

MRS. WEED VICTOR BEFORE THE BOARD IN MONTANA CASE

Sustained in Contention
That She Was Legally
Elected.

MAY END CONTROVERSY

Mrs. Haskell Spoke Fourteen
Hours Against Committee
Deduction.

The national board of management, D. A. R., after a five-hour session at the dawn of Easter Day, and after long arguments from Mrs. Ella Knowles Haskell, regent of Silver Bow Chapter, and one hour's argument from Mrs. Walter Harvey Weed, State vice regent from Montana, settled the now famous Montana matter as far as the controversy is concerned by an adoption of the report of the special investigating committee that had been settling and investigating the whole vexed question.

This adoption was without a dissenting voice, except that two members, who did not remember the exact contents of the report as read in the afternoon, did not vote.

Mrs. Weed Sustained

This action of the board sustained Mrs. Weed's contention that she had legally served four years on it and that her election and that of Mrs. McCrackin, State regent, was legal. After the report was accepted, the committee was dissolved. Mrs. Donald McLean was not presiding when the vote was taken as she was obliged to leave in the early part of the evening to speak before several chapter meetings.

This should not for this year the old story and as far as the national board is concerned it will, for the board will report to the congress and it is probable that the constitutional points involved will be well threshed out in the congress. Of course, both Mrs. Amos G. Draper and Mrs. Haskell, who argued against its acceptance, have the right of appeal to the congress, but it is earnestly hoped by conservative members that it will not be carried there.

The report agreed that the question of the election was not raised by any Montana chapter and repudiated this statement. It is said that the report also asked those who made the charges be asked to withdraw them.

Mrs. Haskell's Argument.

This verdict is regarded as a sweeping vindication of Mrs. Weed, especially after the masterly argument made by Mrs. Haskell, who, however, also emphatically repudiated the statement that Silver Bow Chapter had contested Mrs. Weed's election or Mrs. McCrackin. Mrs. Haskell spoke for fourteen hours on the whole Montana matter, beginning with the first signs of trouble in 1903.

Like Old Bastille.

The fastnesses of the old Bastille were never more impenetrable than those which surrounded members of the national board of management of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the headquarters last night.

An ordinary board meeting is an occasion when only members of that body are permitted within the room, but the one last night—an adjourned meeting from the afternoon—to consider the "Montana matter"—called for all the diplomacy the board could command.

Excitement Begins Again.

The little board room up on the fourth floor of the Washington Loan and Trust building could no more have been approached by an alien than an A. P. A. could give an osculatory salute to a son of old Erin. The dozen guns poked their noses, and every attempted approach of the enemy, commonly known as the press, was signalled to the officer in command, and there was immediately a well, nobody got near, anyway.

About 10 o'clock yesterday morning the board met for the purpose of considering the "Montana matter." Mrs. Haskell, regent of Silver Bow Chapter, of Butte, Mont., was the star witness until it adjourned, at 2 o'clock, for luncheon, and was the first witness called when the board reconvened.

Some time was lost in a meeting of the Continental Hall committee, and so it was determined to postpone the second session of the board until 7 o'clock last night. This was done, and the attending excitement was resumed at that hour.

Almost the first persons on the scene were members of the press, anxious to get the first scrap, at least an account of the scrap. Hour by hour sped by and still no word from the board room. As in the morning the voice of Mrs. Haskell could be heard maintaining her side of the case—whichever side it might be—and when 10:30 o'clock came and still the fastnesses were fast a few of the reporters drifted off, tired of the wait.

Reckless at Midnight.

