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EXPLOSION OF GAS IN COAL MINE  
CAUSES DEATH OF MANY MINERS.

Twenty-one Killed, Nine Terribly Burned--Remaining Four in Mine Were Also Slightly Injured.

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 27.—A special on Dayton, Tenn., says: "At the Richmond mine of the Dayton Coal & Iron Co., two miles from Dayton, this afternoon, a terrific explosion of gas, caused by the collection of coal dust, resulted in the death of 21 men, all white, and most of them married and with families. The explosion was caused by what is known among miners as a 'blow' blast." It is the custom of the miners to place blasts and fire them off at quitting time each afternoon, leaving the coal thus thrown down to be loaded and hauled from the mine the next morning. The Richmond mine is a distillate of water and hence great volumes of fine particles of coal dust, invisible to the naked eye, accumulate at the rock face of the mine, forming a highly inflammable gas. This afternoon at 4.30 o'clock a dynamite cartridge was placed in position in one of the rooms for a blast. The miners had just started for the mouth of the mine. The blast did not explode as intended, but instead a long flame shot out of the blast hole and ignited the accumulation of dust. Instantly a terrific explosion occurred, a seething mass of flame shot to the mouth of the mine and extended 300 feet into the open air, scorching the leaves from the nearby trees. There were 34 men in the mine at the time. Four of these escaped with slight injuries. Twenty-one

VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS GIVEN  
IN THE U. S. SUPREME COURT.

Determining the Relations of the United States to Her New Possessions in Matters of Duties — The Courts Divided in Opinion.

Washington, May 27.—In the United States supreme court today opinions were handed down in all but two of the cases before that court involving the relation of the United States to its insular possessions. The two cases in which no conclusion was announced were those known as the Fourteen Diamond Rings case and the second of the De Lima cases. The decided De Lima case deals with the phase of the Porto Rican question and the diamond ring case involves the right to the free importation of merchandise from the Philippines to the United States. Tomorrow it is presumed the remaining cases will be passed on. The two cases which attracted the greatest share of attention from the court were that known as the De Lima case and that known as the Downes case and the second of the De Lima cases. In the Downes case is considered the most far reaching, as it affects our future relations, whereas the De Lima case deals with a transitional phase of our insular relations. The court was very evenly divided on both cases but political lines were not at all controlling. The De Lima case involved the power of the government to collect a duty on goods imported into the United States from Porto Rico after the ratification of the treaty of 1899 and before the passage of the Porto Rican act. The court said the government's contention in this case was substantially a claim that Porto Rico is foreign territory. The entire case turned upon that contention. The court held that the position was not well taken; that Porto Rico was not at the time for eign territory and that therefore the duty which had been collected must be returned. The Downes case dealt with the legality of the exaction of duties on goods imported from Porto Rico into New York after the passage of the Porto Rican act. It also dealt with that question. The court held that Porto Rico was not a foreign territory, that until Congress acted upon the question Porto Rico was not a foreign territory, that until Congress acted upon the question Porto Rico was not a foreign territory, that until Congress acted upon the question Porto Rico was not a foreign territory.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAY COMMITTEE  
CONSIDERING C. P. R. WORKING RULES.

As Brotherhood's Representative Had Not Notified the Company, the Matter Was Adjourned--The Rules Objected To--Mr. Blair to England.

Ottawa, May 27.—(Special)—A meeting of the railway committee of the privy council was held today to consider the Canadian Pacific working rules. Besides Mr. Blair there were present Sir Louis Davies and Hon. J. I. Turner. Sir Louis asked Mr. Burke, who appeared for the Brotherhood, if he had notified the C. P. R. and he replied that he had not. Mr. Blair suggested that he should have done so; the railway company had a strong interest in the matter and he would like the presence of the company. Mr. Burke said that he had technical knowledge, and the rules formerly were submitted to men who had technical knowledge, but latterly this had not been done. The rules had been prepared by men who had only a theoretical knowledge. After further discussion the matter was postponed until Mr. Burke had an opportunity of meeting the C. P. R. The rules objected to are the following: Employees, on accepting employment, to assume all risk attending thereon. Employees frequenting places where liquor is sold, while not on duty, to be liable to immediate dismissal. Employees to give 14 days' notice in writing before leaving the company's service. The company reserves the right to conduct pay of employees, as fines for negligence, etc. Employees desiring of appealing to heads of departments to do so through superior officer and decision of general superintendent to be final. Employees neither directly or indirectly to engage in any other trade or calling without permission. The trainmen were notified to bring their objections to the attention of the

PRISONER IN HALIFAX JAIL  
DROPS DEAD IN CELL.

