

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

'Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims' at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's.'

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1

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Obituaries and notices of respects will be charged for.

ANOTHER MINE DISASTER.

THIRD HORROR IN PENNSYLVANIA COAL MINE.

Over Two Hundred Men Are Entombed at Jacob's Creek, Pa.—Devotion to Church Duty Saved Many.

Jacob's Creek, Pa., Dec. 13.—An explosion of gas in the Darr mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, located here, today entombed between 200 and 250 miners and there is scarcely a ray of hope that a single one of them will be taken from the mines alive. Partially wrecked buildings in the vicinity of the mines and the condition of the few bodies found early in the rescue work indicate an explosion of such terrific force that it seems impossible that any one could have survived. All of the 13 bodies taken out up to this time are terribly mutilated and three of them are headless. This is the third mine disaster since the first of the month in one of bituminous coal underlenses in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the Naoml mine, near W. Va., in which the explosion happened, are in itself as the local workings. Catastrophe swells the number of dead daily mine gas from 550 to between 550 and 600. Today's disaster does not equal even surpass in loss of life and attendant horrors of the one in West Virginia is due to the devotion to church duties of a considerable number of the miners. In observance of the church festival many of the 440 or more men regularly employed at the mine did not go to work this morning. Those who escaped through this reason are members of the Greek Catholic church and they suspended work to celebrate St. Nicholas day.

As was the case at Monongah the explosion followed a brief shutdown, the Darr mine having been closed Tuesday and Wednesday. It was 11:30 o'clock when the tenth trip of loaded cars had been brought out to the tipple and there came an awful rumbling sound, followed immediately by a loud report and a concussion that shook nearby buildings and was felt within a radius of several miles.

One remarkable feature of this disaster is the almost complete absence of harrowing scenes usually enacted by women friends and relatives of the victims. Conditions preventing of any access to the mouth of the mine are partly responsible for this and those in charge of the work are doing everything possible to keep the women and children away.

All who approach are turned back to their homes, after being assured that they can do absolutely nothing to assist their loved ones, and that the company will do everything possible to bring out the men, dead or alive.

The blacksmith shop has been fitted up as a temporary morgue and a number of physicians are in waiting.

Appears to be no Hope For Entombed Miners—Only Six Bodies So Far Recovered.

Jacob's Creek, Pa., Dec. 20.—From the Darr mine of the Pittsburgh Coal company, where a terrific explosion yesterday imprisoned and almost beyond doubt killed every one of the 200 or more men who had entered the mine for the day, only six bodies had been brought to the surface up to 10 o'clock tonight. Others have been located and a propitious time is awaited for their removal to the temporary morgue.

Most of the men, however, are still hemmed in by heavy falls of slate and other roof formation, a mile and a half and more beyond the point to which the rescuers have penetrated up to this time. There is still a flickering hope that some of them may yet be living, but the disclosures of the conditions so far made leave little chance for this hope. There is little probability of more bodies being found tonight.

Here and there one or more may be found who had fallen during a vain attempt to reach the exits, but the almost universal belief is that nearly all will be found in the leads three miles from the mouth of the mine, where they were working when the explosion happened.

Rescue work has been halted. A vast amount of bratticing must be done before it can proceed. The rescuing parties 7,500 feet from the main entrance have found conditions such that to avert an additional disaster precautionary work must be done. The poisonous gases must be forced to sections beyond and additional air and ventilation must be provided for that section. It is not believed that the great mass of bodies will be reached before late tomorrow afternoon.

Conditions around about the mine and in the little mining town are greatly improved. The men who yesterday began a holiday by drinking and fusing have sobered up and ceased their carousing.

Probably more potent than all else in this improved condition was the arrival from Kittanning of Rev. Father Lawrence A. Carroll, former rector of St. Timothy's Catholic church here, of which a majority of the victims were members. During the day he gave spiritual consolation to the widows and orphans and talked to the men along lines to make them sober and reflective.

As to the number of victims, estimates vary from 175 to 250. Coroner A. C. Winn of Westmoreland county said tonight after a careful investigation he was satisfied the number would be between 180 and 190.

