# Critical of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. THE DESERET EVENING NEWS. TRUTH AND LIBERTY

## FIFTY-SECOND YEAR

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1901. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

# MORTENSEN SAYS HE IS INNOCENT.

over One Hundred Men Today Search at Forest Dale for The Revolver, Missing Hat and Bloody Clothes.

that the

ment

for the implement of death.

puring the whole of today and last ties and other officers were present. In right the entire police department, all of the deputies at the disposal of sheriff Naylor, more than one hundred people residing at Forest Dale and this vily, have done their utmost to unravel the mystery that surrounds the murder the robbery of James R. Hay last Monday night. But there is little change in the situation over that of last night, Fonte things point more conclusively and damagingly towards Mortensen than on yesterday; others have arisen which contradict the suspicion that he is the guilty man.

Meanwhile everything possible is being done that can be done to fathom the case. It transpires that it was the fullet from a 44 calibre revolver that took young Hay's life, the missle being moved from his brain last night during an autopsy at the undertaking establishment of Joseph E. Taylor. The tolice feel as sure today that Mortenren is the murderer as they did on Juesday that he was not shadily connected with the affair. On it being learned that Hay died from a bullet wound the officers immediately searched Mortensen's house in the belief that they would find a revolver which corresponded in caliber to the bullet which did the fatal work. But not so; the gun found at Mortensen's home was a 32 cultur weapon and bore no evidence of having been recently fired. It naturally follows that if Mortensen did the shooting he did it with another gun. It is that gun for which diligent search is now being made. Hay's hat, too, is also missing. All of his other wear ing apparel was on his body at the time it was exhumed from its crude resting place in the pasture at the side of the railroad track.

Mortensen is still in the city jail, but inclined to be less communicative today than yesterday-this probably on

er, B, J. Stewart, is looking after the interests of the accused man. The attorneys called at the police station today and had a long consultation with the prisoner, and later went down to the scene of the tragedy. It is said that several other lawyers have volun-teered their services in behalf of Mor-

The man says he realizes he is in a bad box," and that the situation at present is not very bright but he is con-fident of being cleared eventually of the dark suspicions that now hover over him.

#### MORTENSEN MAY PROVE ALIBL. Story Told by Wife and Sister-In-Law.

Should the charge of murder he preferred against Peter Mortensen the greatest obstacle in proving it will perhaps be encountered in the testinonies of his wife and sister-in-law, who declare that Mortensen was in their presence during the period that Hay was being so horribly used. The two ladies were taken to the office of the county attorney yesterday

the preliminary examination the doc-tor's found a small hole in the back of the head three and one-half inches from the left ear. That it was made by a builet was plainly evident from the fact. lead had been scraped by the afternoon and although they were both unstrung and distressed, they told a bone. When first seen the wound appeared quite large and in fact on the straightforward story. Mrs. Morten-sen's harrative agrees for the most part with that of her husband, who she It was, and looked as though had been made by an iron instru-The idea that Hay was shot entered the minds of the officers urs of useless search was made never entered the minds of the officers and hours of useless search was made derstand the nature of their transac When the physicians cut the hal tion, as she was not aware that a sack away from the wound it was found that of gold was in the house. Nor did she hear the clink of the gold pieces. She the bullet had taken an upward course at an angle of about 45 degrees and fractured the top of the skull. The bullet then took a downward course and said, when Hay left her husband accompanied him to the south door, and after talking with him a moment bade was discovered imbedded in the front him "good night." A little later, she said, her husband went home with his portion of the brain. Further investigation made it almost certain that the sister-in-law, but returned within a short time. As to Hay, she thought all was fired from short range and by a person walking by the side or just was well with him until his body was found

to the rear of the murdered man, Mr. James Sharp and the police were After being closely questioned the 



#### MORTENSEN'S PAST RECORD.

Important evidence as to the previous record and character of Peter Mortensen, suspected of being involved in the murder of James R. Hay, was brought to light this morning, at the Cullen hotel in a talk by a "News" reporter with Judge Jacob Johnson of Spring City. The judge was speaking of the unusually sad circumstances attending the crime which destroyed this bright young life, when he remarked his readiness to believe that the police had got the right man when they arrested Mortensen. On being asked for his reasons, Judge Johnson replied that he had had dealings back in 1896 with Mortensen and his record at that time was not good. The judge was not at all aggressive in his willingness to revive unsavory memories of the past, but finally consented to state what they were. The judge said: "Mortensen had come down to Spring City in 1896 to build my new house, of which his brother-in-law was the architect. I did not know at the time I let the contract to the architect that Mortensen was to have the building contract, else be might not have got it.

