

MYSTERY SURROUNDS FATE OF BIG STEAMER

Wrecking Crew and Divers Are Trying to Learn Fate of Passengers and Crew of Liner Valbanera.

BELIEVE THE SHIP HAS BEEN FOUND

Hull of Sunken Ship Shows Same Name, But Its Size Baffles the Rescuing Parties.

(By The Associated Press.) Key West, Fla., Sept. 20.—With a wrecking crew and divers examining the sunken hull, and with scores of boats searching the surrounding waters and islands for a trace of the bodies of survivors, the fate of the 450 members of passengers and crew of the Spanish steamer Valbanera, which foundered during the hurricane last week, was expected to be cleared up today.

The Valbanera, bound from Spanish ports for Havana, was last heard from on the night of September 8, when she appeared off the entrance to the Havana harbor. Yesterday a steamer bearing that name but reported smaller than the missing vessel, was found off Rebecca Shoals Light, 40 miles from Key West. The wreck was located on a drifting bed of quicksand in about forty feet of water. Divers sent to examine the hull, reported that the wreck bore the name of Calbanera, but said the vessel appeared only half as large as the missing passenger liner.

Ensign B. R. Roberts, commander of a sub-chaser also said he had seen the name plate of Valbanera on the wreck, and his statement confirms the belief that the sunken vessel was the one sought. There was nobody in the vicinity of the wreck and nothing to indicate what had become of the 300 passengers and the 150 members of the crew.

Further examination today of the wreck is expected to show whether those on board got away in small boats. None have been picked up but search of the surrounding waters and islands is being continued in the hope that some survivor may have reached land or that bodies may be found. The majority of those on the ill-fated boat were Spaniards or Cubans.

Crew of Divers Sent. Key West, Sept. 20.—Rear Admiral Decker, commander of the seventh Naval district and the Cuban consul left here this morning with a crew of divers to investigate the wreck of the Spanish steamer Valbanera, in an effort to learn something of the fate of the 450 passengers and crew on the vessel.

300 Passengers May Have Been Drowned. Key West, Sept. 19.—A sunken steamer on which divers reported they could plainly make out the name "Valbanera" was found today near Rebecca shoals light house, 40 miles from here. The Spanish steamer Valbanera with about 300 passengers on board has been missing since the hurricane 10 days ago.

In addition to the passengers the Valbanera carried a crew of 150, it was said here. No trace of either passengers or crew has been found.

The Valbanera arrived off Morro Castle, Havana, September 9, but due to the tropical hurricane which swept these waters at that time was unable to enter port. She put to sea and although wireless calls supposed to have come from the Valbanera have been reported, she had not been located. Cuban subchasers have been sent to search for her and it was suggested seaplanes might go out from Key West on the same mission.

The steamer was found today, sunk in 40 feet of water in the quicksand, by a United States coast guard vessel.

NEGOTIATIONS TO ABSORB AMERICAN TOBACCO CO.

By the United Retail Stores Corporation Said to Be Underway. (By The Associated Press.) New York, Sept. 20.—Negotiations looking toward the absorption of the American Tobacco Company by the United Retail Stores Corporation, formed last June by Geo. F. Whelan, were reported to be underway today, according to rumors in the financial district, which could not be officially confirmed, the deal would involve at least the amount of the American Tobacco Company's capital, which is \$50,000,000.

Mr. Whelan would neither affirm nor deny the report of the deal. He said he expected to make an announcement next Wednesday which would deal with American Tobacco Company.

Rock Hill Banker to Serve Five Years. Greenville, S. C., Sept. 20.—R. A. Carr, formerly a prominent banker of Rock Hill and a member of the draft board, convicted at Rock Hill on a charge of forgery in connection with checks, statements will be taken to the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta today to begin a five years sentence.

PETROGRAD WANTS PEACE AT ANY PRICE.

(By The Associated Press.) Copenhagen, Sept. 20.—The city soviet of Petrograd has empowered the peoples commissaries to begin peace negotiations with the allies on the basis of the conditions fixed by the allied powers, according to reports received from Petrograd.

Peace is wished at any price by the Petrograd soviet, the dispatch declares.

