

THE AMBITION OF THE ARCHDUKE

RISE IN POWER OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

His Ambition to Found Great Eastern Empire Like His Forefathers Ruled

(By Robert A. White, Berlin Correspondent of the United Press.)

April 21.—Austria-Hungary's recent astonishingly rapid growth in importance, influence and power is beginning to cause Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany acute uneasiness.

Germany and Austria-Hungary are partners and Wilhelm naturally wants Germany's partner to be an efficient ally. At the same time, he wishes it distinctly understood that Germany is the head of the firm. Austria-Hungary's progress has been so astonishing of late that he is getting afraid it may develop what Americans call "swelled head" and undertake to reverse the present position.

While Kaiser Franz Josef of Austria lives there will be no such difficulty. Wilhelm can manage Austria-Hungary as he likes. At the age of 80, however, it cannot in the nature of things, be expected that Franz Josef will last much longer. Wilhelm fears he will not get on so well with Franz Josef's nephew and successor, the present archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Franz Ferdinand is what Teutons term a "half-German." The partnership between Germany and Austria-Hungary suits his purposes admirably. It suits him because it promotes Austro-Hungarian interests. Also because it promotes the interests of the Germanic peoples. For to do him justice, and to repeat what has already been stated—Franz Ferdinand is a "pan-German." His ambitions are broader than Austria-Hungary alone. He seeks the advancement of the interests of the entire Teutonic race.

But here is the difficulty—Franz Ferdinand considers himself the proprietor of the empire. He wishes to direct this advancement. Needless to say, Wilhelm has other ideas. His view is that he, Wilhelm, is the proper individual to do the directing.

It looks as if Franz Ferdinand would make a formidable proposition for even the masterful Wilhelm to handle. In two years, while still only heir to the throne, the archduke has altered the entire European political situation. At present he is the most feared and hated personage in the old world. And it is to be borne in mind that he has not yet attained to anything like what will soon be his full power. He is only what he ascends the Austro-Hungarian throne.

To most of his future subjects, as well as to the outside world, Franz Ferdinand is a mystery. His capabilities and qualities, his tastes and character, his intentions and programme are known to but a limited circle of acquaintances. To the rest of the world as did Edward VII, when he ascended the throne of England. In his youth he led a life of wildness exceptional even among royal princes. But as he approached middle age, he settled down. He had fallen in love with a poverty-stricken noblewoman who earned her living as lady-in-waiting to his cousin. Despite Franz Josef's strenuous opposition and in defiance of court etiquette, he married her. It was his influence which steadied him. At the same time, the marriage came as the first indication of the man's strength and obstinacy.

A few years ago he began to take an interest in European politics and to make his influence felt in the affairs of the country he will ultimately rule. Before long he became the chief power in the land, although working behind the scenes. He showed himself possessed of remarkable gifts as an organizer, a statesman, a soldier and a diplomat. His first important work was the complete reorganization of the army. Despite the unpopularity of the undertaking, which included the dismissal of every aged or inefficient officer in the service, he went straight through with it. When he was done the Austro-Hungarian military establishment was the best, in point of quality, in Europe. The archduke also showed remarkable talent in the choice of new men for positions of command. All his selections have turned out well.

Next he took a hand in international affairs. He wanted to become foreign minister, but as this was impossible, his nominee, Baron Aehrenthal, was appointed. Aehrenthal has been his puppet. Through him the archduke has come close to deposing Germany in Austria's favor as the paramount power in Europe.

His object now is to secure the Turkish port of Salonika as Austria-Hungary's southernmost outlet to the Mediterranean. The Austrian grab of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Turkey was a step in this direction. Franz Ferdinand accomplished it with the assistance of Germany. Germany has never had any desire to become involved in international entanglements arising from Balkan politics. Franz Ferdinand seized Wilhelm by the neck, however, and dragged him into them. For Germany the momentous aspect of the situation was that it could not resist. The alliance with Austria is essential to Germany's existence. Franz Ferdinand realizes this and is making the most of it.

It is things go on like this while the archduke is only heir to the throne. Wilhelm is asking his ministers, "what will he do as Kaiser?" Franz Ferdinand's supporters are ready with the answer. In the first place, they say, he means to make Vienna the owner in fee simple of all Europe. Berlin is to be outdone. The billions of eyes which have hitherto been turned on Berlin and Wilhelm's actions are to be shifted to Vienna and Franz Ferdinand's actions.

