

GAS TANKS EXPLODE

Terrific Detonations and Heavy Loss Of Property

FOUR PEOPLE KILLED IN CHICAGO

Plant of a Concern Engaged in Supplying Illuminant Stored in Retorts Under High Pressure for Railroad Coaches Completely Wrecked

Chicago, Special.—Four persons were killed and a score of others were injured by a series of gas explosions that completely destroyed the plant of the Pyle Electric Headlight Company in South Chicago Friday. The shocks of the explosions were so severe that all the buildings near the demolished plant were badly damaged, windows were shattered for blocks, and persons walking in the streets were thrown from their feet. Over pressure on tanks containing gas is believed to have caused the accident.

The dead: Ralph Wells, superintendent for the Pyle Electric Headlight Company.

Amos Watkins, assistant superintendent, for same company.

George Muehl, draftsman, employed by the People's Gas Light Company.

Thomas Jennings, employed by the Pyle Electric Headlight Company.

The fatally injured: William M. Maloney, blown from third floor of building; body crushed.

Alfred Cox, internally injured.

Many persons who were walking in the street near the plant were hurt by flying pieces of debris and were taken to their homes in carriages before their names could be learned.

All of the dead were buried under tons of burning timber and hot brick and iron, making it impossible to remove their bodies for hours after the accident occurred. Firemen poured water on the portion of the building in which the dead were thought to be buried. The flames were sufficiently to permit of the four bodies being removed from the debris.

The scene of the explosion is the old Hyde Park Gas plant, which passed into the hands of the People's Gas Light & Coke Company several years ago, with the consolidation of the gas interests in Chicago. Through lease, the big plant is occupied partly by the Pyle National Electric Headlight Company, which is largely engaged in supplying illumination for railroad coaches. This illuminant is forced into small retorts, which, when attached under the floor of a car, will supply it with light for months. In order to make this possible, the retorts are subjected to an extremely high pressure. It was such a tank that caused the first explosion. Without warning of any kind it burst. Amid the debris, workmen were blown out of the structure far into the street about the building. Before any one realized what had happened, retort after retort exploded in such rapid succession that it was almost impossible to distinguish the detonations. There were nine such explosions in all, which left the plant in flames. Hard fighting on the part of fully a hundred firemen finally subdued the flames.

The total loss caused by the accident is estimated at \$75,000.

Train Strikes Street Car.

Toronto, Special.—A street car with trailer attached got beyond control of the motorman and crashed through the guard gates at the Queens street crossing of the Grand Trunk Railway Friday night. A Montreal freight train struck the forward car, grinding it to splinters. Every passenger on the street car was injured, two dying soon after being taken from the wreckage, and two at the hospital. The dead are:

James Armstrong, conductor.

One-year-old child of J. Robertson. The baby was thrown from its mother's arms and both its legs were cut off.

Mrs. Minnie Mahaffy, internally injured, died at hospital.

Russell Stephens, internally injured, died at hospital.

Three Defendants Discharged.

Wrightsville, Ga., Special.—The case of Walker, Price, Outlaw, Morman, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Edge, for the alleged murder of Clayton Williams, previously reported in these dispatches, was called in court here. The defendants elected to sever trial. The case against Williams was postponed. On motion, the court discharged the two women and Morman, on the ground of insufficient evidence. They were, however, put under bond to appear as witnesses against Walker, Price and Outlaw, the case against whom will be taken up next week.

350 Deer and Elk Sold.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—About 350 deer and elk at the Belle Meade Farm were sold to a hunting club in which Harry Payne Whitney, of New York, and other wealthy men are interested. The animals will be turned loose in the 60,000-acre game preserve the New Yorkers own around Hickory Valley, in this State.

Long Distance Weather Forecasts.