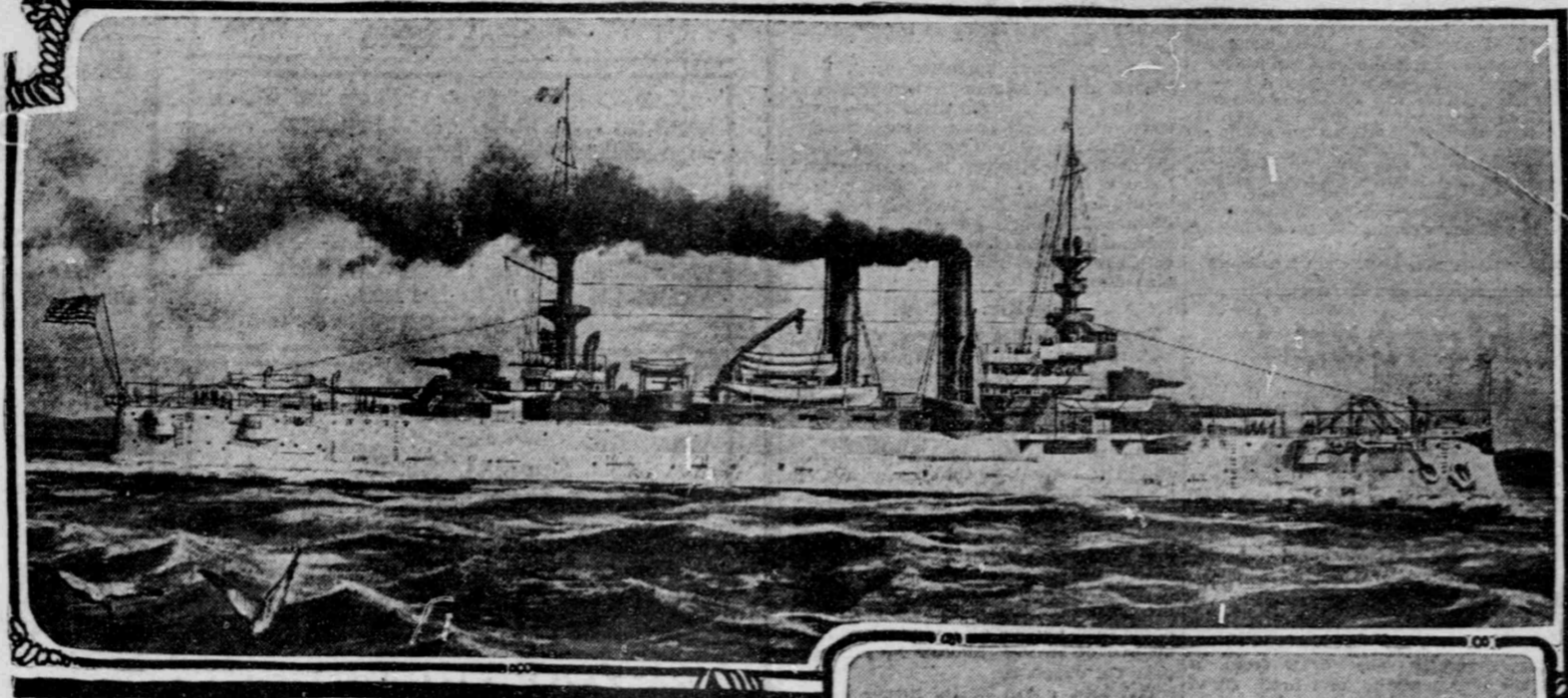
Midnight came and with it there was manifestly the hope in the heart of members of the board that the newspapers had gone to press and that their representatives were in bed. They grew reckless and opened the transom. Again their boldness asserted itself

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

DISASTERS TO NAVY FOR WHICH NO ENEMY IS TO BLAME

February 3, 1902—Five men killed by explosion on board the Kearsarge.
January 16, 1903—Six of the Massachusetts' men killed by the accidental explosion of a percussion primer.
April 9, 1903—Bursting gun on the Iowa killed three seamen.

April 13, 1904—Five officers and twenty-four men of the Missouri killed by powder explosion.
December 13, 1904—Three of Massachusetts' men killed by escaping steam in boiler room.
July 21, 1905—Gunboat Bennington blows up with loss of about fifty lives.



THE UNFORTUNATE BATTLESHIP KEARSARGE.

Twice in Four Years Members of Her Crew Have Been Killed by Accidental Explosions.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE ON DISASTER

Commander Winslow's Cablegram

Calmanera, April 14, 1906.

Secretary of the Navy, Washington:
On April 13, about 3:15 p. m., shortly after completion target practice of Kearsarge forward turret while the powder was going below three sections of a thirteen-inch charge of powder were ignited. Charge of powder in other lift just below and one section inside thirteen-inch remained intact. Cause not yet determined; accountability.

Matter is being investigated. Lieut. Joseph W. Graeme, gun umpire, has been sent to the Maryland in a very critical state about 9 p. m.
The following have since died: Lieutenant Hudgins, turret officer; Peter Norberg, gunner's mate, third class; Theodore Naegely, seaman; Anton C. Thorson, ordinary seaman; Julius A. Koester, turret captain, first class; Ellis H. Athey, seaman. The following was dangerously injured by accident; recovery doubtful: W. King, ordinary seaman. Will bury dead at Guantanamo. Vessel uninjured. WINSLOW.

Newberry's Message of Sympathy

April 14, 1906.

Evans, Maine, Naval Station, Calmanera.
The department is deeply grieved by the unfortunate accident on board the Kearsarge which occasioned the death and injury in the performance of duty of brave officers and men in the navy and it extends its heartfelt sympathy to the injured and wishes for a speedy recovery from their wounds.

Spare no effort to ease the sufferings of the injured in every possible manner and show every honor to the dead. NEWBERRY.

