

SIXTY LIVES WERE SNUFFED OUT WHEN COAL GAS IGNITED

Many of Victims of Coal Mine Disaster Were Small Boys Caught in Smoke

BRAVE RESCUERS ARE DARING SUFFOCATION

Hundreds of Women and Children Congregating at Opening of Mine in Grief

SCRANTON, Pa., April 7.—One of the most serious mine disasters which has ever visited this section of the mining country occurred today at the little village of Throop, a short distance from this city, when the lives of between fifty and sixty men and boys were snuffed out.

Among those known to have perished are Joseph Evans, who was in charge of the United States mine rescue car; Isaac Dawe, a fire boss, and Walter Knight, a foreman.

Defective Apparatus.

Evans' death was the result of a defective oxygen armor. Miles Enson, the noted expert in general charge of mine rescue work for the federal government, was also overcome, and is said to be in a critical condition tonight. As rescuers entered the mine they stumbled over three bodies. One of these was Joe Evans. He was seen to wrench his helmet from his head. It had evidently failed to work. Evans was carried to the open air as quickly as possible but he had inhaled so much smoke and gas from the burning coal that he died within a few hours. Ensnan's experience was similar to that of Evans'.

Two-Scare Are Found.

Up to a late hour tonight nearly two score of bodies had been piled at the bottom of the shaft, but it was thought advisable not to bring them to the surface until the crowd had dwindled. A temporary morgue had been erected at the opening of the mine and here were congregated hundreds of women and children, relatives of the men and boys who had been so suddenly snatched from them. Their grief was pitiful. Children of tender years clinging to the skirts of their mothers while older male members of the family sought to soften the anguish of the distracted mothers and sisters of the unfortunate men and boys. None of the bodies recovered were mutilated, death doubtless having been caused by inhaling flames and gases.

The rescuers are pushing into the mine, and it is thought that all of the bodies will be recovered within a few hours.

TRIAL OF COTTON BROKERS ABRUPTLY ENDED WITHOUT TESTIMONY FROM DEFENSE

Members of Firm Lay All Blame on One Member. They Were Helpless

ARGUMENTS BEGUN

ABERDEEN, Miss., April 7.—The taking of testimony in the individual trial of J. H. Miller, who, with his fellow members of the bankrupt cotton firm of Steele, Miller & Co., is charged with the circulation of bogus bills of lading through the mails, ended abruptly this afternoon. When court adjourned for the day arguments were in progress.

Immediately after the noon recess the attorneys for the government unexpectedly announced their testimony concluded and the defense announced that no evidence would be presented. Beside Miller, G. H. G. Linde, L. G. Steele and J. C. McKnight are charged with implication in the alleged misuse of the mails. Miller secured a severance and his trial began Tuesday. Linde and Steele, as witnesses for the prosecution, declared that the government's charge was true, but charged Miller with having engineered the transaction. They declared they knew nothing of irregular dealings until the firm was deeply involved.

The witnesses today included an expert accountant, who testified that his audit of the books of the firm showed the existence of fraudulent bills of lading for \$4,520 bales of cotton, a bank clerk who told of alleged losses to the National Park bank of New York City of \$48,000, railroad agents who asserted that signature of their names to railroad receipts were forgeries.

DIED AT AGE OF 105.

WILMINGTON, N. C., April 7.—Wm. Howell, 105 years old and well known in this state as "War Bill" Howell for his record in both the Mexican and civil wars, died today on his farm near Goldsboro, N. C. He was very active up to the time of his death, pitching his crop this year.

PASSENGERS WERE SAFELY TAKEN OFF STRANDED VESSEL

Seventeen Hundred People Removed From Great Ocean Steamer In Danger

WORK OF REMOVAL TOOK FIVE HOURS

Princess Irene Is Still Stuck Fast in Sand and in Danger of the Waves

LONE HILL LIFE SAVING STATION, L. I., April 7.—In just five hours and ten minutes this afternoon the 1,720 cabin and steerage passengers on the stranded North German-Lloyd liner Princess Irene were transferred to the deck of her sister ship, The Prinz Friderich Wilhelm, and one hour after nightfall they were safely on their way to New York. The fact is unparalleled in the history of marine disasters and will perhaps remain so for years to come. The first passenger off was a woman and the second a boy. The cabin passengers generally gave precedence to the more timorous steerage.