No peace offer to the allies has been reported from the central soviet government at Moscow and an offer by the Petrograd city soviet would therefore appear to be in the nature of a separate peace proposal by Petrograd.

Living conditions in Petrograd have been reported extremely bad for some time. Recent dispatches reported an epidemic of cholera raging there with from 200 to 300 persons dying daily and conditions becoming intolerable. Famine was also said to be threatening the city.

SCHOOLS OPEN MONDAY.

Everything Ready for the Opening of All Public Schools of the City Monday Morning.—Teachers All Present. Professor A. S. Webb, superintendent of the Concord public schools announced today that everything is in readiness for the opening of the city Monday. All teachers have arrived, Mr. Webb stated, and all plans for the opening have been perfected by the various faculties and others interested.

Miss Eugenia Ponder, teacher of the sixth grade, whose home is in Cherokee, S. C., arrived in the city last night. Miss Bok and Miss Boyd, of the high school faculty, have already arrived here, and Miss Margaret Martin, of Durham, also of the faculty of the high school, reached here at 3:20 this afternoon.

Miss Clara Harris, Mrs. Bernard Fetzer and Miss Margaret Hendrix of the primary department faculty will be in charge of the afternoon section of the department for the first two weeks of school.

No change has been made, Mr. Webb said, in the plan for the opening and closing of the school each day. Work will begin at 9 o'clock, and the different grades will be dismissed each day at the same hour as last year. The same recess periods also will be observed this year as heretofore.

All the colored school teachers are present for the opening of that school Monday morning, and all reports indicate that there will be a large increase in the number of students there.

CHARLOTTE NEGROES ARE ORGANIZED

Marvin Ritch Denies Rumor That He Is Organizer.—More Than 300 in Charlotte Said to Have Joined. Charlotte Observer. Doctrines of organized labor have found more than 300 disciples among Charlotte negroes in the past few months, it was learned last night from supposedly reliable sources.

So far has the idea progressed, it was said, that the charter already has been secured, and action of some kind is said to be contemplated when the congress workers and oil workers are brought into the ranks of the unionists.

Meetings are held each Tuesday night in the big negro hall, Second and Caldwell streets, it was learned, and a pass word must be given before the sentry or warden will open the door to the council chamber.

The sentry is said to be Jayhugh Davis. Every precaution is taken to keep the existence of the negro union a secret, it appears.

Persistent reports have been circulated in Charlotte of late that the negroes are organizing. These reports have been coupled with the name of Marvin Ritch, Charlotte attorney, now under bond for his appearance before an Alameda judge next week, as organizer.

These reports have been repeatedly and emphatically denied by Mr. Ritch. Investigating the reports last night, an Observer man talked to a negro who is denied membership to the union because he is an employer and not an employee.

WHO WILL WIN THE \$20 IN GOLD TODAY?

Tonight Will Determine Who Will Be the Lucky One.—Last Minute Work May Win the Coin.

OVERLAND TO ARRIVE HERE NEXT WEEK

It Is a Dandy Car, Perfected to the Most Minute Detail.—Every Candidate Should Now Work to the Utmost.

Tonight will determine the winner of the \$20.00 in gold, and although this message will come to you only a few hours before closing time, yet in time for you to secure several more new subscribers which may put you across the boundary line between defeat and victory.

Many a battle has been won in the eleventh hour and the roof fighter strikes to win the moment. Our offer for next week will be announced in Monday's issue of The Tribune and Times. Naturally it is going to bring to you the means of narrowing the margin between victory and defeat so be prepared to meet the conditions, and let the next week be your week. No candidate can expect to lead each week but you must lead your share. We are going to expect better results next week from contestants than ever before and so if you want to keep up your end you must do better than heretofore.

Contestants who have heretofore rested on the support of their friends are beginning to see the advantage offered them and are now out in earnest for themselves. There has been at least three candidates this past week who have expressed their intentions of going in to win and they are making rapid strides in that direction. They are receiving encouragement and support from their friends and all the consideration possible from the Campaign Manager's office.

