

STORM OF FIRE AND STEAM

(Continued From Page Two.)

FORT DE FRANCE, Island of Martinique, May 12.—Briefly put, last Thursday morning the city of St. Pierre disappeared within ten minutes in a whirling cyclone of fire vomited from Mont Pelee. Thirty thousand persons were instantly and horribly killed, and the volcano, whose ancient crater had been occupied by a quiet lake in which picnic parties bathed, suddenly discharged a torrent of fiery mud which rolled towards the sea, engulfing everything before it. Then the cable communication was broken and the doomed city was isolated from the world.

30,000 LOST THEIR LIVES.

FORT DE FRANCE, Island of Martinique, May 12.—It now seems to be generally admitted that about 30,000 persons lost their lives as a result of the outbreak of Mont Pelee volcano at St. Pierre on Thursday last. Careful investigation by competent government officials show that the earlier reports of the Associated Press were accurate.

The commander of the French cruiser *Suchet* gave the American consul at Gaudaloupe, Louis H. Ayme, the first news of the appalling disaster the day after it occurred.

MR. AYME REACHED ST. PIERRE.

Mr. Ayme has reached the desolate spot where St. Pierre stood and confirms the awful story in all its essential features.

From an interview with Consul Ayme, who is a trained American newspaper man, the correspondent of the Associated Press learned the following facts regarding the destruction of St. Pierre:

Thursday morning found the inhabitants of that city anxiously looking towards the thick clouds surrounding the Mont Pelee crater. All day Wednesday horrid detonations had been heard. These had been echoed from St. Thomas on the north to Barbadoes on the south. During the night of Wednesday these had ceased and only fine ashes like rain fell on St. Pierre. As this continued the governor, M. Mouttet, who was then at Fort De France, tried to stop the panic which the volcanic disturbance caused. He declared the danger would not increase, sent a detachment of soldiers to prevent a general exodus of the inhabitants and later went to St. Pierre himself with his wife.

ONLY TWELVE SURVIVORS.

The British steamer *Roraima* arrived at St. Pierre some time after with 10 passengers, among whom was Mrs. Stokes and her three children and Mrs. Jance. They were all watching the rain of ashes, when, with a frightful roar and terrific discharges, a cyclone of fire, mud and steam swept down from the crater over the town and bay, destroying a fleet of vessels at anchor off the shore. There the storm stopped. Twelve survivors only are in the military hospital at Fort De France, while 30,000 corpses are strewn about or buried in the ruins of St. Pierre, or else floating, gnawed by sharks, in the surrounding seas. Twenty-eight charred half dead human beings were brought here. Sixteen of them are already dead and four others only are expected to recover.

QUANTITIES OF WRECKAGE.

The Associated Press steamer, chartered in Gaudaloupe, reported at Martinique at 6:30 Sunday morning. The lofty hill was hid by a huge veil of haze. Enormous quantities of wreckage of large and small ships and houses were met with, huge trees and floating bodies with flocks of sea gulls soaring about and hideous sharks fighting about them were found here and there. From behind the volcanic veil came blasts of hot wind, mingled with others of ice cold.

At Leprecheur, five miles north of St. Pierre, canoes filled with women and men frantic to get away, were found.

COATING OF ASHES.

The whole north end of the island was covered with a silver grey coating of ashes, resembling dirty snow. Furious blasts of fire, ashes and mud swept over the steamer, but finally St. Pierre was reached.

The City of St. Pierre stretched nearly two miles along the water front and half a mile back to the cliff, the base of the volcano. The houses of the richer French families were built of stone. The sub-covered hills were flanked by the still smoking volcano. The ruins were still burning in many places and frightful odors of burned flesh filled the air. With great difficulty a landing was effected. Not one house was left intact. Everywhere were vast heaps of mud, of bright red ashes or piles of volcanic stones. The streets could hardly be traced. Here and there amid the ruins were heaps of corpses. Almost all the faces were sunken downwards. In one corner 22 men, women and children were mingled in one awful mass, arms and legs protruding as the hapless beings fell in the last struggles of death's agony.

Great trees, with roots upward and scorched by fire, were strewn in every direction. Huge blocks of stones were scattered about. From under one large stone the arm of a white woman protruded. Most notable was the utter silence and the awful, overpowering stench from the thousands of dead.

COMPOSED OF POISONOUS GASES.

A careful inspection showed that the fiery stream which so completely destroyed St. Pierre must have been composed of poisonous gases, which instantly suffocated everyone who inhaled them, and of other gases burning furiously, for nearly all the victims had their hands covering their mouths

or were in some other attitude, showing that they had sought relief from suffocation. All the bodies were carbonized or roasted.

