

It Will Pay Shoppers to Read Times Christmas Advertisements

RESCUERS AFRAID TO WORK IN DARR MINE.

Fear Explosion From Fire In Mine.

May be Three Hundred Victims There

Wealthy Young Man Said to be a Victim.

Jacobs Creek, Pa., Dec. 21.—In the short distance that the rescuers were to penetrate the Darr mine, the mine of Thursday's awful explosion, last night, half a dozen bodies were found and brought to the surface making the total number that has reached the morgue up to this morning, 12. A number of others it is said, have been located.

While a vast amount of work was done during the night, not much progress was made towards the entries in which the great mass of bodies are entombed.

There is a strong suspicion by the waves of hot air, that are said to come from that direction, that a fierce fire is already raging far back in the workings, and if the flames should reach the deposits of coal dust known to lie in the rooms nothing could prevent a new catastrophe with the would-be rescuers for victims. Company officials have ordered that exploring parties shall advance only as fast as the passage way can be cleared of gas, ventilated and otherwise made safe.

So bad is the general idea of the conditions in the mine that contrary to all precedents in mine disaster there is no enthusiasm over joining the rescuing parties. Few volunteer for the service and those who do enter are exercising the greatest caution.

While what appears to be the most reliable estimates on the number of victims are near 200, there are many who insist that the final list of dead will contain many more names. Conspicuous among these are Michael Hallahy, National organizer for the United Mine Workers of America, who has assumed charge here for the organization. Mr. Hallahy says: "I have made a house-to-house canvass among the families here and am certain that there are 300 dead men in the Darr mine."

One of the most serious difficulties encountered—one that may explain the seeming delay in bringing bodies to the surface—is to get the bodies across the river to their former homes. The only direct means of communication between the two points is the "sky ferry" used by the miners. This is a basket car, travelling on a cable, will not hold a casket alone not to mention the men that would have to accompany it to propel the car.

Evidence of much suffering and distress among those dependent upon the victims has already been disclosed and steps have been taken to organize relief committees.

James E. Roderick, chief of the State Department of Mining, has ordered the nine mine inspectors of the state to meet him here today, to assist in rescue work and to investigate the cause of the explosion.

Clark Adams, said to be the son of wealthy and indulgent parents, living in New York, a young man just out of his teens is said to have met death in the mine. Three months ago Adams sought employment as a day hand at the mines. He intended to leave for the east next Sunday. His body has not yet been recovered, but a summons has been sent to his parents.

AT CONSERVATORY.

Happy Affair for the Junior Pupils Yesterday.

A most enjoyable children's party was given yesterday afternoon by the faculty of the Hamilton Conservatory of Music for the junior pupils of the school. About three hundred boys and girls were present, and enjoyed music and games. Songs were sung by the pupils, led by Mr. James Johnson, after a grand march through the institution.

Mr. C. R. McCullough, President of the Conservatory, addressed them, and presented to Miss Constance Turnbull, pupil of Miss Sadie Fraser, the medal donated by the directors for the highest standing in the higher theory examinations of last year.

The Misses Mary Cahill, Cora Lawton, Anna Hittoroth, Helen MacFarlane, Edna McKelvie, Lottie Clover, Marion Wickock, Bella Young and Masters Victor Mueller and Otto Mueller were presented with the official gold chief pin of the Conservatory, in appreciation for their assistance in interesting new pupils in the work of the Conservatory.

The teachers were assisted by Mrs. Bruce Carey and Misses Reitta Bartmann, Marjorie Davis, Ethel Barnard and Nettie Morton in looking after their young charges.

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES. To rent at \$2 a year and upwards, for the storing of deeds, bonds, stocks, wills and other valuables. TRADERS BANK OF CANADA.

BIG FIRE

Baltimore Has Quarter of a Million Blaze To-day.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 21.—A fire of threatening proportions broke out about 3.30 o'clock this morning in the five-story building at 325 West Baltimore street, and was not checked until damage of nearly a quarter of a million dollars had been effected.

THE CONGO.

Opposition to the Belgian Plan of Annexation.

Brussels, Dec. 21.—A meeting yesterday of the "Commission of Seventeen" brought out the strength of the opposition to the Government's plan for the annexation of the Congo. President of the Chamber of Deputies Schoolart headed those demanding a clearer explanation of the true significance of the annexation scheme.

M. Bernart, formerly Minister of State, attacked the financial aspect of the scheme.

M. Woerter, speaking on behalf of the Government, said the bill certainly would be rejected, which was regrettable, as the Ministry would fall, entailing the very greatest of consequences.

