

LAST EDITION.

THURSDAY EVENING.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, DECEMBER 23, 1909.

THURSDAY EVENING.

TWO CENTS.

MAN IS BROKEN.

Gas Company Finds Bad Break in Big Pipe.

Evidently Cause of Seventh Street Explosions.

MANY OTHER LEAKS.

Service Pipes Rotten—Gas Rushes Forth.

Company Admits Old Mains Are in Use.

While hunting for leaks in the gas mains in the vicinity of Seventh and Jackson streets this morning employees of the Consumers' Light, Heat & Power company heard a roaring, rumbling sound, accompanied by a suffocating odor and before they could remove the dirt covering the source of the noise, a volcano of dirt and dust rose from the trenches, following by a swift and volume of natural gas.

Upon closer investigation it was found that a large three-inch main connecting the lead mains on Jackson street and Kansas avenue was broken square in two, the one section falling about two inches above the other. It was estimated that enough gas was escaping from this pipe in a day to furnish several buildings.

Seventh street between Kansas avenue and Jackson street today is a mass of excavations and piled paving materials and dirt. It has been found that practically everywhere along this street is rotted out and the gas has undoubtedly been escaping for some time.

In some places the holes in the pipes were large enough to stick a finger through and in other places the city engineer and officials on the ground were able to break a hole into the pipes by simply striking with a thumb. Not only the service pipes, but the main itself is rotted and useless.

When this condition was revealed to the officials of the gas company today, all of their statements that the late explosions in this vicinity might have been sewer gas or damp, were exploded. It was proven conclusively that the trouble in this part of the city has been caused by the leakage of natural gas from the mains.

Furthermore, it was admitted by Superintendent of Construction Swan that the mains dug up today and the big mains used by the company manufacturing artificial gas many years ago will be remembered that these mains were condemned and declared inadequate at that time. In speaking of the old mains Mr. Swan said:

"Yes, it is true we are using the old gas mains over the city wherever it has been possible. Along Kansas avenue, where the main line is constructed we are using the old mains. We did place in new service pipes along the avenue but the old mains remain as they were at that time."

When asked by a State Journal reporter if he thought "there is any more leaks in the city," Mr. Swan said: "Oh, yes, I believe so. There are undoubtedly more leaks in town—but we know nothing of them at this time. We did not know these pipes on Seventh street were leaky—until we dug down here today and found the conditions. It would be criminal on our part to know that there were leaking pipes in the city and not make any effort to fix them. There may be more leaks but we do not know it at this time."

There is no wonder that there have been so many explosions along Seventh street when the present conditions are exposed. Every tap for service is rotten and out of the ground at this time. It was found that the dirt for many feet around the leaks was dry and crumbly.

"The escaping gas always dries out the dirt and makes it into dust," said city Engineer S. W. Brown this morning. "When we find a leak we find the soil dry and dusty all around it. I have no doubt but what the condition of the dirt around the leaks is the reason for the accidents which have occurred. When we find a leak we find the soil dry and dusty all around it. I have no doubt but what the condition of the dirt around the leaks is the reason for the accidents which have occurred."

It has now been decided that the explosion in the Capper building last Sunday was caused by the leakage from the broken gas main at the corner of Seventh and Jackson. This break has occurred just under the city water main and the gas followed up the trench dug by the city last summer to the old main which had no effect and he escaped the bull's horns and found refuge in a tree all ready occupied by Schiffmann. The pair were rescued by neighboring farmers on snow shoes. They then continued the hunt and killed three more animals.

The Bell telephone conduits are surrounded by a frame box. The independent conduits are set in concrete many inches thick. The independent conduits are set in concrete many inches thick. The independent conduits are set in concrete many inches thick.

Company Held Liable. Mayor Green stated this afternoon that the Consumers' Light, Heat & Power company would be held liable for all the accidents which have occurred lately. All doubt as to the cause of recent explosions has been cleared and the gas officials now admit that the gas is coming from the old mains.

As to the extent of the leakage over Topeka, no one knows. Gas leakages have been found all along Kansas avenue—even in the vicinity of the city. It has been stated that in South Topeka, where the new pavement was laid this summer, a bonfire built near the edge of the paving caused an explosion and a roaring fire until it could be extinguished. Many other reports of gas fires have been made known to the city officials.

