

**AN OLD-TIME
PRAIRIE FIRE.**

Sweeps Over Oklahoma and Kansas, Entailing Loss of Life and Property.

STARTED IN WICHITA MOUNTAINS

More Than One Thousand People Are Homeless and There Are Many Penniless.

Oklahoma City, March 3.—The fire was started near the Wichita mountains, in the military reserve, and during the afternoon had gained such headway that when it crossed into the settled country it could not be checked. At 10 o'clock the wind suddenly shifted and a fearful gale swept down from the north, with the velocity of a hurricane. In a few minutes the country for miles was in an atmosphere of smoke and blinding sand, as the flames, mad with the fury of the wind, swept down upon the settled country and towns to the south. Homes were hurriedly abandoned and people sought refuge in the open fields. Some were unable to escape, were burned to death; but how many will not be known until the district is explored by relief parties, which have been sent out from Lawton, Hobart, Fort Sil and Anadarko.

Dr. Harmond, whose body was found in a barn, was caught while trying to save his horse.

Lawton was in the path of the fire, and as soon as the danger was known 100 men placed themselves under direction of the fire department for protection of the city. By dint of heroic effort the town was saved. For many miles not a house is left standing, while reports from Lawton state that the magnitude of the calamity increases as details arrive. More than 1,000 people are homeless and penniless, and many are in need of medical attention.

LIST OF VICTIMS.

Guthrie, Okla., March 3.—A dispatch from Lawton gives a partial list of those who lost their lives in the prairie fire, and those who were injured, as follows:

Dr. Harmond, living six miles north-east of Lawton, burned to a crisp.

Jack Harmond, cannot live.

A. N. Crawford, near Lawton, badly burned; may prove serious.

Mrs. Henderson, widow, living three miles from Lawton, and two daughters, seriously burned; one cannot live.

R. S. McRichard, slightly burned.

R. S. Trooper, slight injuries.

The report says that more fatalities are expected as the reports from some districts are meager. It tells of many narrow escapes of whole families in their night clothes fleeing from their burning homes and leaving their stock and property to go up in smoke.

Another death is reported from Lawton, that of a boy whose charred body was found on the prairie a few miles from that place so disfigured as to make identification impossible.

REPORTED HEAVY LOSSES.

Topeka, Kan., March 3.—Numerous reports are coming in from Kansas counties telling of heavy losses from the night's fire. In almost every instance the fires were caused by people burning stubble and pasture land. The high wind came unexpectedly, and the fires were beyond control in a short time.

Many narrow escapes from death are reported, but so far as known only one person (Frank McGrew of Bird City) was burned to death. No estimate is made of the aggregate damage but it is very high.

Around Salina eight fires were burning at practically the same time. The damage there will be about \$10,000.

It took the most desperate efforts on the part of Gypsum City people to prevent the town from burning. Men, women and children fought the fire for four hours.

Great damage to farm buildings, stock and grain is reported from Culver, Lincoln, Colbert, Marquette, Ellsworth, Kanopolis, Graham, Ellis, Russell, Lakin, Hill City, Concordia and other places.

At Deerfield, seven miles from Lakin, the school children were kept in the school building until after 9 o'clock at night, until all danger had passed.

At Hill City the people rushed to the Solomon river to escape the fire. No fatalities resulted.

In Lincoln county the fire cut a swath two miles wide and ten miles long. Similar reports are received from other counties.

Most of the fires burned out during the night.

CHAINED TO A POLE.

Case of Maki May Result in Much Trouble for Colorado.

Denver, March 3.—Gov. Peabody said today that although Telluride is still under martial law the military authorities were not responsible for the slaying of Harry Maki, a striking union miner, who was kept chained to a telegraph pole for an hour and a half because he refused to work in the chain gang after having been convicted of vagrancy.

Willard Runnels, a deputy sheriff, is said to have chained Maki to the pole. No report has yet been received from Attorney E. F. Richardson, who has been sent to Telluride by the officers of the Western Federation of Miners to investigate the case. W. D. Haywood, secretary of the federation, today sent the following telegram to the Telluride union:

"Suffer no more abuses. If you cannot get relief through the courts you still have left the power of self-defense."

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

Senate Committee Completes Its Consideration of It.

Washington, March 3.—The senate committee on military affairs today completed consideration of the army appropriation bill.