MAKING A HIT.

The Frank E. Walker Co.'s Methods Being Appreciated.

The Frank E. Walker Company's advertisement on page 10 of this issue is a credit to the enterprising firm it represents. This great instalment house has been like a veritable bee hive all week, accommodating their old customers and hundreds of new ones. At Walker's the humble artisan and the wealthy citizen get the same consideration, and both know every wrinkle of the trade. Walker's announcement is a pictorial beauty, but it is more—a money saver—and the man or woman who wants to give something that will ensure satisfaction should call and see the stock. There is nothing better than a Morris chair, sideboard, dining room set, parlor suite, extension table, stove, washing machine, or, in fact, and house furnishing handled by Walker, that will give wife or mother greater pleasure. The Golden Rule policy inaugurated by this great firm years ago is a great advantage in case of sickness, and the fraternal benefits derived are the talk of prudent buyers. Walker's furniture, carpet and stove store, opposite the Terminal Station, is open evenings. Read Walker's announcement and call to-day.

DUFF'S BEEF

And His Christmas Poultry are Magnificent.

When one looks over the magnificent stock of turkeys, poultry and Christmas beef at the Duff Stores Company's splendid big store on York street—216 and 218—one is apt to wonder how such a stock could be gathered together. The solution is simple. The Duff firm has been in successful business 40 years, and knows every wrinkle of the trade. The Christmas stock has been gathered from among the very best feeders in Canada. It includes two fine Durham grades from Ralph Hewins & Son, Mountaburg, weighing 1,100 pounds each, and a Durham grade heifer and steer each weighing 1,300. These were handled by Wm. Cairns, of Waterdown, a 12-month Durham steer, weighing 1,000, from John Miller, of Nelson; a very fine Durham grade from David King, of Clappison's Corners; a two-year-old heifer from M. Coulson, of Nelson, and a similar one from J. W. Robinson, of the same place; two extra fine Herefords, heifer and steer, each weighing 1,350 pounds, from Alfred Hanley, of Ancaster, and other prime beef. Mr. Duff does not keep a record of all his breeders, feeders and haulers of all his turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese, but he knows they cannot be beaten in all Canada for quality, and he has a stock that will make prime poultry for Christmas available for all households.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS.

The following Hamilton candidates have passed the civil service qualifying examinations: Raymond J. Carlin, D. J. Dowling, Ernest Greene, Wm. F. Locke, Grace E. McFie, Jas. L. Mitchell, Norman J. Robinson.

—Rev. Richard Whiting will occupy the pulpit of Centenary Church to-morrow, his morning subject being "The True Imperialism," and the evening a special sermon to young people on "The Influence of Sport." Appropriate musical services by the choir, with organ recital after the evening service.

TEA TABLE GOSSIP.

—Miss Moore left last evening for New York. —The Right House will be open to-night until 10 o'clock. —Mr. P. D. Carso, who underwent an operation in the City Hospital, is progressing favorably.

—Mr. George Bristol left last evening for North Carolina to spend Christmas with Mrs. Bristol. —Rev. S. H. Russell, of Dhar, India, will preach in Knox Church to-morrow morning.

—The demand for the Times Christmas number this year has been immense and only a few copies left. Call. —Relief Officer McMenemy wishes to thank Joseph Mills & Son for a donation of several dozen of men's caps.

—Mr. James Leslie was operated on in the City Hospital yesterday for appendicitis. He is doing very well, indeed. —The Salvation Army Band has been favoring the east enders these beautiful moonlight nights with strains of music.

—The 1908 calendar of the Federal Life is a handsome affair, with a beautiful picture of their sky-scraper building in this city. —Rev. S. B. K. Rutman, M. A., a native of India, will preach on "New India" in St. John Presbyterian Church, Sunday evening.

—Joseph F. (Councillor) Smith, of Ancaster, and his daughter Elda, have gone to Lorain, Ohio, to spend the Christmas holidays. —Superintendent Rae of the House of Refuge, wishes to thank the Grocers' Picnic Committee for a donation of \$10, for the inmates of the institution.

—The Infants Home is an institution deserving of kindly remembrance at this Christmas season. In distributing your gifts do not forget the children. —Mr. George J. Findlay, of the W. E. Sanford Manufacturing Co., Winnipeg, is spending the Christmas holidays in this city, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Muir.

