

# Over Three Hundred Lives Lost In Fearful Marine Disaster

## French Battleship Wrecked By Fire And Explosions

At Least Half of Crew of Over 700 Perished at Early Hour—Three Terrific Explosions Followed Fire.

Bodies of Sailors Hurling Into Air—Many Jumped Overboard And Perished While Others Were Killed in Their Sleep.

- By Associated Press.
- Other notable French naval disasters of recent years were:
  - October 16, 1906—Submarine *Galatée*, lost off Bizerta, 13 dead.
  - February 8, 1907—Explosion on torpedo boat No. 339, nine dead.
  - February 19, 1907—Cruiser *Jean Bart* lost off the northwest coast of Africa; no deaths.
  - March 10, 1907—Magazines on battleship *Iena* blew up; 107 lives lost.
  - August 13, 1908—Gun exploded aboard the school ship *Couronne* at Toulon; six dead.
  - September 23, 1908—Gun exploded aboard cruiser *La Touche Treville* at Toulon; 13 dead.
  - May 27, 1910—Submarine *Pluton* remained submerged after diving in the harbor of Calais; 27 dead.
  - September 19, 1911—Gun exploded aboard cruiser *Glaucos* at Toulon; one man killed and 13 injured, five fatally.

Toulon, France, Sept. 25.—Havoc of the more appalling than wars, fiercest that could have wrought occurred on the French battleship *Liberte* early today when an incipient blaze grew into sweeping flames and ate their way into the fighting vessel's magazines.

Terrific explosions that followed killed from 350 to 500 men.

Most of the death toll is confined to the *Liberte's* roster but men and officers of other French ships lying at anchor off Toulon were killed when they went to the rescue of the doomed *Liberte's* crew.

First intimation of trouble that was to grow into one of the most appalling naval disasters in times of peace came at 5 o'clock this morning when an alarm of fire was sounded on the *Liberte*. Immediately water was turned on to a blaze in the hold that was not considered menacing until some time after its discovery.

As the stubborn fire ate its way toward three magazines there came violent explosion. This gave impetus to the blaze and in another moment there occurred a series of detonations.

By this time sailors, panic stricken by their sudden realization that the flames were hissing their way peculiarly close to the main magazines began to hurl themselves from the side of the vessel. Before many could escape, however, the fire broke through the magazine vaults.

There came an explosion that rent the giant fighting ship in twain. Great gashes were torn in her steel armor and from these fissures bodies of officers and men were hurled for great distances into the harbor's waters.

Pieces of armor plate, hissing through the air amid corpses of stricken sailors struck sister vessels of the *Liberte*. The Republic (hit by a flying fragment was forced to hurry to the docks for repairs.

The disaster to the *Liberte* is a startling climax to a long series of accidents in the French navy.

Toulon, France, Sept. 25.—Death to more than half the crew of 793 officers and men of the battleship *Liberte*, counted one of the finest vessels in the French navy, followed fire and explosions which wrecked the great ship today.

**Terrific Explosion.**

The fire was discovered at 5 o'clock. It first did not appear to be serious but some how it gained a quick advantage over the squad of sailors sent to extinguish it and suddenly without warning it reached the magazines, which had not been flooded on account of the apparently trifling nature of the blaze.

The force of the explosions was terrific. They shook the vessel fore and aft, each one seemingly stronger than that preceding, opening up great fissures in the armor and framework of the vessel.

The vessel immediately became a mass of fire and smoke and soon almost demolished by the terrific detonations, sank to the bottom of Toulon harbor.

**Early Estimate of Dead.**

At an early hour unofficial estimates of the number of dead ran as high as 500. Estimates by naval men varied widely but there were no doubt that the loss of life was more than 300. Scores of men died in their berths. A few dozen saved themselves by jumping overboard. Many of these injured leaped into the water and were drowned before the boats from the other ships in the roadstead could reach them.

Two hundred of the crew escaped death owing to the fact that they were ashore on leave. Commander Jaures, a brother of the socialist deputy, was not on board.

**Bodies Hurling Into Air.**

The carnage in the explosion was worse than could ever have occurred in an actual naval engagement. The first crash came when the crew was for the most part dispersed in various sections of the vessel. They were without warning of their danger. Scores of bodies were hurled high into the air accompanied by great fragments of frame work, armor, bursting shells and the blinding, suffocating smoke of the powder.

