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FIRE DAMP EXPLOSIONS KILL SCORES OF MINERS

164 Dead Bodies Recovered at Saarbrücken in Prussia, While More Than a Hundred Miners Are Still Missing—Rescue Corps Driven Back by Outbreak of Fire—Many Lives Lost at Lens, France

SAARBRÜCKEN, Rhineland, Prussia, Jan. 28.—A fire damp explosion occurred in the big stock shaft of the Redan mine at Saint-Jean on Saar on Jan. 28. The explosion was so violent that at least two hundred lives were snuffed out. Up to two o'clock this afternoon 164 bodies had been recovered, while several men, all dangerously injured, have been brought to the surface, and more than a hundred miners are still missing.

The number of dead is conservatively estimated at two hundred. There were about six hundred men working in the mine when the explosion occurred. The rescue corps were working desperately to reach the entombed men when the party was driven back by an outbreak of fire. Forty men are probably still in the pit. The scenes at the mouth of the mine

where the families of the miners are gathered together are distressing. The Redan mine is owned by the Prussian Government.

MANY DEAD IN FRANCE

LENS, France, Jan. 28.—A terrible disaster involving the loss of many lives occurred today in a coal mine at Léviv in the Courrières district. The catastrophe was due to an explosion of fire damp. A panic followed the explosion, and most of the population of the town flocked to the mouth of the mine greatly retarding the work of rescue.

Of the 812 miners who descended into the mine, 680 had been rescued at 2 p.m. The bodies of the chief engineer and his two assistants were terribly mangled have been recovered. It is not known yet how many lives were lost.

WEATHER-MAN MAY NOW LOSE HIS JOB

A Force of Nature Which Give Accurate Forecasts Has Been Discovered by a German.

BERLIN, Jan. 28.—Herr C. Grubn of Berlin, whose apparatus for telegraphing handwriting attracted much attention some years ago, believes he has discovered a force of nature which has hitherto been unnoticed.

A wooden rod, suspended by a silk thread from the outside by another rod, consisting of metal or stone. As the rod outside was brought near the vessel the suspended wooden rod was sometimes drawn toward it, and at other times repelled.

Experiments showed that the conduct of the wooden rod depended on the condition of the atmosphere, and the apparatus can even be used, says Herr Grubn, for prognosticating the weather. Each kind of weather is found to correspond with a particular behavior of the suspended rod, and changes can be forecast from 12 to 30 hours ahead.

As the force which influences the rod passes through substances which effectively insulate electricity, an electrical theory does not explain the phenomena. Herr Grubn and other scientists are continuing investigations.

Long Words in Hawaii.

The staggering length of the names given by native Hawaiians sometimes upsets court officials in the Sandwich Islands. In a case recently on trial in Honolulu a witness on being sworn was asked by the lawyer to give his name. The witness replied as follows: "Kaliimakaiohikoa-olomakamakahehepalekai." It was such a terrific ramble that the court at first was inclined to rebuke the man, but inquiry showed that the witness was guiltless of any attempt at levity, so after the clerk had laboriously noted the name, the case proceeded.

RUNAWAY TEAM KILLED BY TRAIN

Men Who Were Pursuing the Runaways Barely Escaped Being Run Down by the Locomotive.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 28.—With blood splattered all over the pilot, and almost up to the boiler head of the locomotive, the spectators at the C.P.R. depot who witnessed the arrival of the first section, shuddered in anticipation of news of some dreadful tragedy. But fortunately it proved to be nothing more serious than the killing of a team of runaway horses.

The gore splattering of the locomotive and the death of the runaway team took place at the Harrison River bridge. As it afterward proved, the express had a close call from being derailed—and in a bad place at that. The team belonged to a farmer whose name the train crew did not have time to ascertain. This farmer, as well as another man who was chasing the runaway animals at the time, also had a narrow escape for the rattle of the front wheels of a wagon which was still attached to the runaways drowned the noise of the approaching train until the men pursuing the runaways had barely time to step from between the metals and let the train go by.

While taking a load to Harrison this team had become frightened at one of the railway crossings some distance west of Harrison, and ran away up the track in an easterly direction. They had galloped about half a mile along the track with the men in hot pursuit when the first section of the westbound express dashed through the fog and struck the team. Both horses were instantly killed.

U. S. MILITARY STORES.

Would Be Sold at Cost Price to Avert Starving of Cattle.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The United States Government will sell military stores of hay, straw and oats at cost price at Fort Assiniboine to stockmen. It is reported that 30,000 head of cattle in that neighborhood are threatened with starvation.

BACK INTO BURNING HOUSE TO HER DEATH

Pioneer Woman of Edison Perishes from Injuries Received in Destruction of Her Home.

EDMONTON, Jan. 28.—One of the saddest tales of life on the prairie in the history of the Canadian West, was related by Dr. McInnis, who brought to this city the news of the total destruction by fire of the home of the Edisons and the consequent death of Mrs. Edison, the pioneer woman of the settlement, who succumbed to injuries during the fire.