—The Wesley Choir held a social evening after choir practice on Friday night and presented Mr. W. Paekman with a handsome umbrella in appreciation of his services to the choir. —An unknown lady was knocked unconscious at noon to-day and had her head cut open by an icicle falling from a roof of one of the stores on the north side of Merrick street.

—Rev. Mr. Dimmick, once pastor in Hamilton, but for many years a resident of Manitoba, has returned to Ontario, and purchased a farm near Copper Hill, where he will reside in the future. —G. H. Mann, D. C. M. of the I. O. O. F., made an official visit to the Caledonia Lodge last evening. He was accompanied by G. O. Luke, secretary. Caledonia Lodge has arranged for a public installation in January. The lodge's prospects are bright.

—The fireman at the Cecil Hotel threw some rubbish over the top of the furnace this morning, and shortly after 9 o'clock the fire department was called to the Hotel as they had caught fire. There was much smoke, but little damage.

... .. waugh's men's furnishings and hats post office opposite the right place to get your Christmas presents.

—Tenders for the construction of a waterworks system for the Beach are to be in not later than Wednesday, January 1. The system is to include motor, pumps, tanks, pipes, hydrants, valves, etc. Plans and specifications are to be seen at the Beach Commissioners' office, room 39, Federal Life.

—The Officers' Mess of the Seventy-seventh Regiment, Wentworth, has sent out Christmas greetings in the form of a very neat card, bearing on the crest of the regiment, surrounded by a wreath of embossed holly on the front page. A message of greeting and a group picture of the Mess at Niagara Camp last year, on the inside pages, and the names of all the officers on the back.

—John Organ will probably be arrested in Buffalo shortly on the charge of deserting his wife. He is the barber who went away and left his wife destitute shortly after he had married her. He was gone about a month when Detective Huckle discovered his whereabouts from a letter sent here asking for money from a friend. He is said to be in very poor circumstances himself.

BORN AT SEA.

Canadian Missionary Mother Dies on the Ocean.

New York, Dec. 21.—The World to-day says: Born at sea, off the west coast of Africa, Ruth Lang, thirteen days old, arrived here yesterday on the Mauretania. Her mother and father were missionaries at Noutun, Nigeria. A few days before the baby's birth, Mrs. Lang sailed on the Falata for Bristol, Eng., on her way to her parents' home in Canada. Half way to Bristol Ruth was born.

The mother died without seeing the child. Another woman missionary on board volunteered to bring the child home to America. Since landing she has notified the little one's grandparents in Toronto, and looks for them to come for her.

If You are Up Town

Don't fail to pay us a visit. See the many tempting things we have to offer; everything you can think of that will help make your Christmas dinner a success. It's impossible in the small space to give you the faintest idea of the magnitude of our stock. Christmas stockings filled with toys, Christmas crackers filled with paper caps, bonnets, games, etc., in endless variety. Bain & Adams, 89-91 King street east.

A GOOD MOVE.

To Facilitate the Hearing of Liquor Cases.

The present method of procedure in liquor cases in the Police Court is, to say the least, rather irksome, as the Magistrate is compelled to take all the evidence down in longhand. The cases now in progress show just how much time is lost, only three of the cases have been finished in an all-day session. S. F. Washington, K. C. Crown Attorney, and George Lynch-Staunton, K. C., both commented on this yesterday, and arranged to submit a section to amend the Act at the next session of the Legislature, providing that shorthand reports be sufficient, as made by the Police Court clerk.

Mr. Staunton intends to present the clause personally, to see that it does not go on the shelf.

A Great Number

Everybody says that the Times Christmas Number is the best of the many good ones ever published. The illustrations and color work are of the best, and what is perhaps better the reading matter is of the kind to interest readers at this season of the year. The familiar Christmas stories are all bright and seasonable—not a poor one in the lot.

The sales of our Christmas number have been enormous, far beyond our expectations. There are still a few copies for sale, but as they will soon go, those wishing copies should call early.

NELLIGAN CHARGES

At Last Dropped by Trades and Labor Council.

Very little business was transacted at the regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council last night, and nearly all of it was of a private nature. The Council, on motion, decided to drop the Nelligan charges. Very little was said about it, and some of the members were glad to hear the last of it.

The Trades Council this year will take no part in the municipal elections, as a body. The matter of labor candidates will be dealt with by the new Independent Labor party.

FLYING CLUB.

Germans to Organize a Great Aeronauts' Club.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—As striking evidence of the growing interest in aerial navigation, a proposition has been accepted by an important gathering of aeronauts to form, under the patronage of Emperor William, a great German aeronauts' club. It is intended to take over the dirigible airship Parseval, and conduct experiments with it, and also with all kinds of flying machines and heavier-than-air apparatus, trials with which hitherto have been confined to flights of miniature models.

