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CONFERENCE ON 2-CENT FARE BILL

Joint Conference Agrees on Senate Bill

LEGISLATURE NEWS

Senator Johnson's Mine Inspection Bill Passes State Senate—State Will Tax Dogs to Protect Sheep—Don't Want United States to Grant License Until Granted By State.

The joint conference committee consisting of Delegates Duffield, McDonald and Holle and Senators Littlepage, Blue and Ashburn have reported the adoption of the senate 2 cent fare bill. Delegate Holle filed a minority report refusing to concur in the Senate bill. He is the author of the bill passed by the house and over which the disagreement between the two houses arose.

The state senate spent most of Saturday evening considering the bill, introduced by Senator Johnson of Fayette, to provide for a more efficient method of mine inspection and to regulate mining operations.

The bill provides for a chief mine inspector and a deputy for each of the twelve districts created by the bill. The salary of the chief inspector and all of his deputies are fixed at \$2,000 per year and actual expenses. It further provides that each mine shall be examined at least once in every three months, and oftener upon the petition of any ten miners, or upon the petition of any operator.

It provides penalties for the non-compliance of the law of imprisonment and fines upon the part of operator or miner and places severe restrictions on careless mine foreman, fire bosses and miners.

An amendments by the author of the bill providing that no one should shoot coal unless holding a written permit from a deputy mine inspector was carried, while a similar amendment offered by Mr. Littlepage was defeated. The amendment which passed, prevents inexperienced men from shooting coal, which, it is thought will greatly reduce mine accidents.

The dog bill as passed by the house, has been passed by the senate being so amended that upon the petition of 50 citizens it may be put to a vote of the people of that county. It provides a tax on dogs and condemns sheep killing and egg-sucking dogs to death.

There will be no investigation of the state penitentiary, the resolution introduced to that end dying in the house. The charges were not seriously considered and it would be of an expense to the state.

A bill limiting municipal taxes to 35 cents on the \$100 valuation has passed both houses and will become a law.

Thirty-eight members of the legislature voted to put the question of amending the constitution so as to allow the women to vote. The resolution was defeated by 2 votes. In the senate only one member voted for it.

A resolution has been introduced petitioning the federal government to grant no whiskey license until the applicant had obtained a state license for such selling. The resolution will pass. A bill is now in congress with this end in view. It is almost certain, if passed to kill illegitimate whiskey selling.

The house of delegates devoted almost the entire night session Monday night to the reading and amending of house bill No. 220, revising the school laws of the state, although several local bills were acted upon and passed. Mr. Stanton called up house bill No. 220, which was pending under the head of unfinished business, and about two hours later the house adjourned with the bill still open for amendments. It is hardly probable that it will come before the house at this session.

The educational bill, as presented by the education committee of the house of delegates, embodied the recommendations of the school commission appointed by Governor Dawson to revise the school laws, and as such it was thought that the bill would go through the lower house with few amendments, but the provision making the county the unit of taxation instead of the district, seemed to stir up the delegates, and

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FIRE AT THURMOND

Weaver's Store, Deegans' Saloon, and Haynes Restaurant Completely Destroyed.

Thurmond, Feb. 16.—A very disastrous fire occurred here this morning at five o'clock resulting in the complete destruction of the Weaver store, Deegans' saloon and Haynes Restaurant. The fire originated in one corner of the store and has gained considerable headway when the alarm was given. When discovered it was impossible to save any of the contents of the store and soon the other buildings were destroyed with their contents. The loss falls heavy on the Weaver Mercantile Co., who carried a very large stock of goods. W. E. Deegans had only a few days ago purchased the saloon and his loss will be heavy. The Haynes Restaurant was completely destroyed with no insurance.

SHANNON NOT SHOT TO DEATH

False Report as to Fatal Pistol Duel

WRITTEN TO FRIENDS

And Declares He is Still Alive and Well—Register Correspondent Was Misinformed as to Shooting—News That Shannon Still Lives Joyfully Received By Friends Here.

The article published in the Register last week to the effect that A. B. Shannon, a well known and popular civil engineer had been fatally shot by a man named Johnson in a pistol duel is without foundation. It seems that a Register correspondent had sent the news to his paper and was greatly misinformed. Friends of Shannon in Beckley have received letters from him since the Register was issued and it is highly probable that he will enjoy reading his obituary. Shannon was formerly stationed here and has many friends who have grieved over his supposed death. It will be joyous news to them to know that he still lives, is healthy and happy. He says so himself.

WILL NOT ATTEND.

Hon. J. M. Ellis, the colored delegate from Fayette county, learns that one or two of his colleagues will refrain from attending Senator Scott's dinner tonight, because he is invited.