Steamer Still Fast.

As for the liner on the bar, nightfall showed her hard and fast in the grip of the sands and Captain Goddard of the Lone Hill Saving Station estimates that she will be prisoner at least a week, perhaps a fortnight. In the 36 hours since she struck she has been favored with comparatively light weather, but a stiff blow from the southwest might open her plates, crush in her bulkheads and wrench apart her stout steel frame.

Everybody Helped.

Ten small boats, two tugs and the relief ship took part in the rescue today while a revenue cutter and a derelict destroyer stood by. Tonight Captain Letten von Petersen is still standing by his ship with his crew and 350 men. He repeats that he cannot say how he happened to be standing ten miles off his course when he struck.

BLEW OUT HIS BRAINS.

ROANOKE, Va., April 7.—J. E. Shuffelbarger committed suicide today in the office of the Phoenix Furniture corporation of Christiansburg, Va., by placing a pistol in his temple and blowing out his brains.

Some weeks ago he resigned as secretary of the Phoenix corporation and left Christiansburg. He traveled through the west and returned this morning from Washington.

REPUBLICANS WRATHFUL AT MANNER OF ASSIGNING THEIR COMMITTEEMEN

Declare That Democrats Have Ruthlessly Trampled Minority Party

MANN'S STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, April 7.—The first formal conference of republican house leaders, including representatives of the insurgent portion of the party was held this afternoon in the offices of Minority Leader Mann. It followed a refusal of the democrats to give up any more committee places to the republicans or to restore the proportion that has heretofore existed between the two parties in the committee assignments.

After the conference Mr. Mann gave out a statement bitterly assigning what he called the "unfair, arbitrary and brutal action" of the democrats in "trampling the rights of the minority," the statement promulgating a lively republican fight to take advantage of every parliamentary privilege to make things hot on the floor.

Mr. Mann submitted the situation to the conference of leaders this afternoon and asked whether he should not refuse entirely to name committees on the limited basis of representation given by the democrats. It was determined to go ahead with the selection of republican members. Mr. Mann stated after the conference that absolute fairness will be shown the insurgents in the arrangements.

WANTS \$3,500 A PITCH

ATLANTA, April 7.—Walter Johnson, the star twirler of the Washington Americans and considered by some to be the leading pitcher in the American league, returned to his home at Coffeyville, Kans., today following a failure to come to terms with Manager McAleer on the salary question. Johnson so far has refused to sign a contract for \$5,500 a year and demands \$7,500.

MAN ELECTROCUTED.

DANVILLE, Va., April 7.—A. L. Gaudin, a young white man and married, was electrocuted tonight by grasping the metal arm on an electric light pole.

MASKED MOB TAKES NEGRO FROM JAIL AND LYNCHES HIM

Accused of Brutal Assault on Farmer's Wife He Pays Penalty With His Life

SHERIFF OF COUNTY KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS

Mob Pursues Negro to the Woods for Three Miles.—His Body Riddled

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga., April 8.—Shortly after midnight this morning a mob of 200 masked men stormed the jail here and after attacking the sheriff and taking his keys from him, secured the negro, Charles Hale, arrested earlier in the night for assaulting Mrs. C. C. Williams. They took him to a corner in the business part of the town and strung him up to a tree, riddled the body with bullets.

According to Sheriff E. S. Carner the mob, composed of residents of the county, surrounding Lawrenceville. While the sheriff was parleying with the ringleaders in the yard of the jail, three others slipped behind and dealt him a heavy blow on the head rendering him unconscious. They then secured his keys and made away with the prisoner.

Husband Aways.

The assault on Mrs. Williams is said to have been unusually brutal. Her husband, a prominent young farmer, was away from home when the negro slipped into the house this afternoon and before Mrs. Williams could offer any resistance he seized her and threw her on the floor. In the scuffle almost all the woman's clothing was torn from her body.

Williams, who is paralyzed in the upper part of his body, found the negro there on his return. Hale, it is said threatened both with death if they revealed the crime. As soon as he disappeared Williams gave the alarm and Sheriff Garner organized a posse and started the hunt with blood hounds. The chase led into the Yellow River bottom three miles away where the negro was captured. The negro is said to have confessed his crime.

