

1100 MEN KILLED IN COAL MINE EXPLOSION

Europe's Greatest Mining Disaster Depopulates French Village--Six Thousand Frantic Mourners at Pit's Mouth--Few Rescued Terribly Burned--No Hope For Entombed Hundreds--Rescue Party Perished.

PARIS, March 10.—A mining catastrophe of incalculable horror and magnitude has stricken the great coal centre of northern France. An explosion of fire damp at 7 o'clock this morning carried death and destruction through out the work of coal mine centres at Courrières, and fire followed the explosion, making rescue difficult and almost impossible. The intense excitement and confusion in the vicinity prevented early estimates of the exact loss of life, but a despatch received here at 4:35 p. m. gave 1,046 miners entombed and probably lost. At 8:45 o'clock this evening a brief despatch from Lille announced the awful total of 1,132 dead. All France has been profoundly shocked by the magnitude of the disaster, which is said to be the greatest in the history of continental mining.

SCENE OF CATASTROPHE. The scene of the catastrophe is the mountainous mining region near Lens, in the department of Pas de Calais. Here are huddled small hamlets of the miners, who operate the most productive coal mines in France. The subterranean chambers form a series of tunnels. Six of the outlets are near Lens, and others are at Courrières, Verdun and many other points. The output of these mines is practically combustible and is largely used in the manufacture of gas and smelting. About 2,000 miners work the group of mines, and with their families make a population of from 8,000 to 8,000 souls. The catastrophe took place shortly after 1:30 p. m. Men and horses were killed. The roof of the mine office was blown off.

PARIS, March 11.—The worst fears as to the enormity of the mine disaster in the Courrières district of the Pas de Calais Saturday morning have been realized. The death list stands at 1,132, and the whole of the region stands appalled at the terrible tragedy which has brought sorrow to six thousand fathers, mothers, wives and children.

The last great mine disaster in France occurred in 1885, when 292 persons were killed and eighty injured; but that and all others sink into insignificance before Courrières.

PARIS, March 10.—During the evening a despatch was received from Lille which seemed to give some clue to the origin of the explosion. It was stated that a smouldering fire broke out last night in the Cecil pit near Hericourt, at a depth of 250 metres, where masonry works were proceeding. M. Baruit, the chief engineer of the mines, descended to the place which remained intact and several rescues were made. The first cages came up at 10 o'clock with about a dozen half suffocated men who were taken to the nearest hospital. Some imprisoned miners sought to escape by the shafts which remained intact and several rescues were made. The first cages came up at 10 o'clock with about a dozen half suffocated men who were taken to the nearest hospital.

RESCUE PARTY SHUT OFF. It is reported that a rescue party numbering forty, has been cut off by the caving in of one of the galleries. Minister of Public Works Gauthier, Minister of the Interior Dubief, and the secretary of President Fallieres remained on the ground endeavoring to comfort the distressed families of the miners. President Fallieres has given \$2,000 to aid in relief measures. The ministry will add a further sum to this and the chamber of deputies will be asked to vote \$100,000 for the purpose of alleviating distress. Minister Gauthier and Dubief have received complete details of the catastrophe from M. Lavaurs, the director of the mine. His voice was choked with emotion as he spoke.

Believes All Dead. To this the director replied: "No; I believe all of them are dead." This was whispered into the ear of the minister in order that his words might not be overheard by the pale-faced miners who stood anxiously about the mine building waiting for an official view on the state of affairs.

A MINER'S STORY. A young miner who escaped from pit No. 4, where about 800 men remain, said: "I was working about fifty feet from the shaft. Suddenly I felt a puff of hot gas and started toward the shaft. I was half suffocated and was unable to advance further because of the fumes. Finally, however, I succeeded in reaching the cage and came up in it."

SIXTEEN BODIES WERE FASTENED WITH WIRE. Ghastrly Find in the River Vistula—Victims Were Evidently Warsaw Prisoners.

A TERRIBLE SIGHT. For the time being the mine building has been transformed into a mortuary chamber, and all about it lie the carbonized and almost unrecognizable bodies, which were taken there as they were brought up from the mine. Stricken relatives arrive at the mine building from time to time searching for missing members of their families, and indescribable scenes of grief occur as women recognize loved ones.

SCENES HEARTRENDING. PARIS, March 10.—At 8 o'clock tonight a rescue party at Courrières brought out several engineers, two of whom were unconscious, but were revived under medical assistance. The attempts at rescue have been given up, as the galleries have fallen in. Crowds still surround pit four, and the scenes are heartrending.

PARIS, March 11.—John Alexander Dowie has become a secondary official of his Church in Zion City after the officials of the Zion City are striving to hold together the fiscal affairs of the institution and prevent it from complete wreck.

WARSZAW, March 10.—Fishermen in the Vistula recently discovered sixteen mutilated bodies fastened together with wire. Several of the bodies were without hands or feet, and the faces of all them had been covered with pitch so that identification was impossible.

