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## Heroes of the Coal Mines

BRAVERY BELOW GROUND WHICH MERITED V.C.'S.

Few more stirring instances of heroism have come to light than those revealed in the reports of the recent disaster at Redding Colliery, near Falkirk, in which a number of miners were entombed as a result of a sudden rush of water. The catastrophe, which was one of the worst in Scotland's mining history, was marked by many examples of self-sacrifice, involving courage of the highest order.

The tragedy recalls the heroic efforts made to assist three miners who were trapped in the Wyndham Colliery, South Wales, at the beginning of the year. A fine spirit of comradeship was displayed by the doomed men's fellow-workers, who again and again penetrated the most dangerous part of the mine in attempts at rescue, unhappily without avail.

In any volume dealing with heroism the exploits of our miners would occupy many chapters. Courage, indeed, seems to be the miner's dominant characteristic.

Take the case of the Wemyss Colliery disaster, in which two men were overcome by fumes. Two other men, named Morris and Scott, walked unhesitatingly into the very jaws of death in an effort to save the victims, while immediately following this supreme example of self-sacrifice over a dozen volunteers came forward to engage in the hazardous task. Time and again the valiant little band went below, until finally its numbers were so diminished that the attempt had to be abandoned.

The terrible Donibristle disaster yielded numerous other examples of this kind. There was a great fall of earth in an outlying part of the mine, as a result of which four men were buried. Half a dozen would be rescuers went in search of the missing men, and they, too, were lost.

At once scores of men offered to continue the search, as if it entailed no risk whatever. Day and night the rescue shifts worked, until at last the unfortunate men were found—dead. The Senhennydd explosion ranks as one of the worst pit disasters in the history of the South Wales mines. The force of the upheaval was so great that one man was actually killed at the pit-head, far from the scene of the outbreak. Below, 438 men and boys lost their lives.

Within a few minutes of the explosion a rescue party was descending a neighbouring shaft. Poisonous fumes, welling up from the inferno below, threatened to drive them back at almost every step, but without flinching the party pushed forward. They reached the affected workings and plunged into the flames in the hope of succouring those who were not past help.

Splendid courage was shown in the disaster at the Hais pit at Whitehaven, in which there was a death-roll involving forty men. One of the rescuers, a deputy named Mackenzie, saved thirty-eight lives by his courage in fighting his way to the danger zone. His heroism recalls that of John Wesley, the miner who deliberately sacrificed his life at the tragic Hamstead mine disaster in a fruitless endeavor to save others.

### In the Danger Zone.

It is not too much to say that V.C.'s are earned almost every day in coal mines. The casualty list is extremely high, reaching the appalling yearly average of 150,000 killed and injured. But for the indomitable courage of the pit-workers generally, there is no doubt that the figure would be a good deal higher.

## The Brick's Ordeal of Fire

BUILDINGS RAISED FROM COMMON CLAY.

Brickmaking was one of man's earliest pursuits. Babylon was acquainted with the art; and it is recorded that the Israelites baked bricks from clay mixed with chopped straw. Nowadays, for ordinary building purposes, red bricks are in greatest demand. These are produced from many kinds of clay.

In the first place, the rough clay is sent from the "pit" to the top of the plant. Here it is ground to powder, and passes through a fine sieve to the floor below. The powdered clay is then fed into the kick-press, where it is watered as a workable plasticity, emerging eventually pressed to a perfectly formed, solid brick.

Dried by Hot Air.

The colour is now dark grey. Not until after heating does the brick become red. Redness is due to the presence of iron compounds in the clay, which when burned transform to free ferric oxide.

The bricks are placed in the kiln chamber, which is then built up. Hot air is allowed to enter so that a thorough drying is effected. After drying, the hot air is withdrawn.

Fire is next introduced. Burning usually takes a week. During that time firing is maintained day and night through feed-holes in the kiln top.

IF I CAN COUL ONLY TALK  
WHAT SHOULD I  
WOULD I



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MILDRED HARRIS  
The First Woman

Not all materials, however, can be treated in this simple fashion. Highly plastic clays require moulding, and many elaborate preparations are necessary. Among these are "weathering," and the addition of non-plastic matter to reduce shrinkage. Crushing, grinding, and pugging are also essential preliminaries.

When finished, a perfect brick should measure about 9 in. in length, 4 1/2 in. in breadth, and 2 1/2 in. in thickness. Its quality should be such that it will not succumb to the vagaries of our climate. The faces will be free from the slightest crack, and the edges square.

