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MONT PELEE STILL ACTIVE

Letters Written and Sent the Day Before the Eruption.

"Tell Our Brother That We Are Still Alive."

PARIS, May 19.—Martinique mails forwarded just prior to the disaster arrived here yesterday. The newspapers print a number of private letters from St. Pierre, giving many details of events immediately preceding the catastrophe. The most interesting of these is a letter from a young lady, who was among the victims, dated May 3. After describing the aspect of St. Pierre before dawn, the town being lit up with flames from the volcano, everything covered with ashes and the people greatly excited, she does not panic-stricken, she said:

A REMARKABLE LETTER.

"My calmness astonishes me. I am awaiting the event tranquilly. My only suffering is from the dust, which penetrates everywhere, even through closed windows and doors. We are all calm. Mamma is not a bit anxious. Edith alone is frightened. If death awaits us, there will be a numerous company to leave the world. Will it be by fire or asphyxiation? It will be what God wills. You will have our last thoughts.

"Tell brother Robert that we are still alive. This will, perhaps, be no longer true when this letter reaches you."

The Edith mentioned was a lady visitor who was among the rescued. This and other letters enclosed samples of the ashes which fell over the doomed towns. The ashes are a bluish grey impalpable powder, resembling newly ground flour and slightly smell of sulphur.

FLOCKING TO THER DOOM.

Another letter written during the afternoon of May 3rd says: "The population of the neighborhood of the mountain are flocking to the city. Business is suspended, the inhabitants are panic-stricken, and the firemen are sprinkling the streets and roofs to settle the ashes which are falling the air."

These and other letters seem to indicate that evidences of the impending disaster were numerous five days before it occurred.

It is difficult to understand that a general exodus of the population of St. Pierre did not take place before May 8th. Still another letter says:

A WINTER SCENE.

"St. Pierre presents an aspect unknown to the natives. It is a city sprinkled with gray snow, a winter scene without cold. The inhabitants of the neighborhood are abandoning their houses, villages and cottages and are flocking to the city. The air is oppressive, your nose burns. Are we going to die asphyxiated? What has tomorrow in store for us? A flow of lava, a rain of stones or a cataclysm from the sea? Who can tell? Will give you my thoughts if I must die."

EXCURSION PLANNED.

A St. Pierre paper of May 3rd announces that an excursion arranged for the next day to Mont Pelee had been postponed as the crater was inaccessible, adding that notice would be issued when the excursion would take place.

BURY FAMILY OF PRENTIS.

PORT DE FRANCE, May 19.—A party from here has gone to St. Pierre on the British cruiser indefatigable, carrying with them coffins for the purpose of recovering the bodies of the family of Thomas T. Prentis, the late United States consul at that place, who were killed in the disaster. The interment of the remains will take place here and will be conducted with military honors. The indefatigable brought 120 tons of supplies.

MONT PELEE STILL ACTIVE.

There was another eruption from Pelee yesterday. Ashes fell here. The volcano is still violently smoking and there are no signs of its ceasing its activity.

The United States cruiser Cincinnati and United States government tug Potomac will be stationed here indefinitely. The Potomac will shortly go to the island of Guadaloupe to bring to this place the furniture, books, etc., of the office of the United States consul there, Louis W. Aymee.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

PARIS, May 19.—M. L'Huette, the governor of Martinique, has sent the following cablegram to M. DeCrais, the colonial minister, dated Fort De France: "I have informed the population that supplies by the U. S. S. Dixie and steamers Fontanabelle and Madiana will arrive here today. The cargoes of these vessels will be ex-

empted from all duty and other charges. This is done on all food supplies reaching us. Commander G. W. Mantz and Captain Crabb of the quartermaster's department, have just arrived here on the United States collier Sterling with the food presented by the government of Porto Rico."

THE RELIEF FUND.

LONDON, May 19.—The Mansion House West Indian relief fund now aggregates \$25,000. Lord Salisbury has contributed \$100, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, the Canadian high commissioner, \$500, Lady Strathcona and Mount Royal \$200, and "Anonymous," per Joseph Chamberlain, the colonial secretary, \$100.

GAYNOR AND GREENE.

Taken Back to Quebec Under Writ of Habeas Corpus.

