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ENGLAND HAS MINING HORROR

Explosion Locks 290 Men in Burning Mine

MANY FATALITIES

Cages Blocked and Rescue Delayed, While Noxious Fumes Are Driven Back Upon the Men—Heartrending Scenes at Mouth of The Pit

Bigton, England, Dec. 21.—An explosion in the Little Hulton colliery this morning jammed the cages in the shaft, releasing noxious fumes and interfering with the ventilation.

Of all the workers who were in the mine when the explosion occurred, a lone boy is the only one who has thus far made his way to the surface.

Bolton is a colliery and manufacturing centre about fifteen miles from Manchester. Its population is about 200,000.

The explosion occurred in the Little Hulton colliery this morning after the 290 miners had gone down below the surface to begin the day's work.

The cause and extent of the disaster was in doubt for several hours. The first rescuing party to reach the scene succeeded in bringing seven men and a boy to safety and later recovered the bodies of five victims who had no chance to escape.

At the moment of the explosion, flames spread through the affected passages and smoke and poisonous gas filled the shaft. The plight of the miners was rendered more desperate by a mishap to the machinery of the shaft, where the cages refused to move for a time, preventing a quick escape and interfering with the ventilation.

The rising gases were checked by obstructions and driven back upon the entrapped men. Meantime, the fire raged fiercely and it is supposed that many who were not killed by noxious fumes were burned to death.

The rescuers were unable to go directly to the spot where the miners were entrapped, and there was some delay while they sought access to the place through adjoining levels.

Word of the accident was carried quickly to the homes of the miners and thousands of persons soon surrounded the mouth of the colliery. As always on the occasion of such disasters, the anxious throng included hundreds of well-to-do wives and children, and the pitiable scenes familiar to coal mining districts were enacted.

MARTIN A. KNAPP IS APPOINTED TO BENCH

Was Head of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the United States

Washington, Dec. 21.—Martin A. Knapp has been confirmed by the senate as an additional circuit judge of the United States for the second judicial circuit. Automatically he ceased to be chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission and now is ready to ascend the bench of the court of commerce as presiding judge of the second circuit.

Colonel Samuel Garcia, chief of the presidential staff, gave to the Associated Press the following statement relative to Sunday's encounter:

It is true that Colonel Guzman was wounded in a reconnoitering expedition that he made at the Mal Paso cases to ascertain the number and position of the revolutionists. He had left his train behind. Col. Guzman found the train empty and behind him and in a thick forest on the sides of the canon. Their position was naturally one of great advantage.

The tenth battalion of infantry and a battery of light artillery with one rapid fire gun, left here late yesterday for the zone of activity in Chihuahua. Another train carrying two regiments of infantry is said to have left Guadalupe for the same destination. The tenth battalion contains 600 men and twenty-one officers. The battery is classified as light mountain artillery and has six guns. These troops were said to be intended to reinforce Col. Guzman at Padernales.

According to the official information obtainable here, the government forces are prepared to deliver a crushing blow to the revolutionists.

In high official circles it is believed that the rebels are now trapped and they cannot possibly escape.

King to Hunt in Sudan

Berlin, Dec. 21.—King Frederick Augustus of Saxony will leave Dresden in February for a hunt of several weeks in the Sudan. He will embark at Venice.

Governor Guest of Bishop

Portland, Me., Dec. 21.—Governor Fernald and members of his council were the guests of Right Rev. Louis Walsh, Bishop of Portland, at a dinner given in their honor at the Catholic rectory last evening. A marble bust of the bishop, made while he was in Rome last summer, was shown for the first time.

McFarland is Beaten

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 21.—After fifteen rounds of sparring, James Barade of south St. Joseph, last night, got the decision over Tommy McFarland, of San Francisco. This was McFarland's first fight since he lost Ad Wolgast, lightweight champion, last September, Wolgast breaking his arm.

THE WEATHER

Moderate to fresh northeasterly and northerly winds; turning colder with light local showers today, and on Thursday

MILLIONS LOSS IN FIRE; DEATHS, TOO, ATTEND ON BLAZE IN CINCINNATI

Manufacturing District Swept By Conflagration; Building After Building Goes

Eight Structures Destroyed and Ten Firms Burned Out—Firemen Caught as Wall Collapses—Electric Light Pole Topples Over and Crushes Boy to Death

Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 21.—The loss entailed by a fire which swept the manufacturing district in the neighborhood of Sycamore streets in this city, early today will approximate two million dollars.

