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WILL REFUSE MINERS' ARBITRATION OFFER

Coal Barons Will Announce This at Conference This Afternoon

Have a Counter Proposition Which Will Bind Each Side to More Than a Two Years' Agreement and the Settlement of Any New Grievances—Operators Still Maintain That Strike Commission Has Passed on All Points of Present Dispute.

New York, April 9.—At the joint conference of the sub-committee of the anthracite coal mine owners and their employees, to be held tomorrow, the operators will decline to accept the arbitration plan as presented last week by the mine workers and will in its stead present a counter proposition which, if agreed to by President Mitchell and his men, will bind each side for more than two years. The operators have been working on the new plan ever since the adjournment of the joint conference of last Thursday and the inability of the presidents of the hard coal carrying railroads to complete minor details caused a postponement of 24 hours of the conference scheduled for today.

The exact nature of the counter proposition was not made known by the operators and they do not intend to permit it to become public property until it shall have been presented to the miners. It is said, however, that the offer involves an arbitration plan very different from the one presented by the miners; one that will call for the settlement of any new grievances that may be found to exist, after an impartial investigation has been made.

CHARGE AMERICAN WARSHIP WITH HEAVY SMUGGLING

Goods Said to Be Worth \$750,000 Brought Ashore at Frisco by Oregon's Launches.

San Francisco, April 9.—The Evening Post publishes a story today to the effect that a strong belief that dutiable goods valued at about \$750,000 were smuggled ashore in launches from the battleship Oregon, just before she departed for the Bremerton navy yards. It says that an order has been issued instructing the inspectors at Bremerton to delay every man of the battleship until the whole matter has been sifted to the bottom and the customs authorities throughout the country have been notified to find and examine the questionable packages if possible.

MAINE STREAM DRIVER SUICIDES

Bangor, Me., April 9.—Harold Egerly, 25, single, of Greenville, committed suicide this morning at Roach Pond, by shooting Egerly had just arrived on the pond, where he was to join a log driving crew, when he seized a rifle that was in the camp there and shot himself through the head. No cause for the suicide is known, although it is said that Egerly had been drinking.

SCOTCH HERRING EXPERT TO TEACH GASPE FISHERS

Ottawa, April 9.—(Special)—The minister of marine and fisheries has authorized the engagement of the services of Mr. Cowie, the Scotch expert in the curing of herring, for instruction work at Gaspe next during the coming season. Mr. Cowie will have with him a number of Scotch girls to assist in the demonstration.

MUTUAL LIFE AFTER McCURDYS AGAIN

New Suit for More Than \$1,000,000 Brought by Company Monday Against Father and Son—Alleges Conspiracy in Payment to Young Man of the Enormous Commissions on Foreign Business.

New York, April 9.—Charges of conspiracy in the appointment of Robert H. McCurdy as superintendent of the foreign department of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, were made in a new action brought by that company today against Richard A. McCurdy, formerly president of the company, and his son Robert. The complaint alleges that the two McCurdys conspired to enrich Robert H. McCurdy by maintaining his compensation on a commission basis at an exorbitant rate.

MANY HUNDREDS PERISH IN VESUVIUS ERUPTION

Terror-Stricken People Flee to Churches Only to Be Crushed to Death

Four Feet of Ashes on Roofs Cause Edifices to Collapse—Streets Impassable on Account of Depth of Lava—Whole Towns Devastated—King and Queen of Italy Visit Scene and Progress is Stopped by Shower of Fire—Heavy Rain Lends Some Comfort.

Naples, April 9.—This has been a day of terror for the cities, towns and country about Mount Vesuvius. Unconfined reports place the number of dead and injured at several hundred, but not many facts can be obtained upon which to base an accurate estimate. At midnight the situation appears more alarming, the lava streams having diminished in volume and in some directions having stopped altogether, while a copious rainfall is cooling the lava where it lies stationary.

DESTRUCTIVE ERUPTIONS

- Vesuvius, A. D. 79, 200,000 lives
- Vesuvius, 1031, 4,000 lives lost
- Island of Great Sanger, one of the Moluccas, 1856, 3,000 lives lost
- Mount Pelee, St. Pierre, Martinique, 1902, 30,000 lives lost
- Soufriere volcano, St. Vincent, 1802, 2,900 lives lost

The king and queen and their suites arrived at Naples this morning from Rome. When the royal train reached the station the eruption of the volcano was almost at its worst, but both the king and queen insisted upon leaving immediately for Torre Annunziata, his majesty declaring: "If Torre Annunziata is in danger it is my duty to be there."

Prince Arthur of Connaught's Mission to the Mikado



When Prince Arthur of Connaught... (Continued on page 7, fourth column.)

LIVELY DEBATE OVER G. T. PACIFIC ROUTE

Crocket and Carvell Both Condemn Chief Engineer's Report.

Maintain That the St. John Valley is Far Superior to Central in Every Respect—Member for Carleton Declares St. John is Bound to Get the Heavy Freight of the New Road—Mr. Emmerson Explains His Connection With N. B. Petroleum Co.—Other News of the House.

Ottawa, April 9.—(Special)—In the house today Hon. Sydney Fisher introduced a bill to amend the fruit marks act. He said that the bill had been in force five years and on the whole worked very satisfactorily. The trade justified some steps in advance.

WOULD EXEMPT SMALL INCOMES

Fredericton Property Holders Willing that Under \$400 a Year Should Escape.

Fredericton, N. B., April 9.—(Special)—The real estate owners represented by J. H. Barry, K. C., appeared before the tax commission this evening at the city hall and presented their views on the taxation question.

EMMERSON'S CONNECTION WITH OIL COMPANY

Hon. H. R. Emmerson, replying to Mr. Fowler, said that he (the minister) had retained any active connection with the New Brunswick Petroleum Company in April, 1904. On becoming minister of railways he resigned the presidency. His resignation, however, was not accepted until March of this year. He was nominally president when the company sold out to the Intercolonial.

WRECK PUTS RAILWAY OUT OF BUSINESS

A serious accident occurred on the York & Carleton railway this morning. The train was making its regular morning run from Stanley to Cross Creek to connect with the I. C. R. express for this city.

ST. JOHN MUST GET THE FREIGHT

No matter how the engineers might attempt otherwise or how politicians might talk, St. John would have to get the heavy freight traffic from this line. As soon as the road was completed there would be a fast line of steamers to Halifax. The mail and perishable freight would land there, but St. John would have the heavy freight.

QUEBEC WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH

Three Rivers, April 9.—(Special)—Mrs. Massicotte, an aged lady, was burned to death in a fire which destroyed her home late yesterday afternoon.

CHARGES HUMBUNG

When the first minister introduced the subject in the house he said that they could not wait. Time would not wait, but they had all been waiting ever since. There was no portion of the Quebec-Moncton section definitely decided.

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