



VISIT TO RUINS OF ST. PIERRE

NOT ONE HOUSE HAS BEEN LEFT INTACT

Survivors Tell of the Burning of the British Steamer Roraima—The Relief Fund.

Port de France, Island of Martinique, May 12.—It now seems to be generally admitted that about 30,000 persons lost their lives as a result of the outbreak of Mount Pelée volcano at St. Pierre, on Thursday last. Careful investigation by competent government officials shows that the earlier reports of the Associated Press were accurate.

On an interview with Mr. Ayme, United States consul at Guadaloupe, the correspondent of the Associated Press learned the following facts regarding the destruction of St. Pierre:

Thursday morning found the inhabitants of that city anxiously looking towards the thick clouds surrounding the Mount Pelée crater. All day Wednesday a horrid detonation had been heard. These had been echoed from St. Thomas on the north and Barbados on the south. During the night of Wednesday these had ceased and only fine ashes like rain fell on St. Pierre. As this continued, the governor, M. Mouttet, who was then at Port de France, tried to stop the volcanic disturbances caused. He declared the danger would not increase, sent a detachment of soldiers to prevent a general exodus of the inhabitants, and later went to St. Pierre himself with his wife.

The British steamer Roraima arrived at St. Pierre some time after being heard. It had on board 10 passengers, among whom were Mrs. Stokes and her three children and Mrs. Jenice. They were all watching the rain of ashes, when, with a frightful roar and terrific electrical discharges, a great column of fire, mud and steam swept down from the crater over the town and bay, destroying a fleet of vessels at anchor off the shore. There the stories stop. Twelve survivors only are in the military hospital at Port de France, while 20,000 corpses are strewn about or buried in the ruins of St. Pierre, or else floating, gnawed by sharks, in the surrounding seas. Twenty-eight charred, half-dead, human beings were brought here. Sixteen of them are already dead, and only four others are expected to recover.

The Associated Press steamer reported at Martinique at 6.30 Sunday morning. At Le Peseux, five miles north of St. Pierre, canoes filled with men and women were found.

The whole north end of the island was covered with a silvery grey coating of ashes, resembling dirty snow. Furious blasts of fire, ashes and mud swept over the steamer, but finally St. Pierre was reached.

The city of St. Pierre stretched nearly two miles along the water front and half a mile back to the cliff, the base of the volcano. The houses of the richer French families were built of stone. The ash-covered hills were flanked by the still smoking volcano. The ruins were still burning in many places, and frightful odors of burned flesh filled the air. With great difficulty a landing was effected. Not one house was left intact. Everywhere were heaps of mud, of brighter ashes or piles of volcanic stones.

Through the middle of the old Place Bertin ran a tiny stream, the remains of the river. Great trees with roots upwards and scorched by fire, were strewn in every direction. Huge blocks and still hot stones were scattered about. From under one large stone the arm of a white woman protruded. Most notable was the utter silence and the awful, overpowering stench from the thousands of dead.

The stories of the survivors added to the awful details of the particularly harrowing account of the loss of the British steamer Roraima. H. C. Evans of Montreal and John C. Morris, of New York, who are now at the military hospital at Port de France, say the vessel arrived at 6 A. M. on Thursday and struck the mountain. It was heard by the mountain. A cloud of fire, toppling and roaring, swept with lightning speed down the mountain side and over the town and bay. The Roraima nearly sunk, and caught fire at once. "I never can forget the horrid, fiery, choking whirlwind which enveloped me," said Mr. Evans.

"Mr. Morris and I rushed below. We were not very badly burned, not so as most of them. When the fire came we were going to our posts (we are engineers) to weight anchor and get out. When we came up we found the ship all ash and smouldering. I was on deck at 10 o'clock when the Suctet came to our rescue. We were then building a raft."

"Ben," Benson, the carpenter of the Roraima, said: "I was on deck, amidst ships, when I heard an explosion. The captain ordered me to up anchor. I got to the windlass, but when the fire came I went to the forecastle and got my gun. When I came out I talked with Capt. Muggah, Mr. Scott, the first officer, and others. They had been on the bridge. The captain was horribly burned. He had inhaled flames and wanted to jump into the sea. I tried to make him take a life preserver. The captain, who was addressed, jumped overboard and hung onto a line for a while, then disappeared."