The slow and laborious progress of the sciences, from the earliest dawn of civilization, has been hampered and burdened by the actions of men incapable of mastering the principles involved in the study of science, yet had the keenness to be alive to the possibilities of science for the public good. These men were unscrupulous enough to assume to them the false garb of knowledge, and in that false garb pose as apostles of the science, for personal gain and utterly regardless of the good of humanity. In their false guise, it is true, these impostors were but the laughing stock of men of science and deemed unworthy of serious notice, while the ignorant and credulous believed more readily in the false than in the true, as the former promised more, were more mysterious, claimed to know it all, and it is too sadly true, that the people in ages past, as in our own age, delighted in being humbugged, and were willing to pay for their pleasure.

Thus it was that the beautiful science of astronomy that demonstrates with such exactness the motion of the heavenly bodies and that teaches other properties that pertain to them only, gave rise to the astrologer who made the credulous believe that planets had an influence on the destinies of men, until a wiser age destroyed the fallacy. Thus it was that chemistry gave rise to the alchemist, who in his mysterious and preternatural processes made the credulous believe that he had the command of the much sought for elixir of life. Thus it was that the science of medicine gave rise to the quack with his nostrums, and who, even today, deludes the sick and afflicted with his deadly doses; and thus it is that the beautiful and intricate science of meteorology and weather forecasting has given rise to its own peculiar parasites, a host of long range weather forecasters, that in a mysterious and wholly irrational way claim to be able to foresee that which patient, hard and intelligent study of meteorology by learned men in all parts of the world has not been able to do, and by them has been declared impracticable.

It is true that our own weather bureau and the meteorological services of other countries have demonstrated the practicability of forecasting the weather for from one, two or in very favorable conditions three days in advance with reasonable accuracy, but honest forecasters, with one accord, deny the possibility of forecasting the weather for a month or a season in advance, and yet these charlatans, fakes, or what nots, who make a fair though fraudulent living by selling such forecasts to the public, and what is still more strange, reputable papers, that ordinarily are not willing parties to any fraud, publish such forecasts in their columns.

The desirability of long range forecasts is admitted, their usefulness, if they were possible cannot be gainsaid, and their attempt is not deprecated. On the contrary success is ardently hoped for and encouraged on rational grounds, but their practicability is, at present wholly denied and can be shown by any attempt however friendly, to verify them whenever made. People who are familiar with meteorology know this, but the many have not studied the science, and influenced by their desire for knowledge and misled by the spurious though plausible claim of unprincipled long range forecasters readily buy and believe the goods to be genuine. Few test its worth by actual verification, but credulously accept accidental agreement between the forecasted weather and what actually occurred as convincing proof, while the failures that so numerously happen, if noted at all, are charitably forgiven and forgotten. It would indeed be strange if some of the long range forecasts did not prove correct, for the chances are as about one in five that they will, if ordinary intelligence is exercised in making them, and it is this probability of chances that gives life to the long range forecaster. But he has other deceptive devices, such as clothing his forecasts in the most general and indefinite language; he guards carefully against any attempt to disprove his forecasts and keeps open a loophole for escape, and also stating that he has in mind some other section of the country where the forecasted conditions did actually occur.

While meteorology has made rapid progress in the last fifty years, and the fact has been amply demonstrated that the weather is governed by laws as certain in their operations as those governing other phenomena of nature, yet it has not advanced far enough to enable the weather to be forecasted for a season or even a month in advance. The Weather Bureau makes no claim to be able to make correct forecasts for periods longer than one, two or at longest three days, and for the longest period there must be very decided conditions, as shown by the daily survey of the atmosphere by its numerous trained and skillful observers. With all the skill and training of the best talent available, and with as conscientious effort as true and honest men are capable of, mistakes do and will occur.

Long and careful observation has shown that weather changes are not dependent on planetary influences. Nor is weather forecasting a matter of inspiration, but ability to make reliable forecasts comes from hard study, long training and intelligent observation. It is absurd to believe that when intelligent, scholarly men, who have made meteorology a specialty, the world over, are in full accord in their denial of the practicability of making accurate long range forecasts, that a man ignorant of the very laws

in which the forecasts are based on relying on mystical, now-existing planetary influences, or on inspiration which means nothing save an irrational mental condition, should be able to make them.

