

PANAMA EXPLOSION

Results in a Number of People Losing Their Lives

SCENES OF GREAT EXCITEMENT

Premature Explosion of an Enormous Blast of Powder Near Colon Claims Ten Dead and Fifty Injured.

Colon, By Cable.—A giant blast of dynamite, already prepared for firing, was prematurely exploded in the workings at Bas Obispo Saturday.

Bas Obispo cut is about 30 miles from Colon, and the shock of the explosion was distinctly felt here, as in addition to that in the blast, 22 tons of dynamite was exploded.

Numerous reports are current as to the cause of the accident but the official version from Culebra, which gives an estimate of ten killed and fifty wounded, states that during the leading of the last hole of the blast the dynamite in this cutting was discharged, and the remaining 22 tons were exploded by concussion.

The holes had not been connected electrically as the discharge of the blast was set for 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The last hole was being loaded under the supervision of one of the most efficient powder men in the employ of the commission.

A passenger train had just passed when the explosion occurred, but it was not in any way damaged.

The majority of the victims are Spaniards. Relief trains were sent to the scene of the disaster and one which returned here several hours later brought back the report that 45 of the injured had been sent to Ancon Hospital.

The officials on the train stated that eleven dead had been found while many others in the gang of 120 who were employed in the cut were missing.

It was also reported by the trainmen that the explosion was due to a passing steam shovel, which hooked the wire leading to the immense charge of dynamite. Whether or not this was the cause of the accident, a steam shovel and crew, which happened to be on the scene were practically buried under the mass of rocks and earth thrown up.

Guns were seen searching for the dead and assisting the wounded. Electric lights were set up and at night steam shovels were at work removing the tons upon tons of debris. Many of the men have been seriously injured, some of them probably fatally.

Tradition has it that the Panama Railroad cost one human life for every five, that with accidents, insurrections and disease, and the construction of the canal has not gone along without exacting its toll.

There have been a number of accidents in the last two years, chief among which was the premature explosion of dynamite at Pedro Miguel in June, 1907, which resulted in the death of seven men and the injury of a number of others.

The Dead Total Fourteen.

Colon, By Cable.—The explosion Sunday at Bas Obispo of 21 tons of dynamite blast was the most serious accident in connection with the building of the Panama canal since the United States took control. A thorough investigation with a view to finding the responsibility has been ordered and already officials are taking evidence.

Creole Wisconsin Banker Sentenced

Milwaukee, Wis., Special.—John F. Schulte, aged 38, former paying teller of the First National Bank of Racine, was sentenced to five years at Fort Leavenworth by Judge Quarles. Schulte embezzled \$15,000, pleaded guilty and asked for leniency. Five years is the minimum penalty. Schulte was arrested at Cleveland on July 7.

Mail Carrier Badly Hurt.

Spartanburg, Special.—Jesse L. Wood, a well known letter carrier, was thrown from his buggy early Sunday morning and seriously injured. The horse Mr. Wood was driving took fright on east Main street, just in front of the First Presbyterian church. He was thrown violently to the sidewalk and knocked unconscious. When taken to his home it was discovered that three of his ribs had been broken and one of his shoulders terribly injured. He is threatened with pneumonia, which makes his condition trebly worse.

Ohio Congressman Critically Ill.

Wooster, O., Special.—The man found unconscious in the chair car of a Pennsylvania westbound train here Sunday and taken to a local hospital was later identified as Congressman Grant E. Mouser, of the Marion, O., district. Physicians declare he is suffering from uraemic poisoning and acute congestion of the kidneys.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Congressional Summary.

The business of both houses of Congress was confined largely to listening to the reading of the President's annual message but in addition a few bills were introduced both in the Senate and the House and in the House a number of bills was sent to conference, among them being one providing for a new immigration station in Boston.

In addition, the Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Higgins, of Connecticut, to a place on the committee on the judiciary, in place of Mr. Littlefield and of Mr. Martin to a place on the committee on Indian affairs in place of Mr. Parker, deceased.

For the first time during the present Congress there was a call of the committees of the House but no measure was reported by any of them.

The miscellaneous work of the Senate consisted in the main of the reference in executive session of about 1,500 recess nominations, which were sent to the Senate by the President, and the adoption of resolutions of regret on account of the death of members of the House who have passed away since the adjournment last May. The Senate adjourned for the day at 2 o'clock and the House at 2:35.

