

DREADFUL EARTHQUAKE VISITS SAN FRANCISCO

Flood and Fire Follow Shock

Great Buildings Topple, Watermains Burst and Flames Eat Their Way Up Business District, Spreading Terror in Their Wake—Most Frightful Disaster in Country's History.

Excitement and Terror Contribute to Make Horror the Worst Ever Witnessed by the People of the Coast—Wires Down and News Information Meager.

Thousands of Lives Are Lost

DENVER, April 18—At 9:15 a.m. Postal Telegraph Company here received the following information from Los Angeles: It is reported that thousands of lives have been lost in an earthquake at San Francisco. Both the Postal and the Western Union telegraph buildings in that city are reported to have been destroyed. A disastrous fire is eating its way up the south side of Market street and at last accounts was within three blocks of the Palace hotel. Water mains were bursting and the fire department was absolutely helpless. Business is entirely suspended.

Buildings Dynamited To Stop Progress Of Fire

SACRAMENTO, Calif., April 18—The correspondent of the Associated Press here has been informed from a reliable source that the earthquake this morning in San Francisco created great destruction of property. The loss from the shock and subsequent fires will reach into the millions. The fire is still raging covering an area from Montgomery street to the Water front. It is said hundreds of buildings in the business section have been ruined. The fire started in a dozen different places and is now being fought with dynamite. Three miles of the Southern Pacific track near Benicia was sunk down for a depth of about four feet.

Operators Return to Their Posts After an Hour's Absence.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 19.—Reports received by the Salt Lake office of the Postal Telegraph company from San Francisco would indicate that the first reports of the earthquake in San Francisco were exaggerated. Supt. W. P. S. Hawk was in communication with San Francisco office of the Postal Telegraph company after the earthquake. He was informed that it would be necessary for the operating force to vacate the office. This was done and the operators left the building, but returned within an hour, and business was resumed. San Francisco reported that the water mains in Market street had broken. Salt Lake is not now in communication with San Francisco.

Buildings Rock Like Cradles, Panic Comes and Destruction Ensues.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—San Francisco was practically wrecked by an earthquake at 5:10 this morning. The shock lasted three minutes, thousands of buildings were damaged and destroyed. The loss of life is reported to be great. There is no water and fire rages all over the city. All wires with the exception of one are gone. The city hall, costing seven millions, is in ruins. Modern buildings suffered less than brick and frame. Terror and excitement are indescribable. Most of the people, asleep, were suddenly aroused and rushed into the streets undressed. Buildings swayed and crashed, burying occupants. Panic in the hotels. Lick house was badly damaged but no loss of life is reported there. The Palace and San Francisco hotels stood the shock. People flocked to the telegraph office to send messages to friends and were frantic because there were no wires. The greatest damage to buildings was done south of Market street, where they are mostly frame buildings and tenement houses. Fire broke out in every block of that district. SACRAMENTO, CAL., April 18.—The severest earthquake shock felt in this city in many years

AN INHUMAN BRUTE ACTING AS JUDGE.

A Kansas City Justice Imposes A Barbarous Sentence on A Drunkard.

TO DRINK HIMSELF TO DEATH.

Tried to Carry It Out But Lands in Jail for Grand Larceny.

Chicago, April 18.—The Record-Herald today says: Condemned by a court of justice to get drunk and remain so until drink killed him, Selby T. Jones, son of a former prominent wholesale hardware merchant of Kansas City, Mo., came to Chicago to obey the sentence of court. Without means last Sunday to continue the debauch judicially imposed on him, but sufficiently intoxicated to resort to any expedient to carry into effect the remarkable penalty, he stole a traveling salesman's valise and sample case and was arrested.

Yesterday, having been held to the grand jury for grand larceny, he was transferred from a police station to the county jail, thoroughly sober, and, for the time at least, contrite and eager to start life anew. Jones' efforts to satisfy his parole by drinking himself to death have continued since March 6, when Judge Wofford of the criminal court in Kansas City pronounced this sentence: "If you will get drunk and stay drunk I'll let you out of jail. You must leave the city. Only remember you must get drunk and stay drunk. You're a bad man, and whisky will take you to the devil faster than anything else. The sooner the devil gets you the better. If you don't live up to these conditions I'll put you in jail and keep you there."

GOVERNOR FOLK ON SPRINGFIELD LYNCHING.

