

CONVICTS PERISH IN FLAMES STARTED BY THEIR OWN HANDS

**At Least a Dozen Negroes
Thought To Have
Perished.**

**SEVERAL BODIES
ARE RECOVERED**

**Conflagration Started in Old Mine
No. 3 of the Tennessee
Company at Pratt
City.**

WILD RUMORS ARE STARTED

A fire which started in the old No. 3 mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad company at Pratt City, the conflagration believed to have been of incendiary origin, Monday night, caused the death of a dozen convicts, possibly more.

The fire was discovered at 11 o'clock Monday night and immediately efforts were made to check the flames. It was known that at least twelve men were at work in the place.

By 11 o'clock Tuesday morning the dead bodies of five negro convicts had been taken out of the burning mine and seven more were known to be in the place. No pains are being spared to get the men as quickly as possible but there is no idea of rescuing them alive.

The No. 3 mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company has been worked by convict labor for some years. Recently, however, No. 12 mine, which will be worked with convict labor in the future had been taken up and the transfer had been arranged for an early date.

Started intentionally. Telephone messages from the scene of the fire were to the effect that all evidence at hand was that the fire had been started by one or more of the convicts and on purpose. It could not be stated whether there had been any escapes or not during the fire but the general belief was that there had been none.

There was considerable excitement in the convict camp when the alarm was sounded for the fire. There were many rumors that a large number of men were at work in the mine at the time of the fire but after the excitement had somewhat died down and the true conditions could more or less be arrived at, the estimated number of men in the mine dwindled down to less than fifteen.

Superintendent P. J. Rogers' office at Ensley was called and the information was given out that there were hardly more than eleven or twelve men in the mine. It will be necessary to check over entire list of convicts to get at those missing and dead. The bodies which had been brought out before noon were those of negro convicts.

Mine Not Damaged. The officials do not believe that the mine has been damaged to any great extent.

That the fire was started by one or more of the convicts was the belief expressed by officials of the Tennessee company at Pratt City.

It was reported in the city that an explosion had taken place in the mines but this was denied.

The night force in the mine No. 3 was over fifty men but the officials stated before 11 o'clock that they did not believe that more than six or seven would be found dead when all had been reached, five dead bodies having been removed up to that time.

The Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad company employ both state and county convicts, the latter being in majority. It is therefore believed that the majority of the convicts dead are county convicts.

Ward Quits Educational Board



Mayor George B. Ward has tendered his resignation as a member of the board of education.

The resignation will be acted on at the regular meeting of the city council to be held Wednesday night at which time it will probably be accepted.

The resignation of the mayor reads as follows:
Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 17, 1908.
To the Honorable, The City Council of Birmingham:

Gentlemen—I herewith transmit my resignation as a member of the board of education and ask

that it be accepted at once.

Respectfully,

G. B. WARD.

To his resignation Mayor Ward adds this:
"The resignation is sent in for two reasons:

"First, Because I feel that the election of an outsider to the presidency of the board was an affront to the old members, each of whom have been serving the city faithfully.

"Second, The board is about to go to the expenditure of \$350,000 for new buildings, etc. Under existing conditions I do not care to share in the work or responsibility of expending that much public money."

MOTIVES THAT PROMPTED HAAS

**Police Question Mrs. Kohn
Regarding Suicide's
Alleged Confession.**

WERE THERE OTHERS

**Friends Had Advised Ex-Convict
That Heney Ought to Be
Fixed. Didn't Say So
In Plain Words.**

ATTEMPTED TO DISSUADE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 17.—In the effort to establish more clearly the motive of Morris Haas the rejected trial juror who shot and seriously wounded Prosecutor Francis J. Heney, the police have renewed their examination of Mrs. Myrian Kohn, the friend and neighbor to whom Haas confided intention of killing the officer who had exposed his criminal record.

Questioned at length regarding her various conversations with the suicide, Mrs. Kohn stated that Haas had several times threatened suicide and announced that he would take another life when he killed himself.

On one occasion he declared, she said, that he was going to kill his wife and their four children. At all times Mrs. Kohn testified, she attempted to dissuade him from his homicidal purposes.

One of the questions asked was as follows:
"Did Haas ever say that anybody was encouraging or advising him to kill Mr. Heney?"

To this Mrs. Kohn replied: "No, not in the least. He said in an off-hand manner, however, 'I must people and they say they are sorry for me and they feel that he ought to be fixed and all that. They don't say it in plain words, but actions speak plainer than words. They mean if they were me they would take the law into their own hands.'"

Burns Takes Hand. It is expected the examination begun by the police will be taken up by Special Agent W. J. Burns, of the district attorney's office.

The inquest over the body of Haas will be held on Thursday or Friday, the day following the funeral. Today the coroner will arrange for a demonstration in the presence of police officials and others to determine whether or not the derringer with which Haas committed suicide in his cell at the county jail could have been hidden in his shoe, as the police affirm.

Today Mr. Heney was resting easily at the Lane hospital, where he yesterday was subjected to an operation for removal of the bullet from his head. During the night he slept soundly and his pulse, respiration and temperature were about normal. Up to this time no symptoms regarded as indicative of blood poison or otherwise dangerous have been noted by the physicians.

The budget lawyer's courts, the prosecution, strengthened since the shooting of Mr. Heney by the services of three volunteers from the ranks of the city, will present their answer to Ruef's motion for a change of venue for his trial on a charge of bribery.

**OLIVER P. MORTON'S
NIECE PASSES AWAY**

CHICAGO, Nov. 17.—Mrs. May Burbank Miller, wife of Harry Miller, president of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railroad, died yesterday. Mrs. Miller was the daughter of John A. Burbank, ex-governor of the territory

SMOOTH WITH PENCIL, WINDY CITY CLUBMAN LIVED BY FORGERIES

**Van. Vlissingen Mulched
Victims To Tune of a
Million.**

**CALMLY TOLD HOW
HE DID IT**

**Four Hours After Confessing His
Crime in Court the Effete
Swindler Is Railroaded**

FRENCH ALARMED AT GERMAN BALLOONISTS

PARIS, Nov. 17.—A morning paper states that the French government is alarmed at the increasing number of balloons manned by German officers, which have been making descents in France recently, and have been making diplomatic representations to Berlin on this subject. Continuing the paper says that these representations so far have proved in vain and that France is considering the question of taking rigorous steps to stop what is termed "a veritable peril."

**VALPARAISO WILL
WELCOME THE FLEET**
VALPARAISO, Nov. 17.—The authorities are making arrangements for the reception of the American fleet