One fireman's body has been recovered, an unidentified spectator was killed by a falling pole, another fireman fatally burned and another seriously injured.

The fire, it is believed, started in the engine room of the plant of the Krippendorf & O'Neil Shoe Company. Heavily laden with shoes, the building was discovered when the flames leaped from every window from cellar to roof.

When the apparatus arrived it was seen that the shoe factory was doomed, and the firemen turned to the work of trying to save adjoining buildings. They practically surrounded the fire with water, but it had too much of a start and, aided by the wind, it continued to spread from building to building. While the fire was at its height a wall of the Krippendorf building fell and buried Robert Greer, a fireman, who was trying to save adjoining buildings.

Another Big One

Another fire broke out in the plant of the J. Nurre Mfg. Company in Broadway early today and has already entailed a loss estimated at \$250,000 and is still beyond control. It is supposed that sparks from the conflagration in Sycamore street, one block west, set fire to the Nurre plant.

The fire originated in the building of the Krippendorf-O'Neil Shoe Company and quickly gained such headway that the entire eight-story establishment was in flames. The Sycamore street building was the main line of the fire, and the plant of the Victor Safe & Lock Co. have been badly damaged. All of the available fire fighting apparatus of central and downtown parts of the city were rained to the fire but the firemen expected great difficulty because of the extreme cold and bursting pipes.

Cincinnati, Dec. 21.—The fire caused damage estimated at \$2,000,000, the death of a fireman and an unknown boy and the injury of six other firemen.

Eight Buildings Burned

The fire, which started at 2 o'clock, was one of the most disastrous that the business district had to battle with for many years. At the time it broke out a high wind was blowing. When the flames raged to their height, ten central ten firms had been burned out and eight large buildings destroyed.

Robert D. Greer, pipeman, Engine Company No. 4.

Leaving this will, Joseph Pike, an Englishman, sixty-five years old, who boarded with Mrs. M. Jackson at 14 Alameda street, committed suicide last night by drinking carbolic acid.

Pike served time in Nottingham, England. He has been doing odd jobs about restaurants. The police is for 670.

Lower Pullman Rates

Two Dollars for a Twelve Hour Run, With 20 Per Cent Off For Upper

Washington, Dec. 21.—Tentative approval of the interstate commerce commission has been given to the fixed charge for upper berths in Pullman cars at 80 per cent of the charges now paid for lower berths.

It is estimated that the reduction which will be made upon all of the lines over which Pullman cars are operated in the United States, which include all the main line railroads of the United States excepting the New Haven road, the Great Northern and the Milwaukee, will amount to a net reduction of nearly \$1,500,000 annually. The new rates for the lower berth appear to be based upon a charge of \$4 for a 12-hour run, excepting on some of the fastest trains, the upper berth rate being 20 per cent lower than the newly-established rate upon lower berths.

Shot Dead While Discussing Fight

Traveler Killed in Pittsburg Hotel—A Suspect Arrested

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 21.—Joking in the case of Charles Hotel, here last night, R. J. Mitchell, aged 33, a traveling salesman for a Cleveland, Ohio, book firm, was shot and instantly killed by a man with whom he was discussing a prize fight. A few minutes later, Brooks C. Buffington, who for 22 years has been superintendent of a large office building here, and said to several witnesses to have done the shooting, was arrested, as he was about to take a car for his home. Buffington denied any complicity in the shooting.

Both Are Safe

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Dec. 21.—The Irma Woermann, of the Woermann Steamship Line, which went out on Monday to assist her sister ship, the Ingelhart, helped twelve miles off the coast, returned today with the disabled vessel in tow.

FAILS AS A MURDERER; HIS SUICIDE

Windsor Tragedy Result of Misunderstanding Between Husband and Wife

Canadian is Slain

Hamilton Man Gets Word That Son Was Murdered by Italian in California—Englishman in Toronto Wills Insurance to Landlady and Drinks Carbolic

Windsor, Ont., Dec. 21.—(Special)—Elmer Leptine, aged 45 years, a teamster employed by A. N. McLean & Company, attempted to murder his wife and her sister, Mrs. Donald Stone, here last night by firing four shots from a .22 caliber revolver at the women as they stood at the gate of the Leptine home in Langens avenue.