The city will demand that the gas company go all over the mains in the business districts of the city and see that there are no more leaks. Whenever a leak is found in a pipe the whole pipe must be renewed. On Seventh street the three-inch main will be replaced. The situation in Topeka is alarming at this time and the underlying stories are coming true.

Superintendent Swan said this morning that he thought the cause

NO EQUAL AFLOAT

The Battleship Utah Is Launched at Camden, N. J.

Christening Is Performed by Daughter of Gov. Spry.

FIFTH OF HER CLASS.

But More Powerful Than Any of the Others.

She Will Carry 10 Big Breech Loading Guns.

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—Declared to have no equal afloat as a first class fighting machine, the battleship Utah, the greatest warship ever built in the United States, was launched today from the yard of the New York Shipbuilding company at Camden, N. J.

MORRIS CLIGGITT DEAD.

Was Mayor of Pittsburg at Time of His Death.

Pittsburg, Kan., Dec. 23.—Morris Cliggitt, mayor of Pittsburg, died here today. He was prominent as an attorney, having been assistant United States district attorney during the second Cleveland administration. He was a classmate of William J. Bryan.

Morris Cliggitt was a native of the state of Illinois. Outside of public schools he attended the Northwestern college, Naperville, Ill., for about three years; graduated from the Union College of Law, Chicago, Ill., in 1882. He was awarded the faculty scholarship prize for the junior year and the Cavanagh scholarship for the senior year. He was admitted to practice in the supreme court of Illinois in June, 1883.

Afterwards he went to Iowa for about a year, and then to Nebraska, where he lived until January, 1890, at which time he came to Pittsburg, Kan.



Morris Cliggitt, Mayor of Pittsburg, Who Died Today.

Mr. Cliggitt was city attorney of Pittsburg from 1891 to 1893, and in December he was appointed assistant United States district attorney, and resigned that office in July, 1894, one of the few officeholders who was ever known to resign an office.

YOUNG HILL UP A TREE.

He and a Companion—Marooned by a Wounded Buffalo.

St. Paul, Dec. 23.—Walter Hill, youngest son of James J. Hill, and Rudolph J. Schiffmann, both of St. Paul, were marooned in the branches of a tree on the railroad magnate's North Oaks farm, a few miles out of St. Paul, until a late hour yesterday by a wounded buffalo bull.

The pair, with two others, went to the farm to kill the animal, a herd of twenty animals, the keeping of so many being no longer practicable. Hill shot at the first one, but the bullet was counted into the beast had no effect and he escaped the bull's horns and found refuge in a tree all ready occupied by Schiffmann. The pair were rescued by neighboring farmers on snow shoes. They then continued the hunt and killed three more animals.

OUT AFTER LEOPARD.

Colonel Roosevelt and Kermit Make a Side Trip.

Kamapia, Uganda, Dec. 23.—The Roosevelt expedition got under way for home this afternoon. Before leaving the members of the party had luncheon at the home of Mr. Knowles. Colonel Roosevelt and Kermit are making a side trip to hunt leopards and will rejoin the expedition tomorrow.

The Indian merchants here have presented Mr. Roosevelt with a number of pieces of ivory and Congo curios.

FORTY PERSONS HURT.

Passenger Train on the St. Paul Plunges Into the Ditch.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 23.—St. Paul passenger train No. 43, running north at 35 miles an hour, spread the rails one-half mile east of Good Thunder, Minn., near Mankato, and plunged into the ditch last night. Forty passengers were hurt some fatally. It is believed a side trip to hunt leopards and will rejoin the expedition tomorrow.

The injured were taken to Mankato.

HURRAH FOR WARM WEATHER

Mercury Expected to Rise Above Freezing Point at Last.

Indications are that the temperature will rise to 32 degrees, freezing point tonight, the first time since December 15, and the fourth time in twenty days. The mercury has been climbing rapidly and it is believed that nothing is overlooked.

The wind today is blowing six miles an hour from the east, almost a sure sign of rain or snow on top of this weather forecast is for rain or snow tonight and tomorrow. If the temperature goes above freezing point the moisture will likely be rain.

An area of high barometric pressure, which extended over the five states of which Kansas is the center, caused the "chill" which yesterday changed wind direction so rapidly that the government gauge could hardly record them. Two areas of low pressure, one coming from southern California and the other from British Columbia, are moving east, bringing rain and snow, which is expected to reach here tonight.