CLOCK STOPPED BEFORE 8.

A. G. Austen, the manager of the Colonial Bank of Barbadoes, landed at St. Pierre with a party from the British royal mail steamer *Solent*. He found the bank clock stopped at some minutes before 8 o'clock. A horse and buggy and a policeman were in a group of dead at the door.

At the request of Mr. McAllister, the United States consul at Barbadoes, Captain Davis and the *Solent* were placed at his disposal by the Barbadoes government. The *Solent* arrived at about the same time as the Associated Press steamer and brought to St. Pierre the colonial secretary, two civil doctors, two military officers, as well as a corporal and four hospital orderlies, three trained nurses and a full field hospital. The Barbadoes government also sent 700 barrels of provisions, one ton of ice and a full supply of medicine. These were useful, but the dead only needed quick burial.

LOSS OF THE BRITISH STEAMER.

The awful details of the loss of the British steamer *Roraima* are given. C. E. Evans of Montreal and John G. Morris of New York, who are now at the military hospital of Fort De France, saw the vessel when she arrived at 6. As eight bells were struck a frightful explosion was heard up the mountain. A cloud of fire, topping and roaring, swept with lightning speed down the mountain side and over the town and bay. The *Roraima* nearly sunk and caught fire at once.

SUCHET TO THE RESCUE.

"I never can forget the horrid, fiery choking whirlwind which enveloped me," said Mr. Evans. "Mr. Morris and I rushed below. We were not very badly burned, not so bad as most of them. When the fire came we were going to our posts (we are engineers) to weigh anchor and get out. When we came up we found the ship all afire and fought it forward till nearly 3 o'clock, when the *Suchet* came to our rescue. We were then building a raft."

MONT PELEE STILL IN ACTION.

The central and southern parts of St. Pierre are still burning. The country side is deserted. Every family on the island is mourning the loss of relatives and friends. Business is at a complete standstill. St. Pierre was the financial and provisioning centre of the island. Mont Pelee is still in eruption, and even more violent and disastrous eruptions may follow. Volcanic shes have fallen against the wind on the islands of Dominica and St. Vincent.

500 DEAD ON ST. VINCENT.

ROSEAU, Island of Dominica, E. W. I., Sunday, May 11.—The *Soufriere* volcano on the island of St. Vincent has been in full eruption since Wednesday last. Several plantations have been destroyed. Earthquakes and loud reports accompanied the eruptions, and stones and ashes fell at the capital, Kingstown. Many persons were injured and the bodies of 500 dead are unburied. Barbadoes, 96 miles off, was in total darkness for a time. Pebbles and gritty substances have fallen at Barbadoes.

Canoes crowded with refugees are arriving at Dominica, and their occupants are most hospitably received.

FORT DE FRANCE, Island of Martinique, May 13.—It is estimated that the total number of deaths on the island of St. Vincent from the volcanic eruption reached 2000. Most of the victims are said to be Caribi Indians.

BLACK COLUMN OF SMOKE.

FORT DE FRANCE, Island of Martinique, May 13.—The United States government tug *Potomac*, which came to Martinique from San Juan, Porto Rico, cruised along the coast of this island yesterday afternoon. She encountered an inky black column of smoke, which made it necessary for her to go five miles out of her course.

BURYING THE DEAD.

Words fail to describe the present situation at St. Pierre. A detachment of French troops is making efforts to bury the dead, although the government seems to be strikingly unconcerned as to what is done in this direction. The looting of the dead has begun already.

ARRESTED FOR LOOTING.

While coming to Fort De France the *Potomac* picked up a boat containing five colored and one white man, whose pockets were filled with coin and jewelry, the latter evidently stolen from the fingers of the dead. Lieut. B. B. McCormack, the commander of the *Potomac*, arrested them and turned them over to the commander of the French cruiser *Suchet* for punishment.

FAMINE IS IMMINENT.

The *Potomac* also brought a ton of supplies to Martinique, consisting of codfish and flour. A famine here is imminent. The northern section of the island is depopulated. Business here is suspended. The people of the city have assembled in the churches, where special services are being held for the St. Pierre dead, which have been through since daylight.

STONES FELL 12 MILES AWAY.

The United States government tug *Potomac* leaves here tonight for the island of St. Vincent, where conditions are reported to be worse. The *Soufriere* on St. Vincent was in full eruption May 10th. A storm of stones and mud half a mile wide was then issuing from the volcano. Stones two inches in diameter fell 12 miles away.

