

OIL STEAMER WRECK

A Score of Men Were Seriously Injured.

11 PERSONS MISSING; HEAVY LOSS

Boilers of an Oil Steamer Explode
Breaking the Vessel in Two With
Fatal Results.

San Francisco, Special.—While the steamer Progreso was lying at the wharf of the Fulton Iron Works at Harbor View, an explosion occurred. As a result eleven men are missing. A score were more or less seriously injured and property valued at \$200,000 was destroyed. The missing: First Assistant Engineer Sparks, Joseph Rex, Charles Glenn, Howard Dowe, James Cavatt, Dan Gallagher, Joseph Maguire, F. Nelson, C. C. McGuire, Jack Strand, Jack Ashton, First Assistant Engineer Sparks, Joseph Rex, Chas. Glenn and Howard Dowe, of the crew of the Progreso, were shipped only this morning. Joseph Rex is a son of Mate Rex, of the ship W. P. Babcock. Chas. Glenn is a brother of Second Officer Glenn, of the transport Sheridan. James Cavatt, was an electrician and Gallagher, Maguire, F. Nelson and McGregor were ship builders. Jack Strand was employed as a fireman, and Harry Small, a boy, was working as a rivet boiler. His home is at Vallejo. Ashton was a fireman on the Progreso, and Dowe was a seaman.

The list of seriously injured includes: Henry Conna, aged 18, arm amputated; Robert Gibson, both legs broken; A. Kane, fractured leg and foot; R. Bucell, fractured left wrist; George McNeeny, severe burns; J. Morgan, injured about arms and legs; T. McGill, severely burned; Willie Vandorset, head bruised; Peter Hanson, fracture of right leg.

The disaster occurred at 9:45 o'clock, while 49 mechanics of the iron works and twenty employees of the ship were on board. Below the decks the mechanics were busy completing the work of changing the vessel from a coal-burning coal-carrier, to an oil-burning oil-carrier, when suddenly one of the tanks blew up. Men were hurled against steel walls and a sheet of flame came sweeping into their faces. On the upper deck men were hurled into the air, or thrown into the water. Three sailors engaged in washing paint outside the pilot house disappeared as the cloud of black smoke came up from the ship and were seen no more.

Following the explosion, the ship sagged in the centre, showing that she had broken in two. In the office of the iron works, 20 feet away, every window was shattered and flying glass cut the faces and hands of many of the officials and clerks. As they rushed out into the open, survivors, who were able to help themselves, were leaping from the ship. A great crowd of mechanics came running out of the works. As soon as the panic had subsided these men set to work to rescue men from the burning vessel. A stream of burning oil, running from the tanks spread out until the ship lay on waves of fire. The flames crept under the wharf and soon the timbers were blazing, adding to the difficulty of the work of rescue. As the ship was built of steel, the fire was nearly all below the deck. There were fourteen oil tanks containing about four hundred barrels of oil in all and despite the efforts of the fire department, this continued to burn, fiercely for hours after the explosion. Several minor explosions due to the flames going from tank to tank, occurred at short intervals, but all the injury and loss of life was caused by the first.

One peculiarity of the explosion was that several men who were on the other side of the bulkhead from where it occurred, were uninjured, while others farther away were badly hurt. Several men in the yards were injured by flying debris.

The loss to the Fulton Company by the wrecking of the building and the burning of the wharf will exceed \$200,000. It is estimated that the Progreso was worth about \$175,000. The explosion shook all the building at harbor view and the shock was felt a mile away. In many instances windows

were broken several blocks away. James Sprlers, Jr., general manager of the Fulton Iron Works, is positive that the explosion was due to the oil and not to the bursting of the boiler. His theory is that gas was generated in one of the oil tanks. "It was certainly the explosion of a tank," he said. "If it had been a boiler explosion, a cloud of steam would have arisen, but there was no steam. Instead it was black smoke from the oil. There was only a small pressure of steam at the time."

NATIONAL LAWMAKERS.

What Our Congress is Doing Day by Day.

HOUSE.

Second Day.—The House was in session an hour and forty minutes. One hour of that time was consumed in the reading of the President's message. The reading was listened to with attention by members without regard to party, but without demonstration, except at the conclusion of the reading, when the Republicans applauded generously.