MONTREAL, Que., May 19.—There were more sensational developments in the Gaynor-Greene case today. This morning counsel for the prisoners complained that they could not see their clients, who were being kept in a private prison at Windsor, and asked, therefore, that they be committed to jail so that they could see them. Mac-Master at first had no objection, but in a few minutes, when he learned that a writ of habeas corpus had been sworn out at Quebec, charging Governor Vallee to produce the prisoners before Judge Andrews in that city, he entered a dissent. The magistrate took the matter under advisement, and later decided that as the prisoners belonged in jail he could not keep them out of it if they refused to pay for accommodations themselves and guard elsewhere. Subsequently they went to jail. At 8:30 tonight a special train arrived from Quebec with High Constable Gale on board armed with a writ of habeas corpus. He at once served the document on Vallee and half an hour later the train departed for the ancient capital with Gaynor and Greene on board. The legal fight will be resumed today in that city.

HAVANA IS ABLAZE

SPECIAL TRAINS ARRIVING FROM DIFFERENT PARTS WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS

FULLY 20,000 PEOPLE IN HAVANA TO WITNESS INAUGURATION OF PALMA.

HAVANA, May 19.—Havana was awakened this morning by the ringing of innumerable bells. They were tolling requiem for the patriotic dead.

Today was also the anniversary of the death of Jos. Marti, the hero of Dos Rios and the father of the last revolution, who fell at the beginning of the war for independence. Marti's death was commemorated today by masses in all the churches. General Maximo Gomez paid a tribute to his memory in El Mundo. Under the auspices of the city council a crown of flowers was deposited this morning on Tostes de Las Laurels in Cabanas fortress, where the Cuban prisoners were shot. General Gomez was present. Last night's festivities were concluded with a great torchlight parade.

FROM CENTRAL VALLEY.

Special trains began arriving today from different parts with the provincial governors. Alcades and all the civil officers who could get away from their posts are already here. It is believed that at least 20,000 people from the provinces will be here tomorrow. The New York and Florida steamers arrived today and the big passenger lists. Another delegation from Senor Palma's neighborhood of Central Valley, N. Y., has arrived here to witness his inauguration. His eldest son, Jose, was also on board.

PRESIDENT LOUBET.

Steps Foot on Russian Soil—Is Everywhere Warmly Received.

PETERHOF, Russia, May 20.—The Imperial yacht Alexandra arrived here at noon from Cronstadt. President Loubet led the way ashore and shook hands with the assembled grand dukes and officials. The president and the czar then entered carriages, were driven to the railroad station and proceeded on the Imperial train to Tzarsoke-zelo. The president's reception everywhere was markedly warm.

TZARSKO-ZELO, Russia, May 20.—President Loubet visited their majesties at the Alexandrowski palace and conversed with them for a quarter of an hour. The czarina showed herself very gracious to the president of France. She referred to the pleasure her visit at Compiegne, France, had afforded her and presented the ladies of her suite to President Loubet. The czar also introduced the Russian court officials to him. Later in the afternoon the president visited the dowager empress at Gatschina, where he was met at the railroad station by the czar's wife. President Loubet was deeply touched by the dowager empress' expressions of lively sympathy for France and returned to Tzarsoke-zelo in the afternoon.

BOERS MAKE ATTACK.

120 Boers Were Repulsed and Vanherden Was Killed.

MIDDLEBURG, Cape Colony, May 20.—The town of Aberdeen, about seven miles south of Middleburg, was attacked on Sunday last by 120 Boers, who were repulsed and Vanherden was killed.

A TORNADO VISITS TEXAS

One Hundred and Sixty About 250 Men and Boys Dead—100 Are Injured.

Town Under Military Rule—It Came Without Warning.

DALLAS, Texas, May 19.—As the result of a tornado which struck the town of Gollah there are, as reported by telephone a few minutes after noon today, one hundred and sixty dead and one hundred injured, the majority being negroes, as the storm swept the negro district in the west end of the town. The business section was not touched. The town is under military rule. The newspaper men on the ground are assisting in the burial of the dead and relieving the injured. The court house and private residences are being utilized to care for the injured and for preparing the dead for burial.

The tornado came from the southeast at 3 o'clock in the afternoon yesterday, and was accompanied by a heavy hail. The details are necessarily slow.

CONFLICTING TESTIMONY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 19.—During the Philippine investigation before the senate committee today a letter was read from General Hughes denying that he ever gave orders for the water cure and saying that if such a charge was made he wanted the fullest investigation of it.