"Mortensen had a reputation about town of not paying his bills, and when he came to my house and wanted to board there, my wife declined to take him in. I took good care to get sureties for Mortensen before I signed the contract, and later when he got into trouble the sureties had to make good his deficiencies. He told me distinctly that he always paid cash for all of his material, and in consequence several times asked me for money in advance of the proper time as he said it was on that account. Mortensen was buying lumber and builders' hardware from Ogden parties whom he declared he paid as fast as the goods were delivered. So at one time I let him have \$1,000 and at another time another \$1,000 to pay his bills with, but subsequent events developed that as did nothing of the kind. Then, it was developed that his plasterers were not paid, and afterwards other workmen showed up unpaid. Then the Ogden dealers in building material appeared and wanted their money also. To all of these I said, Gentlemen, file your ilens, I am secured in this matter, and will look to the sureties for compensation. So the liens were filed regularly, and the sureties paid up. I lost very little by the man, but there were numerous people around town who said that they were out on Mortensen's account, having trusted in his claims."

#### HOW HE WOULD HOLD UP A MAN.

Judge Johnson then stated that he remembered very well how one day, Mortensen came to him and asked for an advance of \$100. "I took the money out of my pocket," the judge continued, "and told him I could let him have it then as I had the cash in my. pocket. The man appeared surprised to learn I carried that amount of money about and asked if I was in the habit of doing that sort of thing. I replied that I had carvied more than that in my pocket. Mortensen immediately said, Well, you wouldn't do it in Ogden.' 'Why not."' I asked. "Becaure,' he said, 'you would be held up and robbed.' I laughed at him and said he was off, and that I could go around Ogden with any amount of money in my pocket without danger. Mortensen answered with some emphasis, 'Weil, you wouldn't. If it was known in Ogden that you were in town with money in your pocket, you would be held up and robbed. Why, in Ogden men are held up and robbed for \$10.' I laughed and told him he did not know what he was talking about, and that I could defend myself if attacked. But Mortensen warmed up further in declaring he know what he was talking about, and then said, 'Why, I could hold you up right in this town and you wouldn't know what alled you, I don't care if you had your pockets lined with revolvers.

"Well, now, tell us how you would work it?" I asked, for he seemed so positive that I was curious to learn just how he would act under such circumstances. Mortensen then said: "Why, I would just skirt around to one side like anyone passing, and just as I got behind you, I would strike you quick in the back of the head, and you would never know what hurt you." I laughed at the man, and ph-poohed his story, but it did not increase my faith in him. The

NOTICE. FURNACE EXPLODES, The demand for space in the CHRISTMAS NEWS has been so **KILLING NINE MEN** great that it has been found necessary to enlarge the issue to EIGHTY-FOUR PAGES. Were at Work on Top When Accident Oc-Last advertising forms will close curred-Bodies Burned to Cinders-Were Slavs and Poles. Saturday. sion of gas in the Soho furnace of Jones & Laughlin, near Brady street, this city, wrecking train and force of about fifty section men are at work. at 6:2% o'clock this morning, nine men were burned to death and five badly REPORT OF CASUALTIES. injured. The damage to the plant will San Jose, Cal. Dec. 12.-The following report of killed and injured at Uplands has been received at the railroad office amount to \$20,000. The bodies of the victims were all removed to the morgue. They were terribly mangled and burned. The dead KILLED. identified thus far are as follows: Mr. Garland, fireman. Wells, Fargo messenger (name un-Joseph Frankovitch. Joseph Sisul. chown). Michael Gasdovicz, 26 years old, INJURED. eaves a wife and child in Hungary. John Carogala. Mrs. Wright. L. L. Oston. A. A. Irvine. Ida Soderberg. John Keishaw. Michael Mezo, aged 25, married and eaves widow in Hungary. John Kochanko. George Szrenko. John Sabo. Mr. Felipe. Mr. Randadore. Snivador Buena Borso. Christian Jensen. George Wellico,

