

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Chicago, Oct. 5.—By the explosion of a gasoline stove on the second floor of 2632 Lowe avenue this afternoon, three persons were burned. Two of the injured, Mrs. Effie Lennie and Mrs. M. N. Kurtz, will probably die. Mrs. Lennie was preparing luncheon when the explosion occurred, the burning fluid completely enveloping her. Miss Lennie hastily wrapped her mother in a cloak to extinguish the flames, then picked up the blazing stove, and carrying it to a window, threw it into the court below. It struck Mrs. Kurtz, who was looking up to ascertain the cause of the explosion, and in an instant she too was enveloped in flames. Both Mrs. Lennie and Mrs. Kurtz were badly burned.

Minneapolis, Oct. 5.—A Fargo, N. D., special to the Journal states that officers have rounded up all the men implicated in the recent Northern Pacific passenger train hold-up near Moorhead, and will gather them in tomorrow. All the men wanted are under surveillance. Confessions extorted from a woman by the sweatbox process, gave the officers the information needed.

New York, Oct. 6.—A cablegram received from London today announces that the new North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse was sighted passing Scilly Island light at 10:35 o'clock this forenoon. This announcement makes it quite certain that the leviathan steamer has broken all previous records to Plymouth and Southampton and brought the time of passage across the Atlantic to the English channel very close to the much-talked-of five days.

The Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse sailed from New York for Plymouth and Bremen Sept. 30, clearing the bar at 6:02 p. m. and the light ship twenty minutes later. Allowing four hours for the run from Scilly to Plymouth she is due there about 2:35 o'clock p. m. This will make the time of passage about five days, 15 hours and 13 minutes. This is better by 18 hours and 11 minutes than the time of the Hamburg liner Fuerst Bismarck, which has held the Plymouth record of 6 days, 9 hours and 24 minutes since August, 1896, and the rate beats the Southampton record held by the American liner St. Louis of 6 days, 10 hours, 14 minutes, made last month by about 13 hours, for had she been going to Southampton she would have been due there about 8:30 o'clock p. m. The average rate of speed made would be about 21.60 knots per hour, with her arrival at Plymouth at the time reckoned. The time here given for the arrival of the big steamer is, of course, approximate, and she may make a still better showing than this.

The Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, on her arrival here on Sept. 26 on her maiden trip, made the passage from Southampton in 5 days, 22 hours and 35 minutes, at an average speed of 21.39 knots, lowering the westward Southampton record held by the St. Paul by 1 hour, 56 minutes. By smashing the record both eastward and westward she is now queen of the Southampton course.

Hutchinson, Kan., Oct. 6.—At 2:30 this morning the circus train of Lemmen Bros. was wrecked at the west end of the Hutchinson yards. One man was killed, another is expected to die and two are badly injured.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 6.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from Medora, Ill., says:

A fire broke out at 3 a. m. in the rear of Robings' hardware store

spread rapidly and in two hours had destroyed that building and seventeen others adjoining, practically wiping out the business portion of the town. Loss—estimated at \$100,000; Insurance Lax, \$10,000; J. Robings, \$6,000; Bank of Medora, \$8,000; E. L. Loper & Co., \$2,500; T. A. Loomis, \$6,000; A. Steed, \$7,000.

Several persons were more or less seriously burned and bruised while trying to rescue goods from the stores. Among them are C. W. Tietsart, severely burned on hand; F. T. Roch, hands burned, will probably lose one; W. F. Keller, severely burned about the face; Joe Dennon, hurt by falling piano; E. E. Peeble, bruised and burned; Dr. J. E. Walton, cut by flying glass.

Before being discovered the fire got such a start that the citizens of the town which has a population of 1,500 had hard work in getting the flames under control. In addition to this the water was very scarce and most of the wells are surrounded by fire which rendered them useless.

London, Oct. 6.—The officials of the British foreign office have communicated to the United States ambassador, Col. John Hay, the final decision of the government, that Great Britain must refuse to take part in any sealing conference with representatives of Russia and Japan. The British government, however, asserts its willingness to confer with the United States alone but it insists that Russia and Japan are not interested in the Bering sea seals to a degree entitling them to representation at the conference. The British government does not suggest any date for a conference with the United States and it is thought probable in London that Great Britain's withdrawal will result in two meetings, one between the United States, Russia and Japan and the other between the United States, Great Britain and Canada. It can not be too strongly reiterated that the withdrawal of Great Britain from the Washington conference is due to Canada's insistence and that until the Canadian officials informed the foreign office here of Canada's objections to meeting Russia and Japan, out of fear of being outvoted, Great Britain fully intended to enter the conference.

