

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1906.

HORRIBLE MINING DISASTER IN FRANCE

Gas Explosion, Saturday Morning, Caused the Most Terrible Colliery Catastrophe Known

Cages Were Hurl'd Up Through Pit's Mouth Thirty Feet in the Air--Heart-rending Scenes Followed as Men, Women and Children Gathered at the Scene--Galleries Fell in and Work of Rescue Had to Cease--Soldiers on Guard to Prevent Battered Ones from Entering the Pit--Of the 1800 That Went to Work Only 700 Came Out Alive, and Many of Them Are Badly Injured.

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 throughout the works of coal mines 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 1,204 miners entombed and probably lost.

At 8.45 o'clock this evening a brief despatch from Lille announced the awful toll of 1,193 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.

President Fallieres sent his secretary, accompanied by Minister of Public Works (Gautier) and Minister of the Interior (Dubief), on a special train to the scene of the disaster.

The ministerial crisis was temporarily forgotten, senators and deputies joining in the universal public manifestations of sorrow.

Largest Mines in France. 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 mines in France.

The catastrophe took place shortly after 1.30 p. m. when the mine shaft was being worked. The explosion was followed by the fire and mining apparatus being hurled from the mouth of the Courrières mine. Men and horses were hurled into the air and either stunned or killed.

A TRAINED NURSE

After Years of Experience, Advises Women in Regard to Their Health.

Mrs. Martha Pohlman of 55 Chester Avenue, Newark, N. J., who is a graduate nurse from the Blockley Training School at Philadelphia, and for six years Chief Clinic Nurse at the Philadelphia Hospital, writes the letter printed below. She has the advantage of personal experience, besides her professional education and what she has to say may be of great value to many women.

After the best I neither heard nor saw more of my comrades, and I believe that all in that gallery in which I was working are dead.

Another miner said: "It is indescribable. Everything was demolished or has fallen in. I saw bodies lying in piles. My son is below."

One witness has asserted that he heard voices in the mine, and others found two horses still living. This gives rise to hope that some of the men are still living.

All Hope Abandoned. These rescued were taken out as follows: From pit No. 4, 190; from pit No. 3, 15 escaped through pit No. 11; 400 came up from pit No. 2, and 74 from pit No. 10.

Another director declared that the imprisoned men numbered 1,100. Minister Dubief inquired: "Have you still any hope?"

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 be ascertained by the pale-faced miners who stood anxiously about the mine building waiting for an official view on the subject.

STEAMSHIPS DONALDSON LINE Glasgow and St. John Winter Service, 1906.

CANADIAN PACIFIC Steamship Service From Liverpool to St. John, N. B.

CANADIAN PACIFIC LOW RATE Second-class tickets on sale daily.

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BOY WHO WAS SHOT IS DEAD

Jarvis Harrington of Kingsville Passed Away in Hospital Saturday

Jarvis Harrington, the fourteen-year-old son of Charles Harrington, of Kingsville, died Saturday in the public hospital from the effects of a gunshot wound which shattered his right arm while he was duck shooting near his home on Friday last.

Young Harrington, accompanied by an older brother and George Dunham, was out with his gun near the Kingsville public school on Friday morning. While in pursuit of the birds the three were creeping along the shore when the trigger of the younger Harrington's gun caught on a stone and the weapon discharged its contents into his right arm.

Dr. L. M. Curran, of Fairville, was summoned, an anesthetic was administered and the wound was dressed. It was found, however, that the bone had been shattered and a piece of flesh torn from the arm by the violence of the explosion.

On Saturday morning an operation was performed but however did not prove successful. We remained there for several days. The operation was successfully carried out but the lad, who had never fully recovered from the shock of the explosion, died late in the afternoon.

He was the youngest member of the family and would have reached his fifteenth birthday had he survived until Sunday. Besides his father and mother he has one brother and three sisters. The sympathy of the community will be very generally extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harrington and their family in their bereavement.

SMOKERS CANCER. Stott & Jury, Bowmanville, Ont. will gladly send you the names of Canadians who have tried their painless home treatment for cancer in all parts of the body. Some of the cures are simply marvelous.

TOOK FRIENDS OF BOSS FOR BOBBERS Watchful Lads Bring Police to King Square Store to Catch Thieves

NATAL TRIBESMEN PAID DEARLY FOR UPRISING

Mamphulu, Natal, March 9.—An impressive spectacle was witnessed here today when the chiefs of the district and scores of tribesmen came in to hear the decision of the military commander with regard to the raising of the natives in February.

The commander fined Chief Gubheben and his tribes 1,200 cattle, 3,500 sheep and goats, and dismissed the tribe from a portion of their territory. The chief admitted that the punishment was just, but requested a lessening of their taxes.

RECTOR APOLOGIZES AND CHOIR GIRLS RETURN TO DUTIES St. Catharines, Ont., March 11.—(Special) Rev. W. Barrington Neville, the rector of St. Barnabas' church, got himself into a bit of trouble a week ago when he dismissed the choir girls because, as he supposed, they were prone to flirt during services with the masculine worshippers.

MAH-PU MINERAL WATER Pure because it comes from a depth of 263 feet. It cures RHEUMATISM, GOUT, KIDNEY and Intestinal Disorders.

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PRESIDENT FALLIERES. Who Took Prompt Measures for Relief of Victims' Families

Curries from all sections of the department and a large force of volunteers took part in the efforts made to rescue the entombed miners, recover the bodies of the killed and help in the work of salvage.

One of the rescued miners, Pierre Deseon, said: "I was 200 metres from the shaft when I heard a deafening explosion. The air immediately filled with poisonous vapors. Instinctively I groped my way towards the bottom of the shaft of pit No. 2, near which I found a number of suffocating comrades, who had fallen helpless in the galleries and were crying for assistance. I assisted them to mount the trolley, and then they were enabled to reach the shaft."

A state of desolation prevailed over the mining region. The most agonizing scenes are witnessed at the pit mouths and the gasoliness experienced the utmost difficulty in restraining the crowds of people eager to ascertain the fate of relatives.

Death List 1,100. Paris, March 11.—The worst feature so far of the enormity of the mine disaster in the Courrières district has been realized. Saturday morning the death list stands 1,100 and the whole of the region stands appalled at the terrible tragedy which has brought sorrow to 4,000 fathers, mothers, wives and children.

Herold Work of Rescue. Despite the danger incurred, the volunteers, who include a number of those who were successful in occupying at the time of the explosion, do not hesitate to descend the shaft. Some of them have been down more than a dozen times. One of them, after having brought up fourteen bodies, was suffocated in his fifteenth attempt, and it is feared that other fatalities among the volunteers will follow, as the air in the mine is still impregnated with noxious gases. A number of the men engaged in rescue work have already been brought to the surface unconscious, and as they were driven to their homes in closed carriages.

OLD CHUM. EVERYBODY SMOKES OLD CHUM.