CLUNG TO ROPE AS HE FELL DOWN ELEVATOR SHAFT

Boy's Thrilling Drop of Four Stories at New Willard Hotel.

Four flights down an elevator shaft, clinging wildly to the cable until he struck the car and safety—such is the story told at the Emergency Hospital of the adventure last night of John Mabon, sixteen years old, of Falls Church, Va.
Mabon, according to the story, is sixteen years old and a bellboy at the New Willard. Last night at about half an hour after midnight he was on the ninth floor of the hotel and in some manner not explained went through the elevator door and began to fall through space. Throwing out his hands, he grabbed the cable and began his fearful slide into the unknown.
With an insufficient grasp upon the cable his hands were badly cut by the friction bred by his rapid descent and when he finally alighted safely it was necessary to send him to the hospital for treatment. He was accompanied to the hospital by another bellboy, and later left the hospital with him. When inquiries were made at the New Willard last night a red-nosed looking young clerk curtly informed the questioner that he was mistaken and that there had been no such occurrence at the tavern which he grazed.

JOHNSTONE BENNETT, THE ACTRESS, DEAD

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., April 14.—Miss Johnstone Bennett, the actress, died today at the home of Frank Pettit, a relative. She succumbed to the ravages of the white plague after a struggle against it for nearly two years.
For the last few months Miss Bennett had made her home at Bloomfield, hopeful that the mountain air would assist in checking the course of the malady.

Plenty of Laths.
Libbey Co., 6th and N. Y. Ave.—Adv.

BASEBALL SEASON OPENS WITH RUSH AND ROOTERS ROOT

Dignitaries and Dough- nuts, Cheek by Jowl, Cheer Nationals.

Washington was baseball crazy yesterday afternoon. It was intended to be that way.
It was a case of grandmother is dead, or mother is sick, with thousands of our local citizens. Those who did not have grandmothers or mothers made believe they did anyway. It was baseball day and the patrons of this "king of sports" could not resist the temptation of going to see the opening game.
They came in automobiles, in carriages, in street cars, and on foot. It mattered not what mode of transportation they used they got there and from all outward appearances they were satisfied.
Senators, Representatives, diplomats, Government officials, subordinate clerks, department store clerks and others whose vocations are innumerable, all thronged toward the local ball yard at Seventh street and Florida avenue northward last night. It was a grand day for such an event and those who had special Easter togethery graced the occasion by wearing it.
The Supreme Court was represented by Justices Day and McKenna. They occupied a box behind the catcher's place. In adjoining boxes were Congressmen and other government dignitaries. They did not observe their exalted attitudes and from the time Schaffler drew a base on balls followed by Anderson's long single in the first inning until Stanley was thrown out at first ending the game, they rooted and cheered as well as any vociferous fans those occupying 25-cent seats in the bleachers.

NO TIME TO SPARE FOR HUNTING TRIP

HOUSTON, Tex., April 14.—Col. Cecil Lyons, chairman of the Texas Republican executive committee and intimate friend of President Roosevelt, today issued the following statement:
"I notice in a press dispatch from San Antonio, Texas, under a Chicago date line that I am quoted as having received a letter from President Roosevelt, declining to hunt again while in office. I am not authorized to speak concerning the President, and I certainly did not receive any such letter as represented."

(Continued on Second Page.)

Women and Children Die In Chicago Church Panic

Floor of Overcrowded St. Ludmilla's Gives Way and Wild Rush for Exit Follows—Men Trample Way Over Prostrate Forms.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 14.—Four persons were killed and a score of others were injured, many fatally, in a disastrous panic tonight in St. Ludmilla's Roman Catholic Church, when the floor collapsed under 2,000 celebrants of Easter evening.

Three children and one woman were killed in the wild rush for the doors. Not a man was injured. All escaped at the cost of other lives.
The collapse of the floor came when the interest of the crowd in the Easter eve mass was at its height.
By the irony of fate, the collapse of the floor was not attended by the least danger, for it was built only two feet above the ground.

Women and children were trampled under foot in the wild rush for the doors. It was all over in two minutes and when the cooler among the men returned to the church they found women and children dead and dying in the aisles, where they had been crushed in the stampede.

St. Ludmilla's is a large Bohemian congregation and the church, which has a seating capacity of more than 1,000, was filled to suffocation.
About 7:30 the Easter procession started. It wound through the church, encircled the altar, and had just turned again toward the congregation when suddenly there was a crash like the explosion of a bomb.
A woman cried "Fire," and the congregation rose to its feet in alarm. Instantly there was another crash, even louder than the first, and the floor gave way under the feet of the worshippers.
There are three doors to the church—a double door in the middle opposite the middle aisle, and two small doors, opposite the side aisles.
Men and women fought madly, while underneath their feet, the weakened floor sagged and swayed and settled lower.