**Crew Panic Stricken.**

Men below who had not yet been awakened were killed in their sleep. Others, awakened by the explosion started to jump overboard, and were caught by the second detonation. The crew was panic stricken and rushed wildly about, groping in the smoke in which many fell.

**Three Great Explosions.**

There were many vessels in the harbor at the time, including a number of warships which have been maneuvering here since the first of the month. The first explosion brought a quick response from the nearby men of war and from the shore. Dozens of boats put off and picked up survivors and floating bodies.

There were three tremendous explosions in quick succession after the fire reached the magazines. One hundred men saved themselves by jumping and others would have escaped but for the discipline which held them at their posts. At the first explosion the men below suddenly awakened, tumbled from their berths and rushing to the sides of the vessel, were throwing themselves overboard when an order calling them to their stations rang out and held to their death those who had not already escaped.

From 300 to 500 of the crew of the *Liberte* and about 100 men from the other warships which had been sent to help extinguish the fire disappeared. The demerit last 20 dead and 50 injured.

**Long Series of Disasters.**

Paris, Sept. 25.—The news of the explosion of the magazines of the battleship *Liberte* came as a stunning blow to the French public and to naval officials. It is the climax of a long series of disasters which have marked the history of the French navy since the blowing up of the battleship *Iena* on March 3, 1907.

The accounts of the disaster as received here during the morning hours varied widely. The most authentic dispatches stated that the sinking came nearly two hours after the discovery of the fire in the forward hold. Another account said that the ship broke in half from the force of the explosions and sank 20 minutes later. According to this version the battleship afterwards reappeared at the surface for a time, a grim carcass of iron surrounded by a tangle mass of wreckage.

Unconscious on the porch of his West Sixteenth street home. In a brief period of consciousness while the ambulance doctor was bandaging his wounds he told the policeman that he knew of the attack. He had been at a party with Miss Westley, he said, and was escorting her home when he was set upon by the men, none of whom he recognized. Both he and the girl fought them but after knocking him down they picked her up bodily and rushed off toward the river.

(Continued on Page Two.)

**MR. POULTRY MAN.**

If you would sell your products you must let those interested know you have the stock for sale. Consider the hen—your hens. They "set" you an example. Every time they lay an egg they advertise it—cackle for ten or more minutes.

When you hear that cackle you know there is a new-laid egg. When you advertise your stock in The News you know people are reading it.

**GET THE RATE.**



**AVIATOR OVINGTON ENTERS RACE.**

Earl L. Ovington (bareheaded); Premier Bleriot flyer of America, who started from Los Angeles Saturday, September 23, for New York for the Hearst \$50,000 prize and (below) a snapshot of him in flight.

**SPARTANBURG WON'T HAVE THE STATE TROOPS**

By Associated Press.

Spartanburg, S. C., Sept. 25.—Adjutant General O. W. Babb, General Moore of the state militia and Mayor J. B. Lee conferred this morning on the Spartanburg street car strike situation and decided not to call out the troops which yesterday were ordered to hold themselves in readiness.

A few cars were operated today by green hands and there was no disorder in the early hours.

The strike was precipitated, it is declared by the discharge of 16 motor men and conductors who refused to sign an alleged agreement drawn up by the company promising not to affiliate with any labor organization. Twenty additional men went out, tying up the city's traction system.

Persons familiar with the situation declare there is little chance of an early settlement between the company and men as both are holding their own. Unconfirmed reports tell of labor troubles today at Saxon mills and Glendale, S. C., both cotton towns.

**Violent Drops In Price of Stock**

By Associated Press.

New York, Sept. 25.—A violent drop in prices on the stock exchange today followed another outburst of selling by holders of stock in all parts of this country and Europe. The drop was more general and more precipitate than in any previous time during the decline of the last two months.

The market was comparatively calm at the opening, but as the session progressed outpouring of stocks increased. Fluctuations became violent.