Corporal Richard O'Brien, formerly of the Twenty-sixth Volunteer Infantry, testified to seeing the water cure administered. He also said that officers violated a Spanish woman at one town.

He said he was not on good terms with his captain.

"Dum dum," or explosive bullets, he said, were issued to the troops in the regular way and did horrible execution.

There were unwritten orders to take no prisoners, which were carried out in the campaign. He did not know who issued the orders. He admitted that he had seen many prisoners and they were kindly treated by officers and men.

JOHN MITCHELL TALKS.

Conflict Is the Greatest in History of the World.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., May 20.—In a talk with a representative of the Associated Press President Mitchell of the United Mine Workers briefly reviewed the progress of the strike up to date. He said he and his colleagues were well satisfied with the movement so far as it has gone. He expected a total suspension of mining and his present conflict, he said, is the greatest in the history of the world in point of numbers. The union is strong and the miners are determined, he says, and he has no fears of a break in the solid stand of the men.

CAUSED BY CLOUD BURST.

CONNVILLE, Pa., May 20.—The breakneck reservoir near here, in the mountains, broke early this morning and the five million gallon lake flooded White Run Valley, sweeping away houses, railroads and bridges, barns, fences and crops. As far as known no lives were lost. The damage is estimated at \$200,000. The break was caused by a cloudburst.

SENSATION CREATED THE TEXAS TORNADO

OUTSPOKEN ATTACK ON THE DANISH WEST INDIAN TREATY OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

M. ALBERTI, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, SAYS MINISTERS PREPARED FOR DRASTIC MEASURES.

COPENHAGEN, May 20.—The political campaign, which is expected to produce a ministerial majority in the Landsting next September, was opened today with a speech delivered by the minister of justice, M. Alberti, who created a sensation by making an outspoken attack on the Danish West Indian treaty obstructionists. He added that if the elections failed to wipe out the small rightist majority, the ministry was prepared for the drastic measure of dissolving the Landsting, sending home even the members appointed by the king for life. At all events, the treaty would be ratified. The government would not tolerate any further dishonorable tactics on the part of the opposition.

INSTANTLY KILLED.

VICTORIA, B. C., May 20.—A Japanese steamer passenger of the steamer "Glenora" fell from the hold of that steamer, which is lying at the outer wharf, and was instantly killed.

A TERRIBLE DISASTER

About 250 Men and Boys Meet an Instant Death.

Gas Explosion at Fraterville Coal Mine, Tennessee.

COAL CREEK, Tenn., May 19.—The worst disaster in the history of Tennessee mining occurred at 7:40 o'clock this morning, when between 150 and 250 men and boys met instant death at the Fraterville coal mine, two miles west of this town, as the result of a gas explosion. Out of a large number of men and boys who were to work this morning, only one was left alive, and he is so badly injured that he cannot live. This man was William Morgan, an aged Englishman, who was a road man in the mine and who was blown out of the entrance by the force of the explosion. One hundred and seventy-five miners were checked off for work this morning by the mine boss. In addition to these there were boys who acted as helpers and drivers, road men and others of the number of perhaps 60.

The Fraterville mine is the oldest mine in the Coal Creek district, having been opened in 1870. It is fully three miles from the mine's opening to the point where the men were at work.

FLAMES SHOT OUT.

They had not been at work long before the terrible explosion occurred. There was a fearful roar and then flames shot from the entrance and the air shafts. News of the disaster spread like wildfire, but as soon as possible two rescuing parties were started in, one at the main entrance, the other through the Thistle, which adjoins and in which no men were at work. The Thistle party was unable to make any headway, as the gas stifled the workers. The Fraterville party went fully two miles under the earth until a heavy fall of slate was encountered. At this barrier men worked like demons, hoping against hope that those beyond might be safe. The scenes at the mouth of the mine while the workers were within were beyond description.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED.

Business was suspended in Coal Creek and all its mines as soon as the news of the disaster became known, and men, women and children gathered around the Fraterville entrance. Women, whose husbands and sons were within, were wild with grief. All day long the rescuers toiled at the slate obstruction, and not until 5 o'clock this evening did they force an entrance through it. Up to that hour only five dead bodies had been recovered, and hope was still high that many within were safe. The hopes of the living were doomed, however, for when once the rescuers could enter and proceed they walked through a continuous tomb of death. There was not a sign of life. Every man had perished, they believed, although it will be tomorrow before all the rooms can be entered.

RECOVERING THE BODIES.