We expected that Overland, Model 1 in this past week, but were greatly disappointed. It had been shipped over two weeks ago but evidently was delayed en route. Undoubtedly it will arrive next week and several of the candidates have requested the Campaign Manager to give them a ride in it. As yet we have not decided whether we will or not, for when it is turned over to the winner we want it to be brand new. It is all that an automobile should be, perfected to the most minute detail and with a two-year test behind it as has no other ever gone through successfully. The Overland car has been built, not manufactured, by an organization of expert automobile men who have taken a pride in the finished product for they have felt that their reputation as scientific men, electric, and steel experts was at stake, and not only the bravest men in the profession helped in the construction of this car but also every mechanic in the Whily-Overland plant submitted plans and improvements to be passed upon and put to the iron test. Numerous improvements were added and when found not practical done away with. The result has been that no other car has ever been placed on the market with more new and improved perfected additions as has this wonderful car which we are offering you.

Do not leave a stone unturned in your efforts as a candidate to bring it home to your garage. You will own a car which will give you service for years to come at an economical upkeep as possible.

THE COTTON MARKET.

Nervous and Irregular.—Soon Rallied From Lower Opening. (By The Associated Press.) New York, Sept. 20.—The cotton market was comparatively nervous and irregular during today's early trading. Overnight spot and crop advices were bullish and week-end reviews of goods trade rather more encouraging, but sentiment was unsettled by the labor situation and the opening was 6 to 22 points lower under realizing and scattered liquidation.

There was some Southern selling here on the decline to 29.83 for December, but the price later rallied to 29.94 on covering.

Cotton opened fairly steady; October 29.70; December 29.90; January 29.85; March 30.00; May 30.05.

Closed Strong. New York Sept. 20.—Cotton closed strong, October 29.78; December 30.07; January 30.10; March 30.20; May 30.25.

Prof. Barnhardt Goes to Cumberland. Oakboro, Sept. 14.—Prof. J. O. Barnhardt, who last year acted as Superintendent of Oakboro-Big Lick Graded School has accepted a position as Superintendent of the Cumberland Graded School near Fayetteville, N. C., and will leave Oakboro to take charge of his work.

He and his interesting family will be missed at Oakboro, as they have made a great many friends since moving here. Prof. Barnhardt is an excellent school man, and Stanly regrets to lose him.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Odell and family, Miss Helen Patterson and Miss Mary King have returned from a stay at Blowing Rock.

STEEL PLANTS TO BE SHUT DOWN TONIGHT

All Plants of United States Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh District Where Employees Belong to Union.

SHUT DOWN FOR AN INDEFINITE TIME

Plants That Are 100 Per Cent Loyal to Remain in Operation.—Loyal Men in Other Plants to Be Cared For.

(By The Associated Press.) Pittsburgh, Sept. 20.—With all the chances of averting the steel strike gone, and with plants all over the Pittsburgh district shutting down for the week end, police authorities in the communities where the steel mills are located are prepared to handle developments on Monday.

The Mayor of McKeesport and of many communities have issued a proclamation calling on the citizens to maintain peace and order, and warning violators of the law that they will be promptly dealt with.

The United States Steel Corporation officials directly in charge of its plants were preparing for the strike, a request was made for the loyal members to assist the corporation to guard its property against damage. A large number of men, it was declared, responded and were sworn as guards to assist the company police.

Pittsburgh, Sept. 20.—All plants of the United States Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh district where any employees were members of the steel workers union will be shut down tonight for an indefinite period, according to reports in circulation here last night. The reports could not be verified officially but originated from trustworthy sources, according to local news bureau.

Plants that are 100 per cent loyal will remain in operation and loyal men in these plants which will close will be taken care of by the company the reports say.

THE BOSTON SITUATION

Possible Action Favoring Strikers May Be Taken by the Car Men's Union. (By The Associated Press.) Boston, Sept. 20.—Interest in the policemen's strike, now nearing close of the second week, was directed today to the possible action of the Boston car men's union, made up of employees of the Boston Elevated Railway system. A special meeting of the union is to be held tonight to consider "what action is to be taken with reference to the present situation in Boston." Members of the police union are invited to be present.