St. Louis, April 17.—Referring to the Springfield lynchings, Gov. Folk said tonight: "We have recently had an occurrence in our state that has shocked the civilized world. Strange to say, there are men, good men, too, who approve what the Springfield mob did last Saturday night, when three negro prisoners were lynched by hanging them to the outstretched arm of the statue of liberty holding aloft the torch of civilization. Whatever may have been the crime

of the wretches, irrespective of their guilt or innocence, it was murder for the mob to kill them. They may have deserved death, but it was death at the hands of the law and not by a mob. We have a government by law and not by mobs. Murder and criminal assault are punishable by death in this state, and a fault of justice in the case of the latter crime is unknown. "The action of the Springfield mob was dastardly, cruel, inhuman and cowardly. Those who would condone the action of the mob speak of the killing of a negro by young Peters at Springfield last night. "In this case Peters was attacked by the negro, and he shot to save his life and the honor of the lady he was escorting. His act was courageous and was entirely blameless in the eyes of the law. Conscious of the righteousness of what he had done, he went to the authorities and gave himself up. He was promptly and properly discharged. If the members of the mob think they did a manly thing, why do they not bravely give themselves up and have the law take its course as to them? Instead of this, after committing this diabolical crime against the honor of the state they slunk cowardly away into the darkness. Not one will dare admit publicly his connection with the infamous proceedings. But if they thought they were merely putting to death three negroes they were mistaken. They aimed at the assassination of the state of Missouri and insulted the majesty of the law. If such conduct be tolerated it will lead to anarchy. It takes many years to make a civilized, law-abiding man out of the savage. It only takes a few minutes to make a savage out of a civilized man."

THE REBATE CASES.

Immunity Pleas of the Railway Companies Denied.

Kansas City, April 17.—In the rebate cases in the U. S. district court here today, the plea of immunity filed by the railway companies on the basis of the decision of Judge Humphrey at Chicago in the beef trust cases, was denied. The decision rendered today, which was by Judge Smith McPherson of Iowa, sustains the demurrers of the government to the immunity pleas filed by the Chicago and Alton, John N. Fairbairn, former vice president, and F. A. Winn, former assistant traffic manager of that road. The railway and two officials, with other railroads, five local packing houses and several officials, were indicted here last December by the grand jury, charged with giving rebates on packing house and other products in violation of the Elkins law, and with conspiring to secure rebates in violation of that law. Defendants must now plead to the indictments within 10 days.

ELECTRIC COMPANIES MERGER DECISION.

St. Paul, April 17.—Judge Sanborn, in the court of appeals, today handed down an opinion in the case of Morgan Jones, appellant, versus the Missouri Edison Electric company et al. The case involved the merger of all electric and power companies of St. Louis, and if the statements of the plaintiffs are true, involves an attempt to freeze out by means of alleged stock manipulation some of the minority stockholders from the merger. The circuit court below sustained the demurrer and the decision of Judge Sanborn today reverses that decision. The alleged facts set forth in the appellant's brief, in substance, are that

the North American company, a New Jersey corporation, arranged to consolidate all the electric light and power companies operating in St. Louis in one company, thereby dispensing with competition. The North American company secured three-fifths shares of the stock of the participating companies, and it is alleged then began a scheme to deprive Jones and a few others of the minority stockholders who owned preferred stock of their equity. A \$10,000,000 corporation was formed. Common stock was bought up and the preferred depreciated until it fell to about 50 per cent of its par value, and at the same time effort was being made to increase the value of the common stock. The plaintiffs allege this is an injustice to their holdings. The demurrer held that the petition did not state sufficient facts to constitute causes of action. Judge Sanborn practically holds that there is basis for an action and while the issue was not exactly the legality of the corporation, the forming of that merger was legal under the Missouri law.

CELEBRATION OF FRANKLIN'S BIRTHDAY.

Philadelphia, April 17.—The important features will mark the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, which begins in this city today. King Edward of England will receive the degree of doctor of laws from the University of Pennsylvania, and Andrew Carnegie, acting as lord rector of the university of St. Andrews, Scotland, will confer the honorary degree of doctor of laws upon Miss Agnes Irwin, dean of Radcliffe college and great-granddaughter of Franklin. At the opening of the celebration, in honor of the memory of the philosopher and statesman at Witherspoon hall tonight, Miss Irwin will be honored and the degree will be conferred upon King Edward by proxy next Thursday night, when the sovereign will be represented by Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, British ambassador to the United States.

DAZ'S HUNTING TRIP.

City of Mexico, April 17.—President Diaz and party returned yesterday from the hunting trip, having had the good fortune of killing three mountain cats and 17 deer. The president was in excellent condition and showed the fatigue of the expedition less than some younger men of the party.

DAUGHTERS OF REVOLUTION.

Mrs. Tunis S. Hamlin, Chaplain General, Wants "Mormonism" Abolished. Washington, April 17.—At today's session of the Daughters of the Revolution, 1,039 delegates were present. Rev. Roland Cotton Smith of Washington pronounced the invocation, after which Mrs. Martha Lincoln Eustis of Iowa sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Mrs. Robert M. Park of Georgia, vice president-general, presided, while the president-general, Mrs. Donald McLean, delivered her annual report. Mrs. McLean said that 75 per cent of the society's income went for expenses, which she was handling every effort to reduce. Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Main, vice president, in charge of organization, reported a membership of 58,928, and the register-general, Eleanor M. Jamieson, reported the addition of 4,384 new members during the past year. Mrs. Tunis S. Hamlin, chaplain-general, urged the abolition of "Mormonism," and that help be given southern women in uplifting the negro.