TIGERS HAD NO TROUBLE.

CINCINNATI, O., April 7.—Detroit, American league team, had no trouble in defeating Cincinnati Nationals today. The game was practically settled in the fourth when "by blight" a steal home coaxed Fromme into a wild pitch, allowing both Cobb and Crawford to count.

RUSHING FROM ROOM IN ROANOKE HOTEL CRAZED MAN SHOOT AT ANOTHER

Fires Thrice in Hotel Corridor and Wounds a Man Without Cause

DRUG FIEND

ROANOKE, Va., April 7.—C. L. Blakemore, local agent for a typewriter concern, fired three shots at Jefferson Green, a promoter, of Richmond, Va. Two of the bullets struck Green and one went wild. The shooting occurred at seven o'clock tonight in the corridor of the hotel where the men were stopping.

Blakemore was under treatment for the drug habit. He rushed out of his room and met Green, who is interested in the concern which was treating Blakemore. He was using vile epithets and then opened fire on Green. Following the shooting Blakemore became more violent and was placed in charge of a physician. Green's wounds are not serious. Blakemore is guarded by a policeman.

BANISHED FROM N. C. FOR REST OF LIFE

BRISTOL, Tenn., April 7.—Clarence Potter, a young man, once banished from Watauga county, North Carolina, for his part in bloody feuds, but who returned when the time limit expired to find himself again in a shooting affray in which a shot from his gun shattered the bones in his aged mother's leg, making her a cripple for life, has just accepted the alternative of banishment from North Carolina for life in preference to a sentence of two years in its state prison. The judge of the Watauga county court gave Potter the privilege of a choice. Potter made his escape after wounding his mother, but was recently captured in Kentucky. He was implicated with Boone Potter, it is charged, in the killing of Sheriff Howard in Western North Carolina a few years ago.

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

GREENSBORO, N. C., April 7.—While hunting yesterday afternoon Hal Hoover accidentally shot his brother, Earl Hoover, killing him instantly.

If You Miss Willie These Days You'll Know Where to Find Him.



SENATOR MARTIN CHOSEN LEADER FOR SENATE DEMOCRATS IN EASY FASHION

Caucus Was Harmonious the Sharp Fight Expected Not Materializing.—Progressives Voted for Indiana Senator to Please Bryan.—Looks Like Turn Down for Former Leader of Democratic Party.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Senator Thomas S. Martin of Virginia was selected at the democratic caucus today as permanent caucus chairman and minority leader during the present congress. He received 21 out of the 37 votes cast, 16 going to Senator Benjamin F. Shively of Indiana, who was elected vice chairman. Senator W. E. Chilton of West Virginia was elected secretary of the caucus, and the two last named places having been filled by acclamation. Senator Owen declined a re-election as secretary.

Was Not Shively's Choice.

The expected tug-of-war contest did not develop. Prior to the session the progressive democrats, as the followers of Wm. Jennings Bryan prefer to be designated, met in the office of Senator Owen to canvass the situation. A number found themselves in an embarrassing position because of pledges made many weeks ago that they would support Mr. Martin for the minority leadership. It was decided that the progressives should vote for Senator Newlands, as Senators Culberson of Texas and Stone of Missouri both declined to become candidates. The plan was changed in caucus, however, when it was learned that Mr. Shively, who was the vice chairman under the leadership of Senator Murray during the last congress, would not object to receiving the complimentary vote of those who would not vote for Martin.

Could Not Be Defeated.

Several of the progressives after the conference, conceded that Mr. Martin could not be defeated. Failure to upset his candidacy was due partly to his having been originally brought out as the candidate of the Bryan following, led by Senator Stone to prevent the election of either Senator Bailey of Bacon. Both of these senators, generally known as the regulars, were opposed by the progressives. It looked for a time that Mr. Martin would be elected unanimously but Mr. Bryan wanted an out and progressive named and frankly told some of the new democratic senators that they were throwing away their opportunities.