Among the changes made are the following: Military cable from Sitka to Fort Laramie, Alaska, \$321,540; for shelter serving in Panama, \$100,000, to be immediately available (it is an appropriation to meet any future possible exigency calling for troops); wagon road from Valdez to Fort Egbert, Alaska, \$25,000; bridging the Spokane river near Fort Wright, Washington, to be constructed in conjunction with the authorities of Spokane, \$10,000; hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, \$10,000; hospital at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, \$10,000.

An appropriation of \$10,000 is made for the national rifle range at Fort Riley, increased by one battalion. Double time in reckoning time for retirement officers is allowed for service in China, Cuba, the Philippines, Guam and Panama.

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In the discretion of the secretary of war 25 per cent of the amount paid officers and men may be in Philippine currency at the ratio of two pesos to one dollar.

Officers who served in the Civil war and who have not reached the grade of brigadier-general, it is provided, may retire with an advance of one grade.

FIFTEEN DEAD.

Victims of the New York Collapsed Building.

New York, March 3.—There are 15 dead, 15 known to have been injured and three persons reported missing as the result of the collapse of the unfinished Darlington apartment hotel building in West Forty-sixth street yesterday afternoon. The building, which was under construction, fell from the top of the building, directly in the rear of the collapsed building.

The search for the dead among the twisted iron girders and masses of stone continued all last night and today. A wrecking force is now at work and is aided in its efforts by a steam derrick. Many large areas have been erected over the mass of twisted timbers and beams, and operation will go on throughout the night.

Four bodies were in sight late tonight, but much work will still be required to reach them.

The body of Frank Allison, brother of Eugene Allison, president of the Allison Realty company, was taken from the ruins tonight. Allison is supposed to have been on the ninth floor of the building at the time of the disaster. The body was found against the wall of the dwelling to the west. It was horribly mangled and was in a network of iron girders.

In a pocket of his coat was found a letter written, Coroner Scholer says, by Miss Amy L. Marquis of St. Louis. The coroner said that the letter indicated that the couple were to have been married and that they intended to reside in San Francisco.

Allison was an expert gunner in the United States navy, serving in the Spanish-American war. He returned from the Philippines only a few months ago.

Schwabacher, Coroner Scholer said, has disappeared. Mr. Allison, he explained, is sick in bed at his home with nervous prostration, and that a lawyer representing Mr. Allison assured him that, owing to his client's condition, it would be impossible to give him up at the present time.

Among other warrants issued are two for William W. O'Brien, chief architect for Boggs & Neville, and Frederick Mohn, an ironworker foreman for Pole & Schwabacher. Mohn, however, may be among the dead.

Shirley Green says his brother, William R. Greene, 61 years old, a foreman on cement and masonry work for the Robbing company, had not been seen or heard from since yesterday, and is supposed to have perished.

Hives are a terrible torment to the little folks, and to some older ones. Easily cured. Doan's Ointment never fails. Instant relief, permanent cure. At any drug store, 50 cents.

JAPAN'S GREAT NAVAL STATION.



NAGASAKI HARBOR.

Easily the most important naval base of Japan in the present war is the harbor of Nagasaki, a splendid recent picture of which is herewith shown. Because of its position on the west coast, in easy reach of the theater of hostilities, this port at present eclipses both Hiroshima and Yokohama, though both ordinarily are important naval stations. Nagasaki is admirably protected from the sea, as the harbor is approached only through narrow straits, the shores of which are thoroughly fortified. It has splendid docking facilities and is said to be the fastest coaling station in the world. The harbor has very beautiful surroundings, the picturesque and varicolored hills almost closing it in on all sides.

INDIAN ANCESTRAL FEAST DISH.



Considerable light is being thrown upon the origin of the Indians of the northwest American coast by the Jesup north Pacific expedition. Among the most interesting tribes discovered are the Kwakiutl, on the northern part of Vancouver Island. For centuries they have held peculiar and spectacular ceremonies, in which an entire tribe gathers in the home of the chief. These festivals end by a feed on fish cakes piled high on an ancestral feast dish, which in many cases is over twelve feet long, the main bowl of it being large enough to hold a man. It is carved from the trunk of a large cedar tree. The expedition has brought to light very marked resemblances between these Indians and the native tribes of northern Asia.

ceded to a proposition by Mr. Perkins that in effectiveness of appliances the United States stood next to Great Britain. This was due to the fact that we had been able to take advantage of the mistakes of European powers.