Endorsement of the police affiliation with the American Federation of Labor was given by the car men several weeks ago, but the union leaders refused to forecast the action of the meeting tonight.

The climax in the situation was not expected before tomorrow when the sympathetic action taken by the affiliated unions was to be reported to the central labor union.

PRESIDENT WILSON ARRIVES IN LOS ANGELES.

Large Crowd Greets Him.—Parade Started at Noon. (By The Associated Press.) Los Angeles, Sept. 20.—President Wilson and his party arrived here at 9 o'clock today from San Diego. A large crowd was at the depot.

After a brief stop at the depot the train was moved to a secluded place in the railroad yards. Santa Fe officials said it had been announced that the President would not leave the train till noon, when a parade from the depot was scheduled to start.

The President did not appear on the platform of the train during the stop at the depot, though a large crowd was waiting to greet him.

1,000 QUIT WORK IN THE WILMINGTON SHIP YARDS

In Protest of Alleged Discrimination in Favor of the Negroes. (By The Associated Press.) Wilmington, Sept. 20.—A general strike of skilled workmen went into effect today at the plant of the Carolina Shipbuilding Corporation at 10 a. m. today when over 1,000 men quit work as a protest against alleged discrimination in favor of negroes.

NUMBER OF KNOWN DEAD IS NOW 386

The Death List, However, Is Steadily Increasing and Many Persons Think It Will Double That Number

FOOD SITUATION IS SATISFACTORY

Clothing and Financial Assistance Constituted the Immediate Needs of Refugees.—Help Needed.

(By The Associated Press.) Corpus Christi, Sept. 20.—With the known dead near the 400 mark and steadily increasing, residents of Corpus Christi and other nearby Texas coast towns today resumed their search for bodies of additional persons who lost their lives through Sunday's hurricane and tidal waves.

The number of known dead was 386 today, but many persons were of the opinion that it would double that number when all the shore line and wreckage had been thoroughly searched.

In Corpus Christi proper, conditions were becoming more normally today. Although electric lights and street car service may not be restored for some time it was announced gas might be turned on today in less damaged parts of the city.

According to statements issued today by principal relief committee, clothing and financial assistance constitute the immediate needs of refugees, and people of the nation were called upon to render assistance. The food situation was said to be satisfactory.

INDUSTRIAL ARMISTICE FOR SIX MONTHS WANTED

Urged by Attorney General Palmer to Permit Solutions of Economic Problems. (By The Associated Press.) Freeport, Pa., Sept. 20.—An absolute industrial armistice for six months was urged by Attorney General Palmer here today to permit the solution of economic problems arising out of the changes wrought by the war.

Such a period of freedom from unrest, he declared, would result soon in increased production which would bring about an era of "easier living and better times" for all. On the other hand the Attorney General warned, selfish demands by any one class cannot stimulate the national prosperity or property benefit even those obtaining such demands by force. He strongly disapproved strikes.

"Labor is asking a larger share of joint products of money and labor and there is much merit in the claim" he said "but the chance of getting it is not advanced, nor the justice of it more widely recognized by the refusal of labor to produce."

The campaign to reduce the cost of living, which he is directing, evidently was foremost in the Attorney General's mind in the speech delivered at the reunion of the 78th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was also the home coming celebration for the men who served in the world war. He said also that of the many problems which beset men's minds on these days if reconstruction, there is none which cannot be worked out "in the general interest" in a government where the people are the only rulers.

DID NOT GET TO KISS GENERAL PERSHING

Handsome Woman Lost a Wager of \$100 at Washington Last Night. (By The Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Sept. 20.—One fair war worker faces the loss of \$100 as a result of a wager that she would kiss General Pershing before he left Washington. As the expeditionary commander was leaving a hotel last night where he had attended a function in his honor a comely young woman who had urged her way to the front of the crowd surrounding the entrance made a rush for him. Members of the general staff grabbed her, but not until she had an arm around General Pershing's neck and was struggling to kiss him. Her act was a signal for a grand rush of other feminine members of the crowd, and General Pershing had to dive into his waiting car.

SETS OWN GRAVESTONE.