## Poets and Prize-Fighters

The ridiculous prize-fight between M. Carpenter and Mr. Joseph Beckett, which lasted twenty seconds, emphasizes Sir William Watson's plaint that the modern world provides fortunes for fusticuffs and poverty for poetry. I am told that nearly £70,000 was paid by the public for admission to the farcical Carpenter-Beckett entertainment, of which the loser received £4,500. Most of us would agree to let Carpenter punch us hard for the same money. The correspondence that has followed Sir William Watson's article shows that Browning was very grateful to his publisher when he received £200 a year for his poetry. I know at least two modern poets who own motor-cars, and I do

not think it can be contended that they are better poets than Browning. It would seem, indeed, that it is financially better to be a minor poet in 1923 than a major poet in 1870.

In this connection Mark Hambourg reminded me the other day of an incident in the life of Beethoven. The great composer was obliged himself to pay for the first performance of his great Ninth Symphony. It cost him £80, practically all the money that he had at the time. The performance was an immense success. At its conclusion, Beethoven's manager, with tears in his eyes, congratulated him on his triumph. "But," said Beethoven, "I want to know about the money." "Maestro," said the manager, "you have lost £20!"

## The Modern Bride

Refusal at Altar to Say "I Will"  
Astounded Fiance Walks Out of the Church.

Clergymen: Willt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?  
Bride: No.

(An awkward pause.)  
Clergymen (rather more loudly): Willt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?

Bride (emphatically): No.  
(Another pause.)  
Clergymen: Would you like to take a seat till the other parties are married?

Bride: Yes.  
This was the amazing incident which occurred at St. Luke's Church, Derby. The bride and bridegroom are fellow-workers in a local hosiery factory, and it is stated that the girl relented of her promise to marry as soon as the bans had been proclaimed. She was persuaded to allow the proceedings to go on, and on the eve of the wedding her scruples were once more overcome through her friends' influence. When the astonished clergyman failed to obtain her acquiescence to the question he suggested that she should sit down while a second ceremony took place—that of her brother who had arranged to be married at the same time. This she did, but meantime the disappointed

ed bridegroom took up his leave of the church. There was an interesting sequel to the interrupted wedding. The bride's fellow worker at the factory delivered, what was to be an ultimatum to the firm in the shape of an intimation that she would not continue to work for the firm. She was, therefore, married for the time being. The girl, who was at home, and was as declining to be interviewed, was in objecting to proceed with marriage service, nor would she any explanation through a third party. Relatives declared that she neither discussed the marriage, nor them nor enlightened them as reasons for withdrawing at the moment.

For a good Tonic take  
Tasteless, price \$1.20—

## The Mae Edwards

Another large audience attended the Casino last evening to see the second performance of "The Players," a faithful representation of their different parts and specialties were up to the standard. To-night the play was "Jade Wives," which should be worth seeing. To-morrow the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be a for the kiddies, while at night "Wives" will be repeated as a performance.

CITY OF ST. JOHN'S



St. John's  
Municipal Council.

## PUBLIC NOTICE.

Revision of the Appraisal of  
Property, 1923.

Notice is hereby given that the books of the Appraisal of Property, to be revised during the present year, have been deposited with me, the City Clerk, and are open to the inspection of any persons interested in any appraisal at the City Hall, Duckworth Street, each day during the month of November, from 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Any person who objects to any appraisal in which they are interested shall have the right of appeal against such appraisal to the Court of Revision, to be held during the month of December.

J. J. MAHONY,  
City Clerk.

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the Home.

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Gas Fires make no work. There is no Coal to carry upstairs, and no ashes to be cleared away. They are ideal for use in daintily appointed rooms. There is no smoke or dust. They also ventilate the room. Enquiries solicited.

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Pork—Ribs, lb. . . . . 14c.  
Beef, Choice Family, lb. 12c.  
Beef, very choice—New York Navel.  
Potatoes, gallon . . . 12c.  
Onions, 10 lb. . . . . 50c.  
Cabbage, lb. . . . . 5c.

Choice Canadian Butter.  
Fresh Eggs.

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It's a canned milk, yes. But it's Libby's—and there are 7 1/2 teaspoons of pure butter fat in every 16 oz. can of it!

Butter fat, as you know, is what makes cream and butter such great enrichers.

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It is in the heart of these fine dairy sections that Libby's condenseries are placed.

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is added to it. It is sealed and sterilized in air-tight cans—for only thus can it be brought safely to you who live, perhaps, many hundreds of miles away.

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Get a can of this milk today. Try it in place of ordinary milk in some favorite recipe tonight—in a soup or sauce or dessert.

See what wholly new richness it gives, and what fine flavor. You will know at once why Libby's is called "the milk that good cooks use."

Write for free recipe folder

We'd like to send you free a folder we've had printed that contains a number of the best recipes sent us by good cooks who use Libby's Milk.

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