Following are the hourly temperatures today:

7 o'clock	..... 17 1/2	8 o'clock	..... 22
8 o'clock	..... 17 1/2	9 o'clock	..... 23
9 o'clock	..... 17 1/2	10 o'clock	..... 23
10 o'clock	..... 19 1/2	11 o'clock	..... 23

THE BATTLESHIP UTAH LAUNCHED TODAY.



The Battleship Utah Launched Today.

in the presence of several thousand persons, who crowded the docks and every vantage point in the vicinity of the yard.

As the big hull started to leave the thickly gressed ways, Miss Mary Alice Spry of Salt Lake City, daughter of the governor of Utah, raised her arm and broke a gaily ribboned bottle of champagne against the keel of the great ship as she spoke the words that gave the vessel its name.

Launching of big warships on the Delaware river have become a common sight, but nevertheless the latest contribution to the American navy stirred the enthusiasm of the crowd whose cheers and the din created by the whistles of the river craft, continued several minutes.

Among those on the platform were representatives of the navy department; Governor Spry and members of his family, a congressional delegation, including the members from Utah, representatives of the Utah legislature and nearly all the officers of the shipbuilding company.

The Utah is the fifth of all big gun type of battleships for the United States navy to be launched. When completed she will be more powerful than the Delaware and North Dakota of the Dreadnaught class.

Her Dimensions. The Utah has a length on the load water line of 521 1/2 feet 2 inches. Her trial draught will be 23 1/2 feet. Displacement, 21,825 tons, or 2,000 tons greater than the Delaware and North Dakota, and her speed is expected to develop 20 1/2 knots or more an hour.

There will be 10 12-inch breech-loading guns in her main armament, mounted on five turrets on the central line of the ship. Two of the turrets will be forward, one amidships and two aft. Each turret will be protected by armor 8 and 12 inches thick and will be supplied with ammunition by electrical hoists from the magazines and shell rooms.

Sixteen 2 inch guns protected by armor varying from four to 16 inches in thickness and will protect the entire ammunition handling machinery for the 12 inch guns in the turrets above.

Ten turbines, six for a head and four for astern, capable of developing 28,000 horse power, will be installed.

Steam will be supplied by 12 water tube boilers and coal or oil may be used for fuel. The two smokestacks on the ship will extend 70 feet above the water line.

The Utah will be fitted for a battleship and her complement as such will consist of a crew of 1,000, of whom 60 will be officers.

While the Utah will have no equal when completed she will not hold that position long, as the naval program following the one which called for two ships of the Utah class, provides for vessels that will be considerably heavier.

These latter ships will mount two 12 inch guns than the Utah and will have a heavier secondary battery.

MT. M'KINLEY REPORT.

Indications That Cook Will Again Be Discredited.

New York, Dec. 23.—The report of the special committee which investigated Dr. Frederick A. Cook's claims to having reached the summit of Mt. McKinley will be delivered to the board of governors of the Explorers' club tomorrow. While the investigation will not divulge the text of the report they do not deny that it discredits Dr. Cook's claims.

BROKAW IS HEARD

Defendant in Divorce Suit Goes on the Stand.

Testifies That His Marital Troubles Began Early.

THE LIE WAS PASSED

On Frequent Occasions During Family Quarrels.

Says Plaintiff Was Unreasonably Suspicious of Him.

New York, Dec. 23.—Principals and attorneys in the Brokaw separation suit entered the court room at Mineola today with knowledge that an arduous session was ahead of them. Justice Putnam thinks that the case has dragged altogether too much and announced

his intention of keeping things moving from now on. A Christmas eve session will be held, if necessary to finish the case.

W. Gould Brokaw was early on hand and ready to begin his testimony. He was obviously nervous. His wife, Mary Blair Brokaw, who wants a separation with substantial alimony, again showed evidences of the strain she has been under.

While the case may be concluded by Christmas eve attorneys will be given the case to take the matter to court on Jan. 10, and give his version of incidents on their honeymoon. From his account, the troubles between the couple began early, and were due to Mrs. Brokaw's action.

While at the Hotel Seville he testified, he went out and bought some flowers for his wife and on his return she accused him of having been in the company of another woman.

"Did your wife call you a liar?" he was asked.

"Yes, and I called her a liar in return," was the reply.

Mrs. Brokaw also accused him of drinking, when he had not been doing so, she said.

Brokaw told of undergoing an operation and of having requested his wife to remain at home to keep him company while he was convalescing. She insisted, however, on going out with the doctor. When she returned there was a quarrel, Mrs. Brokaw's version of the incidents of that quarrel, however, was controverted by her husband.