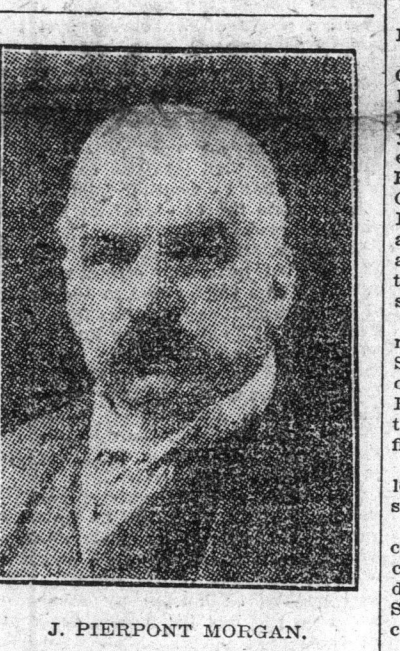
THE WORK OF RESCUE. The work of attempting to secure the imprisoned miners was hastily begun by officials, engineers and miners from the surrounding mines, who formed parties and made heroic efforts to penetrate the smoke and foul gases and bring out the imprisoned men.

POPE RECEIVES AMERICAN VISITORS. Pierpont Morgan and Others Were Presented His Holiness Blessed a Number of Religious Objects Belonging to Mrs. Hollins.

ROME, March 12.—The pope received today in private audience J. Pierpont Morgan, M. E. Hollins, Mrs. Hollins and Miss Hollins, all of New York.



POPE PIUS X. The audience occurred in the pope's library and merely consisted of an exchange of compliments, the pontiff expressing his appreciation of the kindness of Mr. Morgan in visiting him and recalling his visit of last May.



J. PIERPONT MORGAN.

ZION AFFAIRS IN BAD WAY. Officials of Dowie's Church Struggling to Keep Off Financial Wreck.

CHICAGO, March 11.—John Alexander Dowie has become a secondary official of his Church in Zion City after the officials of the Zion City are striving to hold together the fiscal affairs of the institution and prevent it from complete wreck.

LITTLE STRANGER WELCOMED. LONDON, March 12.—Former Premier Balfour returned to the house of commons today and assumed the leadership of the opposition.

AGAINST SEWERAGE AND PURE WATER. Startling Results of Fredericton Civic Contest.

Only Three Aldermen of the Old Board Returned—Mayor McNally's Close Call.

FREDERICTON, March 12.—In the civic elections today last year's board of aldermen were routed, foot, horse and artillery. In no uncertain way the ratepayers expressed their disapproval of the council's past acts.

WANTED NO NONSENSE ABOUT TAINTED MONEY. Former Bank Teller Admitted Theft to Brother—Wife Knew About It.

ESTIMATES WERE BROUGHT DOWN. Amounts Voted For Intercolonial, St. John Harbor Dredging and Other Important Works.

OTTAWA, March 12.—The estimates were brought down for nine months from July 1st next, amounting to \$51,534,532 consolidated and \$16,342,015 capital, a total amount of \$67,876,547.

MILLSTREAM. MILLSTREAM, Kings Co., March 9.—On Wednesday last, at the home of the bride, Isaac G. Gamblin of Apohaqui was united in marriage to Miss Edith V. Law of this place.

MONCTON CURLERS WIN. HAMPDEN, N. B., March 12.—Two rinks of Moncton junior curlers played on Hampton ice tonight against two following score by skips.

JEALOUS MAN STABS RIVAL. Latter Died Almost Instantly—Disastrous Fires—News of Canada.

WINNIPEG, March 12.—During a quarrel over the affections of a Galician girl, Miss Sophie Koyk, Fred K. Kyrk stabbed Tom Kakechinski three times in the heart on Saturday night, the latter dying almost instantly.

WALSLEY, Sask., March 12.—A disastrous fire occurred here yesterday morning which destroyed Morrison's general store, Windsor Hotel and several adjoining buildings, entailing a loss of \$40,000.

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Standard Cypher's Incubators. These machines are non-moisture, self-regulating, self-ventilating. Easy to operate. Automatic in operation, except trimming the wick, filling the lamp and turning the eggs.

W. H. THORNE & CO., Limited MARKET SQUARE, ST. JOHN, N. B.

ION; ARIFF. Which Opens Forecast Im on Saw-offs. ll show that the seeking homes greatest on recently concluded ably mean an in- of Canada with prosperous am- bly call attention of the forests a serious conse- sive to the rivers, the farming areas steps are now in- the formation of the foreshadow amend- act, and it is will be introduced of an amend- ment to the law. The amendment will be understood the commission sink line telephone connection to local m- foreshadow and rd's Day act and ith usury. There to the fact that the onal transcon- sioners have been for the construc- tions of the line, asked to consider hange the time of the fiscal year, erence to the in- condition of life. The report of terways commis- referred to and will have to be beauty of Niagara. R. As there is to and a three months' another sitting, in November to MN.