Eight dead were first recovered and these were sent to Coal Creek. Twenty-two more were recovered, but not all were undisfigured beyond identification, and each corpse, as it was borne from the mouth of the gigantic tomb, was surrounded by eager crowds of relatives of the men who were entombed. The mine was not on fire except in remote portions, and all bodies perhaps may be reached before daylight.

THE TEXAS TORNADO

GOLIAD WAS LITERALLY SWEEPED FROM END TO END BY THE WIND.

REPORTS SHOW THAT THE DAMAGE FROM STORM WAS WIDESPREAD.

GOLIAD, Texas, May 20.—Ninety-two are dead and 108 injured as the result of the terrible work of Sunday's tornado. The town was literally swept from end to end by the wind and 150 houses were demolished. A revised list of the dead shows that 28 whites perished. The remainder of the dead are negroes. Of the injured it is believed that 20 will die. In response to the appeal of Governor Sayers subscriptions have been raised in many of the larger cities and other necessities are now coming to the way here. Reports from various portions of the state show the damage from the storm was widespread. At Ben Hur three persons, all colored people, were killed.

GAYNOR AND GREENE.

QUEBEC, May 20.—Judge Andrews at 2 p. m. decided to Gaynor and Greene that they must remain in Quebec in charge of Quebec officers.

SENSATIONAL REPORT. Frustration of Plot Against the Life of Francis Joseph.

LONDON, May 19.—The correspondent of the Daily Chronicle at Buda Pest reports the frustration of a plot against the life of Emperor Francis Joseph. The emperor was recently going on a night train from Vienna to Buda Pest. In the final inspection of the imperial train in the terminus of the state railroad at Vienna, made ten minutes before his majesty's arrival there, a bomb covered with paper was found in the emperor's compartment. It was evidently calculated that this bomb would explode the moment his majesty entered the car. An investigation of the matter led to the dismissal of several of the railway employees. The greatest secrecy concerning the plot has been observed, concludes the correspondent, and the emperor forbade the newspapers of Vienna to mention the affair.

CURTIS' TRADES UNION BILL.

Eberts Denounces It as Coming From Headquarters at Denver.

(Special to the Miner.)

VICTORIA, May 19.—Eberts this afternoon accused Curtis' action as being for the Western Federation of Miners' organization, with headquarters at Denver, in bringing in the trades union bill. He said the Federation was responsible for the Rossland strike and all the trouble it brought, and that Curtis wanted to relieve it from the liability it had incurred. He declared it an unjust measure, and said he utterly opposed it.

The government went on with private business again today instead of the public business. This was attributed to the trouble in reconciling Ellison and Clifford to the modified railway bill.

MADRID ASSEMBLED

GRAND MILITARY REVIEW — IT LASTED FOR ONE AND A HALF HOURS.

14,000 SOLDIERS IN LINE — ALL BRANCHES OF SPANISH ARMY INCLUDED.

MADRID, May 19.—The entire population of Madrid seemed to have assembled this afternoon along the broad and leafy Pazo del Prado and Pazo de Recoletos, the grand boulevard of Madrid, there to witness the military review.

The weather was beautiful. Grand stands had been erected at a central point on the line of march and from these the queen mother, members of the royal family, and the diplomats and members of the Cortes witnessed the march past of 14,000 soldiers. The entire garrison of Madrid, several regiments from the provinces and the naval detachment, which had been brought to Madrid especially for the occasion, took part in the procession.

A BEAUTIFUL PAGEANT.

King Alfonso, in the uniform of a captain general, and mounted upon a handsome bay charger, left the palace at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He was accompanied by General Weyler, the Duke of Connaught (the representative of King Edward), the Grand Duke Vladimir (the Russian representative), and other princes and a suite of staff officers with which his majesty rode to the Pazo de Recoletos, where the troops were drawn up. As the king passed down the line the soldiers greeted him with hearty cheering. He then took up a position at the side of the grand stand, where his mother was seated. The march past began at once and lasted for an hour and a half. All the branches of the Spanish army were included in the procession of the grand review, which concluded with the gallop past of half a dozen regiments of cavalry, riding ten horses abreast. The queen's lancers, with fluttering pennants of the national colors, led the gallop past. This regiment was followed by the dragoons and finally came the Hussars. The latter were clad in very striking uniforms of bright scarlet, blue and cream colored material, and their short capes streamed in the wind as they careened past the king. The Hussars and Civic Guards received the greatest share of the plaudits of the people. The infantrymen were sturdy and marched with a swinging gait, but their alignment was far from faultless. On his way back to the palace King Alfonso was greeted with hearty shouts from the people of "Vive el Rey."

