

KILLED FORTY THOUSAND!

The Greatest Volcanic Destruction of Modern Ages.

City of St. Pierre, Martinique, Wiped Out By Burning Lava.

Only Fragmentary Reports Yet Received of Wide-Spread Destruction in the West Indies—Experience of a St. John Schooner.

PARIS, May 8.—The commander of the French cruiser Suchet telegraphed to the minister of marine, M. Delanesen, from Port de France, Island of Martinique, under date of Thursday, May 8, at 10 p. m., as follows: "Have just returned from St. Pierre, which has been completely destroyed by an immense mass of fire which fell on the town at about 8 in the morning. The entire population of about 25,000 supposed to have perished. I have brought back about thirty survivors. All the shipping in the harbor has been destroyed by fire. The eruption continues."

A ST. JOHN SCHOONER'S EXPERIENCE. ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 9.—The British schooner Ocean Traveller (of St. John, N. B.), arrived at the island of Dominica, British West Indies, at 5 o'clock this afternoon. She reports having been obliged to flee from the island of St. Vincent, British West Indies, during the afternoon of Wednesday, May 7, in consequence of a heavy fall of sand from a volcano which was erupting there. She tried to reach the island of St. Lucia, B. W. I., but adverse currents prevented her from so doing. The schooner arrived opposite St. Pierre, Martinique, Thursday morning, May 8. While about a mile off the volcano (of Mont Pelee) exploded and fire from it swept the whole town of St. Pierre, destroying the town and the shipping there, including the cable repair ship Grappier, which was engaged in repairing the cable near the Guerin factory. The Ocean Traveller while on her way to Dominica encountered a quantity of wreckage.

PORTLAND, ME., FIRM HEAVY LOSERS. PORTLAND, Me., May 9.—Among the heavy losers in property by the eruption of the city of St. Pierre, Martinique, are J. H. Hamlin & Co. of this city, who had a large branch office there.

J. C. Hamlin, the junior member of the firm, said today: "While our actual property loss will be confined to the value of our office building, an immense stone structure on Rue Petit Versailles, it naturally strikes indirectly at our large business with the island through that port of entry. At this time we fortunately had no shipping at St. Pierre, all our vessels having discharged their cargoes and sailed from the port. This, however, is but an after consideration. The catastrophe itself is something terrible to contemplate."

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WASHINGTON, May 9.—The following cablegrams has just been received at the state department from Consul Ayme: "At 7 o'clock on the 8th instant, a storm of steam, mud and fire enveloped the city and community. Not more than twenty persons escaped with their lives. Eighteen vessels were burned and sunk with all on board, including four American vessels and a steamer from Quebec named Roraima. The U. S. consular and family are reported among the victims. A vessel has come to Guadeloupe for provisions and will leave at 5 tomorrow. (The state department has been receiving despatches from commercial houses in New York asking that a warship be sent at once to Martinique to afford relief. The matter is under consideration.)"

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reports of the destruction of St. Pierre and its environs and shipping by a volcano, and said it was surprising that the whole population had been annihilated with the exception of a few injured persons rescued by the cruiser Suchet.

Immediately after the receipt of the above despatches the flag over the consular office was draped with crepe and hoisted at half-mast. The letter was written April 25 and mentioned was made of schooner Anna E. J. Morse (of Portland), which had just arrived and on which he was planning to have his family leave if things looked threatening. Miss Fry believes that the crew of the schooner may have come to Port de France ere this, and she is waiting for a cablegram from them. Miss Fry is her father's secretary, and Miss Christine is about 14 years old. Mr. Prentiss has one son, John, in Chicago, and another, Thomas, in Batavia.

ST. PIERRE DESTROYED BY MOLTEN ROCKS AND ASHES. LONDON, May 9.—A despatch to the Reuters Telegram Co. from Kingston, Jamaica, after giving the details of the Martinique disaster already known, says: "Thousands were killed at St. Pierre where a terrible panic prevailed, when eruption began Saturday, May 7, when St. Pierre was covered with ashes and appeared to be enveloped in a response to the request of Governor Llewellyn of the Windward Islands, the British second class cruiser Indefatigable has been detached from the island of Trinidad to the island of St. Vincent, by way of St. Lucia."

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A SKETCH OF ST. PIERRE. LONDON COLONIAL OFFICE, May 9.—A despatch from St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, dated May 7, said that indices received there from the island of St. Vincent, British West Indies, announced that for some days earthquakes had been experienced in the neighborhood of the Soufriere crater, which had been smoking and rumbling. The people in the vicinity of the volcano were leaving for places of safety. It was also reported that the volcanic craters on the island of Dominica were showing signs of activity.