The others injured are at their homes and have not yet been located. The three at Mercy hospital are so hadly burned that they cannot talk and are not expected to survive. Five persons employed near the furnace are unac-counted for and it is not known whether they have perished. The explosion occurred in one of the blg blast furnaces. The men were at work at the top of the furnace over 120 feet from the ground when the gas, which had accumulated in the furnace, exploded and tons of molten metal, cinders and slag, were thrown

over them. They made a rush for the elevator but it had gone down and Mrs. Gerudo. Mrs. Mary L. Booth. Mrs. G. F. Fands. Two cars of No. 19, and three of No. 9 were destroyed. None of the pas-sengers were seriously injured as far as known. The responsibility for the wreck is not yet fixed. there was no escape. The cries of the injured broke the stillness which had spread over the place when the fury of the explosion and fire had abated. Firemen carried the burned, charred and mis-shapen masses of humanity to the morgue SAN FRANCISCO'S ACCOUNT.

report says in part:

persons.'

"The purpose of this bill is to con-

centrate authority and responsibility

for the construction of this great work

been believed by your committee that

this course would be a safer one to be

pursued in carrying out the purposes

work and all the expenditure to be

capital, than any other method that coud he devised. We have tried to con-

rather than to unperse it among many

The report refers to the "exhaustive

report made by the isthmian commis-sion, of which Admiral Walker is the

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

After Transacting Some Business,

Adjourns Until January 6, 1902.

Washington, Dec. 19 .- When the

House met today there was a waste of

acant seats, owing to the holiday exo-

forest reserve was laid before the

Mr. De Armond, of Missouri, at this

"I desire," said Mr. De Armond, "to

dus. The session was brief.

centrate authority and responsibil

wagon. Thomas Jones and Arthur Young, managers of the plant, said that ordi-San Francisco, Dec. 19 .- News of the San Francisco, Dec. 13.-News of the collision between Southern Pacific pas-tenger train at Uplands on the coast road is very meager and conflicting. At first it was reported that at least ten people were killed and fifty injured. narily only three fillers work on top of the furnace but this morning one of the heavy iron wagons used in taking up ore got stuck and the three fillers sent for assistance. More men were sent up until the number there reached fourteen. It was while they A passenger on one of the trains telewere trying to get the wagon loaded that the fatal explosion took place.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec, 19 .-- By an explo- | a volcano in action. Five of the men were blown off the top of the furnace and these are the ones that are still living. The others hung on the rall, some on the outside and some on the Hving. Inside, until their clothing was burned off, and their fingers wire burned off They then fell to the root of the mil dead. Seven of the victims were found dead on the platform of the cupola. These were completely denuded of clothes by the fiames and their bodies were burned almost to a crisp. Two of the doad were found in the stockyard of the plant, 250 yards from the furnace. Every bone in their bodies seemed to have been broken. All of nace. those killed and injured were Slavs and Poles. The management was unable to give their names but sent for George Poles.

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HISTORIAN'S OFFICE.

Pitoli, an interpreter, who went to the morgue and identified some of the vic-Over two tons of ore, coke and hot cinders, some pieces weighing almost three pounds, rained down on Second

avenue and many pedestrians ran into houses and stores for protection. A car was passing just at the time the gas let go. The coke and other ma-terial falling on the car, which had twenty-five passengers aboard, caused a panic and many jumped off. None

a panic and many jumped off. None of the passengers was in the least injured, but all were badly scared. When the explosion occurred the men

in the plant became panic stricken and rushed into the street. The men thought the entire plant was doomed As soon as the smoke had died away, the company's surgeon, Dr. J. W. Mc-Kennan and three physicians, were summoned and they attended the in-jured, three of whom were hurried to the Mercy hospital as soon as anibu-lances arrived.

The people residing about the furnace and for blocks on either side, word badly scared. They rushed from heir homes and a few minutes after the re-port had sounded throughout Soho, thousands of people gathered about the furnaces. Women, whose husbands were employed in the plant, mothers whose sons worked there, and sisters whose brothers were in the plant, formed part of the crowd. With teacs in their eyes they waited with bated breath to learn who were victims of the catastrophe. Some were fated to hear sad news, for among the crowd were wives or relatives of some of the learned of the dead. When they deaths of their loved ones, they burst into tears and some of them are on the verge of mental collapse. It is reported that the explosion was caused by a "slip" in the furnace.