Three bullets took effect, both women being hit but the wounds are not fatal. Leptine then ran into the house and locking himself in, blew out his brains before the police arrived, a few minutes later.

The shooting was the culmination of a long period of misunderstanding and estrangement between Leptine and his wife, Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 21.—(Special)—Duncan Fitzgerald, of 10 Homewood avenue, has received word of the murder of his son, William, of California, about three weeks ago by an Italian on whose property Fitzgerald, with his 12-year-old son, was out shooting.

He had camped out for the night. The Italian, Steve Mori, is now awaiting his trial.

Toronto, Dec. 21.—(Special)—"If God Almighty should not smite I have my insurance policy to my landlady for England."

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TWO SHIPWRECKED CREWS REACH HOME

"As Bad as I Ever Want to See It," Says Capt. Gale of the Schooner Preference—Believes Laura C. Hall Lost—Captain and Men of S. A. Fownes Arrive

"As bad as I ever want to see it again" was the way Captain George E. Gale meant when the St. John schooner Preference, expressed himself about the recent hurricane on the American coast, which cost him his vessel and almost his life and that of his crew.

Captain Gale and his men arrived in the city at noon from Boston. To a reporter of the Times-Star he said: "Yes, we were first demoralized, then the rest followed, and we had an awful time of it till rescued. It was the worst I have ever seen it, and as bad as I ever want to see it again. I do not think it at all possible that the Laura C. Hall could have survived, and I feel certain that she went on the Pollock Rip shoals."

Captain Gale says that he saw no vessels of any kind in the vicinity of where he was, and he has no doubt that the Laura C. Hall was lost. "When you won't go to sea again during the present winter," queried the Times-Star man.

"Not as long as there is any snow to shove" was his reply.

Captain Joseph Buck of the wrecked schooner S. A. Fownes, accompanied Captain Gale from Boston and passed through to his home in Dorchester. Some of the crew also arrived.

STEAMER WAGHORN; HIS SCHOONER SINKING

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 21.—Dismasted by terrific seas after four days buffeting with wind and waves, the schooner Gustav Axelsson knocked overboard and downed and the vessel in a sinking condition, the American schooner Doris was picked up in the Caribbean Sea by the United States cruiser Tacoma on Dec. 13 and towed to Puerto Cortez.

SEVEN MILLION MANSION AT LAST IS COMPLETED

Senator Clark to Occupy His New York House of 121 Rooms in January—There Are 31 Baths

New York, Dec. 21.—William A. Clark's big mansion at the corner of Fifth avenue and Seventy-seventh street has been completed at a cost of \$7,000,000 and the former senator from Montana and his family will move in within the next few weeks.

Mrs. Clark and her two children, Andrew, seven, and Hubert, four, are in Paris, but will sail for New York in the next few days.

Senator Clark's residence has been under construction for eight years, and is said to be the costliest home ever built. The mansion this year is placed on the tax books at a taxable valuation of \$3,000,000. The annual taxes on the house will be \$60,000. The furnishings and decorations on the building have been acquired at the cost of millions of dollars and practically all installed.

In the house are 121 rooms, and, according to no building in the world carries so much bronze as has been worked into this mansion. The grand staircase is bronze and the numerous entrance doors are all bronze cast solid.

Adjoining Senator Clark's bedroom is a library taken from a French chateau. The ceiling and woodwork are of carved mahogany, and the carver's signature bears the date of 1833.

Mrs. Clark's suite is one of the most beautiful in the house. It overlooks Central Park and was designed by Senator Clark himself. Her parlor is in panels, stainedwood, from Ceylon, yellowish white, with lustre, exquisitely carved with flowers in the style made popular by Louis XVI. The boudoir is in birch maple, with stainedwood carved panels.

At a meeting of citizens last night to hear the report of a special electrical engineer employed by the council to consider the future lighting of the town it was unanimously recommended that the council enter into a ten years' contract with the Martineau Coal Railway & Power Co. for the lighting of the streets and public buildings. This company recently acquired the Canada Electric Company, which supplies light for domestic purposes.