Mr. Martin was nominated by Senator Clarke of Arkansas and Senator Shively by Senator Kern of Indiana, the running mate of Mr. Bryan in the last campaign. Senator Stone seconded the Shively nomination. The 37 votes cast account for the democratic strength except four. Senators Tillman of South Carolina, Terrell of Georgia, and Shively were absent because of illness and Senator Martin did not vote. The roll call follows:

For Martin: Bacon, Bailey, Bankhead, Bryan of Florida, Chilton, Clark, Culberson, Fletcher, Foote, Johnston, Overman, Paynter, Percy, Rayner, Simmons, Smith of Maryland, Swanson, Taylor, Thornton, Watson, and Williams.

For Shively: Chamberlain, Davis, Gore, Hitchcock, Johnson of Maine, Kern, Lea, Martine, Myers, Newlands, O'Gorman, Owen, Pomerene, Reed, Smith of South Carolina and Stone.

Battle Fought in Advance.

The fact that the battle had been fought in advance of the caucus enabled the democrats to keep in the background all of the Bryan and anti-

Bryan sentiment manifested during the preliminary scrimmages. The friends of Senator Martin decided that inasmuch as they had the votes to elect their candidate it would be folly to bring this question into the caucus which appeared to be entirely harmonious.

The appointment by Chairman Martin of a steering committee which will also serve as a committee on committees, was authorized by the caucus. The committee will have to report its program for the filling of vacancies on standing committees to the caucus itself.

A statement issued by Senator Owen, speaking for senators who voted against Mr. Martin, says:

"Those who supported Shively did so because they are militant progressive democrats, determined to enforce the policies of the national progressive democrats and they feared that the country might feel that Senator Martin would not be regarded as progressive as the country had a right to expect of the leader of the senate. We expect the country to be agreeably disappointed in this matter. There are at least 2 or 23 militant progressive democratic senators who have not heretofore been regarded as in complete sympathy with the platform will be found actively progressive so that there shall be in the senate a party united in spirit and in common purpose to control the special interests of this country and restore the rights of the common people."

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STATE UNIVERSITIES TO MEET ON DIAMOND TODAY

Virginia and Carolina Will Play First Game of Series at Greensboro

GREENSBORO, N. C., April 7.—

The college spirit was in full blast here tonight, the even of the first of the annual series of baseball games between the Universities of North Carolina and Virginia. The arrival of the Charlottesville squad was the signal for great demonstrations by the supporters of the Virginians.

The Carolina team will arrive early tomorrow morning on a special train, accompanied by the entire student body.

It was announced tonight that Rixby would be sent to the box for Virginia, while either Lee or Duls will pitch for Carolina. In fielding the teams appear to be on a par, though it is conceded that the Virginia battery has displayed more class than that of the Tar Heels.

The teams play the second game in Charlotte Monday.

AMENDMENT PASSES IN TENN.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 7.—The house today concurred in the senate resolution favoring an income tax amendment to the federal constitution. A bill was introduced in the house forbidding the sale of coca-cola and providing heavy penalties.

CHAMPS TOOK ANOTHER.

PHILADELPHIA, April 7.—The world's champions took another game today from the Philadelphia Nationals, making the interleague series stand 3 to 1 in favor of the Americans.

GROCERY FIRM CHARGED WITH FRAUD IN SHIPPING

In Making Shipments Described Goods Wrong to Get Lower Rates

RICHMOND, Va., April 7.—The

grand jury in the United States District court today returned an indictment containing nine counts against the E. B. Taylor company, a wholesale grocery firm of this city, charging misdescription of freight shipments to avoid payment of legal rates. The allegations presented by the government are to the effect that the company in making mixed shipments, described the packages as containing only goods of the lowest classification, whereas the law requires that when a package contains several classes of freight each class shall be described and the rate shall be governed by the article having the highest classification. The indictment followed an investigation made by agents of the interstate commerce commission at the instance of the Southern Weighing and Inspection Bureau, an organization maintained by the railroads.

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PRESIDENT AND BRYAN IN CONFERENCE FOR PEACE

Two Distinguished Men Discuss Privately International Peace Outlook

WASHINGTON, April 7.—President

Taft and William Jennings Bryan talked about peace today. Other things may have come up in the hours discussion the president and the Nebraskan had together at the White House, but international peace dominated Mr. Bryan was particularly interested in a proposition submitted by him to President Taft more than a year ago which he thought might do much to prevent war—a commission to which disputes between nations might be submitted. The commission's findings would not bind the countries involved but they would be published to the world and thus exert moral force.