Census Bill Passed.

For nearly five hours the House of Representatives considered the bill providing for the taking of the thirtieth and subsequent decennial censuses, and passed it without material change. From the very outset of the debate it became evident that the progress of the measure toward passage would be impeded.

Pensions in Senate.

The session of the Senate was chiefly devoted to the formal presentation of departmental reports and the introduction of bills. The reports have been made public from time to time and the bills numbering 352 were chiefly for the granting of pensions.

Saturday's Session.

The House of Representatives Saturday was in its old-time form. No particular programme had been mapped out, but under a call of committees several measures in which the members were especially interested, and in some cases vitally concerned, were considered. With few exceptions they engendered the liveliest sort of debate, and it was disclosed that the forces for or against them were fully lined up for the fray. Parliamentary tactics were freely resorted to, with the result that five times the roll was called.

The first rangle occurred on a resolution fixing the boundary line between the States of Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico, which was agreed to by a majority but not without two roll calls. The House then by a decisive vote refused to further consider the bill providing for arbitrary settlement of disputes between employers and employees.

Next turning attention to the bill providing for the protection of aliens in the United States the subject was thrashed out at length. The measure had rough sailing and it was passed by a slim majority after the roll had been called twice.

Mr. and Mrs. Taft Given Reception

Washington, Special.—President-elect and Mrs. William H. Taft were tendered a reception by Miss Mabel Boardman, a Washington society leader, at her home on Dupont circle. The function was one of the most notable of the season, and among the guest were a large number of the representative persons of the Capital's official, diplomatic and social circles.

The Evacuation of Cuba.

Washington, Special.—At the War Department the first details regarding the withdrawal from Cuba of the American army of pacification, which has been on duty there since the fall of 1906, were made known. The movements of the troops will begin on January 1st and will be completed by April 1st.

Killed by Electric Shock.

Yorkville, Special.—Mr. W. F. Downs, a native of Fort Mill, and for the past three or four years head machinist at the Tavora Cotton Mill at this place, was instantly killed by an electrical current. The electrical current which is furnished by the Southern Power Company, had failed and Superintendent Rameuse and Mr. Downs were searching for the trouble. The switch had been opened and Downs placed his hand on a wire he supposed dead but it proved not to be and he fell back lifeless.

Thomas F. Ryan Gives \$1,000 to Uncle Remus Fund.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—J. G. Lester, secretary of the "Uncle Remus" memorial association, announced the receipt of a contribution of \$1,000 from Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, to the fund for perpetuating the memory of Joel Chandler Harris. Mr. Ryan was tendered and has accepted the vice presidency of the association.

DUTCH SEIZE VESSEL

Venezuelan Ship Towed into Port

PRILE CARRIED DUTCH FLAG

The Gelderland Steams Into the Harbor of Williamstad Towing the Venezuelan Coastguard Ship Alex Flying the Dutch Flag and Sporting a Dutch Crew.

Williamstad, Island of Curacao, Special.—The Dutch cruiser Gelderland came into this port Sunday morning towing the Venezuela coastguard ship Alex with the Dutch flag flying and a Dutch crew on board. The Gelderland captured the Alex off Puerto Cabello on Saturday. At that time the Alex was lying close in shore and notwithstanding the threat which the Venezuelan government had made to fire upon any of the Dutch warships committing a hostile act, the Gelderland steamed at full speed towards the guard ship and sent an officer and guard in a launch to seize her. No shots came from the forts on land.

The crew of the Alex was put ashore and the Dutch officer and marines remained on board, the Gelderland finally taking the Alex in tow and steaming away with her prize.

The seizure of the Alex was in accordance with the plans of the Holland government when instructions were issued to the three Dutch warships now in these waters to make a demonstration off the coast of Venezuela and to capture any Venezuelan ships of war or guard vessels that they might find.

The people of Curacao are greatly rejoiced. The Governor of Curacao said:

"The capture of our warships of coast guards and war vessels is not to be considered an unfriendly act against the Venezuelans. It is merely a reprisal against Castro's government which refuses to give satisfaction for his unfriendly acts toward Holland."

It is learned from the officers of the Gelderland that the battleship Jacob Van Henskerk and the cruiser Friesland are now off La Guyra and that further captures may be expected at any time.