For this is a minor matter. Franz Ferdinand's real ambition is to restore the ancient glories of the empire over which his ancestors have ruled for seven centuries. He means to be the foremost monarch in the old world. Austria is to be the arbiter and dictator of European politics. To this end the army, already the second greatest numerically and the first in quality in the world, is to be greatly enlarged. A navy is to be built at least as powerful as Germany's.

Furthermore, the archduke means that his empire shall mock the final expulsion from Europe. Until he has planted the Austrian flag on the banks of the Bosphorus and created an Eastern empire of imposing magnitude and power, he will not consider his life's work accomplished.

To the rest of Europe a man with ambitions of this kind is looked on as nothing less than a public danger and Germany, in particular, contemplates his accession to the throne with feelings akin to horror.

ANDREW BAINES IS FOUND NOT GUILTY

Cheque Passer Pleads Guilty—Boy Thieves Are Dealt With

(From Friday's Daily.)

Magistrate Jay this morning found Andrew Baines not guilty on a charge of stealing carpenter's tools. The case had occupied several mornings and took up the time of the court this morning until 1.30, and was most intricate as to evidence for the prosecution and defence.

In coming to his conclusion the magistrate told the defendant that the practice of buying things from persons on the street or from a doubtful source was both foolish and dangerous.

Andrew Baines swore he bought the tools from a man outside the Fountain hotel towards the end of September last year. He brought into court a hammer and several nails which he said he purchased with the tools stolen from the prosecutor.

Martha and George Brett of the Fountain hotel swore the axe and hammer were stolen from them in February last year, and were in their possession at the time Baines alleged he purchased them. Brett later said he might possibly be mistaken in the axe.

George Roach, an employee of the gas works, George Sharpe Douglas, of the Silver Spring Brewery; D. S. Gray, from Sayward's mill; Robert Carter and Thomas C. Roach, from the Sidney mill, gave evidence as to the character of accused. He had worked at each place and been a faithful and reliable workman. Baines went into the witness box to prove his time-book claims he was working at Sidney at the time the robbery took place. The evidence of a witness from the mill at Sidney told of his having been at Sidney on the date the tools were stolen. Accused, however, returned to Victoria and stayed overnight on the 10th of August, and a witness gave evidence that they were together while accused was working at the city. The tools are alleged to have been stolen on August 10th. William Wilson gave evidence that Baines had in his possession an axe similar to the one in court at his home about five months ago.

George Theodore Shepard, a young Englishman, was charged with issuing a bad cheque at the King Edward Hotel, which accused had received. The cheque was not guilty to intend to defraud. He later pleaded guilty. He was remanded for sentence until Monday. There were five cheques altogether which accused had received money.

Nellie Anderson, charged with theft of \$60 from W. Chamberlin, was remanded until Monday. A charge against a saloonkeeper of supplying liquor to a man that had been placed under the Liquor Act was remanded until Tuesday.

The owner of a house in which the chimneys had not been cleaned for five years pleaded he learned from the Times newspaper only last night that the owner and not the tenant was liable. On Monday he will appear again, the case being remanded until then.

Three boys under 16 years of age were found guilty of stealing chickens. They were allowed to go on suspended sentence and will be sent to prison if they appear again before the court.

Three Indians, and Japanese and seven whites were fined for drunkenness.

GIRL KILLED BEFORE EYES OF HER FATHER

Eight-Year-Old Child Run Over by Automobile in Seattle

Seattle, Wash., April 22.—Running across the street to meet her father, David Watters, a laborer at Seventeenth avenue and East Union street, last night, eight-year-old Dorothy Watters was struck by a heavy speeding automobile and killed before his eyes. The machine was driven by William Lyons, a nephew of Dr. J. H. Lyons, prominent in local politics, the owner of the automobile. The driver saw the little girl and threw on the brakes, but the momentum carried the heavy machine on and it slid ahead 15 feet after striking her.

REFERENDUM IN AUSTRALIA.

Sydney, N. S. W., April 22.—The final results of the general election give the labor party a majority of ten seats in the Senate and of thirteen in the House of Representatives. In regard to the two questions submitted by the referendum, the proposal that the commonwealth take over the states' debts was re-affirmed, but the second proposal, respecting financial relations between commonwealth and states was rejected.

In birds, the normal temperature is 110-112 degrees Fahrenheit—a temperature fatal for human beings.

MARK TWAIN PASSES AWAY

(Continued from page 2.)