\$1,000,000 DAMAGE DONE.

Terrific Wind and Rain Storm at Cincinnati, Ohio.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, May 20.—A terrific wind and rain storm accompanied by a water spout, swept over this locality today, causing the loss of six lives and injuring many others. The fury of the storm continued only thirty minutes, but the damage done in that time will amount to more than a million dollars in the business of Cincinnati and as many more in other parts of the city and its suburbs. Prior to the unprecedented falling of rain dense clouds were seen to the south and the city became dark as night. It was learned afterwards that there had been a waterspout on the Lewisburg hills, in the southern suburbs of Covington, Kentucky, and it moved over the Kentucky suburbs into this city, passing up the Miami valley, with damages reported as far as Dayton, Ohio, much storm damages are reported.

OBSTACLES IN THE WAY

Majority of Transvaalers Said to Be Favorable to Peace.

Orange Free Staters Will Not Renounce Independence.

LONDON, May 20.—The result of the conference of Boer leaders at Vereeniging is anxiously awaited here. The government is hopeful, if not sanguine. The uncertainty with regard to the decision of the Boers and the fear that negotiations may be still further prolonged are interfering seriously with business. When the delegates left Pretoria nearly a month ago to consult the various commandos with the countenance and assistance of the British military authorities, most people thought the long-looked for end was at last in sight. Various rumors, some hopeful, others despondent, have been current ever since, and today the situation is as clouded as ever.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach says the government is unaware of the intention of the Boers, but Lord Milner and Lord Kitchener must have some idea of what has been going on among the commandos during the last few weeks. The South African winter has now commenced, and military men anticipate that this fact will go a long way toward inducing the Boers to surrender.

LATEST FROM PRETORIA.

PRETORIA, May 20.—While it is hard to sift out the truth from the mass of contradictory reports that are floating in here from Vereeniging, Transvaal, where the Boer delegates are in conference, the best information obtainable leads to the belief that there are a number of obstacles in the way of a peaceful settlement. In summing up the situation at Vereeniging it is safe to say that a majority of the Transvaalers, including the Transvaal government, is in favor of peace, while the representatives of the Orange Free State, with a few influential exceptions, declare they will not renounce independence.

Strangely enough General De Wet, who was the most irreconcilable at the last conference, is now quite a strong advocate of peace. Lord Kitchener certainly will not exceed the concessions already offered the delegates, so there remains only the question of the reductions of the demands of the Orange Free State representatives or the possibility of a split between the Boer factions. This latter, while it would delay an immediate settlement of the matters before the conference, would certainly hasten the final solution of the situation in the field.

TO DIVIDE INSTALLMENTS.

The Taotal Talks Back to the Bankers on Silver Basis.

PEKIN, May 20.—The foreign ministers have decided to divide the installments of the Chinese war indemnity provisionally on the basis of a pro rata reduction of the excess. They have also unanimously decided to instruct Robert Hart, director of the maritime customs of China, to concur in this opinion. The bankers recently requested the Taotal to inform them of the progress made in collecting the indemnity, and he replied that it was none of the bankers' concern so long as China met the payments.

NO HITCH IN COMBINE.

White Star Line Have Accepted the Morgan Offer.

LONDON, May 20.—There is no hitch in the arrangements of the Atlantic shipping combine. The White Star Line shareholders have unanimously accepted the Morgan offer. The government has received assurances that the White Star will gladly renew the naval reserve agreement at the expiration of the present three years' contract.

REFRIGERATOR CARS.

To Coast and Kootenay Points Commences Next Monday.

WINNIPEG, Man., May 20.—General Superintendent Leonard of the C. P. R. announced this morning that the company's refrigerator service to Kootenay, the Pacific coast and intermediate branches will commence on Monday next. The special lead refrigerator cars for perishable products, such as fruit and the more tender vegetables, will be put on Tuesday next.

REPORT UNFOUNDED.

That Canadian Surveyors Had Removed Russian Boundary Mound.

VICTORIA, B. C., May 20.—Private advices from Alaska say that Captain Richardson, sent north by the United States government to investigate a report that Canadian surveyors had removed an old Russian boundary mound, is returning satisfied that the report was without foundation.