No large advertisements can be accepted later than 12 o'clock tomorrow.

at 11 o'clock Saturday morning, after which no advertisements, large or small, can be accepted. The paper will be for sale at the office, the Cannon Book store and on the streets at 3 o'clock p. m.,

Mr. Saberino. Joe Rundee. John Jordon. George Meeker. Chris Hendrickson, H. C. Martin.

Emmon Beerier. John G. Williams.

John G. Whend A. E. Wakefield. Mr. Holcomt. Charles Wasson. Mrs. Holbridge. Mrs. Naughton.

Gerudo

the advice of counsel. During the day all of the acts of his past life so far as mown have been gone into. It is clearly proved that he has been asso clated with a number of questionable ransactions though never convicted of wrong doing. The police believe that within another twenty-four hours they will have such a web of evidence woven ound him that he will not be able to escape answering to the charge that has been laid at his door. They say that the alibi Mortensen expects to prove, from the fact that he took his sister-in-law home does not count. It is their opinion that he went into the yard with Hay from his own house where the money is alleged to have been pald over, and that he slugged the young man immediately on stepping outside the door and that he returned to the house within a minute or BO, as he states and then accompanied his sister-in-law as claimed by all of them; that after his return to his own home he picked up the body and bore

County

en, but without success.

was thought likely to conceal a revol-ver was examined. The officer was

about to abandon the search when he

thought of moving a lot of books in a book-case. Behind a row of books lay

revolver! It was a thirty-two call-

er affair and quite rusty on one side, appears to be old and shows no evi-

The police have little to say regard-

MORTENSEN CONFIDENT.

Says He Will Come Out all Right-

Mr. Sharp's View.

There are three things the officers and

is only a 32 caliber. Detective She

Important work.

pty shell.

Navlor

It to the place where it was buried. These charges, however do not shake the faith of many of the people of Forest Dale in Mortensen. They declare that he is not that kind of a man, and are of the firm opinion that the deelopments of the next few days will lift the shadow of murder from his name, notwithstanding the fact that he has made some apparently contradictory atements, among them the one that he had \$3,800 in gold stored in fruit botties at a specified place in his cellar. An official examination of the cellar disclosed the fact that the dust at that spot has not been disturbed in any

What the police will have to clear up will be the conversation that took place between Hay and Mortensen on the car as they journeyed home together. and what induced the former to go to the latter's home that night for the oney in face of instructions to the contrary from the president of the ompany; and further, how the body came to be two blocks distant in a diection that Hay was not called upon o traverse in order to go to Mortensen's house.

Young Hay's funeral will take place is quite positive that the gun found by om the Twentieth ward meeting use at 11 o'clock on Sunday next. The spect with which he was held by the people of that ward and the sad and stances attendant upon his ise will probably bring out the funeral in that part of the city.

#### BULLET FOUND.

# would give much to know. Residents of Forest Dale are practi-cally united in the belief that Morten-

Not until 10 o'clock last night was the seasemated by a murderer's builted in the search for the an-ticles mentioned. If they are found and they are to be Mortensen's them all doubt Uses in the truth was made known by an utops, the officers were simply dumb-tounded. If they are not found, will be settled. If they are not found, will be settled. If they are not found, will be supported man is appar-When the truth was made known by an autopsy, the officers were simply dumbthey say. The suspected man is appar ently doing all in his power to all the officers. He said this morning that

After an examination of the wound to the head after the body was ex-humed yesterday morning, and until he was not feeling as depressed as he no was not reening as depressed as la might under different circumstances be-cause he fell assured that his inno-cence would be fully established. a late hour last night, the officers were absolutely positive, so they said, that the young man had been struck on the head with a club, carried to the lonely bod, when Mr. Sharp and the police say that if Mortensen did not kill Hay, he knows who did. Said Mr. Sharp this morn-ing: "I have begged and pleaded with endial where the assassin finished his sh work by beating his victim's head on the railroad track. The wound Mortensen to swear that he saw m son leave his gate, but he will not do h was so larged and large there geemed. no possibility of it being inflicted with holds. bullet, and when the facts were e known last night it was hard to give credit to them. before 10 o'clock last night.