Mark Twain's death removes from the international field of letters the creator of American literary humor, and one of its most distinguished literary statesmen.

With his passing the people of the world—a militant and persuasive doer of things alike—have lost a gentle, sympathetic friend and a fearless champion. For almost 70 years he lived, and for two-score he numbered his admirers by figures that rival the census of the enlightened world.

He drew his personal friends from every condition of life and held them steadfastly by his engaging, wholesome personality and earnest understanding. Snatched from the obscurity of his gentle birth by fickle fortune, he reared in the university of the world to become the master of wholesome humor. Mark Twain retained to the last his delicate distinction of light and shade, giving to the world its dearest smiles and drawing from it its most willing, sympathetic tears. For withal his humor the public eye has seen no happy life punctuated with dark sorrow. He had known every travail of the soul, and few there are whose spirit of sound humor would have survived such tribulations of a whimsical and cruel fate.

It was the same man who gave this message to an anxious world: "Rumors of my death are largely exaggerated." He who subsequently described his health as "not ruggedly well but not ill enough to excite an undertaker," and who on return from Bermuda, two days before his death, wrote to his favorite daughter Jean, the day before last Christmas, confirmed the belief of the newspaper reporters who met him at the gangplank with this discouraging statement: "My active work in this life and for the world is done. I shall write no more books nor attempt new work."

How marvellous a smile was one of amiable sadness. His cheeks were hollow and furrowed, and his gait was shuffling and uncertain, as if tired almost unto death.

The next day, 12 hours before his untimely death, his daughter Jean made public this statement at the instance of her father:

"I heard the newspapers say I am dying. The charge is not true. I would do no such thing at my time of life. I am behaving as well as I can. Merry Christmas to everybody."

How marvellous a smile was one of amiable sadness. His cheeks were hollow and furrowed, and his gait was shuffling and uncertain, as if tired almost unto death.

The hour-hand had travelled but once around the clock before the daughter's confident, companion and amanuensis—was found dead in her bath at their country home, "Stormfield," Redding, Conn. Her last act had been the preparation of a mammoth Christmas tree.

The shock which transformed the Christmas symbols into a bitter-herb shrine of his last earthly joys, completed the wreck made possible by the ravages of time.

Recalling the statement of the previous evening which mocked the rumors of his death, the author ventured pitifully that "the punishment is more than the act merited," and settled back into a silent, stoic conflict with his latest grief. That his health declined gradually from this cause, he never admitted, and Mark Twain himself did not deny it.

In 1835 while there were less than a million white inhabitants in the great West of the Mississippi, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born. It was November 30th, and the scene of his nativity was a humble cabin at Florida, Mo., which at that time marked the extreme fringe of frontier settlement. His parents were John Marshall Clemens of Virginia and his good wife, who was Jane Lambert of Kentucky.

The father was a lineal descendant of Gregory Clement, one of the three judges who condemned to death Charles I. Clement, excepted from the general amnesty following the restoration, lost his head in consequence.

John Clemens, the forebear, stayed with Daniel Boone on the "dark and bloody ground"—the scene of his birth 29 years after the building of the first log cabin within the present confines of the United States. Even the name is famous as a hot-house of feminine beauty Jane Lambert became known as one of the most beautiful and brilliant belles of her time in the Bluegrass state.

Clemens' parents, victims of the wanderlust, left their small property in Lexington for a new home at Jamestown on the Cumberland river in Tennessee. Next they travelled to Missouri, passing St. Louis, then a city of 10,000 souls, for what seemed to them a land of brighter promise. They settled at Florida, a hamlet, described by the author in later years as "the settlement that just divides the desert from the sown."

It was there that the future Mark Twain was born, and here it was also that he first encountered that capricious Fate, which at the age of three years foretold the anomalies of his career.

His father, an absent-minded soul—wearied of the scant opportunities afforded by his surroundings—migrated from Florida without thought of the home baggage he carried and he cooed in the delightful occupation of mud-pie making in the sand garden, oblivious to the disappearance of the household cavalcade across the sky line. Two or three hours later a relative found the complacent youngster overtaken by the waves on the road to Hannibal, and reminded them in no uncertain terms of the consequences of such carelessness. Who knows but this incident was the turning point in "little Samuel's" life—the influence that set in motion that remorseless pendulum of Fate?