St. Michaels, Sept. 16.—The general impression is that the boats that leave here from this time on will not be able to get over 1,000 miles up the river before they will be frozen in. All independent steamers will be compelled to carry coal, as the natives have cut up all the drift wood along the river bank for over 100 miles and have sold it to the steamers owned by the two big companies.

The new finds on Minnook and Hunter creeks continue to cause excitement and there are now about 600 miners on the ground.

In St. Michaels sugar is 25 cents per pound, shot shells are 25 cents each, bacon 35 cents a pound, blanket trousers \$8, chocolate drops three for 25 cents, five cent calico 35 cents a yard, cotton bandanas \$1 each, flour \$8 a hundred weight, candles 35 cents a pound, small box of sardines 50 cents.

Six men have probably lost their lives near here as the result of a foolhardy attempt to sail up the 1,850 miles of river, which in some places runs down at the rate of eight miles an hour. The men, two of whom are named Abercrombie and Tate, were last seen drifting out of the mouth of the Yukon to sea in distress.

Three men in a sailboat started up the river from here last week, and have not been seen by anybody since. Their names are Matthews, Roberts and Schultze.

Red Bluff, Cal., Oct. 6.—Mrs. C. Volker, wife of Conrad Volker, a pioneer resident of this place, was burned to death at his home on Jefferson street last night about 11:30. While descending the cellar stairs with a lighted lamp, she stumbled and fell, breaking the lamp. She fell in such a way that she was suspended and helpless over the burning oil, and before she could be rescued by her husband was fearfully burned. Dr. Cameron was immediately summoned but could be of little assistance and she died at 4 o'clock this morning.

Minneapolis, Oct. 6.—A special to the Journal from Plankinton, N. D. says:

The girl's cottage at the state industrial school burned at midnight. Tillie Hooper, in charge of the sewing department; Nellie Johnson, aged 13, of Grafton, N. D.; Belle Fobart, aged 9, of Sioux Falls; Belle Kirby, aged 14, of Hot Springs; Iva Warner, aged 16, of Watertown and Christina Bergman, aged 11, of Yankton perished in the building. Twenty of the girls escaped. The loss is about \$25,000. The origin of the fire is unknown but it was probably caused by a lamp exploding.

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 6.—The Canada-Atlantic railroad has not yet been able to get a train to Casselman on account of the fire which started in that vicinity and which raged all night. Three villages, Casselman, South Indian and Cheney were swept away.

A train which arrived at Casselman at noon yesterday from Montreal bound for Ottawa, was kept dodging the fire all night, reaching here this morning. Early this morning the people of Casselman, about 500, were reported as huddled together on the docks on the river without sufficient clothing. At South Indian, with a population of 500, there are only three or four houses standing. South Indian is several miles from Casselman. Cheney is also near South Indian. The fire covered a distance of about 25 miles. Casselman has 75 or 100 residences, a lumber mill, grist mill, furniture factory and several other business places of importance. Assistance is being forwarded from Ottawa.

It is reported that two women and children were burned to death at South Indian and one woman at Cheney.

Caro, Mich., Oct. 6.—Forest fires are raging south and east of Kingston, Mich. Several farmhouses and barns have been burned and great excitement prevails as a change of wind would place Kingston in imminent danger. The village of Wilmet is also surrounded by fire and will surely burn unless help is given the exhausted residents.

Mascoutah, Ills., Oct. 7.—In the experience of the oldest settlers in St. Clair and adjoining counties the present drouth is without parallel. For two months there has been practically no rainfall in this section and the temperature has ranged above 90 degrees in the shade almost daily during all that time. The damage done by the drouth in southern Illinois cannot be accurately estimated, but it has been great. The heaviest loss to the farmers is on the corn crop, which has been cut down 50 to 65 per cent by the dry weather. It has also done great damage to all late vegetation and to the fruit crop generally.

Hundreds of wells, cisterns and creeks have entirely failed and a water famine is threatened over a large area of country. Many farmers residing east of Mascoutah are haul-