a son leave his gate, but he will not do it. Thuse is where he was assaulted, and down there is where he was murdered. If I knew he left that gate alive I would nt be searching here. I have not accused that man, but if he did not do it, he knows who did." The remark was addressed to Attor-pev C. B. Stewart, who, with his broch. Drs. Mayo and Root proceeded to the morgue of Joseph E. Taylor, and at 10 obleck they began an autopsy. The county siterney, sheriff, several depu-

PETER MORTENSEN. 

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unickly notified of the result of the au-topsy. After the autopsy was concluded, The sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry Mor-

After the autopsy was concluded, tensen, said that she put her four chil Attorney Christensen, Sheriff Deputy Sheriff Raleigh and dren to sleep and went to the home of her brother-in-law and spent the even-ing. After Hay left the house, Morten-Sergeant Burbidge made another attempt to get something from Mortensen accompanied her to her home, she says, unlocked the door, lighted up the Then it was decided to make another house, chatted pleasantly for a short time and left. She heard his foot steps search of Mortensen's home and Sergeant Burbidge was detailed for this as he walked away. On talking the af-fair over with his wife later, Mrs. Mor-The officer proceeded at once to the place and searched the place thorough-ly. Every room was gone through, fur-niture was moved and any place that tensen said that her husband returned and went to bed and slept soundly.

### PREMISES SEARCHED.

#### Dust on Bafters Where Money Was Supposed to be.

Among those early on the scene this morning was District Attorney Eichnor and he was very anxious that every bit lence of having been recently cleaned. )wing to its condition the officers were of ground in the neighborhood be gone over carefully and the distance be measured from various points to the nable to say definitely whether it had been used within the last three or four days or not. Two chambers of the gun spot where the grave was dug. Mr. Eichnor was of the opinion from the location of the grave, that the assassin was well acquainted in that vicinity, were found to be empty and two were still loaded while one contained an emand selected well the place to commit the foul deed. The grave is almost ex-actly half way between the road on Seventh East and a farm house directly ing the gun. Sergeant Burbldge said he was not prepared to express any opinion as to when the gun was last west

Almost the first thing the officers did when they arrived on the scene with Mortensen, was to have the photogra-pher take pictures of the house inside and out. A picture of the cellar was taken and of the place where Mortensen claims to have concealed the money in three fruit jars. The rafter on which citizens at the scene of murder today the money is said to have been placed is still dust-covered and bears no evi-dence of having been disturbed.

are looking for. They are first, the revolver from which the murderous shot Officer Davies secured the jars in which Mortensen claims he placed the was fired; second, the dead man's hat, and third, the blood stained clothes which Mortensen claims he placed the money, and they are being held for worn by the murderer. The police be-lieve when they are found they will clearly establish the identity of the further reference. Someone asked Davies if he found

any money in the jars, and Mortensen guilty party. They are sure they will find the missing articles. Every foot who was standing near by turned quickly and said:

"After I paid Hay the money there were three of four \$20 gold pieces in one of those jars, but I see they are now of the surrounding country is being searched and if the things have been

buried they will not remain hidden long. One thing in Mortensen's favor has been established beyond doubt: The house and premises The searched again and again for the miss-ing money but not a coin could be found. The cellar was literally turned upside down, every foot of the yard and the sheds were explored but no revolver found at his house did not fire the fatal shot. The bullet which en-tered Hay's head is a forty-four callber, so says Chief Hilton, and the gun found

money was found. Shortly before noon the county com is duite positive that the gun found by Sergeant Burbidge has been recently soaked in hot water. For what purpose he cannot imagine. A gun re-cently fired and soaked in hot water will not retain the smell of powder, at least the affects so declars. There is missioners along with County Physician Mayo started from the city and county omilding for the Cannon farm in order o make a careful examination of the Will not retain the shell of powder, at least the officers so declare. There is another gun somewhere and just where is what the police and sheriff's force cene of the murder.