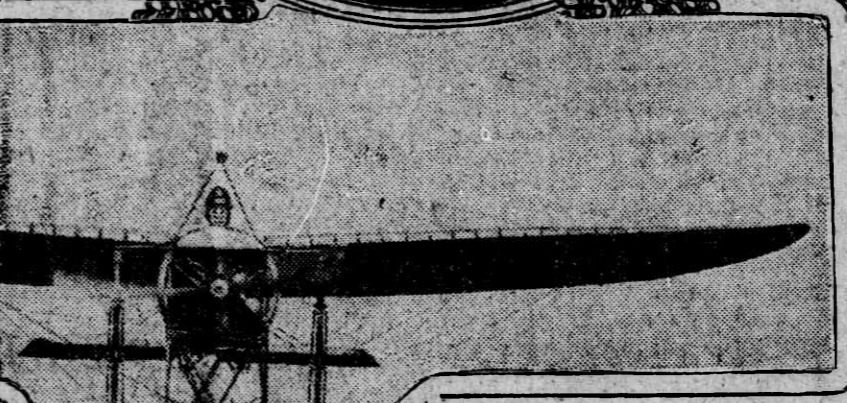
United States Steel, storm center of last week's movement, fell 4 3/4 to 51 7/8. Reading declined 5 points, Union Pacific 6, St. Paul 4, and Southern and Canadian Pacific fell 3 points. Sales in the first two hours of trading amounted to 621,000 shares.

Uneasiness of investors concerning the enforcement of the anti-trust law again, was given generally in Wall Street as an explanation of the movement.

After a half hour of wild selling the market grew calmer and prices rallied from a point to a point and a half.

United States Steel rallied to 53.

Cotton receipts today 29 bales at 10 1/4, against 104 at 13.10 same date last year.



**GOVERNOR HADLEY DEPLORES FARMING METHODS**

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Sept. 25.—Speakers at the opening session of the third annual National Conservation Congress here today declared that the continuation of the present farming methods would result calamitously for the country.

Not only a change in treatment of the soil, but of the country people as well was urged. Only by bettering social conditions on the farm, it was declared, could young persons be kept there.

Governor Herbert S. Hadley, of Missouri, in welcoming the delegates to the state asserted fully 40 per cent of the land in this country was farmed so that its productive qualities were decreased.

President Henry Wallace, of the congress, in reply to the welcome, assailed the farmer as a soil robber. He declared land in the United States produced crops only one-half the size of those grown on poorer land in Europe. The solution of the high cost of living problem lies in better farming methods, he said.

The Governor's Address.

"Up to the present time in this country we have been peculiarly fortunate in that our production has exceeded consumption and the supply has always been greater than the demand. The result has been that the American people alone of all the people in the world have eaten the same kind of food. And no stronger influence could exist as against the creation of a surplus of food."

**Tobacco Trust Plans Reorganization**

By Associated Press.

New York, Sept. 25.—Announcement was made at the conclusion of the conference looking to the reorganization of the American Tobacco Company today that a petition would be filed with the United States circuit court on October 2, setting forth the proposed plan of dissolution in consonance with the mandate of the supreme court and that public hearings on the plan would follow.

The Hornet's Nest Riflemen have a drill tonight. Capt. Parker asks a full turnout of the company.

**Four Persons Smothered In Incendiary Fire That Burned Houses in Chicago**

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Sept. 25.—Four persons were smothered to death early today in a fire said to be incendiary, that partly destroyed two small flat buildings at 1,336 South Sangamon street. The dead are Harry Egalovitch, his wife, their baby and L. Alport, a boarder. They lived in the third flat of a three story rear building. A two story building fronting on the street was also partly destroyed.

All other occupants of the buildings escaped in their night clothes and it was thought that no one had been hurt until the firemen found the four persons dead. Their bodies were scarcely scorched and it is thought they were asphyxiated by smoke before the alarm of fire aroused them. Two babies were dropped from second floor windows unhurt.

# Bill Board Said to Be Responsible For Fatal Wreck

## CONSERVATION CONGRESSMEN IN KANSAS CITY

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 25.—Determined to give an added impetus to the cause of conserving the nation's natural resources 3,500 delegates to the third national conservation congress assembled here today.

Statesmen, scientists, educators, farmers and representatives of every branch of American business and social life were in attendance. Every state in the union was represented. Thos. R. Shipp, executive secretary of the congress, said this year's meeting was the most representative congress ever held.

President Taft will deliver an address tonight. It is said this speech probably will be the most important he will deliver during his present tour. Kansas City is near the storm center of republican insurgency.

On Tuesday night Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry in the department of agriculture, will deliver an address on "The Health of the People."

William J. Bryan will be the principal speaker at the last session on Wednesday.

Among other distinguished men scheduled to take part are Walter L. Fisher, secretary of interior, and Henry S. Graves, United States forester.

While they program this year embraces every phase of the subject of conservation, officials of the congress planned to make the two paramount questions the conservation of the soil and the betterment of country life conditions. To this end the best known soil experts in the country are among those scheduled to speak and women will lead a discussion which it is hoped will start a nationwide movement for the establishment of community clubs in every farming district of the country.