The burning of the house occurred last Monday evening, about 11 o'clock. The family had all retired save Jack Edison, the eldest, and John Cameron, the well known bush ranger, who was staying with them over night. These two were sitting in the kitchen chatting when suddenly Mr. Edison noticed that the ceiling was on fire near the stove pipe. He immediately aroused the occupants of the rooms upstairs and went to assist his wife out of the house. It was a few moments only when the dwelling was in flames. Mrs. Edison was the last to descend the stairs with his mother. The smoke was so dense that they stumbled and Mrs. Edison fell at the foot of the stairs where Mr. Cameron was standing. He assisted her out to the yard and dashed back for some of the clothes hanging in the hall. While he was gone it is presumed that Mrs. Edison must have returned to the burning dwelling, for a few moments later Mr. Cameron discovered her lying face downwards near the roof of the kitchen, with the flames circling about her. She was terribly burned about the face and back, and as quickly as horses could be hitched she was taken to a neighbor's mill away where she was attended by Dr. McInnis who was called from the mill where he had been camping the past week.

The house, built of frame only burned like tinder, and within twenty minutes from the moment that the blaze was first noticed the roof fell inward, and shortly afterwards what had been the dwelling place of the pioneer family of Edison was a mass of ruins. The boys of the family, clad only in their trousers, and with bare feet, tramped in the snow with the thermometer away below zero and suffered untold misery with the cold, but were unable to save anything.

Mrs. Edison, whose face was burned beyond all recognition, lay suffering agonizingly all through the next day, but passed away in the evening and was buried in the family ground on Thursday.

The saddest part of the tale is that within the past two weeks two deaths have occurred in the family. Mr. Edison, the head of the settlement, whose name the postoffice bears, died a week ago on Sunday and the next day his grandchild, the child of Jack Edison, also died and the two were buried together on the same day, being the first to be laid in the new family burying ground. The almost providential occurrence that Mr. Edison was not spared to see the destruction of the home that he had spent so many years in establishing, was hastened by the fearful death suffered by his life companion.

The passing of Mr. and Mrs. Edison removes a couple that are perhaps better known in the Edmonton district than many others who have spent their years in the West. They were the first to settle at the spot which now bears the name of the family, and both lived to see a thriving and ever-growing community spring up around their pioneer home. Their dwelling has always been a cheerful resting place to many travelers in the north country, and the open hospitality of the couple was known throughout the district.

She is who will select the odalisks from out of the coronation tribute sent by the empire of Iran. Each province will send to the new Shah at least 100 virgins; from each batch from five to 10 will be selected according to their beauty. These are the slaves who will wait upon the wives of the king of kings, with a prospect, however, of one day being themselves the recipients of his favor.

SOME GO TO A LIVING DEATH

Many of Late Shah's Wives Will Never See Man Again.

TEHERAN, Persia, Jan. 28.—"Alah! Al-lah! Al-lah!" From the innermost apartments of the Shah's harem there arises the very bitter lamentation of women calling upon Allah, the compassionate, upon Allah, the merciful, to witness the extremity of their application. To the mothers or Persian princesses the death of their lord and master means something more than widowhood; it is an inexorable decree of lifelong confinement in the old seraglio, whence no woman ever issues alive.

For the laws of the Medes and the Persians strictly govern the dispersion of the harem of the Shah. Those who have born him sons may never again look upon the face of man. When the last honors have been paid to the king of kings, they are led weeping and wailing to the harem, and there they must pass the rest of their lives in a state of perpetual mourning. Far different is the fate of the mothers of the Shah's daughters. Their entrance into the harem of some other prince can cast no reflection upon the deed of Mohammed, and they are free, as living monuments of his state, to wear and show rich jewels and fair odalisks upon those whose charms were as the grapes of the ruler's vine.

As for the many who were but the playthings of an hour, the new Shah will distribute them to his courtiers, as living monuments of his state, and it may be that many who were among the latest in the royal abode of felicity will reign supreme in the harem of some visitor. The odalisks, or handmaids, are likewise given away.

How many wives the late Shah left, or what exactly was the composition of his harem, are matters that can only be conjectured, and there may be considerable truth in the published reports that, at the time of his death, he had a high-toned title or will have "the order of the Crown" conferred on him. The captain and crew were handed over to the Japanese consular authorities, and will likely be returned upon the Tanga Maru.

The Tudeus left Yokohama four hours later than the Tanga Maru, which arrived last night. Comparatively good weather was experienced, although two days of heavy fog hampered her progress. She brought several hundred tons of cargo, most of which was consigned to Seattle and Tacoma, for which ports she sailed at half-past ten this morning.

TEN DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER

Party of Japanese Sailors Were Rescued in Emaciated Condition by Pacific Liner.

VICTORIA, Jan. 28.—Capt. Uye Maki and 17 men of the Japanese schooner Kiam Maru, who were landed from the Holt liner Tudeus, were picked up nearly two hundred miles off the coast of Japan, after being nearly ten days without food or water.