#### CHINAMAN SHOWS UP.

#### Theory that He Was The Murderer Exploded This Morning.

The theory as to the Chinaman was exploded this morning when the of-

feers found the Mongolian quietly working about his place and attending to the needs of his borses. He was positioned very closely but said he new nothing about the case. Asked the beard a shot on Monday night he whiled: "Me no hear eny ting, me epee way, me no stay here," t is a fact that the Chinaman only

ows up on his place in the day time. is is accounted for by the fact that This is accounted for by the fact that obout a year ago the poor fellow was shot through the arm and robbed by a gang of young toughs, and since that time he has remained down town at burned lights and goes to his place in the day

It was thought at first that he had eard the shot Monday night and, binking it was another gang come to ab him, locked his door and fled. But

the Chinaman is absolutely positive that he was not there on Monday night. (Continued on page two.)

### next year he went to live in Sait Lake City.

#### HIS CAREER IN OGDEN.

#### Mixed Up in Two Fire Episodes in Junction City Five Years Ago Judgment Outstanding Against Him. (Special to the "News."]

Ogden, Dec. 19 .- Peter Mortensen, the man who is under arrest in Salt Lake on suspicion of having been concerned in the Salt Lake tragedy, is well known in this city, having resided here for some time after he married Miss Ruth Watkins, daughter of Charles H. Watkins, one of Ogden's most valued citizens. The many friends of the accused man here are emphatic today in their expressions of disbelief that Mortensen is guilty of the crime charged, and they state that while he lived in this community that he always conducted himself as a straightforward man should.

On the other hand there are some people here who say that Mortensen bore an unsavory record among those who were conversant with his methods. In 1894 he was a pariner in the firm of Whittaker and Mortensen, builders and contractors here. This firm secured the contract for the erection of the First ward meeting house. Shortly before the building was completed it was burned to the ground under mysterious circumstances. Upon the firm endeavoring to collect the insurance allegations of arson were rife with the result that when the case was brought into court Mortensen testified under oath that Whittaker had told him that he set fire to the building. The charge of arson against Whittaker was eventually dismissed on account of some legal technicalities in the complaint.

The next case of alleged arson in which Mortensen figured was the burning down during the next year of the planing mill here. Mortensen undertook to lease the premises from William Meyer, giving as security a chattel mortgage for ninety days. The mill lay idle for the first thirty days the mortgage was running and then he took Henry Krumperman into partnership. Krumperman put up \$1,000 with which money some material was bought and the mill opened. A few weeks later a fire was discovered in a pile of shavings in the faill after it had been closed for the night. This was put out early in the evening, but at 3 a. m. the next morning the mill was discovered to be in flames, the fire having broken out in a different part of the building to that in which the first blaze was discovered. There was no insurance on the place, but Mortensen's enemies were not backward in stating that the place had been set on fire in order to escape payment of the chattel mortgage. Mortensen, however, has many friends here who believe that he was not guilty of any such crime. At the end of the minety days William Mayer endeavored to collect the mortgage and succeeded in attaching some of the machinery at the mill, which had not been injured in the fire. Finally suit for \$3,500 was instituted and judgment given against Mortensen. To this day the balance of \$1.500 is still outstanding against Mortensen.

Attorney M. D. Messenger-who prosecuted the case of Meyer this morning, stated to a "News" representative that he was of the opinion that the suspected man was as honest as the average business man and that he would pay all bills, provided he had the money.

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San Ardo, Dec. 19 .- Southern Pacific burned and cut about face and body. Two brakemen, names not known badly cut and bruised. train No. 9 hound for San Francisco, and No. 10 southbound collided between

Fireman C. F. Dameron and Engi-neer Jack Coffee, jumped and escaped this place and Uplands about 1 o'clock this morning. The trains were to meet at Uplands, but the air brake on No. 10 would not hold and crashed into No. with slight injury.

Engineer Knold of train No. 10, also jumped and escaped injury. 9 before the latter train could be

Several passengers were slightly in-jured in the chair and smoking cars. Considerable cash was shipped on Weils, Fargo car. A safe containing builton being still in the flames. The loss to the railwood company in the topped, smashed both engines, two baggage cars and one mail car into ng wood. The cars took fire immediately and were entirely edestroyed. me mail and express packages were

THE KILLED.