The father served for some years as magistrate in Hannibal, was elected county judge, but died in 1847 without assuming office. His death marked the end of the youth's systematic education which had previously been indifferent owing to his unstable health. A brother's print shop became his high school. At intervals, shortly after he was 12 years old, he edited the little newspaper to the amazement of the

subscribers and the discomfiture of the elder brother whose responsibility as publisher bore the brunt of hostile complaints against the "personal journalism" of the juvenile.

Time and again in leisure hours the boy was fished out of the river almost drowned, but the fond mother, out of her utter confidence in his future, would risk each leap. "It is no matter," she said, "One who is born to be hanged is surely safe in the water."

Stricken with a sudden fit of inherited wanderlust, young Clemens disappeared from Hannibal, Mo., by this time he was accounted a fit itinerant typesetter. By dint of hard work and the saving of money for travelling expenses he saw the world's fair at New York and visited all the eastern cities, but was finally compelled, by financial stress, to seek cover near home.

At Keokuk he apprenticed himself to the printer, but to the inner mysteries of steamboat piloting. Those were the days when the wheelemen of Mississippi river packets were accounted the joy and perplexity of frontier towns. They carried guns and fought their way by a singular code of honor up and down the mystic river, famed for its habits of cheating beds over night. In "Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn," "Pudd'n Head Wilson" and "Life on the Mississippi," Mark Twain has immortalized every incident of this vanishing estate as it dwelt upon lovingly.

In the midst of this phase of his career the civil war was declared, and the born slaveholder, passing the youth piloted his boat through the blockades to the north and joined the confederate army. This army experience lasted two weeks, when he resigned, assigning the cause of "inadequate pay by fatigue through persistent recapturing."

Returning to Hannibal he joined his brother, Orion, who had accepted the position of chief secretary of the new territory of Nevada. Samuel accepted the private secretaryship, which his brother explained was "a good job, with nothing to do and no salary."

At Virginia City young Clemens assumed the duties of a pilot, and the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise, and was finally engaged as legislative correspondent at Carson City. These letters he first signed the name "Mark Twain," which he adopted from the old Mississippi river term for a two-fathom sounding.

One of his barbed literary shafts struck a vital spot in the emotions of Editor of the Los Angeles Union. The latter proposed a duel as a salve to his honor. Colt's revolvers being the only available weapons, Twain sought out the proposed duelling grounds, and a sexton and an undertaker. The combination is air-tight and once a man is stricken in our district escape is impossible."

His humor seems to have been something apart from himself, for he has retained many times that he was born inwardly serious. The humor was but the froth of his deeper thought. It bubbled out in quaint, irresistible phrases without effort.

The character of his philosophy has never changed. Whether he has fought in the buoyant certainty of victory or in the resigned expectation of defeat, he has always been the same side. He has been the consistent enemy of injustice and oppression.

The fighting spirit endured to the last. Although address dissolved the humor, he was never without it. The author lent his voice to the cause of woman's suffrage only two days before the death of his daughter Jean. In fact, it synchronized his message to the world that his work was done.

PIONEER OF PROVINCE HAS PASSED AWAY

James Boyd Was Identified With Early Days in the Cariboo District

(From Friday's Daily.)

There passed away last night at 834 Pandora avenue, in the person of Jas. Boyd, one of the old time pioneers of this province. Deceased was a carpenter by trade but has been living a retired life for many years. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, and had reached the advanced age of 80 years. Mr. Boyd came to this province in 1860, being attracted here by the Cariboo gold. He went to that district and was successful in accumulating a competency, which he spent several years in the Cariboo he came to Victoria where he has resided ever since. He was well known throughout this city. He was unmarried and had no relatives in British Columbia.

The funeral has been arranged to take place on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the B. C. Funeral Company's parlors, Government street, and will be conducted at 2:30 o'clock. Interment will be made in Ross Bay cemetery.

Ottawa, April 22.—The following bills were given third reading in the Commons yesterday: To correct a clerical error in the French Conventions Act; to amend the Land Titles Act; to amend the Royal Military College Act; to authorize the sale of public lands and for the acquisition of other lands in the vicinity of Toronto; to provide for the lifting of glassware used in connection with milk tests; to amend the Customs and Excise Act, respecting the payment of bounties on lead contained in lead-bearing ores mined in Canada; to protect the production of zinc; to amend the act respecting the national battlefields at Quebec, respecting the trust and loan companies of Canada; respecting the British Northwest Fire Insurance Company; to incorporate the James Bay & Eastern Railway Company.

COAL LANDS WITHDRAWN.