Civil War Veteran Still Husky at 77, However. Woodbury, N. J., Sept. 19.—James H. Hutehinson, a civil war veteran, evidently believes in preparedness. Some time ago he ordered a monument erected in the Wenonah Cemetery, and the stone was set today. It is of granite with raised letters, complete with the exception of the date of his death.

Just now it looks as though it might be many years before the stone will be completed, as Hutehinson is "only" 77 years old today and he rode his bicycle to the cemetery to see that the stone was set according to his wishes. He rode a wheel because the trolleys were not running.

The average temperature of Egypt is being slowly lowered by irrigation.

WHITE STAR LINER AGROUND WITH TROOPS.

(By The Associated Press.) London, Sept. 20.—An Associated Press dispatch from Killybegs today reports a White Star liner aground north of Ronaldsway. It is believed, says the message, that 2,000 troops from northern Russia are on board.

The liner ran aground during a gale, the dispatch adds, but gave no further details.

Later it was stated by the minister of shipping that the liner had refloated and was proceeding to its destination. The vessel was the Vedie of 5,573 tons net.

FIRST ROUND OF PLAY IN TOURNAMENT OVER

Last Two Matches Played Friday Afternoon.—Davis and Gibson Are the Winners. The first round of play in the Y. M. C. A. Tennis Tournament was completed yesterday afternoon, when matches were played by I. L. Davis and S. Kay Patterson and R. P. Gibson and Jamie Caldwell. Davis won from Patterson 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, and Gibson defeated Caldwell in two straight sets, 6-1 and 6-0.

Caldwell had no chance against the playing of Gibson yesterday. This Concord veteran of the court was steady at all times, and each shot he made was placed with deadly accuracy. The backhand cut shots of Caldwell were well played, but they were always followed by a smash from the racquet of Gibson. Less than forty minutes were necessary for the completion of this contest.

The best play of the first round of the tournament was shown in the Davis-Patterson match. The two men are almost evenly matched in court generalship, and though the match was not characterized by any hard sensational, smashing play, it was always fast, and both players took advantage of every opportunity offered for a safety. Davis was the better with his services, Patterson being especially weak on this feature, which heretofore has been his strongest asset. Davis played better tennis than he showed in the Inter-City tournament some weeks ago, while the play of Patterson was hardly as good as he gave at that time.

Immediately following this match the drawing for the next round took place, Monday at 5 o'clock. Leslie Bell and William M. Sherrill: Monday at 6 o'clock Robert Bell and Ben White: Tuesday at 5 o'clock I. L. Davis and A. S. Lawrence: R. P. Gibson and Charles Whiteside will probably play their match Monday morning.

This schedule will allow one match in the semi-finals to be played Tuesday afternoon, and the finals will probably take place Thursday, as one match in the semi-finals will have to be played Wednesday afternoon.

The first round of the tournament was featured by good playing of all the persons entered. The game at no time has been slow and uninteresting, and each afternoon a large attendance has enjoyed the play.

PETITION FOR RECALL OF MAYOR McMINCH.

Ask for Recall of City Commissioners as Result of Action in Connection With Riot. Charlotte Observer. Petition asking for the recall of Mayor Frank R. McMinch, and Commissioners Wearn and Page will be presented to Clerk J. M. Wilson, of the city commissioners, at the meeting this afternoon, according to information received at the city hall yesterday and verified by men who have been interested in the petition.

D. L. Kistler stated yesterday that the petitions are signed by 1,014 voters in the city, or more than the entire vote for mayor in the last election, the number having been 1,206, he stated. Mr. Kistler stated that he had not circulated the petitions, but had counted the number of signatures.

With only one candidate for mayor and for each of the positions as commissioners in the recent election, the fight having been waged in the primary.

If the petition is presented today, as it is stated by Mr. Kistler that it will be, the clerk will check up and verify the signatures and if he finds a sufficient number, he will certify to the petition of the commissioners, who, according to the charter, are required to call an election within not less than 10 nor more than 20 days after the petition is presented to them by the clerk.