Fireman Will Garland, San Francis-

co; jumped and caught under his en-Assistant Express Messenger, name unknown.

INJURED. the wreckage for trains to pass. The Sunset Limited will remain here Four Italians, names unknown; badly until the track can be cleared. A

A passenger on one of the trains tele-phoned the Associated Press from San Lucas that only three were killed, a freman and a baggageman and his helper, and that four Italian laborers were injured, mone of them fatally. Later another passenger wired that three were killed and thirty injured, many of them fatally. This dispatch is authentic.

A message from Salinas to the Asso clated Press says that the coroner has been notified that two were killed and that eighty were injured, fourteen fa-tally. The railway officials in San Farneisco say their reports show three killed and no others seriously injured. General Mansger Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific was a passenger on the northbound train. There was no telegraph office at Uplands, where the wreck occurred and reports come from House committee on commerce, today

San Lucas and San Ardo, small vil-lages several miles away. The two trains in collision were the north and southbound Sunset Limited trains, one from Los Angeles and the other from San Francisco. Both were heavily loaded with passengers.

Four Italians, who were in the smoking car of the northbound train, were bruised and scalded but not fatal-Both engines were demolished and ly. Both engines were demonstreed and the baggage, smoking and chair cars of the northbound train were burned. None of the cars on the southbound train were injured and none of the passengers were hurt.

#### CAUSE OF ACCIDENT.

The cause of the accident was the failure of the northbound train to wait at a siding at Uplands. Instead of at a siding at Uplands. Instead of waiting the train went past the siding at the rate of thirty miles an hour. Half a mile beyond the siding it crash-ed into the northbound train from Los Angeles, which was going at an equal rate of speed. Just as the crash came both spins crows lumed for came boith engine crews jumped for their lives. All escaped except Fire-man Gerber, of the northbound engine. He was crushed to death.

Both engines were completely wreck-ed and the baggage car plied up on the engines. The smoking car of the northbound, in which there were a balt dozen Italian laborers, was also dozen Italian laborers, was also smashed and four of the Italians were badly bruised and scalded by escaping steam. None of them were believed to be fatally hurt.

The message of the President rela-tive to the creation of an Apalachian In the chair car were a number of first-class passengers. Sheriff Peese, of Monterey and a man named Kelshaw of San Luis Oblispo, were bruised but not seriously

Immediately after the collision the baggage car of the northbound train caught fire and Baggageman Garland, circulated in his state to the effect that the rural free delivery service was wreck WBS

present some testimony to disabuse the minds of those who may have been misled, to unconvert those who may have been hypocritical and to confute those

#### DIDN'T OBEY ORDERS.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.-G. F. Rich-ardson, master of transportation of the Southern Pacific company, said to the Aasociated Press:

nt was due to the failure "The accid of the engineer on the southbound train to obey orders sent him to stop at Up-lands. This train was behind time or the dispatcher would have ordered the the instruction of the northbound train at San Arde, the usual meeting place. The conductor of the southbound train was aware of the engineer's error and urned on the air brakes but it was to late and the two trains met. So fai as our reports indicate the news of the far we have news of but three fatalities, a fireman and a bagrageman and his helper. I cannot estimate the num-ber of injured at this time but I am certain that the number of injured will not be large. So far as the dispatcher's office is concerned, everything was straight. It was the error of the engin-error the synthesized train."

Eye witnesses say there was a loud report and the murky heavens were il-luminated with a great sheet of fiame. showing the men on top of the furnace running about, gesticulating wildly. The flames and hot metal looked like

# **REPORT ON THE NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.**

Washington, Dec. 19 .-- Representative | enterprise is fully and at length discussed," and adds: "No doubt is expressed by the com-Hepburn, of Iowa, chairman of the

mission as to the practicability of the enterprise; on the contrary, they join made the report of the committee in favor of the Nicaragua canal bill. Afwith a score of predecessors in pressing their belief that the work can be carried to a successful termination, ter stating the terms of the bill, the within the limits of reasonable cost and reasonable time. All of the great political parties are committed to the policy of the construction of this anal in the hands of the President. It has

The report then quotes the declarations of the various party platforms and Presidents McKinley and Roosa-veit, favoring the canal. In conclusion it says