Body of Colored Woman Found at Dry Dock Bottom--Thomson Linger for Repairs.

Halifax, N. S., May 27.—(Special)—The body of the colored woman, Mrs. Byers, who mysteriously disappeared about ten days ago, was found in the bottom of the dry dock this evening. James Lacey, an 18 year old prisoner, serving six months for larceny, drowned dead in his cell in jail here this evening. The Thomson liner Kiliana arrived here this afternoon from Montreal and was placed in the dry dock for repairs to the bottom, which was badly damaged by striking submerged wreckage in the gulf near Matane some days ago.

DISAPPEARED, LEAVING  
BRIDE OF FOUR DAYS.

Jewelry Dealer Missing from New York Home Since May 8.

New York, May 27.—Mrs. Oswald Becker, who was married on May 4 in the City Hall, has reported to the police that her husband had disappeared four days after their wedding and that she had heard nothing of him since. She fears foul play. Mr. Becker was an auctioneer and a dealer in jewelry, but had no office. When he left his wife on May 8 he told her he was going to Paterson, N. J., to engage in business with another man. She went to Paterson recently, but could not find any trace of him. Mrs. Becker said that her husband had a vault in the Garfield bank, and that she would try to have it opened, in the hope that she might there find clues to his whereabouts. When Mr. Becker left home he had in his possession jewelry valued at \$300, besides a considerable sum of money. Theodore Ward, the superintendent of the safe deposit department of the Garfield Bank, said that he could not open any vault except at the command of the person who had rented it.

MANCHESTER AND  
PHILADELPHIA.

New Line of Steamers Will Ply Between These Points in Few Weeks.

Philadelphia, May 27.—Edgar B. Griffiths, treasurer and general superintendent of the Pennsylvania warehousing and Safe Deposit Company, of this city, returned here yesterday from England, where he had been as the representative of the Reading Railroad and Charles M. Taylor's Sons for the purpose of establishing a direct steamship connection between Manchester and Philadelphia. In speaking of his mission, Mr. Griffiths said: "It is definitely settled that the Philadelphia and Manchester Steamship Line will begin operations during the early part of July. The plan is to have sailings from both ports every ten days and the initial trip from Philadelphia will be made by the steamer Manchester Corporation, which is expected to reach this port about July 1."

ANTI-SEMITIC PLAY  
SPREADS RUSSIAN RIOT.

Thousands of People Gather and Stone the Police--Many Injured.

London, May 27.—Rioting has spread to south Russia, says a despatch from St. Petersburg, as a result of the production of the anti-semitic play, "The Smugglers." At Kutais, thousands of people congregated around the theatre and stoned the police. A detachment of Cossacks charged and dispersed the crowd. Thirteen policemen, fifteen Cossacks and two officers of Cossacks were severely injured.

SOME CENSUS RETURNS  
ARE GIVEN OUT.

Gloucester, N. B., Gains in French; Losses in English--In Other Places.

Ottawa, May 27.—The French population of Gloucester, N. B., shows an increase of over 4,000 and there is a decrease of English speaking people of 1,500, making a total increase of nearly 3,000. In Massachusetts, Mill Pond, St. John Baptiste and St. Lewis wards the returns show that the population has increased from 21,932 in 1891 to 46,074 now, an increase of 23,242, or over 100 per cent. The population of the city of Winnipeg by the census is 42,597. Christian G. A. Drouin has been appointed chief census officer for the manufacturers of the province of Quebec. One will be appointed for the west, one for Ontario and one for the maritime provinces.

CANADA HAS ENTERED  
ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE.

La Presse Sends Out Reporters to Get Round the Earth as Quickly as They Can.