Prince Ernst Sachsen-Altenburg has been offered the presidency of the new club.

TARTE'S FUNERAL.

Three Sons Chief Mourners—Sir Wilfrid Present.

Montreal, Dec. 21.—The funeral of the late Hon. J. Israel Tarte took place this morning, and was one of the largest seen in this city for a long time. The remains were taken to the church of St. Louis de France, where the service took place. Mr. Tarte's three sons were the chief mourners. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and a number of Ministers came down from Ottawa to be present.

Get a Copy of the Christmas Number of The Times Just Out In wrappers ready for mailing 3c Two Copies 5c

The Man In Overalls

Only two more days to get your purchases.

I like that children's hospital scheme.

If we get a board of control, will it just be paying big salaries to three or four aldermen?

The York Loan money won't be here in time for Santa Claus.

Was your name on the honor roll? How's that?

But Mr. Beck should go before the North End Improvement Society and deliver that speech. He would have to show it or step down.

Is Aid Anderson the only alderman to drop out? Or has he changed his mind?

Apparently "newspaper talk" doesn't count for much over at the City Hall.

Now that the Mayor can read his title clear to another year in the chair, it's harder than ever to get along with him.

I suppose the Grits will be allowed to pay taxes when the City Council is "under Tory control."

The Times' great Christmas Number is nearly all sold out. Call early for copies.

Then again, of course, the proposed Board of Control would have to be "under Tory control."

No doubt the store clerks will be glad when it is all over.

A few of the Times Christmas numbers are still for sale.

After all, there is something that tells me that those money-by-laws are not to be carried.

The workmen now understand that it is the Tory organizations that are flooding the labor market.

This has been a busy week for the lawyers, inter alia, a profitable one.

Our Christmas number this year has caught the public fancy, and the edition is almost sold out. A few copies only left.

This is a free country. You can be an aldermanic candidate without asking permission of the Conservative Executive, no matter how much it insists.

The reason given by Colonel Hendrie and Mr. Beck for taking the Electric Development Company by the throat is that that company refused to give the Government a supply of power to be used in competition against that company in Toronto.

After last night's meeting will any one say how much power will cost, under the Hydro-Electric System?

ONLY TWO MORE DAYS

For Christmas Shopping—Do Yours in the Morning.

Only two more days. No time to lose. Better pin your faith to a tried and trusted store like The Right House. A store of character and quality, where you know values and qualities are right. You will save time, worry and money if you take every possible Christmas number to your dependable old store. And remember your friends will appreciate gifts that come from The Right House most because of their unquestioned quality and style supremacy. The Right House announces a continuation of the "Just before Christmas" sales of reliable and sensible practical gift goods. Get your share.

The store will be open until 10 o'clock to-night. Take a walk through and see the greatest Christmas stocks Hamilton has ever seen.

ALEXANDRA SCHOOL

Interesting Closing Exercises Held Yesterday Afternoon.

Christmas closing exercises in Alexandra School yesterday afternoon were attended by a large gathering of the friends and parents. The entertainment proved most enjoyable. It consisted of two sketches and a miscellaneous programme, as follows:

- "Canada," a patriotic sketch: Canada ... Miss Dorothy Hobson Indian ... Miss Marjorie Cameron Canadian French ... Miss Dorothy Payne English ... Miss Beatrice Brown Irish ... Miss Phyllis Henderson U. E. Loyalist ... Miss Marjorie McLaren German ... Miss Irene Moodle "The Toys' Rebellion" Mr. Neash ... Master Willie Sexton Paris Doll ... Miss Margaret Champ Wax Doll ... Miss Ottilie Birge Rag Doll ... Miss Helen Tyrrell Scrap-Book Fairy Miss Francis Lumsden Sailor Boy ... Master Norman Bethune French Doll ... Miss Lorna Somerville The Soldier ... Master Tom McIlwraith Dinah ... Miss Marion Forrester Jumping Jack ... Master Jim White Walking Doll ... Miss Isabel Cahill Children—Misses Phyllis Henderson, Dorothy Payne, Kathleen Cahill, Marion White, Jessie Moodle, Nellie Sexton. The rest of the programme was: Carol—Good King Wenceslas ... School Piano solo—Mimmet ... Lillian Dummet Vocal solo—Daddy ... Dorothy Payne Report of the school ... Miss Webster Recitation ... Tom McIlwraith Piano solo ... Kathleen Cahill Canada ... Senior Girls Accompanist, Miss Marjorie Insole

READY TO OFFER FOR MUNICIPAL PLANT.

