

## INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUED

### TRY TO FIX BLAME FOR DISASTER

#### Ismay is Censured—The Exact Death List is Still Unknown

Telegram by United Press.

New York, April 20.—Before the committee investigating Thomas Coltan, the Carpathia wireless operator, testified that he, himself, flashed the details of the disaster at 10:20 Monday morning to the Baltic. The Carpathia was then out of touch with land stations.

He admitted that he said the survivors would be taken to Halifax, but corrected this statement later, saying they would return to New York. He denied saying the Titanic was being slowly towed to port or that he sent a message that might be so construed. Harold Bride, the second Titanic wireless operator, escaped from the sinking ship, has his feet frozen and crushed.

Ismay impudently Chairman Smith for permission to leave the country today and immediately was served with another subpoena compelling him to remain until the end of the investigation.

#### Would Honor Heroes.

Telegram by United Press.

New York, April 20.—The attention of the Carnegie hero committee will be directed to the gallantry of the men, officers and crew of the Titanic, especially Major Butts. Tales of the latter's bravery increase.

Telegram by United Press.

New York, April 20.—Having established the fact that fully two hundred more survivors could have been saved had the life boats been loaded up to their capacity, the subcommittee investigating the Titanic disaster continued to hear the story today. The White Star line agreed to hold the fifteen sailors and officers rescued in this country to tell their stories.

Despite exposure, it is believed that all the men and women rescued will recover. St. Vincent's hospital released many steaming survivors today and the relief committee supplied needed clothing and funds. All the third class passengers lost everything.

The steamship lines' route will be changed so that hereafter there will be no danger of ice fields and in addition ship companies announced that they are preparing to install life boats and rafts so fast in the future there will be a place for every passenger. Because of the criticism that women manned the boats, the companies are considering a power-type life boat, equipped with the automobile type of engine.

Even after all that has now been told of the disaster the death list remains indefinite. Thursday night's total estimate was 1535. Friday the White Star line issued a statement placing the toll at 1635. Exactly how many died will never be known. It has been established officially, however, that the Titanic was traveling twenty-one knots an hour when she struck the iceberg. Notwithstanding this, however, none of the survivors, from steerage to saloon, has as yet condemned Capt. Smith, who went down with his ship.

The Titanic's rate of speed, which was approximately twenty-six and one-half land miles, was brought out Friday from the lips of J. Bruce Ismay, president of the International Mercantile Marine and managing director of the White Star line, who appeared as a witness before the United States senate committee which is investigating the disaster. Nervous, but not in tears, Capt. Rostron of the Carpathia who followed him on the stand, Mr. Ismay told in whispers of his escape from the sinking liner, from the time he pushed away in a boat with the women until he found himself clad in his pajamas aboard the Carpathia. He was not sure in just what boat he left the Titanic, nor was he sure how long he remained on the liner.

after she struck. He added, however, that before he entered a life boat, he had been told that there were no more women on the deck and he denied there had been any censoring of messages from the Carpathia. Other witnesses, including Capt. Rostron, bore him out in this, with the explanation that the lone wireless operator on the rescue ship, swamped with personal messages, was unable to send matter for the press.

Interest second only to that in the tales of survivors, centered upon Mr. Ismay's recital. In Washington Senator Rayner of Maryland bitterly arraigned him before the senate and expressed the hope that this country might rely upon British justice to "bring to bay the guilty directorate of the company."

From Washington also came the opinion of expert naval hydrographers that no blame should attach to Capt. Smith, because, as they contended, analysis of ocean charts has shown that the skipper, warped of the presence of icebergs, had speeded the Titanic fully sixty miles southward from the regular course. In spite of this caution, the mass of ice was struck, and as a preventive of similar disasters the hydrographic office issued Friday night an order shifting the lanes of trans-Atlantic liners 150 miles southward from the path which the Titanic followed.

After giving his testimony before the senate committee, Capt. Rostron of the Carpathia took charge of his ship, which departed late Friday for the Mediterranean. The ship had been hurriedly renovated and cleared of the disorder caused by the presence of the Titanic survivors and she left with cabin full. Capt. Rostron, went as he told Friday how the Carpathia had picked up the unfortunate set adrift from the Titanic, and before he left on his ship admiring passengers presented him with a loving cup.