Montreal, May 27.—Another competitor in the big around-the-world race has come to the front. The Canadian newspaper La Presse has just sent out from Montreal two of its keenest reporters, Auguste Marion and Lorenzo Prince, to make the circuit of the globe. They left for New York, where they take the fast steamer Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse to cross the Atlantic. So far there are five competitors outside of Canada, including Lemaitre of Paris, the Journal and the World of New York, Chicago-American, San Francisco Examiner, one London and one Berlin paper. La Presse is holding up the Canadian flag in this interesting race and expects that their missionaries will carry the Maple Leaf to victory.

MANY BOER CASUALTIES  
But Enemy Capture a British Post After Stout Resistance.

Prerira, May 27.—Advice received from Lord Kitchener's columns since May 20 the British columns report 63 Boers killed, 26 wounded, 267 taken prisoners and 85 surrendered.

ROSEBERY DIDN'T KNOW OF IT.

Report That He Was to Be Herschell's Successor on Canadian-American Joint High Commission.

Ottawa, May 27.—(Special)—It is reported that Lord Rosebery will succeed the late Lord Herschell on the joint high commission.

TWO KILLED; OTHERS INJURED.

Breaking of Guy Rope Throws Workmen from Staging 40 Feet High.

Rockland, Me., May 27.—By the breaking of a large wire rope to a coal delivery staging at Spruce Head today, four men were precipitated forty feet to the deck of schooner Ned P. Walker, and James D. Caven was instantly killed. While the others were badly bruised and painfully injured, they will all recover. Willis Adams had two ribs and a finger broken; Fred Cook's right leg was broken in two places, while Alonzo Allen escaped with a severe shaking up. Caven was 35 years old and leaves a widow at Clark's Island.

Platt Amendment Voted Today.

Havana, May 27.—By unanimous agreement, the Cuban constitutional convention has decided to take the final vote on the acceptance of the Platt amendment tomorrow. The Conservatives claim that the Platt amendment will be accepted by the convention by a vote of 17 to 11.

FOUR BURNED TO DEATH.

Two Terrible Occurrences in Upper Canada.

Stambridge, Ont., May 27.—(Special)—Two little boys, Harley Mann, and James Adams, while playing with matches in their uncle's hay loft near here, today set fire to the hay and were burned to death. Havelock, Ont., May 27.—(Special)—James Post and his nephew were burned at Oak Lake, some miles north of here Saturday night. Mrs. Post discovered the flames and was fatally burned while trying to alarm the others. The house was destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown.

STAND AGAINST CIGARETTES.

School Board of Somerville Authorizes Suspension of Pupils.

Somerville, Mass., May 27.—The school board took a decided stand against cigarette smoking among school boys tonight by passing an order giving to principals the right to suspend any scholar caught smoking cigarettes on the school premises or seen smoking cigarettes on the way to or from school.

Manitoba's Railways.

Winnipeg, May 27.—(Special)—The Northern Pacific lines were hurriedly taken over by the Manitoba government Saturday. It is believed the haste was due to the recent action taken in the courts, and to escape the probable injunction. The government will operate the lines until the Canadian Northern is ready to take hold.

Big Hotel for Halifax.

The Halifax Echo says that a private letter from London says that Captain Montague Yates has succeeded in interest a big hotel in Halifax and that it is understood the site was quietly bonded last fall by Capt. Yates and a British captain who was in Halifax with him at the

C. P. R. Buys Baptist Church.

Montreal, May 27.—(Special)—Olivier Baptist church, adjoining the C. P. R. station, has been bought by the Canadian Pacific Railway for \$30,000.

ANARCHIST CHOSEN TO  
MURDER COMMITTS SUICIDE.

Rome, May 27.—A newspaper published in Verona reports the attempted suicide of a youthful blacksmith named Pietrucci, who has confessed that he belonged to a society of anarchists and was chosen by lot to kill the Emperor of Germany. He

preferred suicide to making the attempt. In his confession he also disclosed the names of certain of his comrades who had been selected to kill Queen Helena of Italy, President Loubet of France and the Czar of Russia.