He asks the Mail to say for him that while he appreciates the invitation, yet he does not intend to accept it. He says in this connection that he has always been honored with invitations to the legislative functions, but has consistently refrained from accepting. "I am not one of those," he said, "who believe in the social equality of the races, and these are purely social affairs. I appreciate the invitation and will keep it as a memento of the legislature."—Charleston Mail.

ATTACKED HOUSE.

According to the Wyoming Mountaineer, the home of S. P. St. Clair and wife, near Baileyville, was attacked recently by unknown hoodlums. Rocks were thrown against the house and several shots fired. St. Clair is an old man 73 years of age. The authorities are investigating the matter.

SCOTT ENTERTAINS.

Senator Scott held a reception at the Ruffner hotel at Charleston Tuesday evening in honor of the state senate and house of delegates.

COUNTY COURT.

The county court will meet next Monday and organize. It is expected that the court will elect Hon. H. I. Garrettson president.

CITY COUNCIL.

The city council will hold a regular meeting next Monday evening at 7.30 p. m., at Mayor Dunn's office.

SPECIAL TERM.

Judge Miller will hold a special term of circuit court March 1. No grand or petit jurors will be called.

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

Warn Lewis, 18, to Laura Dillon, 21. L. A. Breeding, 24, to Roxie B. Lilly, 19.

SOAK CREEK TO LAUREL CREEK

Route of Piney Extension Of P. R. & P. C. Ry.

RAILWAY MAP FILED

With Clerk of the County Court—Isadore Meadows, Trustee, Buys Two Desirable Tracts of Summers County Coal—Timber Deals—List of Deeds Filed For the Week.

A map was filed in the county clerk's office this week showing an extension of the Piney river and Paint creek railway up Piney from the mouth of Soak creek to Laurel creek. The distance is about 5 miles. Officials of the road will make no statement upon the matter.

The list of deeds filed since our last issue is large. Isadore Meadows, trustee, purchased two fine tracts of Summers coal and several good sales of timber were made. The deeds are as follows:

James Dickens, et al., to Almira Dickens, 76 acres of timber, consideration, \$700.

H. A. Dunn, to W. W. Watts, lot, Kanawha street, consideration \$600.

J. W. Basham to Isadore Meadows, trustee, 251 acres coal, Jumping Branch district, Summers county, consideration \$4,028.80.

Wm. Mullens to Isadore Meadows, trustee, 171 acres coal, Jumping Branch district, Summers county, consideration \$5,151.

A. J. Briggs to Lacy Bailey, surface tract, lead Cranberry branch, Town district.

T. H. Wickham to Vada Lilly, 2 surface lots, Kanawha street, Beckley, consideration \$700.

A. J. Williams to W. L. Fezell, 1/2 acre on Paint creek.

Nancy E. Redden to Chas. F. Redden lot, Crow.

Mary Farley to Maggie Griffith, lot, Beckley, consideration \$400.

T. H. Wickham to E. B. Hurt, lot, East Wickham.

G. L. Cole to J. Collins, surface land on Winding Gulf, Slab Fork district, consideration \$2,250.

Margaret Callaway to D. C. Hunter, surface lot, Sylvia.

L. L. Canaday to Sidney Massey, surface tract on Surveyors Fork, consideration \$200.

Daniel Stover to M. E. Harper, 30,000 oak timber.

John Moomaw to Margaret Beckley land on Glade creek, Shady Spring district.

James Hubbard to J. B. Stovall, tract on Little Beaver, consideration \$100.

Jas. C. Phillips to L. L. Phillips, tract on Big Beaver, Shady Springs district.

T. E. Bibb to Nellie Collins, real estate on Soak creek road, consideration, \$1,500.

L. T. Gates to H. D. Wiggins, timber, Marsh Fork district.

Harvey Bennett to Wm. Lewis, deed for 50 acres sold in 1879 and misplaced, refilled.

Lauline Painter to John Maynor, 33 acres surface and timber, opposite mouth of Sand branch, Town district.

C. M. Callaway to N. S. Mitchell, lot, Callaway.

W. M. McKinney to J. Levi Cook, lot, Lester.

A. B. Maxwell to R. C. Kigore, lot, Callaway.

Sand Lick Lumber Co. to Kile & Morgan, timber contract.

Shumate & Satterfield to Kile & Morgan, timber contract.

Kile & Morgan to Miles Smith, contract to furnish timber on 106 acres on Soak creek.