Although several consistent accounts of what happened aboard the Titanic have been obtained from survivors, it was manifestly impossible for any one fully to take account of all that occurred on her great decks, four city blocks in length. Thus there are those who maintain that there was one or more cases of suicide among the officers. Capt. Smith, it would appear from the consensus of narratives, went down with his ship, but several passengers say that First Officer Murdoch shot himself through the head before she sank.

The 206 rescued members of the Titanic's crew still were in New York Friday sheltered on the Red Star Lapland. With few exceptions they are silent as to what happened aboard the sinking liner. They will be returned to England, but not until they have been held long enough to permit some of them to testify before the senate committee.

The greatest problem confronting the committee appointed to provide for the survivors has been with the steerage passengers. Speaking no English in many cases, ignorant of their destinations, frightened and without friends or relatives, their plight was acute until interpreters from the international institute for young women, a branch of the Y. W. C. A., circulated among them Friday and apportioned them as benefitted their nationality among the vast foreign quarters in New York. More than \$25,000 has already been subscribed for the sufferers.

#### No Sign of Bodies.

Telegram by United Press.  
Halifax, April 20.—Hope of recovering more bodies from the Titanic wreck was dashed when the Laurentic wireless that no sign of bodies about the wreckage was discovered.

#### Report Denied.

Telegram by United Press.  
Plymouth, England, April 20.—Capt. Haddock of the Olympic denies that the Olympic wireless that the Virginian was towing the Titanic to port.

#### Ismay is Denounced.

Washington, April 20.—An indictment, rarely equalled in its vigor, of J. Bruce Ismay, managing director, and other officials of the White Star line, holding them responsible for the Titanic disaster, was delivered in the senate yesterday by Senator Rayner of Maryland, who pictured Ismay as "the officer primarily responsible for the whole disaster who has reached his destination in safety and unharm."

(Continued on Page Three.)

## SUFFERING IS SERIOUS

### Conditions Steadily Growing Worse in Flood- ed Districts

Telegram by United Press.

Jackson, Miss., April 20.—It is reported that 200 persons were drowned in Bolivar county, Mississippi, when the dykes broke near Deulah. The country is covered with water. Efforts are being made to verify the report.

Many white people have been swept away. The governor has been advised that six thousand refugees in camp at Cleveland have supplies to last less than twenty-four hours.

Fifteen persons were drowned during last night near Benoit, from the break between Benoit and Heulah.

New Orleans, April 20.—With conditions in the overflowed territory of the Mississippi river in southeastern Arkansas, northwestern Mississippi and northern Louisiana steadily growing worse, the plight of victims who have been rendered homeless by the onrush of the waters from the breaks in the levees in these districts is deplorable. Hundreds of these have been cared for at emergency camps established along the lines of the levees at various points, but owing to the inaccessibility of some of the places far back into the country there is much suffering due to the lack of food.

At least forty small towns have been inundated by the muddy waters from the big stream and it is certain that many more will feel the destructive effects of the most devastating floods in the history of the lower valley.

Two boat loads of provisions were distributed in Tallulah Friday. This partly relieved the food situation, as supplies had almost been exhausted. Every street of Tallulah is deep under water.

Business and traffic in the Yazoo delta which is being overtopped by the break at Heulah, Miss., is paralyzed. Damage to property is incalculable. Supplies will be sent to Rolling Fork and Leland as long as those points can be reached. Fifteen miles of the Riverside branch of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad is under from ten to fifteen feet of water. Besides the six negroes who were drowned near that break many others have perished.

For the first time since the river began its advance, not a single point except New Orleans, reported an increased gauge at 7 o'clock last night. The rise at New Orleans, three-tenths of a foot to 29.2, was probably due to the backing up of water before a strong wind.

Beginning within the next few days, according to weather bureau forecasts, another rise will be recorded at Vicksburg and all ports south when the waters which are flowing through the Dog Tail and Heulah breaks return to the Mississippi through the Red river. The highest floods ever experienced in the latter stream in Louisiana are predicted.