Washington, D. C., April 22.—Secretary Ballinger announces that he had withdrawn from entry 18,600,000 acres of land in southern Montana because he believed the coal was of poor quality. The area withdrawn is twice that of the known coal fields in Alaska, said Ballinger.

the impress of its owner's personality, grew to be the mecca of literary idols from the four quarters of the globe, as well as the shrine of every striving student. Here came also the wealthy and the poor, the actor and the artisan, the hunter and the artist. The hospitality was infinite and the neighbors found a welcome always.

It was in the library of this home on his 70th birthday that Samuel L. Clemens interviewed Mark Twain for the enlightenment of his friends throughout the world. That the process was unique detracted not a whit from the revelation of his private nature. He admitted that it had been his desire to be handsome.

"I am as I was made," said he. "This is a disaster which I cannot help."

"Many people think I am a happy man, but I am not; it is because my portraits do me justice. I have a highly organized and sensitive constitution and an educated taste in esthetics and I cannot abide a portrait which is too particular. I do the artist no harm, yet he always exercises this wanton and malicious rankness upon my portrait. I should like to be drawn once before I reach 70 again, as I should look if I had been made right instead of carelessly."

A little more than a year ago Mark Twain was criticized for smoking a cigar while waiting for the final ceremony conferring upon him the doctor's degree at Oxford, Eng. One, more incident as proof of Mark Twain's deplorable character.

"The doctor has the best of me this time," was the author's amiable reply. "But he cannot attribute all my crimes and misdoings to the excessive use of tobacco. There are about forty other causes, and tobacco will have to bear only one-fourth part of the blame."

Last year Mark Twain appeared as a guest of honor of the New York post-graduate medical school, of which he was elected an honorary director. He was clad in his "angel clothes," as he termed them—a dress suit of spotless white—a matchless setting for the luxuriant silver hair. He was at his best, although far past his allotted "six score years and ten."

"Sedding was thinly settled when I went there, and since I have engaged in practice it has become more thinly settled still. This gratifies me as indicating that I am making some impression on the community."

"Of course the practice of medicine and surgery in a remote country has its disadvantages, but in my case I am happy in a division of responsibility. I practice in conjunction with a doctor, a sexton and an undertaker. The combination is air-tight and once a man is stricken in our district escape is impossible."

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TURBULENT SCENES IN BRITISH COMMONS

Debate of T. P. O'Connor's Motion Results in an Uproar

London, April 22.—Memories of the turbulent scenes of Parnell's time were revived in the House of Commons last night during the discussion of a motion by T. P. O'Connor to reduce the civil service estimates by \$4,500, the amount of Sir Robert Anderson's pension.

In an autobiographical article, Sir Robert Anderson admitted authorship of the famous "Parnellism and Chime" series of articles which appeared in 1887, and culminated in the publication of the Piggott forgery.

Mr. Balfour, leader of the opposition, agreed at last night's session, but Premier Asquith and Mr. Churchill, as home secretary, declined to interfere to deprive him of his pension.

The debate was proceeding quietly but with acerbity on the part of the Nationalists, one of whom declared that Sir Robert's articles were an attempt to revive old charges against the Nationalists in order to help the Tories in the coming election, when the Right Hon. James Henry Campbell, member for Dublin University, referred to the Phoenix Park murders and the Piggott letter in terms that excited the highest resentment from the Irish benches.

There were loud demands for Mr. Campbell to withdraw his offensive expressions. The chairman, declining to interfere, a perfect uproar ensued. Mr. Redmond shouting "It is an outrage," while others cried "Send for the Speaker." The chairman and the secretary of war, Mr. Haldane, vainly appealed to the House to allow Mr. Campbell to continue his speech.

The pandemonium was renewed on the Nationalist benches when the speaker, Mr. Campbell, who shouted "Piggott," "Dublin Castle," "We won't stand it," and cheered for Parnell.

The scene was continued for several minutes and finally the searching moved closure, and Mr. O'Connor's motion was rejected by a vote of 161 to 94.

EVIDENCE CLOSED IN OLIPHANT VERSUS CITY

Case Has Been a Long One in Hearing—Witnesses for the City

The hearing of the city's case in the damage suit of Oliphant vs. City of Victoria was continued this morning before Mr. Justice Gregory, and closed soon after lunch. The arguments of counsel will be heard later. The case has taken an exceptionally long time for the taking of evidence.