Conrad Schuth, 48 years old, crazed by the death in the mine of his son and other relatives, ended his own life today by drowning in the river near the mine. He was a widower and leaves four small children.

Mrs. Carrino Delano was with great difficulty restrained from committing suicide today. She lost her husband and two sons in the disaster and in quest of the bodies was crossing the river in the "sky ferry," a basket car suspended from a cable, when she tried to leap into the stream. The efforts of three men were required to restrain her.

President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers of America telegraphed from Indianapolis authorizing district officials to draw on the national treasury for \$1,000 for families of victims.

REFUSES TO INDORSE HUGHES.

Republican Committee of New York Lays Over Resolution.

New York, Dec. 19.—By an almost unanimous vote the Republican committee of New York county tonight refused to adopt a resolution indorsing Governor Hughes for the Republican presidential nomination.

When the resolution was offered a motion was immediately introduced providing that the resolution go over for consideration at the next meeting of the committee in January.

This motion was adopted with a shout that could be heard outside the committee room.

FARM CROP ESTIMATES.

Average, Production and Value of Wheat, Corn and Oats.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The department of agriculture today issued a report giving final estimates of acreage, production and value of farm crops, showing winter wheat acreage to be 28,132,000; production 409,442,000 bushels, value per bushel of 88.2 cents. Spring wheat acreage 17,079,000; production 224,645,000; value 88 cents.

Corn, acreage 99,931,000; production 2,592,320,000; value 51.7 cents.

Oats, acreage 31,837,000; production 74,443,000; value 44.3 cents.

The average weight per bushel is shown by reports received by the department to be 56.9 pounds for spring wheat, 58.9 pounds for winter wheat and 29.4 pounds for oats.

WOULD ELEVATE THE BAR.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 19.—Wisconsin brewers have declared themselves ready to do all in their power to elevate the saloon business of this State.

The State association already is on record as favoring the closing of "dive" saloons, and the local associations now have passed resolutions taking a similar stand and offering to cooperate with public officials in an endeavor to elevate the morals of the city, as well as of saloons.

Local brewers also declared themselves in favor of closing the saloons from 1 o'clock to 5 or 6 o'clock a. m.

FIGHT IN CONGRESS.

WILLIAMS AND DEARMOND MAKE BLOOD FLOW.

Passing of the Lie Cause of Encounter—Committee Appointment Was Beginning of Trouble.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The spirit of rivalry that for five years has alternately smoldered and blazed between John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, leader of the minority, and David A. DeArmond of Missouri, leader of the minority opposition, culminated in a first fight today on the floor of the house of representatives. The blows of Representative DeArmond caused blood to flow down the face of Representative Williams and only the forcible intervention of friends cut the combat short. Mr. DeArmond bore away a scuffed nose.

The immediate cause of the fight was the passing of the lie-by Mr. DeArmond to Mr. Williams, resultant of a complaint by the former that the minority leader had broken faith in "burying" Representative Booher of Missouri by recommending his assignment by Speaker Cannon to the committee on coinage, weights and measures. According to the statements of the principals Mr. Williams defended his action by declaring he had been told by Mr. Booher's colleague, Representative Lloyd of Missouri, that the committee assignments would be satisfactory to Mr. Booher. Mr. DeArmond bluntly questioned the truth of the statement and after the failure of an effort on his part to transfer the scene of impending battle Mr. Williams struck Mr. DeArmond in the face with closed fist.

The exciting incident will not be set down in the official record of the sixtieth congress. For the house had been some minutes adjourned when the first blow was struck. But there was no lack of witnesses.

The organization of the house had been completed by the announcement of the speaker's assignments of members to committees, the Republican committee members having been selected by the speaker and the Democrats by Mr. Williams. Groups of representatives were scattered over the floor, discussing the appointments, the causes perhaps behind them, and the effects maybe to follow. In the overlooking galleries loitered a score or so of women and four times that many men, viewing the aftermath of an interesting session.