Taft's View of McKinley.

New York, Special.—President-elect William H. Taft, speaking Sunday night at the dedication of a McKinley memorial organ in Metropolitan Temple, told to the audience the story of his official association with the late President, and declared with reference to the Philippine Islands that the policy laid down by Mr. McKinley in 1900 had been the policy of the present as it will be the policy of his own administration in the White House. Mr. Taft will remain here until Thursday, when he leaves for Augusta, Ga., to spend the five weeks preceding his proposed departure to the Panama canal.

American Railway Company Asks For a Charter.

Hawkinsville, Ga., Special.—Charter was applied for by a local attorney on behalf of interested parties for a charter for "The American Railway Company," which proposes building a line from Abbeville, Ga., to Winchester, in Macon county, Ga., via Hawkinsville and Grovania. The proposed road will traverse one of the richest farming sections of the State. It will tap the Seaboard at Abbeville and the Gulf line at Hawkinsville. Work will begin at once, it is stated.

1908 Cotton Crop.

Washington, Special.—The crop reporting board of the bureau of statistics of the Department of Agriculture has estimated from reports of correspondence agents of the bureau that the total production of cotton in the United States for the year 1908-9 would amount to 6,182,970,000 pounds.

England Rushes More Troops to India.

London, By Cable.—Another heavy draft on English home regiments for service in India was ordered by the war office. The troops will be ready to embark for India as soon as possible as the threatened Indian uprising is believed to be imminent. Friday's draft with the heavy reinforcements that started for India last Wednesday, has reduced many of the home battalions to mere skeletons and an additional call for recruits will soon be made.

Wife of Millionaire is Arrested For Shoplifting.

New York, Special.—Mrs. Louis J. Schloss, wife of the well known New York and Baltimore clothier, was arrested here last week for shoplifting. Different articles she had picked up amounted to about \$10. She pleads nervousness and ill health. The case will be heard soon.

HAIL, COLUMBIA!



Uncle Sam—"Why, I thought it was all arranged that you were to stay at home and raise a large family!"

The Suffragist Movement in the United States May Fore-shadow a Women's Revolution Which Will Affect the Destinies of the Whole Race.

New York City.—In a remarkable editorial The World writes as follows about a quiet revolution that is being wrought by the women of the United States:

A REVOLUTION. Here are these three matters of fact. The spread of the suffragist movement despite the laughter of a world of men; the general invasion of industrial fields by women; wives outnumbering husbands two to one as plaintiffs in the 945,000 divorce cases of the last twenty years in the United States. It is customary to treat separately the three issues thus presented. They are all manifestations of one general movement—a Revolution of Women, due chiefly to the new industrial regime under which a woman can do

WOMEN LED REVOLUTION IN TURKEY.

New York City.—The Rev. Charles E. Jefferson, pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, recently returned from Turkey, where he was at the time the Sultan's declaration of the new constitution was announced, spoke before the Baptist Ministers in conference, in the Madison Avenue Baptist Church Hall, on the "New Regime" in Turkey.

He described the Sultan going to church with his thirty wives and said the Sultan painted his cheeks and dyed his hair. No street, and no world, he said, had such a gang of scoundrels and thieves around him as had the Sultan of Turkey before the next constitution went into effect. Since that time the 25,000 spies had

BISHOP DOANE ON FAMILY LIFE EVILS.

He Deprecates Prevalence of Divorce and the Increase of Race Suicide.

Philadelphia.—There was read before the Federal Council of Churches of Christ a report on "Family Life," prepared for a committee by the Rt. Rev. William Croswell Doane, Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Albany, in which were explicated the evils prevailing against the hearthstone. "Family life," wrote the Bishop, "is threatened, first, by the lowered sense of the sanctity of marriage; secondly, by the prevalence of divorce; thirdly, by the alarming increase in the restriction of the bearing of children. In this last matter it is the duty of the Christian Church to speak out. There has been a decline in the birth rate in every Western country, most marked in the English-speaking countries; greater in the United States than in any other country. It is largely due to the loss of the sense of responsibility to God for the fruits of marriage. It is a symptom of the spirit which shrinks responsibility and resents self-denial and which results in the weakening of

NOW THE "TUBE WOMAN" IN PARIS.