Col. T. H. Tracy, city engineer of Vancouver, was again in the witness box and testified as to the Mohun tunnel, which had been spoken of at Clover Point was insufficient to carry off the sewage, and that as a consequence the water backed up two feet in height above the dock-sill. Two discharge pipes from the chamber into which the sewer discharged were only capable of carrying one-half of the capacity of the sewer.

To the court, Col. Tracy said that in his opinion the Suttie street outlet should be closed. The effect of a five-inch rainfall in 24 hours would be to surcharge the sewers.

George Hargreaves, the veteran land surveyor and engineer, was called, but did not prove a good witness for the city. He had never found any error in the tide tables nor any tides rising higher than the tables stated.

William Clarke, foreman on sewer work, described the construction of the sewer on Cook street.

Edward H. Henley, who has lived in the vicinity for many years, said the land where Mr. Oliphant's property lies has been flooded every winter for years. The pond known as King's pond was always there, and there was another pond which had been spoken of in this case as Cameron's pond, known before then as Brown's pond, and before that again as Porter's pond, existing back to the first settlers.

J. W. Akerman, caretaker at the outlet of the sewer, said he had had to wade into the concrete house on two occasions through water about four feet deep.

John E. Jeffcott, chief engineer at the Esquimalt dry dock, put in a report on the observed tides last November. On November 27th the tide was 29 feet 1 inch above the dock-sill. Next day it was 29 feet 7 inches, and on the 29th 29 feet 11 inches. The tide maintained its height as a fairly high tide.

Henry Ware, a civic employee, was sent to the Clover Point outlet at the time of the heavy rain in November. He found the water almost up to the level of the floor of the chamber.

Edward Mohun, C. E., was recalled by Mr. Akman just before adjournment in reference to Col. Tracy's statement that the outlet pipes at Clover Point were too small for the capacity of the sewer. Mr. Mohun denied this. The calculations had been made carefully and checked with the tide gauge. Mr. Wilmot agreed with him. From 1898 to 1899 the sewer system worked without any trouble or fault.

F. Napier Denison gave evidence after lunch to the actual height of the tide at Clover Point on the dates of the flooding.

SHIP BRAKE.

Philadelphia, April 22.—The United States battleship Indiana returned to the navy yard yesterday after a five days' test of the brake which it is claimed will help in the quick stopping of the ship. Capt. Thomas, who came from Washington to observe the vessel, said the brake worked successfully, the Indiana being stopped in half its length when going at a good speed. The brake, which is the invention of a Canadian, is attached to each side of a ship and is operated from the engine room.

EIGHTEEN MEN PROBABLY DEAD

FIRE FOLLOWS EXPLOSION IN MINE

Bodies of Twenty-Six Victims of Alabama Disaster Recovered

Amsterdam, Ohio, April 22.—The bodies of six miners were recovered today from the ruins of the Youngsberry & Ohio Coal Company's mine.

Twelve other bodies are believed to be in the shattered mine, and there is no hope that they are alive. Eighteen miners were entrapped late last night by fire which followed an explosion of fire damp in the mine.

RECOVERING BODIES.

Birmingham, Ala., April 22.—Twenty-six bodies have been recovered from the Mulga mine where an explosion occurred late Tuesday. Rescuers entered the mine today and the bodies were brought out. One miner known to have been in the workings at the time of the accident is still missing.

The rescuers yesterday attempted to enter the mine, but though they were equipped with oxygen helmets they were driven back by the gases that formed after the explosion. The mine was cleared by the fans and the rescue party entered today.

ANNUAL TOPIC BEFORE COMMONS

Abuse of Franking Privilege by the Members is Again Discussed

Ottawa, April 22.—Abuse of the franking privileges by members is a subject with which the Commons deals for one day each session. Ministers have the right of sending official mail free at any time. Members and senators have the right during the session. The privilege is sometimes curiously stretched to matter which cannot be classed as official, and objection is periodically taken.

This morning, J. D. Taylor, of New Westminster, complained that weekly Liberal political letters to newspapers were being sent out under the frank of the Solicitor-General. He spoke for half an hour on the enormity of this.

The Minister of Justice replied briefly, stating that the strictness of the privilege of franking was not confined to either side of the House. He knew this because once when he was acting as postmaster-general a conservative member came to him and asked him to go to the House postoffice and put his frank on a parcel which the postmaster refused to forward under the frank of a private member. Hon. Mr. Aylesworth said that he had found the parcel was a large bag of oats.