The Weather Bureau today is giving the people the best service possible, but not content with the success already attained, it has in the past and is now, studying every available and suggested means of improving and extending the scope and amplitude of its forecasts, for both short and long periods, and should long range forecasts ever become possible it will be through such efforts and not by the bragadocio methods of ignorant charlatans who now occupy the field with their long-range forecasts.

Prof. Willis J. Moore, who, as Chief of the Weather Bureau has had to deal with this subject in both an administrative way and in its scientific aspect, recently stated his views on so-called long range forecasts in no uncertain language, and wholly in condemnation. In substance he said that it is the opinion of the leading meteorologists of the world that public interests are injured by the publication of so-called long range weather forecasts, especially such predictions as relate to severe storms, floods, droughts, and other atmospheric phenomena of a dangerous and damaging character, and the persistent efforts of certain men to foist their predictions on the public, for public gain, has reached such proportions that it is deemed advisable fairly and temperately to counteract the influence of those whom we believe to be preying on the credulity of the public. They may believe that they have discovered a physical law or a meteorological principle that has not been revealed to the astronomers, meteorologists or to any other class of scientific investigators, but the publication of predictions that by reason of their absolute inaccuracy are calculated to be positively injurious to agricultural, commercial and other industrial interests, casting a serious doubt on the honesty of their purpose, and upon their disinterested devotion to the public welfare. Such publications bring the science of meteorology into disrepute and cannot, therefore, be made in response to a desire to advance that science along useful lines; and they retard the work of honest investigators through whose efforts only can gains be made in the fundamental knowledge of the causation of weather, that will justify forecasts for a month or a season in advance.

In a circular letter to observers on the same subject, Prof. Moore says "I hope the time will come when it will be possible to forecast the weather for coming seasons, to specify in what respect the coming month or season will conform to or depart from the weather that is common to the month or season; but that time has not yet arrived, and I believe that you will be best serving the public interests when, without indulging in personalities or mentioning names, you teach the community you serve the limitations of weather forecasting and warn it against impostors. Your public press should, and doubtless will co-operate with us in this endeavor."

J. W. BAUER, Section Director.

25 Per Cent. Dividend.

Richmond, Va., Special.—The stockholders of the Atlantic Coast Line met here Tuesday. The action of the directors in purchasing the Jacksonville & Southwestern was approved. A dividend of 25 per cent. on the common stock was declared, 20 per cent. in cash and 5 per cent. on certificate or indebtedness, payable in January. The old officers were elected by the directors. The capital stock was increased to \$50,000,000.

Alleged Whitecappers Arrested.

Jackson, Miss., Special.—United States Marshal Wilson has arrested V. V. Hamilton, Will Evans and Marius Wactor, indicted in the Federal Court here for conspiracy or whitecapping, the offense alleged being that they were running negro United States home-steaders off their land. In default of bail of \$1,000 each the men were placed in jail. They are all white and come from Franklin county, where a reign of lawlessness has been in progress at intervals for several years.

Southern Railway Officials Promoted.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—It was announced that R. L. McKellar, assistant general freight agent of the Southern Railway has been appointed assistant traffic manager of the entire system. Mr. McKellar succeeds L. McClug, who resigns to accept the position of treasurer of Yale College. The change will take effect December 15th, and Mr. McKellar's headquarters will be in Louisville, Ky.

Parker Moves to New York.

New York, Special.—Judge Alton B. Parker, recent Democratic candidate for President, opened a law office in the building at 32 Liberty street, in this city last week. At the same time he announced that he had become a resident of this city, that Mrs. Parker would join him here and that they would at once secure a home in this city. While Judge Parker announced that he would not form any law partnership, his new office is in the suite occupied by W. F. Sheehan of the firm of Sheehan & Collin.