W. R. Cook to A. P. Lilly, tract, Shady Springs district.

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PRESIDENT OF MINE WORKERS

John Mitchell Addresses Big Crowds

LEGISLATURE ATTEND

And Listen Attentively to Mr. Mitchell's Address—Meeting at Montgomery Attended By Over 6,000 Miners—The Gist of the Address—Relations of Capital and Labor.

John Mitchell, president of the national organization, United Mine Workers of America, was given a great ovation at the Burlew opera house in Charleston, Monday, more than 2,000 people from all over the Kanawha and New river coal fields gathering to hear his address.

In the audience were a majority of the members of both branches of the legislature and many of them lingered after the meeting had adjourned to extend him congratulations and shake his hand.

No public speaker that has appeared in Charleston in recent years has been accorded such a cordial reception and Mr. Mitchell should carry away with him the kindest remembrances of this occasion.

During his speech he was frequently cheered, the applause being led by the men who are members of the organization of which he is the distinguished leader. After he had concluded the miners flocked to the stage and Mr. Mitchell remained for fully fifteen minutes receiving congratulations for his splendid address.

The meeting was called to order by Hon. John Nugent, president of District No. 17, who introduced Circuit Judge S. C. Burdette as chairman. Judge Burdette then introduced Hon. Adam B. Littlepage, attorney for District No. 17, who spoke briefly but with great force and eloquence.

Mr. Littlepage talked about the "square deal" and that it is the disposition of the organized miners to settle all differences with the operators in an amicable manner. He was roundly applauded.

Mr. Mitchell soon had the vast assemblage under the spell of his oratory. He is a polished speaker and while conservative his great desire to help the laboring man and the organized workers is easily apparent. He opened his speech with a strong condemnation of the blacklist. He then went into a detailed statement of the treatment of representatives of the mine workers had been accorded along the Norfolk & Western on two different occasions. He said guards employed by coal companies assaulted these first representatives and that they, instead of the guards, were arrested.

On the next occasion he said that the union's representatives were accosted on a train and accused by guards of theft and that instead of being placed under arrest they were beaten. So serious were the injuries that they were taken to a hospital in Columbus.

He said West Virginia has a law that permits children of 12 years to work in the mines. He condemned this vigorously and said he had been there himself and knew the evil of it.

He stated that in 1905 the total number killed in the mines of West Virginia was 194 and that in the past five years 765 had given up their lives. The rate killed in West Virginia is greater than in any other coal mining region, he said.

This death rate, he said, exceeds that in any other hazardous occupation and that it could be reduced one-half by the enactment of proper laws. He then went into a discussion of unionism and said that President Roosevelt is more radical on this subject. Roosevelt's name was roundly applauded.

President Mitchell addressed a large and enthusiastic crowd at Montgomery Tuesday.

BABY FOUND AT GLADE.

The body of a new born babe was found by the side of the railroad track a mile west of Glade a few days ago by the trackwalker. The child had apparently been thrown from a train. Squire Gwinn of Prince was notified and the remains were buried at Glade. So far there is no clue whatever to the identity of the child. It is thought some heartless mother threw the child from a car window.

AROUND THE FLY-WHEEL

Belt Caught Robt. Lively and He Lives to Tell the Tale.

While working in Lively & Tyree's saw mill at Roseville last week, Robert Lively was caught by the head in the belting and carried around the fly-wheel. Fortunately the big band was unusually loose and Lively escaped with his life, although he suffered many cuts and bruises, which, however, are not of a serious nature. The machinery of the mill was stopped before any serious results were had, otherwise Lively would have been killed.

ANOTHER MINE EXPLOSION.

Another mine explosion has occurred in West Virginia, this time at the Luma mine that is located near Logan court house. 19 men were in the mine, 16 of whom were injured and 2 of whom have since died.

WILL INSTALL AN ICE PLANT

And Resume Operation of Coal Mine

McDOWELL FUEL CO.

Not Only Means to Dig Coal, But Will Manufacture Ice on The Side—Improvements Will Be Made at Small Mine Just Outside of Beckley—Beckley Will Have Plenty of Ice.

It seems that Beckley will enjoy the distinction of having more ice plants this summer than any town in this section of the state. Dr. H. L. Kirkpatrick some time ago announced it his intention to build such a plant and the Raleigh Bottling Works are making preparations with the same end in view and now comes the announcement that the McDowell Fuel Company has ordered machinery for an ice plant to be delivered July 1.

The McDowell Fuel Company own what is commonly known as the Camack lease near town, but for the past year has been unable to operate the mine on account of injunctions brought about by disagreements among the stockholders. These troubles have been patched up satisfactorily to all concerned and the mine will resume operation within the next 30 days.