There will be discussed the country schools and country churches. It is planned to begin an educational crusade to make the farm home more attractive to the boys and girls so they will not be tempted by city life.

This morning Governor Herbert S. Hadley, of Missouri, delivers an address of welcome to which President Wallace and J. B. White, chairman of the executive committee of the congress, responded.

## Fast Train Crashes into Wagon, Loaded Down With Merry-Makers—Thirteen Persons Killed—Others May Die From Injuries.

By Associated Press.

Neenah, Wis., Sept. 25.—County officers today began investigation of the killing of 13 members of a hay rack party that resulted from collision with a fast train on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad yesterday.

It is said the accident was due to a large bill board that obstructed the view of the driver of the team, and the engineer.

The 18 survivors, eight of whom were unhurt and three of whom may die of injuries, say the accident could have been avoided but for the sign board.

Nearly all the 31 young people on the hayrack were employed in a wooden ware factory. They had attended a wedding anniversary at the home of Peter Hanson.

Hanson, who was driving the wagon, escaped without injury as did his team. He said he heard the noise of the train but that the sound seemed to be deflected by the billboard so that the unseen train rumbled as though it were half a mile away. The billboard stood between the railroad and the highway, which crossed at a sharp angle.

The engineer of the train, which was running 60 miles an hour said, after he had helped remove six of the dead persons from the pilot of the locomotive that he did not see the wagon because of the billboard.

Mrs. Joseph Brezinski's baby was saved from injury as if by miracle. Mrs. Brezinski, holding the child, sat with her husband near the front of the hayrack. A few feet towards the rear of the wagon sat Miss Mary Schwartzbauer.

After the train cut the wagon in two the Brezinski's found themselves sitting on their ground, slightly shaken up. The baby was not there. The parents ran about in the dim light of the morning in frantic search of the child. Fifty feet from the track they found the baby unharmed in the arms of Miss Schwartzbauer, who was unconscious, but not otherwise injured.

## Driver of Wagon and Engineer Both Declare That Bill Board Was Responsible for The Collision—A Miraculous Escape.

By Associated Press.

Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 25.—This is "Bryan day" at the Appalachian Exposition. The Newbarkan arrived this morning and went to the exposition grounds early in the day where he made a tour of the various exhibit buildings and participated in pleasures of the exposition. This afternoon at 4 o'clock he will deliver an address at the exposition grounds upon the theme, "The Signs of the Times." His visit here has no political significance.

## "BRYAN DAY" AT THE EXPOSITION

By Associated Press.

Kiev, Russia, Sept. 25.—Dmitry Bogroff, the assassin of Premier Stolypin, who was condemned to death by court martial, was hanged today.

Before his execution the young man asked that he might see a rabbi, but refused this consolation when informed that the interview must be in the presence of officials.

## Murderer of Stolypin Hanged To-day

By Associated Press.

Buckhannon, W. Va., Sept. 25.—Mrs. Laura J. Arnold, the only sister of the late General "Stonewall" Jackson, died yesterday at the city hospital here from diseases incident to old age. Mrs. Arnold was 85 years few weeks of her death. She was born in Clarksburg, Va., now West Virginia, in 1826, and was married in 1843 to the late Jonathan Arnold, of Beverly, Randolph county.

Mrs. Arnold was the last surviving member of the Jackson family. For years she had lived with her son, Mr. Thomas Arnold, at Buckhannon, W. Va. Mr. Arnold married Miss Eugenia Hill, a daughter of the late General D. H. Hill, and a niece of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson received a telegram this morning announcing the death of General Jackson's sister.

## Gen. Jackson's Sister Dies

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Sept. 25.—Charges that Joseph Letter had failed to make payments on notes given for wheat in his attempt to corner the market in 1897 and 1898 were made today in a suit for \$300,000 filed by F. H. Peavey & Co., the holding company of the Peavey Grain Co.

**THE WEATHER.**

By Associated Press.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Forecast for the 26th: Partly cloudy, fair tonight and Tuesday; light variable winds.

# Searching New York For a Young Girl Kidnapped By Men Who Killed Her Escort

By Associated Press.

New York, Sept. 25.—The police of the West Side are searching today for Irene Westley, a comely 17-year-old girl who was kidnapped by four unidentified men early today as she was returning home with James Kerns, an 18-year-old neighbor. Kerns was beaten into insensibility by repeated blows from a beer bottle wielded by one of the assailants and is lying in the New York hospital with a fractured skull.

Kerns was found by a policeman

By Associated Press.