2000 DEAD ON ST. VINCENT.

At Kingston, the capital of the is-

land, the ashes were two inches deep. Seven hundred dead are reported Sunday, 11th. It is estimated the total number of deaths on St. Vincent reaches 2000. Most of the victims are said to be Indians. Several estates on the island have been burned to ashes, and it is authoritatively reported that two earthquakes occurred there. It is believed the submarine cables from St. Vincent have been broken by the disturbances. The present volcanic eruption on St. Vincent is the first since 1812.

ASSISTANCE ASKED.

Governor Hunt of Porto Rico has asked Louis H. Ayme, the United States consul at Gaudaloupe, who is now here, what assistance he could render. Governor Hunt's offer has been communicated to the government, which will gladly accept his tender.

Provisions are needed here for 100,000 people immediately. A shipment of lime is also needed at St. Pierre for sanitary purposes. The stench there from the dead bodies is overpowering.

MONT PELEE STILL ACTIVE.

Mont Pelee was still erupting smoke and fire at a late hour last night. It was reported here yesterday from the British Island of Dominica that 300 survivors of the St. Pierre disaster had reached there in canoes.

STRANGE AND GRUESOME.

LONDON, May 13.—A dispatch to the Reuter Telegraph company from Fort De France says that the scenes within the city of St. Pierre were strange and gruesome. In the section of the city known as the moulage no sign of the fire is visible, but everything seems to have been rent and scattered as though by a tornado. The iron headsteads in the hospitals are twisted, but bear no mark of heat. The bed clothes and all textiles in this hospital simply vanished.

STRANGE SIGHTS.

About 200 corpses have been found in the streets of St. Pierre, most of them lying face downward. The central quarter of the town and the forts are buried several yards under cinders. In the neighborhood of the creek several houses were found intact, but their inhabitants were all dead and appeared to have been killed by lightning. Here the bodies were lying, sitting and reclining in curiously life-like attitudes.

WILL REPAIR CABLE.

PARIS, May 13.—Sir Edmund J. Moore, the British ambassador here, has officially notified M. Delcasse, the foreign minister, that the government has placed all its available resources, ships and otherwise in the vicinity of Martinique, at the disposal of the French.

The French cable company announces that it will begin to repair the Martinique cable tomorrow.

FORTY THOUSAND RATIONS.

Clothing, Supplies, Medicines, Etc., for the Volcano Sufferers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 13.—So comprehensively laid were the plans of the war department yesterday, even before the passage of the joint resolution providing for the relief of the West Indian volcano sufferers, that there was really very little remaining for the officials to do today.

The plans of the commissary department, made after careful consideration of the news, contemplate the supply of forty thousand rations for fourteen days. The quartermaster's department is purchasing clothing and supplies for forty thousand people, and the medical department is working out in proportion its purchases. In the navy department the carefully planned relief measures were before carried forward rapidly. The *Buffalo* has been ordered to be put in readiness for immediate use as a food supply transport in case it should be decided to send more supplies than the *Dixie* will carry. Action has not yet been taken upon Admiral Bradford's suggestion that water tenders be sent to Martinique to relieve the pressing need for fresh water.

TRAIL NEWS NOTES.

Martin Lyons has let the contract for the erection of a cottage on Pine avenue.

Hamilton Jones, who has been engaged in the smelter machine shops for the past two years, was summoned to Georgia this week by the serious illness of his wife.

Postmaster Frank Brown will erect a cottage on Cedar avenue, opposite the opera house.

Dr. Coran, formerly of Trail, is now one of the coal company physicians at Fernie, in addition to which he is enjoying a lucrative practice.

Fishing is good in front of Trail. Matt Blake landed a four pound trout at the mouth of Trail creek.

Harry Cole was a visitor to Grand Forks this week.

The ladies of the Catholic church have undertaken the financial task of securing a new site for the Catholic church, and will move the present edifice.

FRESH MEAT.—P. Burns & Co. have commenced slaughtering beef at their local slaughter house. For the balance of the warm season this course will be adopted instead of shipping meat in cold storage.

DISINFECTATION.—A proposition is on foot to have the public schools disinfected with a view to putting an end to the possibility of any infection being carried by the building and on the principle of cleanliness generally. The idea originated with Mayor Clute, and will doubtless be put into effect at the end of the week.

QUOTED ROSSLAND.—Depending the assesses at Nelson, Mr. Justice Martin devoted much time to emphasizing the importance of securing improved court house accommodation, the present building being altogether inadequate to the volume of business to be transacted within its walls. He urged the citizens of Nelson to bestir themselves in the direction of putting an end to the possibility of any infection being carried by the building and on the principle of cleanliness generally. The idea originated with Mayor Clute, and will doubtless be put into effect at the end of the week.