"In view of the many thousand pages written and spoken in advocacy of the immediate undertaking and com-"In view of the many thousands of of the bill, involving the expenditure of so large a sum of money, all the pledges made by the parties that it should be undertaken and completed, in view of the almost universal demand of the American people that Congress made at a distance so far from the should at once do something effective in the inauguration and speedy completion of the isthmian canal, your committee content themselves with this brief report, embodying their earnest recommendation that the bill pass." head, in which every feature of this

> taken. But Mr. De Armond insisted that reports circulated in his district were false and injurious to him in his

legislative capacity. Mr. DeArmond then obtained consent make a personal statement. said statements had been made that he had taken action npou rural free de-livery routes held up while he was in the Philippines, but that those who had made such statements had lied. He declared that the postoffice department had not treated him in a manly way. Mr. DeArmond charged that his letter point rose to a question of personal privilege. He said that while he was to the postmaster general had been held up. In the course of his remarks, he said he wondered if the postmaster absent in the Philippines a rumor was general, who was leaving the department, was weary of trying to solve the rural free delivery delivery patronage problem. He asserted that the course of the department was in the interest

of certain bosses in Missouri, No action was taken on his state-

The House has agreed to consider the Nicaragua canal bill Tuesday, January 7, and thereafter until disposed of, the order not, however, to interfere with revenue or appropriation bills.

At 1.45 p. m. the House adjourned until Monday, January 5, 1902.

#### Suicide of a London Merchant.

London, Dec. 19.-Hugh Kekewich, of the firm of Morrison, Kekewich & Company, a leading member of the metal exchange, died suddenly this morning. It is said he committed suicide. The belief prevails that Mr. Kekewich recently suffered heavy losses in copper. The metal exchange has classed as a mark of sympathy.

#### Absconder Fleischmann Not Caught

San Francisco, Dec. 19 .- I. M. Hellman, president of the Nevada bank of this city and also of the Farmers & Merchants' hank of Los Angeles, states that there is no truth in the report be ing circulated throughout the country to the effect that Fleischmann, the absconding cashier of the Farmers & Merchants' bank, has been captured in Mexico, Mr. Hellman states that Fleischman has several relatives in Mexico and that if any arrests have been made it is probable that one of the relatives has been placed behind

builton being still in the flames. The loss to the railroad company is said to be about \$40,000. General Manager Ag-ler and several other officials of the road were on board the train at the time of the accident. A relief train with two or three physicians arrived about 6 o'clock and descent about 6 o'clock and dressed the wounds. The track is being built around

A | ear of the southbound train."

who was crushed in the wreck. was burned with his ear. The chair car was also destroyed by fire, but all the pas-sengers in it managed to get out in safety. The first reports of the wreck were treatile are parted. There is no tele-

miles away. Wrecking crews were sent from Salinas and San Luis Obispo and

being held up in his district until his return greatly exaggerated. There is no tele-graph station at Uplands and messages had to be sent from San Ardo, four

who may have lied." He thereupon sent to the clerk's desk and had read a letter sent by him to

the first assistant postmaster-genera asking that official what his status was to be in regard to appointments in the rural free delivery service in his dis trict. Mr. Payne, of New York, made the point of order that the letter did

not constitute a question of persona privilege Speaker Henderson held that a con troversy with the department about atronage did not constitute a matter f privilege. If it were, he said, mem

ters might constantly arise on such pretext to air their grievances. Upon Mr. De Armond's representa-tion that he would develop a question or privilege, however, the speaker al-lowed him to proceed. A second let-ter from Mr. De Armond to the postmaster-general was sent to the desk, but as soon as it was read both Mr Fayne and Mr. Grosvenor renewed the

point of order that no question of per-Mr. Grosvenor's point was that if a member of the House in his legislative capacity chose to invade an executive department for the purpose of patron-age unless it was charged that such action involved a moral turpitude. It presnted no question of personal privi-

The speaker seemed inclined to think the relatives has be that both points of order were well the bars by mistake,

From Salinas and San Luis Obispo and surgeons were also sent from Salinas. Fortunately there were not much for them to do when they arrived. The track is completely blocked, but a tem-porary track is being built around the wreck and paffic will be resumed to-day. day.