Miss Mary Desha, recording secretary-general, read a report of a special committee which has investigated the election of Mrs. McCracken and Mrs. W. H. Wood, the state regent and state vice-regent, respectively, of Montana. The report finds in favor of the Montana ladies. It was referred to a standing committee, which will report to the general congress Friday. Mrs. M. E. S. Davis, treasurer-general, reported the year's expenses at \$40,833. OPERATORS SAY THERE IS NOTHING TO ARBITRATE.

New York, April 17.—A sub-committee of operators of the anthracite coal carrying railroads and mine operators held a meeting in this city today and drew up a letter to President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers of America, in which the operators expressed their opinion that there is nothing to arbitrate except the question whether there shall be any arbitration. This reply is made in response to President Mitchell's recent amended proposition of arbitration. The operators do not, however, refuse point blank to accept Mr. Mitchell's latest plan. They assert that all the differences between the miners and their employers have been dealt with by the strike commission, the operators declare. "No reason is suggested why they should be retried. We have no further suggestions to make than those contained in our four propositions and we regret that you have declined both of them. We have nothing further to offer." The operators assert that the miners' offer to arbitrate, most of whom will be subjected to restraint on board the vessels in which they came to this country, went to sleep tonight in the steerage of moored trans-Atlantic liners. This was because a record-breaking rush of immigration has swamped the bureau on Ellis island, which has facilities for examining only 5,000 new comers a day.

IMMIGRANTS COMPLAIN OF STEAMER ACCOMMODATIONS.

New York, April 17.—Sixteen thousand immigrants, most of whom will be subjected to restraint on board the vessels in which they came to this country, went to sleep tonight in the steerage of moored trans-Atlantic liners. This was because a record-breaking rush of immigration has swamped the bureau on Ellis island, which has facilities for examining only 5,000 new comers a day. Nevada N. Stranahan, collector of the port, today received a complaint signed by more than 100 steerage passengers on one of the incoming steamers. These said there were not sufficient berths; that men and women were in the same compartments; that there was a general lack of discipline, and that the behavior of many passengers was offensive, and that the food was insufficient and of poor quality. Inspectors, under the direction of Mr. Stranahan, are making an investigation.

JACK BOYLE MURDER.

Warrants for Three Men, Charged With Complicity, Issued. Greeley, Colo., April 17.—Warrants charging complicity in the murder of Jack Boyle, the ranchman, who was assassinated at the Ketchikan ranch last Friday night, were issued today for Tom O'Neil, Sam Seville and Fred Metzger. O'Neil is a ranchman and buster.

TERRITORY WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Gov. Hoch of Kansas Says it is Soon to Predominate in National Councils.

STATES SHOULD NOT BE BIG.

Easier to Make Mistake in Formation of One Than to Rectify Error.

St. Louis, April 17.—The convention of commercial clubs of the southwest closed here tonight with a banquet at the Jefferson hotel, attended by several hundred delegates and at which the governors of six states and territories were the guests of honor.

Gov. Frank Frantz of Oklahoma spoke on "What Statehood Means to Oklahoma."

In response to the toast, "Kansas," Gov. Hoch said in part:

"Politically the territory west of the Mississippi is soon to predominate in national councils and therefore to exert powerful influence in world movements. It requires no prophetic ken to see this. It is one of the certainties of the not remote future. The wisdom of ordinary prudence therefore should long ago have suggested that too many large states should not be carved out of territory ultimately capable of sustaining smaller ones, because in the senate, where most of our political power is lodged, a small state counts as much as a large one, and it is easier to make a mistake in the formation of a state than it is to correct the error after it is made."

"The awakening orient will soon contribute powerful factors to the importance, and I believe, the solution of this southwestern problem. The day is not distant when the commerce of the Pacific will vastly exceed that of the Atlantic and when a metropolis on our western shore will rival in size and commercial importance of that upon our eastern shore, when a greater New York will marshal a western commerce greater in extent than that now marshaled in the east by our present metropolis."

Gov. Joseph H. Gibbs of Arizona spoke on "Modern Arizona," and Gov. Herbert J. Hagerman of New Mexico had assigned to him the subject, "The Land of Sunshine."

MONEY FOR EXPLORER.

Victoria, B. C., April 17.—Capt. Einar Mikkelsen, the explorer, who is repairing the schooner Duchess of Bedford to start on May 15 on an arctic exploring cruise, has received a cable from Lord Rothschild adding \$1,000 to his contribution toward the expenses of the voyage.