BETTER CITIZENSHIP

President Spoke Sunday On a Higher Patriotism

ADDRESSED A CATHOLIC AUDIENCE

Anniversary Celebration at St. Patrick's Church, Washington, Signaled by the Presence of the Chief Executive, Who Spoke From a Balcony of the Rectory to Crowded Streets—Little Care For Moral Weaklings, But a Welcome for the Highest Endeavor by Men of Every Creed.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt made an address Sunday at the 110th anniversary celebration at St. Patrick's church and the dedication of Carroll Hall, the new parochial building and parish school. The Rev. Dr. D. J. Stafford, rector of St. Patrick's, acted as the master of ceremonies. Cardinal Gibbons, several archbishops and other dignitaries of the Catholic Church attended the exercises, the former making an address immediately preceding that of the President. H. B. F. MacFarland, president of the board of commissioners of the District of Columbia, was the concluding speaker.

The Knights of Columbus formed a guard of honor for the President, but a squad of policemen was necessary to open the crowded streets. Cheer after cheer went up as the President and his escort appeared. He was met, at his carriage by Father Stafford, and as he passed into the rectory a children's choir of 200 voices, stationed in front of the church, sang hymns.

Dr. Stafford introduced President Roosevelt as "the man of even-handed justice; the President of the 'square deal'." President Roosevelt thanked the rector and joined in the laugh which preceded prolonged cheering.

Then he spoke in part as follows: "It is a great pleasure to me to be present with you to-day, to assist at the dedication of the school, hall and rectory, of this parish. I am glad indeed, to have been introduced, Cardinal Gibbons, by you, the spiritual representative in a peculiar sense of that Bishop Carroll who played so lustrious a part in the affairs of the Church, and whose kindfolk played as illustrious a part in the affairs of the nation at the dawn of this government. In greeting all of you I wish to say that I am especially glad to see the children present. (Cheers and applause.) You know I believe in children. I want to see enough of them and of the right kind. (Applause.)

"I wish to-day, in the very brief remarks that I have to make, to dwell upon this thought, that while in this country we need wise laws honestly and fearlessly executed, and while we cannot afford to tolerate anything but the highest standard in the public service of the government, yet that in the last analysis the future of the country must depend upon the quality of the individual home, and of the individual man or woman in the home, and that very largely depends upon the way in which the average boy or girl is brought up. (Cheers and applause.) Therefore, a peculiar responsibility rests upon those whose life work is to see to the spiritual welfare of our people and upon those who make it their life work to try to train the children of the future so that they will be worthy of that future. The rules of good citizenship are tolerably simple. The trouble is not in finding them out; the trouble is in living up to them after they have been found out. We know fairly well what quantities there are which, in their sum, make up the type of character we like to see in man or wife, son or daughter; but I am afraid we do not always see them as well developed as we would like to. I wish to see in the average American citizen the development of two sets of qualities, which we can roughly indicate as sweetness and strength—the qualities on the one hand which make the man able to hold his own, and those which on the other hand make him jealous for the rights of others just as much as for his own rights.

"You probably know that I do not care very much for the coward or the moral weakling. I wish to see in the man manliness, in the woman womanliness. I wish to see courage, perseverance, the willingness to face work, to face, you men, if it is necessary, danger, the determination not to shrink back when temporarily beaten in life, as each one will now and then, but to come up again and wrest triumph from defeat. I want to see you men strong men and brave men, and in addition I want to see each man of you feel that it has strength and courage are joined the qualities of tenderness toward those he loves, who are dependent upon him, and of right dealing with all his neighbors.