ITALIAN PASTOR DEAD.

MONTREAL, Que., May 12.—Rev. V. Dogenosta, pastor of the Italian Presbyterian church here, died unexpectedly this morning.

LATE NEWS FROM THE SMELTER CITY

(Special to the Miner.)

TRAIL, B. C., May 9.—A well planned fraud was worked in Trail this week, by which \$150 was secured by a man representing himself as Charles V. Hudson of Rossland. Who the man is, or where he came from, is not known, but when the matter came to light this morning Provincial Officer W. J. Devitt put the wire to work, as a result of which he received word that the culprit had been captured at Northport. Charles Hudson, who left for that place this morning at Captain Devitt's request, identifies the prisoner who has taken the alias of Oscar Chrisko. Captain Devitt leaves for Northport tomorrow to bring back his man.

About April 30 there appeared in Trail a stranger of splendid physique. He went to the telegraph office, where he stated that he had been doing some prospecting, had come in from the hills broke, and that he found it necessary to write home for funds. He sent a telegram to William Hudson at Mosell, Missouri, asking that \$150 be sent him. He then disappeared, but turned up again about Monday or Tuesday of this week, and went to the express office, where he asked Agent Robillard if there had been an answer to his message. He was informed that there had not been, but that perhaps there was a letter. The man then went to the postoffice and called for mail for Charles V. Hudson. A letter was handed him, and, sure enough, it was the answer to the message, and contained three express orders for \$50 each. Neither the postmaster nor agent had funds on hand sufficient to cash them, so he went to the merchants, and got one cashed by Steele & McDonald and another by James Dawson of the *Edith* hotel. Subsequently the third was cashed by the express agent. The impostor then disappeared, and this morning Postmaster Frank Brown received the following message from Mosell, Mo.: "Please forward letter addressed Charles V. Hudson to Rossland. Do not deliver at Trail on account of fraudulent scheme. Contains money. (Signed) William Hudson."

The supposition is that William Hudson had some correspondence with Charles V., who is probably a brother or son, and that this excited suspicion. The telegram was turned over to Captain Devitt, who wired William Hudson at Mosell and Charles Hudson at Rossland and the authorities at Northport, Nelson and elsewhere, giving a description of the man. Sheriff Anderson of Northport telephoned Captain Devitt that he had arrested one Oscar Chrisko, whom Hudson identified as his probable impersonator. Chrisko denies any connection with the matter, and says he was never in Trail, but his description answers in detail with that of the man who was here. He is a big, powerful fellow, and was a deputy sheriff in the *Coeur d'Alenes*.

FERRY NEARLY FINISHED.

The call for the first assessment of the Trail Ferry and Athletic association has been made, and is payable to J. E. Randall. The ferry is now being ready for the water in a week. The river is rising rapidly, and by the time the work is finished the water will have reached the boat, so that it will not be necessary to launch it. David McAllister, who built the old Heinz ferry, has the contract for constructing the new boat. It is ten feet shorter than the old boat and is inches narrower. The government will spend \$200 on improving the Sawyer road, so that there will be an excellent drive from Trail for a distance of seven miles.

THE KOOTENAY MINE.

Out at the Kootenay mine the development crew is at work steadily and there has been no diminution in the force, so that no blue ruin rumor may be bolstered up by the Kootenay. The ore body has been picked up in the lower levels of the mine, as was expected when the present plan of development was adopted, and the work of exploiting these lower levels is being continued on the scale that has been in effect for a considerable period. Reports credit the Kootenay ore with being low grade, but even if this is correct it goes without saying that means will be found when the proper juncture arrives to utilize the ore to advantage, and when it is deemed that this juncture has been reached the mine will be opened up in a manner that will make it one of the greatest producers in the camp.

THE VELVET MINE.

Of the smaller Rossland mines the Velvet is at the top of the list; in fact, it might very properly be listed among the greater properties. Matters are progressing quietly at the Velvet, development work constituting the principal work under way at the present time, although ore is being taken out constantly. Since the snow went off no attempt has been made to ship, although prior to that a number of cars were sent to the Hall smelter at Nelson. New machinery is being added to the plant at the Velvet for the purpose of expediting the work in the lower levels. It is hinted from an authoritative source that the next couple of months will see important developments in connection with the Velvet which will result in placing the mine on an extensive shipping basis and bring the working force up to the 200 mark. The mine is so situated as to be to all intents and purposes within the limits of the Rossland camp. The miners come to this city almost exclusively and all supplies, etc., are purchased in Rossland.