Mr. Hale said that Japan was the smallest of the naval powers with the exception of Austria, but had an advantage in being only a few hundred miles of the farthest naval operations in which she might become involved. "In our navy," said Mr. Hale, "there is talk of putting many of our vessels, such as the Oregon, Indiana and others of the same class in the retired list."

"I hope they won't retire the Oregon," said Mr. Stewart.

"Well, they ought not to," said Mr. Hale, "but she has not the stateroom facilities that meet the fancy of naval officers. She has the same number of thirteen-inch guns and the same fighting capacity. Nothing suits navy officers except the largest battleships."

He expressed the opinion that the present war in the orient would show that other vessels are more valuable than large battleships, but admitted that no definite conclusions could be drawn until the smoke lifted.

Mr. Hale said he had no censure for the officers of the American navy. "But the naval officer is the naval officer pure and simple and the American navy bounds his complete horizon. To him the navy is right, and the naval board has run too much in the direction of enormous ships." The naval board program contemplated 48 battleships and 24 armored cruisers, and when that stage was reached an appropriation of \$200,000,000 a year would be necessary for the navy. He thought it probable that the appropriation required next year would be \$125,000,000. If, however, the scale should be kept down to the present rate of increase the appropriation would be increased.

Mr. Perkins defended the officers of the navy, saying they were entitled to great credit.

Mr. Hale admitted that the American officer was a man of merit, but Congress had its responsibilities and should know where the money was going. "I am," he said, "not to be deterred by criticisms of want of patriotism. I want a powerful navy. It is necessary on account of the conditions we have got seven good ships in the Philippines, for instance. It is different from what it is with Japan, who will do her fighting at home. In case of war we should have to spend hundreds of millions in the Philippines. But there is danger of going further than necessary."

Mr. Hale admitted that the last extensive additions to the navy had been made necessary by the acquisition of the Philippines and said that for one would like to get rid of those islands. Still, so long as we have those islands we must protect them. Likewise, he said, it now would be necessary to maintain a navy sufficient to protect the Panama canal.

Mr. Lodge spoke at some length on the need of a good navy to protect our trade and uphold the Monroe doctrine. He did not believe the torpedo boat would supersede the battleship, and said that in our war with Spain the torpedo vessel had been a complete failure.

Mr. Money said that if we were to persist in our policy of subordination we would find necessary a greater navy than the people were willing to support. Mr. Money spoke of the prowess of the Japanese and quoted a high authority as predicting that in a few months the Russian fleet would be overcome. Then would soon follow the success of the Japanese on land. They would secure Korea and probably a part of Manchuria. Next they would go to the Philippines.

At the suggestion of Mr. Hale an appropriation of \$400,000 for the restoration of the frigate Constitution was inserted.

The senate at 5:00 p. m. went into executive session and at 5:15 p. m. adjourned.

HALE CRITICISED NAVAL BOARD PLANS

He Declared They Tend to an Establishment Beyond the Country's Needs.

LODGE DEFENDED EVERYTHING

And Insisted That a Large Navy Is Essential to the Maintenance of Peace.

Washington, March 3.—For almost four hours today the senate, while technically engaged on the naval appropriation bill, discussed a wide range of subjects, including the policy of the United States in the Philippine islands and the Russo-Japanese war.

The principal participants were Messrs. Hale, Bacon, Lodge, Dewey, Patterson, Perkins and Money. Mr. Hale, in charge of the naval bill, criticized the plans of the naval board as tending to an establishment beyond the needs of the country.

Mr. Lodge, Mr. Dewey and Mr. Perkins defended the naval officers. Mr. Lodge declared a large navy an essential to the maintenance of peace. Mr. Money said he did not consider the total appropriation, \$25,000,000, carried by the bill, as excessive under our present policy in the orient. He, however, criticized that policy, as did other Democratic speakers.

The reading of the committee amendments to the naval bill had not progressed very far, when Mr. Gorman asked for a statement in explanation of the bill from Mr. Hale, in charge of the measure.

Mr. Hale explained the bill. He classed Great Britain first, France second and the United States third in naval strength, saying the popular impression that Germany outranked this country was fallacious. Mr. Hale admitted that the Japanese fleet would be overcome. Then would soon follow the success of the Japanese on land. They would secure Korea and probably a part of Manchuria. Next they would go to the Philippines.

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