Brokaw touched lightly on the episode at the dinner table in which "Jimmie" witness declared that he did not get the table because his wife was flirting with Martin, who at the time was only 25 years old and had been married only a few days.

Another occasion when Mrs. Brokaw had accused him of visiting another woman was referred to by the witness and said that the epithet of "liar" had again passed between them in the resulting quarrel.

"Did you ever threaten to leave your wife if she did not quit flirting with Mr. Gould?" Brokaw was asked.

His answer was an emphatic negative as that to a question as to whether he had his clothes packed ready for removal on this alleged occasion.

TO PUSH THE WAR.

Estrada Is Preparing to March on Nicaraguan Capital.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 23.—General Estrada, it is said today, will immediately assume the offensive against the government of President Madriz. The insurgent leader holds that the Zelayan element was removed from consideration by the sweeping battle of Rama. The march on Managua is believed to be imminent.

The prisoners captured at Rama have been well fed and all who now espouse the cause of Estrada will be armed and enrolled in the ranks of the insurgents.

The details of Estrada's further campaign are not made known, but it is understood his movement on Managua will be by way of Greytown, which he expects to fall with little show of resistance. The various groups of the enemy in the vicinity of San Juan river will be wiped out and the path to the Nicaraguan capital made along Lake Nicaragua.

The exact number of dead, injured and captured in the two days' fighting near Rama either is not determined or the facts are withheld.

Today Bluefields realizes what real war means. The wounded all the hospitals and dead lie in many homes. Funerals are being held in great numbers. Insurgent elation over the triumph that has placed Estrada in unquestioned possession of Rama, Zelaya and the strategic point of Tatumilla hill, as well as the adjacent territory heretofore disputed, is tempered by the sorrow of grief stricken homes.

NEGRO JANITOR, HERO

Rescues Man From Top Floor After Building Is in Flames.

The Insurance Totals Two-Thirds of the Loss.

Five Story Office Building in K. C. Destroyed by Fire.

Started From Gas Explosion; Loss \$300,000.

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Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 23.—Heroic rescue work on the part of J. Washington Johnson, a negro janitor, saved the lives of a score of persons in the Rialto building, a five-story office structure at Ninth street and Grand avenue, in this city, which was destroyed early today by a fire caused by a gas explosion. The loss is \$300,000.

Johnson was sitting in an office on the second floor when the explosion occurred. In a moment the building began to fill with smoke. Realizing that a number of physicians and medical students were sleeping on the floors above, Johnson dashed up the stairs, shouting, "Everybody out. The building is on fire."

When he believed he had aroused every one in the burning building and had started for the street, he learned that Charles E. Manley, a medical student who slept on the fifth floor, was still missing. Without a moment's hesitation the janitor rushed up the stairs to the top of the building. As he started through the hall on the fifth floor he met Manley, dazed and half choked, groping his way in a direction directly opposite to safety.

Taking the stifled man by the arm, the negro guided him through the smoke to the outside. In the meantime the firemen had arrived and a second explosion occurred just as twenty of the fire fighters had entered the building. Six of the firemen were killed by the force of the explosion, but fortunately none suffered more than minor injuries. After three hours the fire was controlled, having been confined to one building.

The loss falls principally on Albert Morty, owner of the building. The insurance totals two-thirds of the loss.

NO TELEPHONE TRUST.

Morgan Representative Says Statement Is Absurd.

New York, Dec. 23.—The suggestion that there is any telephone trust or combination in contemplation as a result of our acquisition of telephone properties in the middle west, is absurd, says H. P. Davison of J. P. Morgan & Co. in a statement published here today. "Our firm purchased these properties for the simple reason that they could be acquired at a reasonable price and were therefore considered a good investment."

"While it is true that Mr. Morgan's relations with the American Telephone & Telegraph company are harmonious, there is no foundation for the suggestion that Mr. Morgan is co-operating in the formation of a telephone trust. A telephone trust is impossible under existing circumstances. The public would never permit the formation of such a trust, and it is not an important a commodity as telephone service."

BOUGHT 30 AUTOS.

Farmer From Far Northwest Purchases Machines for Friends.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 23.—J. C. Coe, a Saskatchewan farmer, dropped into Detroit Sunday, and by the time he had finished his errand yesterday he had purchased thirty automobiles for his farmer friends of the far Northwest. He is not an agent. He told his neighbors he was going away, and they gave him their orders, accompanied by bank drafts. The deals were mostly cash and aggregated nearly a hundred thousand dollars. Coe made \$4,500 for his own machine. The cars were all high grade, several being \$4,000 to \$5,000 class.