Mr. Cannon, chairman of the committee on appropriations, gave notice that the bill to defray the expenses of the Coal Strike Commission would be called up tomorrow. The deaths of the late Representative De Graffenreid and Sheppard, of Texas, which occurred during the recess, were announced and after adopting the customary resolutions of regret, the House adjourned as a further mark of respect to their memories.

Third Day.—The House passed the bill to appropriate \$50,000 to defray the expenses of the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission and then adjourned until Friday, when the London dock charges bill will be considered. There were two hours of discussion on the commission bill, during which the President's course in creating the commission was highly commended, except by Mr. Penton, a Missouri Democrat, who contended that the commission was created without authority of law or constitution. There was some criticism of the feature of the bill allowing double salaries to members of the commission now in government employ and because the bill left the amount of the compensation of the members to the President but all amendments were voted down and the bill was passed without division.

Fourth Day.—The House had the consideration of a number of anti-trust bills under way. The bills with amendments were referred.

Fifth Day.—The House devoted the day to the consideration of bills on the private calendar. The most important bill passed was one to adjudicate in the Court of Claims the claims of certain importers of steel blooms, who, between 1879 and 1882, paid customs duties equivalent to 45 per cent. ad valorem, when it is claimed the correct rate should have been 30 per cent. The sum involved is about \$350,000.

A bill was passed authorizing the following persons to accept presents and decorations from foreign governments: Captain B. H. McCalla, U. S. N., Doctors Eugene Wasdin and H. B. Geddings, U. S. N., H. S. Henry E. Alford, W. A. Taylor, H. W. Wiley, M. A. Carleton and John I. Shultz, of the Department of Agriculture; John A. Ockerman, of the Mississippi river committee; Casper S. Crowninshield, United States commercial agent; Miss Anna Tolman Smith and Lieutenant C. F. H. Phipps.

SENATE.

Second Day.—Interest in the session of the Senate was heightened by the fact that the President's message to Congress would be read and also that General Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, former Secretary of War under President McKinley, would be sworn in to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator McMillan. His desk and chair were hidden beneath a mass of flowers, and as he took his seat, he was surrounded by a number of his colleagues who extended hearty congratulations. In the gallery were a number of General Alger's personal friends and members of his family.

One hour and fifteen minutes were consumed in reading the message. From the printed copies which had been placed on the desk of each Senator they were enabled to follow every word as it was uttered. Almost the entire Republican representation were in their seats, while not more than half of the seats of the Democratic side were occupied. The closest attention was paid to the message as it was being read, and frequently Senators would confer regarding some particular portion of it which had attracted their particular notice.

A number of bills and resolutions were introduced following a brief executive session. The resignation of Rev. Mr. Milburn, the blind chaplain of the Senate, who has served in this capacity for so long, was received with genuine regret. He had become a familiar figure in that body and had made it a practice to become personally acquainted with every Senator. No action was taken on the resignation.

Third Day.—The Senate began the real work of disposing of the business before it, although the session lasted but an hour and a half. When an adjournment was taken at 1:30 o'clock out of respect to the memory of Representatives De Graffenreid and Sheppard, of Texas, the bill to amend

the immigration laws was under consideration.

Fourth Day.—The day's session was devoid of interest. A few bills were introduced and a brief executive session held.

Fifth Day.—The Senate was in open session but ten minutes, then went into executive session, after which it adjourned.

Kelly Released on Bond.

St. Louis, Special.—Chas. F. Kelly, former member of the House of Delegates, arrived here Wednesday afternoon in charge of detectives from Philadelphia, where he was arrested last week as a fugitive from justice. More than 500 curious people awaited Kelly's arrival at the union station, and as he stepped from the train, accompanied by Mrs. Kelly and Detective McGrath, the police were forced to clear a path through the crowd. The prisoner was then taken before Judge Douglas and gave bond in the sum of \$30,000. Kelly and his wife then left the court room and went to their home.

Zones Established.

Manila, By Cable.—Preparatory to an aggressive campaign against the Ladrone in the Rizal, province of Luzon, Governor Taft has established zones of concentration. The land will be filled during the day time and the people will retire within the zones at night. A strong force of constabulary will be used against the bandits.