HONOR FOR JOHN S.

Decoration of Commander of Royal Victorian Order.

London, Dec. 21.—His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon Col. Hon. John S. Hendrie of Hamilton Ontario, President of the Canadian Artillery Association, and member of the Ontario Cabinet without portfolio, the decoration of Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. This is the third class of the order, and ranks above the C. B.

14TH WIFE DEAD.

And Now the Fourteen Wives are all in Cemetery.

New York, Dec. 21.—Martha Maria Vann, the fourteenth wife of James Nicholas Vann, of Mount Hope, Orange County, is dead and will be laid beside the thirteen other wives in the Vann family burial ground at Mount Hope to-day, according to the Sun.

James Nicholas Vann is one of the most remarkable characters in Orange County. He was born in Mount Hope Township on April 22, 1807, and is therefore over 100 years old.

Although he is colored, Vann's fourteen wives have all been white, and he expressed distaste for women of his own race. He has been a body servant to some of the most prominent men in Orange County. He has preached, doctored and studied law, but is now getting so feeble as to be hardly able to get around. Many years ago his biography was published, and had a large sale.

NO SQUADRONS.

Britain Not to Have One in Pacific or Atlantic.

London, Dec. 2.—The Associated Press is in a position to say, on the authority of the British Admiralty, that there is no truth in the assertion, published in the Standard to-day, that the Admiralty has decided to establish next May a Pacific and North American squadron, the base of which probably will be at Esquimaux.

"There is no shadow of foundation for this story; it is the veriest buncombe; it must be obvious to any one who gives the subject a moment's thought that such a move would be the last thing we would think of at the present moment," was the statement made by one of the highest officials of the Admiralty.

The emphasis of this denial indicates that the Admiralty was anxious that the report should be promptly put at rest, with the view of allaying any suspicion that might be aroused in America connecting the alleged formation of a British Pacific fleet with the sailing of the American battleship fleet.

Smokers' Christmas Presents.

South African Calabash pipes, tobacco pouches, walking canes, cigar holders, meerschaum pipes, cigar cases, tobacco jars. Everything for the smoker at the pipe store, 107 King street east, the headquarters for smokers' goods.

LEAGUE'S SPOTTERS ARE MAKING A POOR SHOWING.

Guzzlers Themselves, and Their Methods Disapproved of by Magistrate.

At the afternoon session of the Police Court yesterday the spotters of the Citizens' League got another bump, when one of the hotelmen who was found guilty, was told he would not have to pay a fine, in all probability, and another case was adjourned till Monday for the Magistrate to think over, after he had shown that he does not approve of the spotters' doubtful ways of getting a man to break the law. Section 61 of the Liquor Act states that in a case where the complainant or chief witness in a liquor case has been shown to have endeavored to make the defendant break the law no conviction is to be registered. Magistrate Jelfs stated yesterday afternoon that he was strongly against such methods. The liquor cases are proceeding slowly, only three having been disposed of. The rest will stand until Monday. The first case taken up yesterday afternoon was that of George Case, proprietor of the Armory Hotel, who, through George Lynch-Staunton, pleaded not guilty to disposing of liquor during prohibited hours, on Nov. 25.

Frederick McCreas, erstwhile bartender, present whiskey spotter, was first called. He said that he had been struck down

in the afternoon of the same day, and went to the Armory Hotel at night, where they had a drink or two, engaged rooms, and then went out with the rest of the crowd at 11 o'clock. "Later they went back, about 11.20, he thought, and asked for their grips of Mr. Case, who sent the bartender to get them and to take them to their rooms. When they were going up they asked the bartender to get them a drink of beer, which he did, bringing them two bottles of lager. Cross-examined by Mr. Staunton, the witness denied that he was drunk, but admitted having had a good deal of liquor during the day. He said he worked in the Britannia Hotel, London, five months ago, as a bartender. "You would take any job, languier or anything else, wouldn't you?" queried Mr. Staunton. "Yes; it would give me great pleasure to hang you if I got a chance," smiled McCreas. Witness admitted drinking in the Athletic Hotel previous to that, but said he was perfectly sober. He also admitted drinking in Goldberg's Hotel, on the road up from the boat. Mr. Staunton asked regarding the side door, if it was locked or not, and the witness replied that he did not try the door, but just knocked, as it was after hours. "Why didn't you try it?" asked Mr. Staunton. "Continued on page 16."