Paris, France.—The revolution gradually brought about in woman's dress as a result of the Directorate is producing some curious consequences. The dress designers and makers, after having gradually brought about what they describe as a straight line in front, have now directed their attention to the back portion of the fashionable attire, and the decree has gone forth that the straight line, both front and back, is to prevail this winter. The result is to create an entirely new-shaped human being, already nicknamed "la femme tube," or "the tube woman," because the few women seen about so far in the very latest style of Directorate dress resemble walking stovepipes. The new figure requires the wearing a corset of extraordinary length, resembling certain ancient iron instruments of torture. They are made of rubber or elastic tissue and whalebone, and reach nearly to the knees. Many of these new corsets are on show at the large shops.

Plan Uprising Against the British in India.

Vancouver, B. C.—The World says British officers working among the Sikhs and Hindus of the Pacific Coast unearthed the details of proposed uprising against British rule in India. The story is to the effect that scattered outrages are now taking place in India for the purpose of scattering the British troops. The main rising will take place in April next at Amritsar. Stocks of arms of modern type are hidden in various districts.

HOLT'S SLAYER CAUGHT

Well-Known Citizens of Durham Taken Into Custody For Assassination of Engineer Fred Holt.

Durham, N. C., Special.—The arrest of Reuben Barbee here for the murder of Engineer J. A. Holt last week, almost demoralized the lay visitors to the Methodist conference and in a few minutes the news had spread all over the city.

Barbee was arrested Friday afternoon by a policeman for being drunk and that circumstance started the story of his connection with the crime. As a matter of fact, this step had been contemplated several days with accumulating evidence tending to show unfavorably against the Durham man. Barbee himself has exhibited an interest in the crime, not altogether characteristic, and this week said he had found the murderer whom he designated as Robert Golden, a colored helper at the coal chute. Reuben mentioned the single-barreled gun as evidence and said he wanted but little more evidence to cinch the reward. There are other stories that in his cups he has said he has killed four men and fellow-ed none to the grave. That record is supposed to be true, but Barbee never suffered for any crime.

The circumstances upon which the arrest was made are these: Barbee has been for years at loggerheads with the Southern Railway; he lives in the coal chute vicinity; he has a grudge against M. Greenberg, whose house was fired into the night of the Holt murder, and the officers have had no other theory than that the same man did both; he has done some talking; two negroes are giving testimony that they saw him come out from the coal chute the night of the murder and that he had a gun in his hands. Upon this testimony the arrest was made by Sheriff Harward and Detective Ashburn.

Banner Must Serve His Term.

Raleigh, Special.—According to a ruling just made by the Supreme Court finding no error in the trial below Lute Banner, a former member of the State Legislature, postmaster of his town and internal revenue officer, Watauga county, must serve his sentence of 30 years in the penitentiary for the murder of Ambrose Cline, whom he shot down as he was passing his store on the opposite side of the street without the least warning to Cline of his intention. The plea in the trial below was insanity, but the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Clark writing the opinion, declares that there was no evidence of insanity in the trial and expresses the view that Banner was lucky to avoid conviction of murder in the first degree, thereby escaping the gallows.

Decrease is Competitively Small.

Raleigh, Special.—Corporation Clerk Wilson, of the office of the Secretary of State, made up his report on corporations, which shows that during the twelve months which ended November 30th last year there were 839 charters granted, while this year, up to November 30th, the number was 763. This shows a falling off this year of 76, which is a capital showing. The largest charter went to the Raleigh Light and Power Company, the amount being \$3,750,000.

Falling off Shown in Tobacco Reports.

Raleigh, Special.—The November report of the sale of loose leaf tobacco in the warehouses of North Carolina to the State Department of Agriculture show 17,831,000 pounds for November compared with 41,291,239 for October. Winston-Salem leads with 3,112,249 pounds; Wilson second, 1,899,017; Mount Airy, third, 1,470,643. Forty-one markets reported.

News of the State.

D. A. Lynch, assistant manager of the Davidson football team for the past season, has been elected manager for next year, season of 1909. Editor H. B. Varner, of Lexington, and the party of nine young ladies who won a free trip to North Carolina in a voting contest, are now in New York and are having a big time doing that city.