LATER. Miss Effie Petric, who was so terribly burned this morning, died at 2 p. m.

TO TEACH HOUSE KEEPING

Frankfort, Dec. 21.—In the Prussian government's next budget a grant will be asked for to provide travelling housekeeping schools. The idea is that instruction in housekeeping should be given to the daughters of laborers, craftsmen and farm people. The curriculum includes baking, conserving and putting up fruit, vegetables, sewing, repairing and cleaning of clothing.

The length of the course is about eight weeks. This form of schooling has been tried in the Rheinland provinces and has proved itself of great benefit to the inhabitants. It is hoped in time to provide itinerant schools of this description in all parts of Prussia.

BUYS FARM FOR \$2,700

Saville, N. B., Dec. 20.—Fred Outton of Joliette, has purchased the A. C. Brownell farm at that place for \$2,700, and has taken possession. Mrs. Brownell and daughter Kate, who have been living on the farm, have gone to reside in Amherst. The post office, which for many years has been in the Brownell house, has been transferred to the residence of Thomas Debuson. Mr. Debuson is now mail driver between Joliette and Aulac.

Capt. Caleb Reed has purchased the Roach property in Lansdowne street. The price is understood to be \$600.

The diptheria scare is about over. No new cases have developed recently, and all danger of contagion is thought to be over.

Fear for Banger Schooner

Portland, Me., Dec. 21.—Another victim of last Thursday's blizzard is believed to be the Bangor schooner Marcus Edwards, with a crew of five men, which was last seen off Chatham shortening sail and making heavy way in the storm.

The missing schooner sailed for Provincetown on Dec. 15 on her way from New York for Bar Harbor. She is of 227 gross tonnage and was built in 1815.

New York's \$75,000 Blaze

New York, Dec. 21.—Fire early today gutted the building at Hudson and Vestry streets, occupied by Joseph Lehman & Co. paper manufacturers and dealers, causing a loss estimated at \$75,000.

ASQUITH AND KING

Has Three Quarters of An Hour Conference With His Majesty—Monarch Anxious to Tide Over Conoration With Least Possible Political Trouble

(Associated Press.) London, Dec. 21.—Premier Asquith who came down from Scotland especially at the command of King George, had an audience with the king at Buckingham Palace today. It lasted only three-quarters of an hour. It is understood that His Majesty wished to be fully advised as to the premier's views and the cabinet's plans for the future now that election is over before leaving London to spend Christmas at Sandringham whether he will go tomorrow.

It is known that the king is very anxious to tide over the coronation period with the least possible political upheaval and that all his influence will be exerted with the parties in the direction of a compromise.

Mr. Asquith saw none of his colleagues while he was in London, and he returned to Edinburgh on an afternoon train.

As the new parliament now stands the Liberal government in coalition with the Nationalists, regular and independent, and the Laborite members, hold 338 seats, as against 272 held by the Unionists, a majority of 126. The ministerial majority, however, will in many cases be much smaller than this figure as the independent Nationalists are hostile to Redmond, and therefore to some of the measures proposed by the government's programme.

THE TIMES' NEW REPORTER

STRUCK THE WRONG PLACE

There is reason to believe that the break in the water pipe on Prince William street yesterday, opposite the Bank of New Brunswick, was intended to occur opposite City Hall. The theory of some well informed citizens is that but for some unexpected hitch in the proceedings the stream would have struck the bank with such violence would have smashed in the windows of City Hall and anticipated what is likely to happen next spring. There does not appear to be any other reasonable explanation of the occurrence.

NOT A CASE OF NEGLIGENCE

The reason that several weeks have elapsed since the Hassan pavement was laid on Water street, before anybody started to dig it up, was that the winter is the best time to do this sort of thing. There was no intention, when the pavement was laid, that it should be permitted to lie there undisturbed for any length of time. The rest of it will be dug up as soon as the gas and water people can get around it.

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Mr. Peter Binks says he hopes to see a time in St. John when justice will walk with one foot on a dollar finds the value of even a dollar finds the law on his trail; but a man can't steal a family's happiness for twenty years, or steal and pour down his own throat of a Saturday night his children's winter clothing or Christmas toys, and we all go to church as if nothing had happened. Human nature is a queer mixture — isn't it?