Strong men scrambled over the tops of the benches, trampling others under their feet and knocking women and children headlong.
Half those in the middle aisle were thrown prostrate by the first rush, but those who could struggled to their feet and fought to escape from the imaginary danger.

When the code cable message conveying the information of the disaster first reached Rear Admiral Converse, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, the hands of navy officials at once went up in horror, the series of frightful disasters that have occurred in the navy the past two years flashing vividly into their minds.

Even at the moment of the disaster on the Kearsarge Friday, Secretary Bonaparte was at his home in Baltimore carefully revising the findings of the board of inquiry into the New York harbor collision early in January. The fact that he has spent some time considering this report is accepted in naval circles as meaning that serious criticism, at the least, is to be administered to officers of the ships.

The President Informed.
Captain Winslow's dispatch reached the Navy Department shortly after 4:30 o'clock, when nearly all the officials and clerks had left their offices for the day. With Secretary Bonaparte out of the city, it immediately, after being deciphered, was placed in the hands of Assistant Secretary Newberry, and, before making it public, Mr. Newberry conveyed the information to the President, who was engaged in a game of tennis on his private court.
The news of the disaster struck the President deeply, and he directed that a message of condolence be sent at once to the officers of the ship, and to the families of the deceased. While Rear Admiral Mason was sent to convey the news to the family of Lieutenant Hudgins, in this city, messages at once were dispatched to the families of the other victims and those who were injured.

Lieut. Joseph W. Graeme, who was perhaps fatally injured, was assigned to duty on the armored cruiser Maryland, and was transferred to the Kearsarge during the target practice, as umpire. He was born in New York, and appointed from Pennsylvania. He entered the service September 6, 1893, and his commission as lieutenant dates from December 27, 1898. He has been only eight months at sea as a lieutenant, his total sea service being six years and six months, and his total time of service ashore five years and eleven months. He has only two months of unemployable time to his credit. He has been on the Maryland since the 15th of last April.
The Kearsarge is a first-class battleship, carrying twenty-two guns, 11,555 tons displacement, and has 11,964 horse-

SIX MEN KILLED BY EXPLOSION ON KEARSARGE

Charge of Powder Ignited in Forward Turret While Guns Were Being Unloaded After Practice.

LIEUT. HUDGINS AMONG DEAD; LIEUT. GRAEME FATALLY HURT

Accident Occurred Friday Afternoon Near Guantanamo, Cuba--Official Dispatch Indicates Neglect or Carelessness.

Officers and Men Killed and Injured.

THE DEAD.

Lieut. JOHN M. HUDGINS, turret officer, Washington, D. C.
PETER NORBERG, gunner's mate, third class; residence, New York, N. Y. Next of kin, Margaret Norberg, mother, Sandsvall, Sweden.

THEODORE NAEGELY, seaman; residence, Elizabeth, N. J. Next of kin, Louis Graff, guardian, 864 Elizabeth avenue, Elizabeth, N. J.

ANTON CLAUD THORSON, ordinary seaman; residence, New York, N. Y. Next of kin, Elias Thorson, father, Wyckoff avenue, near Broadway, New York, N. Y.

JULIUS ALFRED KOESTER, turret captain, first class; residence, Chicago, Ill. Next of kin, John Peterson, uncle, 345 West Huron street, Chicago, Ill.

ELLIS HOMER ATHEY, seaman; residence, Parkersburg, W. Va. Next of kin, W. E. Athey, father, 1006 Twenty-first street, Parkersburg, W. Va.

THE INJURED.

The following were dangerously injured by the accident, and recovery is doubtful:

Lieut. Joseph W. Graeme, cruiser Maryland, of Pennsylvania.
William King, ordinary seaman; residence, Appleton City, Mo. Next of kind, Miss Alice Cox, Appleton City, Mo.

In an explosion on the big battleship Kearsarge, one officer, Lieut. John M. Hudgins, of this city, and five men were killed, while one officer, Lieut. Joseph W. Graeme, and one seaman were injured, perhaps fatally.

News of the disaster came to the Navy Department late yesterday afternoon from Capt. Herbert Winslow, commander of the vessel. The accident occurred Friday afternoon in the vicinity of Guantanamo, Cuba, while, at the close of a period of target practice, the ship's guns were being unloaded preparatory to returning to Northern waters for the summer.

MAY HAVE BEEN GROSS NEGLIGENCE.

While the exact cause of the explosion was not made clear in the first dispatch, there was enough information to indicate to the navy officials the possibility of gross neglect or carelessness, and it is understood that orders will be cable at once to Rear Admiral Evans for the institution of a thorough inquiry. Captain Winslow stated that an investigation already was under way.

Naval Officers Shocked.

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