The company will have side tracks placed for the shipment of coal, but will rely chiefly upon local trade. They will conduct the ice plant on their property.

Beckley may expect cheap ice, with 50 many ice men.

BIBLE QUESTIONS

Was Nahor Older Than Methuseiah?—Some Questions to Think About.

Editor Herald:

Last week J. P. Clay said in the Register: "The Bible said Methuseiah lived 969 years and died. But there was an older man than he—Nahor who lived 1039 years. Can you find the scripture which says this?"

My Bible only made Nahor 148 years old at the time of his death, if otherwise, I failed to find it. Methuseiah was 969, Jared 962 and Noah 950 at the time of their deaths. My Bible puts those three the oldest men, at the time of their deaths, of olden times. If there is any scripture assertion that Nahor was older than Methuseiah, I would be glad to have it pointed out as I have been unable to find it. This is not meant to contradict Mr. Clay, but I am merely seeking information.

Can any of the readers of The Herald tell me who was Cain's wife? also

Who was Melchisedec?

If some one would give me information on this subject, I would appreciate it. We can all learn from one another in the study of the Bible.

R. H. STEWART,
Wittenberg

HAMILTON HARPER DEAD.

Hamilton Harper, an old and honored citizen of Hatville, died Sunday, February 3, of infirmities due to old age. Mr. Harper was 84.

WAS DISORDERLY.

Will Ewers, of Cranberry, was fined by Squire Thurmond this week for being disorderly at that place.

STUART SHAFT WAS NOT HOT

No Danger Apprehended On Fatal Day

WITNESSES EXAMINED

Mine Was Gaseous, But Not Dangerous—Legislative Investigating Committee Examine Miners, Who Came Out Before Explosion—Witnesses Say Explosion Caused By Ignited Gas.

That the Stuart mine was not hot on the day of the explosion; that there was no alarm given or any danger apprehended; that it was a gaseous mine and the explosion was a gas explosion, coming in the twinkling of an eye, and that it was considered a safe mine by the workers in it—has fully been demonstrated by the testimony of the nine witnesses examined by the legislative committee at its session last week.

The committee, consisting of Senators Gartlan and Kidd, and Delegates Stricklin, Duty and Mitchell, with Attorney General May as its counsel, met in the governor's reception room at 7.30 last Wednesday to take testimony in the Stuart mine disaster.

Louis Shrader and Carl Frame were the stenographers and the Dixon Colliery company was represented by its general manager, Sam Dixon, and its counsel, Tax Commissioner Dillon.

The first witness called was Fred Dixon, former superintendent of Stuart, now superintendent of the Parra mine, who stated that he considered the mine safe when he was there and that it was equipped with modern appliances and all care possible taken to preserve life and property. He stated that he was in the first rescue party and helped to bring out some of the dead. He was not asked as to what he thought caused the explosion.

Sam Dixon was the next witnesses, who testified that he did not reach the scene of the disaster until eighteen hours after the explosion, but was in the first rescue party. He explained the kind and class of mine the Stuart belonged to, and stated also that the best machinery was used and the greatest care taken in its management; also that the latest improved fan and other equipment used at the mine. He explained the duties of fire bosses and mine bosses, giving the names of those in charge of the mine at the time of the explosion.

When asked as to the number of killed, he said 81 bodies had been removed and 2 men were yet missing; that no complaint of bad ventilation had ever reached his notice, and that he considered the mine a safe one. When asked as to his opinion of the cause of the explosion he stated that he believed it to have been gas, coming from the side of the mine next to the Parra mine with such terrific force that some men were blown many feet, and the bodies of the ones in the side in which the explosion occurred, were mangled, and the flame "shot over" to the entries in the other side burning the men there. He thought the explosion to be the result of a "blow out" shot.

He further claimed the mine was well laid off on practical lines, but did not know when the mine inspector had last inspected it; and that he had been operating it two years, and the capacity was 300 tons per day.

The next witness called was Adam Lindsey, who was mine boss in the Stuart mine for some time, until December 5th, last. He stated that he was a miner of twenty-two years' experience and considered the Stuart mine a safe one and in good condition, though a gaseous one.

Will Ray, miner; George Dean, boss driver; and George Peterson, miner, were the next witnesses. They all testified to the good condition and good air of the mine, and that while the mine was gaseous they did not consider it dangerous. Ray testified, as did Peterson, that the cage was not in good working order, hence some of the miners "knocked off" on account of not being able to get cars; and that there was no alarm or anything said about any danger before the explosion, and both of them had been out of the mine not over a half hour before the explosion occurred.

Lester Bullock, colored, who came

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