Suicide of Col. Lamb.

London, By Cable.—While the Cur and Line steamer Etruria was ascending the Mersey, Saturday morning, Colonel Lamb, a member of the English rifle team, returned from the international competition in Canada, committed suicide, ending his life with a rifle bullet.

Trestle Washed Away.

Savannah, Ga., Special.—The long trestle on the Atlantic & Birmingham Railroad, over the Satilla river, was washed away and destroyed Thursday night by the flood. The Satilla is higher than has even before been recorded. Orders were issued today annulling all Atlantic & Birmingham trains over the division affected until repairs can be made. Many country roads in Ware county are impassable from water and fallen trees.

Raise in Wages.

Scranton, Pa., Special.—The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad purposes a substantial increase in rates of pay to employees in the various departments. The officials are now at work on a general plan of readjustment and equalization to become effective at an early date, probably from December 1. All branches of the service and practically all the employees will be affected by the company's voluntary action.

To Consider Farm Matters.

Dallas, Texas, Special.—At a meeting of business men here to consider remedies for the boll weevil evil, it was determined to call a State convention in Dallas on December 14, to which members of the Legislature, State officials, representatives of commercial bodies and farming interests are to be invited. The Legislature is to be called upon for an appropriation to be used for extermination of the weevil.

Savannah's Steamer Line.

Savannah, Ga., Special.—The North German Lloyd Steamship Company has established a direct line between this city and Bremen. The first ship of the line, from Coblenz, will arrive here tomorrow. She will be followed by other and larger ships. General cargoes will be carried each way, the bulk of outward freights being cotton. Later the passenger traffic will be developed and the company expects to bring many immigrants for the Southern States. The agents in this city will be W. W. Williamson & Co.

New Trial For Powers.

Frankfort, Ky., Special.—The Appellate Court awarded a new trial to Caleb Powers, who was convicted in the Gobel murder conspiracy and sentenced to life imprisonment. The opinion by Judge O'Rear, granting Powers a new trial is based mainly upon the refusal of Judge Cantrill to vacate the bench on affidavits filed by the defense, charging the court with being prejudiced against the defendant. The three Democratic judges dissented.

DEATH OF MR. REED

Ex-Speaker Thos. B. Reed Suddenly Passed Away

DEATH FROM BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

Mr. Reed Was One of the Best Known of Modern Politicians and a Noted Parliamentarian.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Hon. Thomas B. Reed, ex-Speaker of the national house of representatives and a well known Maine statesman, died here at his hotel Saturday night of Bright's disease.

The remains left here Sunday afternoon for Portland, Maine, his former home, where the interment will take place on Tuesday afternoon. They were placed aboard a special train leaving Washington at 4:50 o'clock, scheduled to arrive at Portland tomorrow. Accompanying the body were Mrs. Reed, the widow; Miss Catherine Reed, the former Speaker's daughter; Hon. Amos L. Allen, Mr. Reed's successor in the House of Representatives; Mr. Asher C. Hinds, Mr. Reed's parliamentary clerk, and Mr. August G. Payne, a life-long friend. At Mrs. Reed's request there were no ceremonies of any kind here, and at Portland, they will be of a simple character.



THOMAS B. REED.

During the entire day there was a stream of sympathetic callers at the Arlington Hotel, where the body of Mr. Reed lay awaiting removal. They included President and Mrs. Roosevelt, who also sent a handsome floral offering; members of the cabinet, the Senate and House of Representatives and of the diplomatic corps. The body was enclosed in a casket with heavy, oxidized extension handles, and on the top was a silver plate on which had been engraved the following simple inscription:

Thomas Brackett Reed,
October 18, 1839,
December 17th, 1902.

Those at the railroad station when the train departed were Senator and Mrs. Lodge; Justice McKenna, of the Supreme Court; General Draper, of Massachusetts, and Representatives Hitt and Littlefield.

The arrangements for the obsequies at Portland have been left in the hands of Hon. Joseph W. Symonds and John C. Small, an old neighbor of Mr. Reed. As far as tentatively arranged here, the funeral will take place some time Tuesday afternoon, from the First Parish Unitarian church, of which the Rev. John Carroll Perkins is pastor. The interment will be at Evergreen Cemetery.