Bumper wheat crops in the Northwest were the cause of so much prosperity.

MAY BUY GLEN EYRIE.

General Palmer Estate May Be Sold to Sir Montague Pollock.

Colorado Springs, Colo., Dec. 23.—Lady Pollock has arrived here to join Sir Montague Pollock of London and the incident has given rise to the report that Glen Eyrie, the magnificent estate of the late Gen. William J. Palmer, is to be purchased by Sir Montague. Sir Montague refuses to confirm or deny the report.

Lady Pollock is the daughter of William A. Bell, an early associate of General Palmer in railroad building. Falling health has driven Sir Montague Pollock to Colorado for an indefinite period.

READY BY 1915.

Panama Canal to Be Completed and Open by That Time.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Congressman James A. Tawney of Minnesota states that the Panama canal will be completed and opened by January 1, 1915 at a cost of \$25,000,000.

"The committee on appropriations of the house," says Tawney, "has recently returned from an inspection of the canal. We will appropriate \$25,000,000 for completion of the canal, making the total cost \$25,000,000."

Weather Indications. Chicago, Dec. 23.—Forecast for Kansas: Rain or snow tonight and Friday; warmer tonight.

HAVE FAITH IN COOK.

His Neighbors Believe He Found the Pole, Because He Said So.

New York, Dec. 23.—A committee which was appointed by the Brooklyn neighbors of Dr. Cook some months ago to investigate the claims of the doctor to have discovered the North Pole, has decided to go on with its work in spite of the cables from Copenhagen.

Dr. Cook, according to a member of the committee, "is a noble martyr. The rest of the world may take the word of those indoor polar explorers who are in Copenhagen, but his neighbors in Old Bushwick know that Dr. Cook discovered the pole, because he told us so himself."

William L. Cook said today that he believed that his brother, Dr. Frederick A. Cook, had been the victim of violence abroad.

I had a letter from Dr. Cook early this morning, in which he said he was hurrying to Copenhagen with his proofs of having found the North Pole. He should have reached Copenhagen before this and he had been the conned I fear his enemies have overtaken him."

REPORT IS ON THE WAY.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The report of the University of Copenhagen adverse to the claims of Dr. Frederick A. Cook to the attainment of the North Pole is now on its way to this country for the guidance of the scientific investigators of the case here.

The report was received today from the university by Prof. J. Howard Gore, chairman of the subcommittee appointed by the National Geographic Society to investigate the claims of Dr. Cook. The report is now being considered by the subcommittee, but on the submission of the original observations of Dr. Cook, the field note book which he kept on his Arctic travels, will, it is expected, be turned over to the subcommittee. The meeting of the subcommittee will be held probably during the first week in January.

BELGIUM HAILS NEW KING.

Albert I. Makes State Entry into the Capital.

Brussels, Dec. 23.—Albert I, king of the Belgians, with his queen, Elizabeth, made a state entry into the capital from Laeken this morning. The king was greeted with a royal salute, church bells rang out and hundreds of thousands of loyal subjects lined the route of the "regal train," crying: "Long live Albert and Long live Elizabeth."

When the procession arrived at the chamber where the oath of ascension was taken, the king, the successor of Leopold II, was given a notable reception by the assembled senators and deputies. A feeble attempt of the socialists to make a republican demonstration failed miserably. At every discordant note, a fresh outburst of cheering drowned the voices of the malcontents.

King Albert's speech from the throne was an eloquent tribute to Leopold I, and to his uncle, the late King Leopold II. He declared that Belgium would be honored by his religious work in Africa, with the constant thought of enriching the nation and increasing the economic resources of Belgium.

The new monarch expressed his gratitude for foreign sympathy at the death of Leopold, saying that the special missions dispatched to yesterday's funeral testified to the admiration felt in other countries for the high qualities of the late king.

"Turning to the subject of Belgium's future, King Albert said: "We must continue our unshakeable attachment to constitutional liberty and the love of independence as the only basis of our national progress. We must continue our unshakeable attachment to the peaceful conquests in the fields of labor and science."

"In the Congo the nation wishes a policy of humanity and progress. We must continue our unshakeable attachment to the peaceful conquests in the fields of labor and science."

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