one-third for Hon. John G. Grant. We had a small turnout. Yours truly,  
S. A. ELMORE,  
H. J. DEHART.

A message received by a friend from Representative Grant last night stated that Mr. Grant would return to North Carolina at once, and it was generally believed that he would arrive this afternoon.

The announcement that Mr. Grant would probably reach the district in a few hours was considered significant, in view of the political talk that has been going the rounds during the past few days anent the possibility of Mr. Pearson being decided upon by the republicans as the most available man to nominate for congress at this time. Several county conventions to select delegates to the congressional convention will be held tomorrow and Monday, and Mr. Grant's return to the district is taken to mean that he desires to be close to the scene of activity.

Mr. Grant arrived here this afternoon from Washington and it is at the Hotel Berkeley. He will remain here and in the district until after the convention next Saturday. Mr. Grant said: "I am in the race for the nomination; the people of western North Carolina are a patriotic people; I do not believe that they will refuse me a second nomination. I redeemed the district and if nominated I will see that the district remains republican. My future is in the hands of my friends, not my enemies."

As to rumors that Mr. Pearson was in the race Mr. Grant said: "You know more about it than I do; I have been in Washington." About the delegates of Swain and Cherokee going to the convention un-instructed Mr. Grant said: "that is what I told them, I did not ask any the counties to instruct for me."

## HOPES ENTERTAINED FOR DANIEL'S RECOVERY

The Senator Passed a Satisfactory Night, and There Is Little Change in His Condition.

Daytona, Fla., March 25.—Senator Daniel's condition was but little changed since last evening. He passed a satisfactory night.

The senator's family and physicians now hold hopes for his recovery.

THE WEATHER.  
Forecast until 4 p. m. Saturday, for Asheville and vicinity: Partly cloudy weather tonight and Saturday. For North Carolina: Generally fair tonight and Saturday. Light variable winds, mostly south and southeast.