The election thus called would be slated for the regular election, the only difference being that the incumbents are candidates automatically, unless they file withdrawals with the clerk. It was understood at the city hall yesterday that the mayor and both commissioners would stand for re-election if the election was called.

The grounds on which the removal of the officials is asked, as a result, it is generally understood, of their action in connection with the riot, are as follows: "1.—That the said incumbents are incompetent and inefficient in the discharge of their public duties. "2.—That the said officials are neglectful and incapable of performing and discharging the duties and responsibilities of their respective offices."

Where the amateur photographer is concerned many a fellow has regretted looking into a kodak he didn't know was loaded.

FOR FINAL ACTION ON PEACE TREATY

Steps Taken Today to Expedite It.—Progress in Senate Centered About the Reservation Negotiations.

FIRST TEST IS TO COME NEXT WEEK

When Amendment to Equalize Voting Power of United States and England in Assembly Is Reached. (By The Associated Press.) Washington, Sept. 20.—Steps to expedite final action on the German peace treaty were underway today although the senate is not in session. Progress centered about the reservation negotiations.

A number of informal conferences between Senators advocating "mild" reservations and those in favor of drastic reservations were understood to have been planned. At the same time, both sides in the controversy prepared for the first test of strength expected early next week, when the amendment to Article three of the league of nations covenant to equalize the voting power of the United States and Great Britain in the assembly is reached.

Decision of Republican leaders not to ask Senator Johnson, of California, author of the article three amendment, to return from the speaking tour was received with varying interpretations. In republican circles it was said to indicate that the league of nations forces had enough votes assured, to pass the amendment. Democratic supporters of the league covenant were equally confident that all amendments would be defeated.

DR. B. T. ATKINS HELD WITHOUT BAIL

Physician Charged With Criminal Assault Under-Special Guard. Albemarle News. Dr. B. T. Atkins, of Badin, was arrested Wednesday night, charged with rape on a woman of that place. He is under guard in the office of his attorney, W. L. Mann, and the preliminary hearing is set for Saturday. According to report, Dr. Atkins took the woman as a patient under his charge, to Charlotte to enter her in a hospital for treatment. It is alleged that he took her to a hotel, put her to sleep, and accomplished the assault. When she waked, she went with him to the hospital, where, free of his company, she promptly wrote her husband in Badin, stating the facts. Her husband has retained the two leading law firms in Albemarle, Smith and Gooch and Brown, Sikes and Brown. Dr. Atkins is advised by W. L. Mann and G. D. B. Reynolds. Dr. Atkins is a man about 45 years of age, is married and has three children. He is a native of Froy. The woman is well under thirty and is the mother of one little girl. She bears an excellent reputation in Stanly county, where she has lived all her life.

MATTER OF MOVING BODIES OF SOLDIERS FROM FRANCE

Comes up in Chamber of Deputies.—Bodies Cannot Be Moved, Ministry Says. (By The Associated Press.) Paris, Friday, September 19.—The question of removing soldiers' bodies from military cemeteries along the front was brought up this morning in the chamber of deputies when M. Peccard, of Vendee, asked the ministry of war what measures the government expected to take to allow families to remove the bodies of their dead. Deputy Peccard said the bill had been introduced forbidding the removal of the bodies for three years because means of transportation were lacking.

He declared that this argument was not permissible at present, there being plenty of trains to take the tourists to the battlefields. He asserted the chamber ought not to dissolve without giving some satisfaction to the families, especially as the American dead were to be taken back across the Atlantic.

M. Peccard urged that if possible exhumation be allowed. M. Abram declined in behalf of the ministry, saying this was impossible and that the government could take no exception favoring the families claiming to be able to arrange for the movement of the bodies.

Water Situation at Asheville Serious.

Asheville, Sept. 19.—No laundry will be operated in Asheville tomorrow. Soda fountains will also be closed. Other forms of water conservation recently put into effect will continue in force. Until there is a heavy rain additional restrictions will be put on water users as long as the local supply lasts. With two and a half million gallons of water in the reservoir at dusk today it is apparent Asheville can continue to get drinking water. If the methods of stricter economy are practiced tomorrow the supply will last.

Birds of prey are not endowed with the gift of song.