"Finally, I want to congratulate all of us on certain successes that we have achieved in the century and a quarter that has gone by of our American life. We have difficulties enough, and we are a long way short of perfection. I do not want to see any immediate danger of our growing too good; there is ample room for effort yet left. But we have achieved certain results; we have succeeded in measurably realizing certain ideals. We have grown to accept it as an axiomatic truth of our American life that the

man is to be treated on his worth as a man, without regard to the accidents of his position. (Applause.) That this is not a government designed to favor the rich man as such, or the poor man as such, but it is designed to favor every man, rich or poor, if he is a decent man who acts fairly by his fellows (Cheers and applause.) We have grown to realize that part of the foundations upon which our liberty rests is the right of each man to worship his Creator, according to the dictates of his conscience, and the duty of each man to respect his fellow who so worships Him. (Cheers and applause.) And, oh my countrymen, one of the best auguries for the future of this country, for the future of this mighty majestic nation of ours, lies in the fact that we have grown to regard one another, that we brothers have grown to regard one another, with a broad and kindly charity, and to realize that the field for human endeavor is wide; that the field for charitable, philanthropic, religious work is wide, and that while a corner of it remains untilled, we do a dreadful wrong if we fail to welcome the work done in that field by every man, no matter what the creed, only he works with a lofty sense of his duty to God and his duty to his neighbor. (Cheers and applause.)

CURRENT NEWS ITEMS

Happenings of Moment As Gathered From Many Sections.

Washington, Special.—John W. Brownlow, a clerk in the Postoffice Department, who acted as disbursing officer of the Department at the St. Louis Exposition, was dismissed from the service by order of the President. Brownlow was charged with impertinence and insubordination, and as he declined to withdraw his offensive language, his dismissal followed.

Brownlow's insubordination consisted in refusing to supply an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements asked for by Postmaster General Payne, accompanying his refusal with statements to the Postmaster General which were considered offensive. He evidently felt that the demand of Mr. Payne was a reflection upon his honor.

Brownlow was given an opportunity to withdraw the statements considered offensive, but he refused to do so and his dismissal followed.

Two Men Drowned.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—Communication over the United States Weather Bureau's seacoast telegraph wires was restored Tuesday as far south as Montic, on Roanoke Island, N. C. At Kinnersett, N. C., a fishing lodge on the beach was washed into Pamlico Sound by a tidal wave and two men were drowned. The names were not given in the brief telegram which came over a badly worn wire. Kinnersett is situated 5 1/2 miles north of Cape Hatteras on a small strip of land separating the Atlantic Ocean and Pamlico Sound. No news had been received from the schooner Myra W. Spear, which stranded on the Hatteras coast last week, and which it is supposed must have gone to pieces in the storm of Sunday.

Boll Weevil Coming This Way.

Shreveport, Special.—The executive committee of the National Cotton Boll Weevil Convention, which assembles in this city December 15 to 25, inclusive, has issued an address to the cotton growers of the South. The commission says that the flight of the weevil during the summer of 1904 has been fully 50 miles, and north and east, into territory heretofore uninfested, and indicates a habit that is beyond the power of control. The division of opinion and interest in a campaign against the weevil will bring disaster and defeat.

Daniels Sentenced to Hang.

Wilmington, Special.—George W. Daniels, convicted last week in Duplin Superior Court of the murder of Will Maxwell, is sentenced by Judge Fred Moore to be hanged at Kenansville January 13, 1905. His counsel, ex-Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson and Stevens, Beasley & Weeks, have given notice of an appeal.

Court is being held over in Duplin this week to complete the trial of Dan Teachey, also charged with murder. Counsel are expected to complete their argument to the jury to-night.

Dan Teachey Convicted.

Wilmington, Special.—The jury in the Dan Teachey murder trial at Kenansville, Duplin county, after short deliberation, came into court and returned a verdict of guilt in the first degree. Teachey's victim, Robert Riverbark, belonged to a well-connected family in Duplin. The killing occurred in March, 1903, at a negro settlement near Wallace, where Riverbark went in search of laborers for his strawberry field.

Could Not Attend.

El Paso, Texas, Special.—Following is President Roosevelt's letter to the National Irrigation Congress read: "I wish it were possible for me to accept your kind invitation to attend the National Irrigation Congress to be held at El Paso. I need not state to you the deep interest I feel in the cause of national irrigation. Irrigation, in every fact, one of the means for national expansion which is most effective.