Killed Mother and Himself.

Evergreen, Ala., Special.—At Castleberry, 11 miles from here, J. A. Stubbs shot and killed his mother and then killed himself. Whether the first killing was accidental or the result of temporary derangement is not known. The family is prominent.

Wreck a Hatteras.

Hatteras, N. C., Special.—The observer of the Weather Bureau reports that a four-masted schooner, Wesley M. Oler, went ashore at Hatteras Inlet life-saving station, early Friday morning during the storm. She was pounding in the surf about a mile off shore until afternoon, when the four masts went to pieces. The life-saving crew could do nothing to save the crew. No bodies have been washed ashore.

BURNED UP \$500.

A Sad Case Reported From Greensboro.

Monday's Charlotte Observer contains the following sad story from its Greensboro correspondent:

Five hundred dollars in greenbacks and the household and kitchen furniture destroyed, describes the work of a madman at his home here Saturday night. The name of the party is Joe Mitchell and the agency responsible for the deed is corn whiskey to the amount of two drinks, about two-thirds of a pint. Joe is a hard working man, being employed by the Piedmont Table Company. For several years he has labored hard and had managed to accumulate out of his earnings about \$500, which he kept in the tray of his trunk, and which he had counted and recounted from the first, as the pile grew larger, thinking of happier days when this money would buy him a lot and build a little house thereon for he and his wife, where they would live free from rents and visitations from landlords. But these happy dreams are of the past, for Joe, in a moment of delirium, destroyed the money.

Saturday night about 12 o'clock Mr. W. G. Brown, who lives next door to Mitchell, was awakened by a noise as if some one was tearing a house down. Standing it as long as he could and becoming alarmed for the inmates of his neighbor's house as well as for his own family, he hastened up street to get Officer Lovelace who, in company with Mr. Brown, went to the scene of action. They found furniture broken into splinters, carpets torn up, cooking and other utensils scattered in every direction, pictures, trunks and bedding thrown into the fire and the madman, with axe in hand, continuing his work of destruction. The house had caught fire and with difficulty was extinguished. A trunk that had been broken up and in which was the money had already been burned when help arrived.

After arresting the man attention was turned towards his wife, who had fortunately escaped to a corner in one of the rear rooms. She was scared almost to death. The man was taken to the guard house about 1 o'clock where he remained until trial this afternoon before Mayor Cox, at his office.

Mitchell says he cannot account for the deed, that he doesn't know a thing that occurred. He was very repentant and says if he had hurt his wife that he would have cut his own throat. The whiskey was evidently drugged, for those examining it say it had an unusual smell, and undoubtedly was the meanest liquor ever manufactured. It is thought that the liquor affected Mitchell's brain, producing temporary insanity, for in a twinkling of an eye he became unmanageable from no apparent cause whatever, for just before he was in the best of humor and had been playing with a brother of his wife. Owing to the good character heretofore of the man and believing that he was not responsible for himself on this night and also through sympathy for his loss and his wife Mayor Cox let the prisoner off with the costs.

For Greater Asheville.

Asheville, Special.—In accordance with instructions of the board of aldermen, City Attorney Bourne has presented to that body a bill to the State Legislature, the object of which is to change the boundaries of Asheville so as to make of this city a Greater Asheville. The suburban towns to be incorporated in the greater city are Ramoth, Kenilworth, Victoria and Montford, thus making the corporate limits of Asheville some five miles from north to south and three east to west. The ordinance was discussed briefly and the board decided to leave the matter open for further discussion. The bill when brought up in the Legislature will be bitterly fought by the people residing in Victoria and Ramoth, and it is said that every resource will be exhausted in order to defeat the measure. In Victoria especially, where not only Mr. Vanderbilt, but other wealthy gentlemen own a large amount of valuable property, the increased taxes accruing to Asheville would be enormous. In the boundaries of the proposed limits is situated the handsome Kenilworth Inn.

Death of Dr. Norman.

Rev. W. C. Norman, D. D., one of the most prominent and powerful preachers of the North Carolina Conference, M. E. church, South, died at Wilmington Saturday night while attending the annual conference. Dr. Norman has served most of the leading charges in the State. He was interred Tuesday at Lexington.