#### GEORGE CURRY



George Curry, who was territorial governor of New Mexico two years ago, is now helping to represent that new state in the lower house of congress.

## PRISONERS SENTENCED

Four prisoners were sentenced by Judge Bailey in the district court this morning. They were as follows:

Henry Thomas, two years at McAlester.  
E. A. Wren, one year at Granite.  
"Dutch" Schuster, three months in county jail.  
P. L. Wheeler was sentenced to a year at McAlester a few days ago.

## NEB. GOES FOR CLARK AND TEDDY

Telegram by United Press.

Omaha, Neb., April 20.—Four hundred out of 1800 precincts in Nebraska show that Roosevelt carried the state two to one in Friday's primary over the combined forces of La Follette and Taft.

Norris is leading Brown by a small margin in the senatorial race. Aldrich was re-nominated by a big majority and Metcalf, editor of the Commonwealth, is probably nominated by the Democrats for governor.

Shallenger is leading in the Democratic senatorial race. Howell, progressive, is leading Rosewater two to one and the progressive Democratic delegates at large, headed by Bryan, will probably be elected.

Clark carried the state by almost as big a majority as Roosevelt.

#### Wilson Wins in Oregon.

Telegram by United Press.

Portland, Oregon, April 20.—Yesterday's presidential returns which are still meager indicate that Roosevelt and Wilson will get the Oregon delegates to the national convention.

Selling claims the senatorial nomination over Burns by 10,000 plurality. The Democrats apparently nominated Lane.

## THOUSANDS OF TITLES CLEARED

Oklahoma City, April 20.—That the decision of the supreme court of the United States relative to the sale of Indian lands, rendered Monday, will bring millions of dollars of foreign capital to the state is the opinion of W. A. Ledbetter, one of the attorneys in the case, who said:

"The recent decision of the United States supreme court holding that there is no restriction on the right of sale by Indian heirs regardless of quantity of blood, of land allotted under what is known as section 22 of the supplemental Choctaw and Chickasaw treaty, commonly called 'dead Indian claims,' is of vast importance to the state."

"When the allotment of lands in these nations began in 1903, thousands of deeds were taken to inherited lands on advice of local attorneys, and under decisions of the local United States courts. A similar view was held by the supreme court of the state of Oklahoma. Later the federal court of the Eastern district of Oklahoma, and the circuit court of the United States at St. Louis, held all these titles void, and that the allotments were held under restrictions. The supreme court of the United States reversed these federal courts and held that the Oklahoma supreme court correctly decided the legal question involved."

"On account of this conflict in opinion, millions of dollars have been kept out of the state, but now the great obstacle which has deterred foreign investors heretofore, has been removed by the final decision of the supreme court of the United States. Thousands of titles involving millions of dollars have thus been cleared up. It is safe to predict that as soon as this fact is known there will be a great influx of foreign capital for investment in southern Oklahoma lands, where the very best land can be procured for less than one-third of what it costs elsewhere."

#### ADJUDGED INSANE.

Mrs. Pount Levisay, living four miles southwest of town, was adjudged insane here today. Deputy Thompson will take her to Norman.

## 'WE'LL GET OIL' SAYS COCHRAN

Winding up with the emphatic declaration, "We shall get oil," R. M. Cochran of the Rock Creek Oil and Gas company today gave out the following report on the progress of the work in the field:

"We have made about seventy feet of new well this week, and probably have now reached a point that will not give us further trouble with caving earth, but we had just beneath the last concrete about twenty-five feet of red earth that has given us a great deal of trouble, as it was caving all the time. We have now concreted from the very bottom up to the casing, and we believe that we have overcome all of that kind of difficulties. However, we would not have the public believe that there will not be other troubles before the well is finished. We would further advise that the interested public should not accept too freely reports from our street corner experts: this well has not been more complicated than any other well; in fact, as a test well, it has caused less trouble than any test well in any field."