The Kiam Maru was proceeding in ballast on a short trip of about forty miles between two Japanese trading ports. She left on December 19th, and when a few hours out encountered strong northwesterly winds, which drove her out of her course. For several days the captain endeavored to tack up to his course, but the wind was against him, and the schooner drifted farther and farther away from the coast. After eight days had passed, provisions ran short, and the crew of 17 men were placed on half rations.

Then the captain lost his bearings and the position of the schooner became almost hopeless. A few days later the Tudeus hove in sight and Captain Campbell, noting signals of distress, ordered the schooner to close up as possible and offered assistance.

Some difficulty was experienced in conveying messages to the unfortunate men, but finally one of the men on the Holt liner who understood a little Japanese managed to make it clear that the starving men could have provisions if they would put off to the steamer.

A choppy sea prevented the Tudeus from sailing into the harbor, and the schooner, with the aid of a megaphone the Japanese captain was informed of his bearings and the offer of assistance made. The crew of the schooner then put off in a sampan, and upon reaching the steamer, told their story. They said that they had been without water or food for nearly two weeks, that the schooner was in an unmanageable condition, and that they were too weak to sail her. Capt. Campbell, seeing the emaciated condition of the Japs, took them aboard and sent a boat off to the Kiam Maru to rescue many of their belongings as possible. Then, as the schooner lay directly in the way of traffic, he set fire to her.

The thanks of the rescued men were conveyed to the worthy skipper in the form of a "chin-chin" organized by them and the Japanese passengers a few days ago, and it is quite likely that when the Tudeus touches at a Japanese port on her return journey, Capt. Campbell will receive the usual reward of a high-toned title or will have "the order of the Crown" conferred on him. The captain and crew were handed over to the Japanese consular authorities, and will likely be returned upon the Tanga Maru.

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GEO. STRATTON DROWNED.

(Special Despatch to The Leader.)

VANCOUVER, Jan. 28.—George W. Stratton, who used to live at Winnipeg, was drowned today in Slave Lake River. He was a Scotman, a carpenter and 42 years old. The body has not been found yet.

WINNIPEG HAS A FIRE IN WHOLESALE DISTRICT

New Warehouse of Bright & Johnston Destroyed at Estimated Loss of \$200,000—Force of Explosion in Drug Store Hurled Firemen from Their Ladders—Winning Fight Under Adverse Circumstances

Firemen Thrown From Ladders.

When the fire department arrived on the scene the fire was in the section of the building occupied by the Pulford-Leonard Co. An entrance was at once forced through a rear window, but as the air reached the flames there was an explosion which threw the firemen from the ladders to the ground. This was followed by a sheet of flames, which kept them from approaching the windows. Six lines were laid and a flood of water turned on. For a time it was thought that the battle would be a short one, but several tanks containing alcohol and methylated spirits exploded, and the fire was on in earnest, with the blazing gases spreading to all parts of the building. The flames ran from floor to floor, and within three-quarters of an hour they had worked through the roof and the whole building was doomed.

The firemen then directed their efforts to saving the adjoining buildings, and, though the temperature was in the neighborhood of 30 degrees below zero, they carried on a plucky fight, winning out after two and a half hours. Seventeen streams of water were playing on the fire at one time, assisted by the water tower and two turbines, each of which was fed by from two to three lines of hose.

It is reported that the C.P.R. intends to begin work on the extension of the line early this summer. At the present time another survey party is working from the Comox valley in the direction of Alberni to connect with the line from Wellington to deep water on the Alberni canal. The party is working on the shores of Comox lake. This section of the road offers little difficulty, it is believed.

PORT OF CALL ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

C.P.R. Will Extend Its Line to Deep Water on the West Coast.

VICTORIA, Jan. 28.—There can be little doubt that the C.P.R. intends to expedite the extension of the E. & N. line to deep water on the Alberni canal, following out the policy contained in the announcement made some time ago by Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, that a port of call for Empress liners would be established on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

Already survey parties are in the field. The instructions issued to the chief of the staff is to push the work forward as fast as possible, providing for the extension of the E. & N. line to deep water on Alberni canal. This is being done, and Frank Shepherd, the engineer in charge of the party, has already located a route across the Beaufort range, west of Cameron lake. It is more than probable that the route selected will be along the shores of Cameron lake, although an alternative route is available by way of Horne lake.

Along a spur running out the Beaufort mountains on the east side affords a good opportunity for making an easy ascent. It is possible by taking this to get a grade no where exceeding 1 1/2 per cent, to where the summit is reached. The descent on the other side of the range can be made easy by making a circuit away from the wagon road. Deep water can be reached at New Alberni town-

OTTAWA, Jan. 28.—Mr. Bruneau, M.P. Richelieu, leaves this afternoon for Sorel. He bids good-bye to political life. Mr. Bruneau will be appointed tomorrow Justice of the superior court of Quebec at Sorel in place of Judge Charbonneau, who goes to take the place of Justice Henri Taschereau, who becomes a Justice of the court of appeal. There still remains the vacancy on the bench at St. Hyacinthe caused by death of Judge Madore.

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