"Wishing you all success, I am, 'Sincerely yours,' 'THEODORE ROOSEVELT,'"

12 DEAD IN A FIRE

Terrible Loss of Life Caused By the Burning of a Tenement House

BROOKLYN FAMILIES ARE VICTIMS

Flames Starting in the Cellar of a Three-story Building Spread With Such Rapidity That Two Italian Families on the Upper Floors Were Suffocated Before Reaching the Fire Escape—All the Bodies Found in One Room—Two Survivors Will Die—Neighboring Tenants Evade Questions.

New York, Special.—Smothered before they could reach the fire escape in a burning tenement building at 185 Troutman street, in the Williamsburg district of Brooklyn, twelve persons met death shortly before 2 o'clock.

Two entire families, those of Mariatno Triolo and Charles Polognio, are wiped out, the last living member of each being now in a hospital, with no hope of their recovery. They are Charles Polognio, 33 years old, and Tony Triolo, 13 years old, both of whom are terribly burned.

The burned tenement house is the center of a row of three-story tenements, extending the length of the block, and was occupied by Italians.

The fire is supposed to have started in the cellar of the grocery store of Antonio Giambalvo, on the ground floor. The cellar was stored with inflammable material, and the flames spread with lightning like rapidity. All the occupants were asleep at the time, and there was considerable delay in sending in the first alarm. The Giambalvo family lived in the rear of the store, and succeeded in getting out of the building, but before the occupants on the two other floors were roused, their escape had been cut off.

The tenants in nearly all the neighboring buildings dragged their household goods out of the buildings, and with them blocked the way of the fire apparatus. All the bodies were found in the rear room of the third floor, and it was evident that all had been suffocated in their effort to reach the fire escape at the back of the building. The two who were rescued were found in the lower hallway soon after the firemen reached the scene.

In his intervals of consciousness, Polognio cries for his wife and children, but the physicians fear the knowledge of their death would kill him, and have not told him of their fate.

In their investigation as to the origin of the fire, the police have been unable to obtain a statement of any kind from neighboring tenants. The street about the burned buildings has been crowded with Italians all day, but the police report that every one questioned about the persons burned, or the occupants of the building, has refused to make an answer. It was with great difficulty that even the names of the victims could be obtained. The loss is estimated at \$19,000.

Big Fire at World's Fair.

St. Louis, Special.—The Missouri State Building at the World's Fair was destroyed by fire early Saturday evening, resulting from the explosion of a hot water heater in the basement. Instantly the flames shot up through the rotunda, and the north wing and cupola were a solid mass of flames within 10 minutes after the explosion. The loss cannot be estimated accurately, owing to the temporary construction material, which has no salvage value. The principal loss is in the contents of the building. The building cost \$145,000, and in it were \$75,000 worth of furnishings, the most valuable of which were portraits of all former Missouri Governors and supreme judges. These cannot be replaced.

For Railroad Y. M. C. A.

Richmond, Va., Special.—President Stevens, of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad has written the Railroad Y. M. C. A. here, offering to contribute \$15,000 toward the erection of a railroad Y. M. C. A. Building in this city. The other railroads entering Richmond are to give proportionately, and a handsome structure for the railroad Y. M. C. A. seems thus assured.

Ex-Governor Thompson Dead.

New York, Special.—Hugh S. Thompson, former governor of South Carolina, died at his residence here Sunday. He was born in Charleston, S. C. in 1836. In recent years he was controller of the New York Life Insurance Company.

W. C. P. Breckinridge Dead.

Lexington, Ky., Special.—William Campbell Preston Breckinridge died at 11:40 o'clock Saturday night from a stroke of paralysis sustained Wednesday. The end came peacefully. He had been gradually sinking for 24 hours and for that length of time he had been known to be hopeless.