"We are in no particularly serious

trouble, we are simply preserving the interests of the owners of lots; they are the only people we have any interest in, and we have found that the use of concrete is both economical and maintains for us a well of commercial size, and we are making a success of the undertaking."

"Our drillers believe that we are going in to oil and we believe it too. We have been showing sufficient oil for the last 150 feet to make it a most encouraging undertaking. We have undertaken something that is worth while, that is important to Chickasha and to us. We do not see any reason to become discouraged and we are far from being discouraged. These shut downs for concreting are far cheaper, better and surer than fishing for tools in a deep well. We give this report in order that our friends may know just where we stand, we can hear rumors from persons who neither own lots or get pleasure out of the success of a community that it's all bad and nothing good, but we do not think our real friends believe such for it's absolutely without a foundation—we shall get oil."

## CHICKASHA GIRL WINS IN SPELLING CONTEST

Miss Bessie Drake of Chickasha won in the Grady county spelling match last night over ten contestants. The list was thinned quickly until only Miss Gladys Mason of Verden and the Chickasha contestant were standing. They spelled for nearly an hour. Miss Mason went down on the word "pavilion."

There was some little criticism among the rural teachers in the matter of allowing the Chickasha contestant two trials on the word "pavilion." The judges decided that since the word could be spelled two ways she should be given another trial. Among the words that were misspelled were, sought, linguist, weird, trivial, tragedy, wrought and religious.

Willie Johnson, the contestant from Freeman school, was the first one to lose a word. There were only two boys in the contest. Judge Shelton of Amber wore the medal that was won by his school last year. Amber represents the representative to the state contest last season.

The judges of the contest were Prof. A. B. Verrill of Rush Springs, R. A. Dunslop of Chickasha and W. P. Ramsey

of Chickasha. Miss Margaret Mitchell and Hernando Bennett were the official pronouncers. The schools represented were Chickasha, Tuttle, Min-c, Bradley, Bailey, Verden, Ninnekah, Pocomas, Alex and Amber. Helen Smiley of district No. 4, from the Pocomas Reading circle, was the youngest and only representative of a rural district. The other contestants came from city schools. There was one thing noticeable at the spelling bee—the contestants did not spell by syllables, as they did in the old days.

The main auditorium of the high school was filled with people anxious to witness the contest.

The preliminaries in the basket ball games were not held last night on account of the lateness of the hour.

Miss Drake is a pupil in the eighth grade and will represent Grady county in the state contest at Oklahoma City. She was one of the most self-possessed spellers of the evening and won easily.

J. A. Brodie attempted to make a flash-light picture of the contestants but a premature explosion ruined the photo.

## 300,000 MILES OF ROADS NEEDED

Telegram by United Press.

Washington, April 20.—Three hundred thousand miles of roadway must be improved before the road system of the United States can be considered efficient, according to information just made public by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson. The improvement will involve an expenditure of approximately \$2,000,000,000.

It is pointed out by the secretary that the roads have long been neglected by both state and federal authorities and that only in recent years have the "good road movement" gained in force. The consequences of the delay are shown by the fact that there are now but 190,476 miles of "modern" highways in the United States, or about 8.66 per cent of the total mileage of all public roads, improved and unimproved.

While the amount necessary to repair the roads, so that traffic can be moved throughout the country with only a minimum wear and tear seems fabulously large, it is to be taken into consideration that the cost is to be divided among the various states, and therefore reduced proportionately.

New York state has bonded itself to expend \$5,000,000 annually on the improvement of its highways and, it is hoped, that other states will soon follow until the movement becomes national. New York also leads the states making the greatest progress in road building. Georgia is second, South Carolina third, Alabama fourth and Florida fifth. Experiments made by these states has clearly demonstrated that hard-clay highways can be constructed cheaply, and give general satisfaction.

## FRIEND SCHOOL BEATS AMBER

The first Grady county athletic meet to be held by the rural schools is in progress this afternoon at University park. The athletic organizations among the schools have not yet been completed fully, and only a few of the schools are represented. The interest in the work is strong among the boys of the county. The track meet is the program this afternoon. The Friend school won over Amber in the basket ball contest this morning, the score being 51 to 4. Only two teams were entered.