The Champion Fibre Company, of Canton, is building a large boarding house at Sunburst preparatory to beginning work there with a large crew of hands. The force now at work at Hornbuckle will be transferred to that place.

It is learned that High Point's public building will commence to take shape some time next spring. The appropriation calls for \$75,000 and High Point stands close to head on the list for appropriations to be passed upon.

Two Die of Ptomaine Poison.

Westchester, Pa., Special.—Two members of the family of George VanHorn, of Mendehall, Chester county, are dead, and three others are ill as the result of ptomaine poisoning, caused by sausage procured from a local grocery store. John VanHorn, eight years old, died Thursday, and his sister, Mabel, 10 years old, passed away Thursday night. Both suffered intense agony. They were buried Friday.

FOREST RESERVES

One of the Most Urgent Needs of the Nation

THE DEMAND FULLY GONE OVER

Governors and Prominent Men From Every Section of the Country Appear Before the House Committee and Urge the Establishment of Forest Reserves.

Washington, Special.—A distinguished assembly of witnesses testified before the House committee on agriculture to the need of the Federal government establishing forest reserves in the White mountains and in the Southern Appalachians. It marked the opening of the fight in this session of Congress for the creation of these reserves to protect the navigability of navigable streams, a purpose which the committee conceded is constitutional.

Besides Governor Guild, of Massachusetts, who was the spokesman until he was compelled to leave the city and turn his duties over to Col. William S. Harvey, of Philadelphia, Governors Chamberlain, of Oregon; Ansel, of South Carolina; Hoke Smith of Georgia, and Johnson, of Minnesota, former Governors George E. Pardee, of California, and Blanchard, of Louisiana, and Dr. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the Senate, were among those who appeared. Chairman Scott, of the committee, said the committee appreciated the public sentiment in favor of the project but that the problem of obtaining the desired end was difficult.

Representative Scott explained that the House committee on the judiciary had questioned the constitutionality of action on the part of Congress looking toward the purchase of land for the conservation of forests whatever it might do toward protecting the navigability of the streams of the country.

Governor Guild, in responding, laid emphasis upon the ability of the general government to undertake projects for the general welfare of the country, saying the appeal come from all quarters of the nation.

It is probably the first time in history that the Governor of South Carolina and the Governor of Massachusetts have joined hand in hand to appeal to Congress for the enactment of law for the general welfare of the United States," said Governor Guild, as he bowed to Governor Ansel, of the Southern State.

President Van Hise took the position that the peculiar rapidity of erosion in the Southern Appalachian mountains necessitated the establishment of a reserve there, for the preservation of the navigability of the streams and the protection of the harbors. He gave it as his opinion that the crucial area to be purchased was the lower slopes of the mountains where the inclines are so steep and erosion so rapid that their use for agriculture is less important than the preservation of the streams.

Nine Injured by Bomb.

New York, Special.—Creeping over the roof to an airshaft in the five-story tenement at 330 Sixty-third street, a Black Hand agent dropped a bomb to the ground. The explosion that resulted was terrific. The walls of the building reeled and tottered, almost falling, and every window within a block or more was shattered. Nine people in the building and in the street were injured by the explosion of the bomb, some of them seriously, although it is not thought that any of them will die. It was a miracle that no one was killed outright. The police are investigating the case and they have come to the conclusion that the bomb dropping was the work of the same Black Hand agent who three years ago kidnapped the small son of an Italian banker, who owns and occupies a part of the building, and that the motive was revenge, the banker having refused to ransom his son. The bomb-thrower made good his escape, but the police believe that they have clues which may lead to his capture, or possibly to the breaking up of a Black Hand gang.

Every Citizen to Become a Soldier.

Washington, Special.—Every male citizen in the United States between the ages of 16 and 45 is to become a part of the military force of the country and to be liable for military duty under the terms of a bill, the passage of which has been recommended by the President in a special message to Congress. The bill provides an elastic organization and, as the President says, under its provisions it will be just as easy to raise an army of 2,500,000 as of 50,000.

Hale Succeeds Allison.

Washington, Special.—A largely attended caucus of Republican Senators unanimously elected Senator Hale of Maine, as chairman of the Republican caucus to succeed the late Senator Allison, of Iowa. The position carries with it the chairmanship of the Republican steering committee of the Senate. Senator Hale's nomination was the only one before the caucus.