Mr. Williams, relaxed from the long strain of allotting preferment among the 167 fellow Democrats, whose minority strength he officially leads, was seated at ease at the desk of Representative Wallace of Arkansas, on the centre aisle on the Democratic side of the house. Mr. DeArmond approached, greeted him, and took the adjoining seat. At once they engaged each other in earnest talk; but pitched their voices so low that afterward only one or two members who were very close to them could recall anything they had said. They had been thus in conversation no longer than a few minutes, when both men sprang to their feet, shoving their chairs back, and the gentleman from Mississippi struck the gentleman from Missouri a glancing blow on the nose.

Some representative cried out: "Look! Look at the fight!" Everybody looked; but so startled were they by what they saw that no one seemed for the moment to think of rushing forward and stopping it. Meantime Mr. Williams and Mr. DeArmond wedged between two rows of desks, were still exchanging blows. Blood was flowing down the face of the leader of the minority, while Mr. DeArmond was endeavoring to grasp his opponent by the throat at the same time receiving and vigorously returning blow for blow.

Then everybody awoke to the unseemliness of the scene and crowded in and made an end of it. Mr. DeArmond was seized and his arms pinned. Mr. Williams was pushed back against a desk and laced about with deterrent arms. Thus restrained he relaxed his aggressive attitude; but his adversary struggled in the embrace of his friendly captors and tried to lash out. When Mr. DeArmond interrogated Mr. Williams as to what he was excited about. Mr. Williams smilingly, though tears of mortification stood in his eyes, denied that he was excited and took out a handkerchief to staunch the flow of blood from a cut in his cheek. Presently Mr. Williams was led away in one direction, and both men were released.

Both Belligerents Think They are Right—Friends Trying to Make Peace and Talk of Duel Fanciful.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Yesterday's physical encounter between Mr. John

SHOT BROKER IN OFFICE.

BEAUFORT MAN KILLS NEW YORK BROKER.

Then Kills Himself—Refusal of Credit Said to Be Cause of Double Tragedy.

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The men were closeted in Oliphant's private office at the time and all that is known of what immediately preceded the shooting was learned from the lips of the dying broker. Oliphant said that his refusal to extend further credit to Geiger caused the tragedy. There is reason to believe however, Geiger had become mentally irresponsible. A note book found upon his person contained computations by which the writer apparently had figured that he would be worth \$3,000,000 by Jan. 1, 1908. He actually possessed, so far as his personal effects showed, less than \$11.

Geiger owed the Oliphant firm \$5,000 and had been asked for a settlement. He called at their office today and after explaining that he could not meet his obligation asked that the firm advance him sufficient credit to carry 5,000 shares of a certain stock until a rise in the price should yield him a profit. His proposition was refused and the shooting followed.

The offices of Jas. H. Oliphant & Co., are at 29 Broad street in the centre of the financial district and the shooting caused a sensation in the street and temporarily interrupted the business of the curb traders, the scene of whose activities are overlooked from the big office building.

Clerks who pushed their way into Oliphant's office when they heard shots fired, stumbled over Geiger's dead body. He had shot himself in the mouth and again in the right temple. A revolver was clutched in the right hand. Oliphant had slipped from his chair and lay half concealed under his desk. A bullet had entered the stomach. The broker was still conscious. At the hospital where the operation of laparotomy was performed, it was found that the bullet had grazed the kidneys and lodged in the back. It was not removed.

Oliphant's ante-mortem was supplemented by a statement from the broker's partners, who included Oliphant's son, J. Norris Oliphant.

AGREEMENT WITH RAILWAYS MAY SETTLE TROUBLES IN THE SOUTH.

Conference Held in Washington—Lower Rates and Mileage Books Included in Agreement—Two Roads Oppose.

Washington, Dec. 19.—An agreement was reached at the Southern railway offices here today that bids fair to settle the whole controversy between the railroads and Southern states over passenger rates. The railroad was represented by President Finley, Vice President Andrews and General Counsel Thom; the other side by Gov. Glenn and ex-Gov. Aycock of North Carolina.

The tentative agreement reached on Dec. 11 was ratified and will become operative upon the approval of the legislatures of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. It will afford a lower rate for passenger traffic than now charged in most of these states and Gov. Glenn expects that there will be no difficulty in securing the ratification in the different legislatures.