DISCUSSED BETTING.

NORFOLK, Va., April 7.—Following a conference between Attorney General E. W. Williams of Virginia; Judge Jos. T. Lawson of the Norfolk county circuit court, and Commonwealth's Attorney R. C. Marshall, it was stated by the latter that the question of betting at the Jamestown Jockey club was one of the things discussed.

STEAMER ABANDONED.

KEY WEST, Fla., April 7.—The British steamer Hannah M. Bell, which went aground on Elbow reef last Monday night, has been abandoned by the wreckers, according to Capt. Sawyer, of the schooner Mount Vernon, which returned from the wreck early today.

PEOPLE WRITING TO CONGRESSMEN FOR RECIPROCITY

Three of Congressmen From North Carolina Mountain Districts are Undecided

PROPOSED RAILROAD WILL BE COMPLETED

Arrangements Made for Completion of Road Planned From Elkin to Sparta

Citizen Bureau, Congress Hall.

By H. E. C. Bryant. WASHINGTON, April 17.—The Elkin-Alleghany railroad planned to extend from Elkin to Sparta is in a fair way of enlargement and completion. For some time financiers with abundant means to complete and carry the project commenced by Stryker, Watauga and Alleghany county men have been preparing to take over the road, twelve miles of which has been graded, and to carry it to completion, which ultimately means a line from some point in Virginia to Lexington, where it would connect with the Southern and the south-bound. This road, as now contemplated, will open up one of the finest agricultural sections in the South. The country through which it would pass is the largest undeveloped section east of the Mississippi.

Although no names can be used at this time, I am assured and confident that within a very short time definite plans for the building of this road will be perfected, and that the work commenced at Elkin several years ago will be resumed at an early day. This road as surveyed would pass through Sparta, Elkin, Yadkinville, Advance and other smaller towns on its way from Graham county, Va., to Lexington.

Chief Engineer Pierce, of the road construction wing of the good roads office, has notified Senator Overman that he will send an expert to Murphy to help the county commissioners build some model highways in Cherokee, the data being used for the first of June or thereabout.

Wants Government Road.

Senator Overman is trying to get the government to build a trolley road connecting Raleigh with the state fair grounds. Uncle Sam gives to the Agricultural and Mechanical college at West Raleigh \$7,500 a year, and being thus interested, should construct the road as a model bit of highway construction. Mr. Overman thinks he will succeed. If the road is built it will be used as an object lesson for the A. and M. boys and others.

Jay L. Kerley, a Morganton boy, now a midshipman, has been notified that he will have to resign on graduating day from the naval academy, where he completes his fourth year this spring, because of defective vision. Senator Overman and Representative Webb are going to do what they can to have him retained. If the young fellow is forced out he will have to quit without pay. Nothing has ever been said about his sight before this year.

Letters About Reciprocity.

Southern congressmen are receiving many letters from the rural districts concerning the reciprocity treaty with Canada. Cotton growers are not especially interested, but cattle, poultry and lumber men are. Several of the North Carolina delegation, especially those who have mountain counties, cannot make up their minds about the Taft agreement. They are skeptical. But much is being said on both sides. Those who oppose the treaty had a little gain played on them just before the last congress adjourned. A resolution providing for the publication of a little pamphlet—a public document—on

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HIGH POINT MURDERER IS FOUND GUILTY IN SECOND DEGREE AT GREENSBORO

Moses Speaks Pleads Insanity for Murder of Two Several Weeks Ago

BEEN IN ASYLUM

GREENSBORO, N. C., April 7.—A verdict of second degree murder was returned against Moses Speaks, an insane man, in the murder of his wife and son-in-law at High Point, N. C., a month ago late this afternoon. Sentence will be passed tomorrow. Three young sons of Speaks were the principal witnesses for the state, one a lad in knee trousers being the only eye-witness to the tragedy. He gave a clear and graphic account of the crime.

The defense showed that Speaks had twice been confined in asylums and contended that he was irresponsible at the time of the tragedy. The jury's verdict was a compromise one, and was acceptable to both prosecution and defense.