THE GIANT MINE.

The development of the Giant mine on a comprehensive scale is one of the features on the program for the immediate future. The management have not as yet outlined their plans, but intimate that when the program is taken up actively, employment will be given to a considerable crew and the work pushed ahead rapidly at various points. Already ore has been shipped, although the consignments have as yet been on a test scale.

WHITE BEAR.

Rossland's next shipper will be the White Bear mine, where some 20 tons of ore have been collected on the dump. As yet the development of the property is progressing the attention of the management, and a total force of 17 men is employed on this work. When it is concluded to ship ore on a commercial basis this force will undoubtedly be materially strengthened.

THE SPITZEE.

The immediate future is likely to see giant strides accomplished in connection with the Spitzee mine. At this property a small crew is carrying certain work ahead quietly but surely and the program adopted by the directors is being gradually unfolded. Principal among the features of this program is the construction of new and larger headworks at a point yet to be determined, from which the ore body can be worked to best advantage.

HOMESTAKE MINE.

Within a few weeks the sound of the compressor will again be heard at the Homestake mine. The company will proceed to open up the lower levels of the property in which promising ore bodies were disclosed just prior to the unfortunate chain of circumstances which led to the closing down of the mine last summer. Success in the exploitation of the Homestake means a revival in the great southern mineral zone of the camp such as would excite wonder in the Rossland district, and therefore the management of the Homestake has the heartiest wishes of Rosslanders generally.

ON DEER PARK MOUNTAIN.

Up on Deer Park mountain a small crew of men is steadily at work on the Abe Lincoln, and the discovery of adequate ore bodies in the lower levels of the mine would be as beneficial to the camp generally as the attainment of success at the Homestake. The principal work under way is drifting to the south of the shaft on the 200 foot level.

GREEN MOUNTAIN.

At the properties of the Green Mountain-Saint Louis Consolidated Mines development is being carried ahead rapidly. The feature now under way is the sinking of the two-compartment shaft between the extensive ore bodies located last year by diamond drilling. The shaft is below the 350 foot level, and the management will shortly decide as to whether drifts will be run at the 400 foot level or the shaft continued for another 100 feet before crosscutting is commenced.

These figures are obtained from the managements of the respective companies, with the exception of those representing the crews at the Giant and Abe Lincoln, which scarcely affect the grand total. With more than 900 men at work in the mines of the Rossland camp it is difficult to understand wherein the pessimistic element finds food for thought.

AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.

In the foregoing an effort is made to convey briefly an idea of what is being accomplished in the Rossland camp by the mining industry generally. Were it only possible to bring home to the provincial legislators some adequate idea of the needs of the great Kootenay mining interests there is scarcely any limit to be set to the possibilities of the future. Principal among the factors which the provincial administration could contribute to the advancement in every direction throughout the inland country, is the revision of the iniquitous mineral tax. This and other concessions should be made to the mining industry for the provincial treasury would in the end reap benefits equal to those conferred upon operators of mining properties through the increased revenues accruing from mining districts throbbing with the pulsations of stimulated trade, a ded population and continually expanding commercial prosperity.

TO BE HANGED.

Judge Walkem Passed Sentence Yesterday on Poquette for June 3.

KAMLOOPS, E. C., May 12.—Poquette, who murdered Legere recently at Notch Hill, was today sentenced by Judge Walkem to be hanged at Kamloops, June 3rd.

DR. PRICE'S cream BAKING POWDER

Is the Most Economical

Greater in leavening strength, a spoonful raises more dough, or goes further. Working uniformly and perfectly, it makes the bread and cake always light and beautiful, and there is never a waste of good flour, sugar, butter and eggs. When outfitting for camp always take Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder for good health and good food. It makes the finest flapjacks, biscuits and bread.

Never go into the woods away from a doctor with a cheap alum baking powder in the outfit. You want the best baking powder in the world—and it is most economical in the end.

PRICE BAKING POWDER CO., CHICAGO.

ROSSLAND'S REAL STANDING

(Continued from page one.)

camp. The reason for delaying shipments is very simple, being due to the fact that the present price of copper is wholly unwarranted from the statistical standpoint, and as there is every possibility of an arrangement between the Amalgamated and other great producers which will raise the price of the metal, the mines have been waiting from month to month in the hope that this might occur and thus save to the mine the increased values in their ore reserves. They are not likely, however, to continue this delay much longer, and it is generally understood that they will soon resume shipments. They are taking advantage of the interim to push development to the utmost.

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