The rates fixed are, for ordinary tickets, 2 1-2 cents a mile; 2,000-mile books, for the use of firms and their employees to the number of five persons, at 2 cents, interstate and interchangeable; 2,000-mile books for family use, number limited, at 2 cents; 500-mile books at 2 1-4.

President Finley declined to discuss the matter this evening. Gov. Glenn and Gov. Aycock stated that the Southern and Seaboard roads had agreed to the compromise, but that the Atlantic Coast Line and the Louisville & Nashville will not probably do so until forced to. They believe that the agreement is a decided victory for the states concerned and that it will be an advantage to all the people of the South, as well as to the railroads. The Southern has agreed to pay all costs incurred during the recent litigation. The amount will reach nearly \$20,000.

LEVER ON NATIONAL FORES.

JOINT AUTHOR OF BILL TO PROTECT APPALACHIAN RIVERS.

Measure Introduced in the House Provided for the Acquisition by Government of Lands in this and Other Southern States and in Maine and New Hampshire.

Washington, Dec. 22.—As a measure of protecting the navigable condition of the rivers rising in the South Appalachian and White Mountain and incidentally of saving from destruction by fire and wasteful exploitation the rich forests of the two regions, Representatives Lever of South Carolina and Currier, of New Hampshire, have introduced bills in the house authorizing the secretary of agriculture to acquire lands for national forest purposes in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee, in the South, and in New Hampshire and Maine in the North. It is understood that a similar bill will be introduced in the senate at once.

The bill provides that the lands more valuable for the regulation of stream flow than for other purposes and that they be situated on the important watersheds in the Appalachian Mountains in the South, and White Mountains in New England. The land is to be acquired by purchase or gift, and the sum of \$5,000,000 is asked to carry out the provisions of the Act. Small areas of land chiefly valuable for agriculture which may of necessity or by inadvertence be included in the tracts acquired under the proposed Act, after examination may be occupied for agricultural purposes. Such agricultural lands within the proposed national forests would be offered for sale by the secretary of agriculture as homesteads, at their true value, in tracts not exceeding eighty acres. The land may be purchased subject to the reservation by the owner of the minerals or the timber which is merchantable at the time of purchase.

It is further provided in the bill that the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the several States over person upon lands acquired in the Act shall not be affected or changed by the permanent reservation and administration as national forest lands, except so far as the punishment of offenses against the United States is concerned. In this way, the State will not lose their jurisdiction in any way.

Ten per cent of the gross receipts of the proposed national forests will go to the States and to the counties in which the forests are situated for the benefit of the public schools and in improvement of roads, providing the sum distributed to any one county does not exceed forty per cent of the total income of the county. According to the Act, the secretary of agriculture may, for the further protection of the watersheds of navigable streams, acquire and protect for a definite term of years as private forest land where the owner will cut and remove the timber thereon only on rules devised for the protection of the forest thereon. By this cooperation many thousands of acres of privately owned forest will be preserved through wise use without the government going to the expense of purchasing it.

The government has a little more than a fifth of the country's forest area in national forests at present and all of this land is in the West. The remainder is in the hands of private owners, and, for the most part, is under no system of forest management but is being logged off as fast as the saw can work. The West is depended upon now for conifer While the remaining supply of hardwoods is largely in the East in the mountains of the Appalachian range. In his report, which was submitted to congress last week, Secretary Wilson recommended the purchase of no more than 5,000,000 acres of land in the South and 600,000 acres in New England for national forests, in order to protect the flow of the important streams, on which countless industries of the East and South depend for navigation and water power and incidentally to conserve the remaining hardwood timber supply.

STILL ANOTHER NEW COUNTY.

Lake City Now Ambitious to Become A County Seat.

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Cantata at the Gen. Sumter Memorial Academy.

There will be a cantata, at the Gen. Sumter Memorial Academy, as a part of the Christmas celebration of this school, commencing at 6 o'clock p. m., on Thursday, the 26th day of December.

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