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quakes, which destroyed about half the town, caused damage throughout the island and killed some seven hundred persons. Admiral Corvira's squadron was first reported on this side of the Atlantic at St. Pierre.

STAMSHIP RORAIMA LOST. HALIFAX, N. S., May 9.—The Quebec S. S. Company's steamer Roraima, mentioned as lost with all on board, is commanded by Capt. Geo. Muggah of Sydney. A despatch from Sydney says that a telegram was received there from Outerbridge & Co., the New York agents of the steamer Roraima, stating that the steamer was not due at St. Pierre until a day or two after the volcanic disturbance. Capt. Muggah has been in command of the Roraima for the past three years, having previously commanded the steamer Oriole of the Quebec Steamship Company. Capt. Muggah was born in Sydney forty-four years ago, and is married to a daughter of Theophilus Spence of Port Morien, C. B. The chief officer of the Roraima was Robert Morley, a Halifax boy. His mother resides here. Halifax West India merchants formerly did a considerable and profitable business with Martinique, frequently sending shipments of fish and produce to the island and to Guadeloupe, bringing in return cargoes of sugar, rum and molasses. Some ten years ago the protective tariff enacted by the French government destroyed this trade, and Halifax now has no trade relations with Martinique.

HURRIED BACK TO PARIS. BORDEAUX, France, May 9.—The minister of the colonies, M. Decrais, was hurried back to Paris on the 8th of the Martinique disaster. Leaving here he expressed the opinion that the fact that the commander of the Suchet is seeking provisions to procure food for the islanders of St. Pierre, foreseeing that the steamer had sought refuge at the island, and that the islanders were being transported to the island, the Suchet is hurrying back to Paris on the 8th of the Martinique disaster.

TWO CABLE STEAMERS DESTROYED. NEW YORK, May 9.—The Western Union Telegraph Co. has sent out the following notice: "The West India and Panama Telegraph Co. has advised the Western Union Telegraph Company's central cable office that two steamers which took cable messages for Martinique after the interruption of the cable, are reported destroyed, and they are unable to ascertain if the messages were previously delivered. The cable messages were carried by cable steamer last night, the ship being unable to approach Martinique."

BOSTON, May 9.—Capt. E. J. Morse, Capt. Parker, arrived at St. Pierre, Martinique, April 24 from Philadelphia, with a cargo of provisions. The captain expressed her safety as it is thought she was in port there at the time of the destruction of the island. The captain of the steamer, which was reported destroyed, was reported destroyed, and they are unable to ascertain if the messages were previously delivered. The cable messages were carried by cable steamer last night, the ship being unable to approach Martinique."

LONDON, May 12.—The latest reports received here say that the state of affairs at St. Vincent creates grave alarm, especially as despatches from the island of Dominica, forwarded Sunday, reported that the Soufriere volcano, in St. Vincent, was still in active eruptions. Four small boats loaded of refugees from Grand Riviere, Martinique, have arrived at Dominica in a pitiable condition. They report that six other boats left that village at the same time. It is not known what became of them.

A FRENCH OFFICER'S VIEW. (Special to the Sun.) HALIFAX, N. S., May 11.—The French cruiser d'Estresse is at Sydney, C. B. Her medical officer is Dr. Albert C. H., whose family live in Martineau. He thinks that with the exception of one child, who may have been at St. Pierre, the family are at Port de France. Dr. C. H. speaks of the rapidly with which lava from the crater could overwhelm St. Pierre, and says that the harbor being deep to the shore, the shipping would be very near the land and consequently the more easily and quickly destroyed.

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says that St. Pierre was destroyed in the twinkling of an eye, and that not one of the inhabitants of the city escaped. Some of the outlying parishes of the island of Martinique have been founded. The whole northern portion of the island is burning; it has been denuded of vegetation and is a rocky wilderness. The latest news received here from St. Vincent, continues the correspondent, says the number of dead there is supposed to reach 500, the majority of whom have not yet been buried.

NEW YORK, May 10.—The French Cable Company's offices in this city were advised that the French cable repair ship Grappier had been destroyed, and that the islanders were being transported to the island, the Suchet is hurrying back to Paris on the 8th of the Martinique disaster.

PARIS, May 11.—The minister of marine today received a cable despatch from the commander of the French cruiser Suchet, dated Port de France, Martinique, May 8, which reported that the town of St. Pierre was now a mere heap of smoking ruins, and that the victims of the catastrophe are being transported to the island, the Suchet is hurrying back to Paris on the 8th of the Martinique disaster.

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