The line-up was as follows: Friend—E. H. Russell, DeWitt Chitwood, John Campbell, Earnest Baker, Andy Ikard.

Amber—Tom Brookes, Frank Reynolds, Grady Keith, Marshall Sewall, George Brookes. The game was played at 10:30 at the high school gymnasium.

The cups that are to be given in the athletic contest are on display at Lubman's.

#### EXPRESS COMPANY ROBBED.

Telegram by United Press.

Grand Junction, Colo., April 20.—Two masked men entered the Globe Express company at midnight, bound and gagged the messenger, Gilbert, and escaped with \$14,000.

#### WEATHER FORECAST.

Top light, showers and thunderstorms; cooler in west portion; Sunday, fair and cooler.

## FIELD MEET AT NORMAN

### High School Boys of State Gather for Con- tests

Special to The Express.

Norman, Okla., April 20.—The entries for the eighth annual Oklahoma inter-scholastic athletic meet, which is held each year under the auspices of the university on its campus at Norman, have already begun to arrive. The meet this year will be held on April 26-27. Interest is being taken in the meet this year by schools never before represented and inquiries concerning it are coming from all parts of the state. In 1905, the first year the meet was held, there were 115 entries from all schools; last year there were 191 entries from thirty-four schools. The university expects not less than forty-five schools to be represented this year. Many schools not entering the contests will send spectators.

The main part of the athletic meet consists of the track and field events, which, with records, are as follows: 100-yard dash, 9.4-5 sec.; 220-yard dash, 23 sec.; 440-yard dash, 52 sec.; 550-yard run, 2 min. 9 sec.; mile run, 4 min. 52.3-5 sec.; 120-yard hurdles, 17 sec.; 230-yard hurdles, 28.1-5 sec.; high jump, 5 ft. 6 1/2 in.; broad jump, 22 ft. 11 1/2 in.; discus throw, 110 ft. 10 in.; relay race, 3 min. 32.3-5 sec.

Besides these events there is a tournament in tennis, series of games in baseball for boys, and basketball for girls, and there is considerable talk of organizing a state high school debating or oratorical league with the final contest at Norman on the night preceding the meet each year.

The university makes elaborate preparations each spring to entertain the thousands of high school students, teachers and patrons who come to Norman as its guests for this occasion. Inter-scholastic day at the university is the biggest day of the year for the high schools of Oklahoma. Last year 5000 people attended the events. Admission to all contests is free to everybody. Special rates of a fare and one-third for round trip have been granted by all roads in the state with a minimum of \$1 for round-trip. A special train will be run on the Santa Fe, leaving Guthrie at 7:30 a. m. April 27, picking up passengers at Edmond and Oklahoma City, and arriving in Norman at 9:15 a. m., returning it will leave Norman at 3 p. m. The junior class of the university gives its annual faculty barbecue in the opera house in Norman on Saturday night.

State Superintendent H. H. Wilson has called a meeting of the high school teachers and superintendents of the state for the 25th and 26th of April at Oklahoma City. This conference will close so that those in attendance can reach Norman Friday evening and be prepared to take in all the events of the meet.

The preliminaries in tennis will occur Friday afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock. The university baseball team plays A. & H. college at the same time and there will also be baseball games among some of the high school teams and perhaps some basket ball games for girls. Friday evening the Oklahoma City-Norman high school debate will be held at the opera house in Norman. Saturday morning will occur the finals in tennis and the main part of the baseball and basket ball series. Saturday noon lunch will be served on the campus by the Y. M. C. A. girls. At 1:30 p. m. the pistol will crack for the first preliminaries in the 100-yard dash and from that time until the gold, silver and bronze medals and the big loving cup have been awarded there will not be a dull minute.

The university is making every provision possible for the comfort and entertainment of her guests. Those who have to stay over Friday night or Saturday night will be assisted in finding good rooms by a special committee of the faculty appointed for this purpose. The university goes to considerable expense each year to make the meet a success and showing the high school boys and girls a good time while they are in Norman and the increasing number of visitors warrants the conclusion that the meet is growing in popularity each year.