"Gus" Linder, the quartermaster of the steamer, who is horribly burned, and can scarcely talk, continued his story.

Sending Relief.

Washington, May 12.—The President, after a conference this morning with several members of his cabinet, has ordered the war, navy and treasury departments to co-operate in the adoption of steps for the relief of the Martinique sufferers. The state department already is acting through its consuls in that section. The navy transport Dixie will be ready to sail from the Brooklyn navy yard for Martinique on Wednesday. The war department has already on hand at New York a large amount of food supplies, and these will probably be drawn upon. Later, by the president's direction, orders were telegraphed to the Dixie to load the stores which are to be furnished by the army as rapidly as possible and clear for Martinique at the earliest possible moment.

President's Message.

Washington, May 12.—The President today sent the following message to Congress: To the Senate and House of Representatives: "One of the greatest calamities in history has fallen upon our neighboring island of Martinique. The consul of the United States at Guadaloupe has telegraphed from Port de France, under date of yesterday, that the disaster is complete. It is the only one of St. Pierre which has ceased to exist, and that the American consul and his family have perished. He is informed that 30,000 people have lost their lives and that 30,000 are homeless and hungry; that there is urgent need of all kinds of provisions, and that the visits of vessels for the work of supply and rescue is imperatively required."

"The government of France, while expressing their thanks for the marks of sympathy which have reached them from America, inform us that Port de France and the entire Island of Martinique are still threatened. They therefore request that for the purpose of rescuing the people who are in such deadly peril and threatened with starvation, the government of the United States may send as soon as possible the means of transporting them from the stricken island. The island of St. Vincent, and perhaps others in that region, are also seriously menaced by the calamity which has taken so appalling a form in Martinique. I have directed the departments of the treasury, of war and of the navy to take such measures, or to send to the stricken people as the case warrants within the executive discretion, and I earnestly commend this case of unexampled disaster to the generous consideration of this great assembly. For this purpose I recommend that an appropriation of \$500,000 be made immediately available."

(Signed) Theodore Roosevelt, White House, Washington, May 12th, 1902.

Appropriations.

Washington, May 12.—The committee on appropriations of the House, at a special meeting held this afternoon, decided to report the bill for the relief of the citizens of the French West Indies and appropriate \$200,000, an increase of \$100,000 over the senate measure.

The King's Sympathy.

London, May 12.—King Edward has commended the colonial secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, to telegraph to the governor of the Windward Islands, Sir Robert Lawry, in His Majesty's deep regret at the calamity which has visited the island of St. Vincent and his sympathy with the sufferers and the bereaved. The government also has been instructed to send all the money necessary for their relief.

More Deaths.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., May 13.—Advices received here from the Island of St. Vincent, B. W. I., forwarded on Sunday last, announces that several hundred deaths have occurred in that island as a result of the outbreak of the Soufriere volcano, which is still slightly active.

The Danish cruiser Valkyrien has taken on board 500 refugees from the north and northeast coasts of the Island of Martinique. The French cruiser Suctet has rescued 2,000 persons from Martinique, and the French cable repair steamer Poujard has saved numbers of the sufferers from the volcanic outbreak in Martinique.

All the rescued persons have been taken to Port de France, Martinique. Only one man escaped from the jail at St. Pierre when that town was overwhelmed by the flow of lava from Mount Pelée.

The stench from the unburied corpses at St. Pierre is still almost intolerable, according to the advices received here. It is reported at St. Thomas that the French bank at St. Pierre transferred its funds and books to the Suctet before the catastrophe.

Refugees.

Paris, May 13.—An official dispatch received by the minister for the colonies, M. de Crauz, to-day says that the 450 refugees landed at Port de France by the French cable repair steamer Poujard were from the village of Le Precheur, near St. Pierre, and that only the inhabitants of St. Pierre who were saved were those who left the town before eight o'clock on the morning of the disaster on Thursday last.

The Relief Fund.

Rome, May 13.—King Victor Emman-



HE KNOWS. THE GERMAN IN SOUTH AFRICA (to the German at Home)—"Hi! Stop Dot and Vonce! Of Yourself You Should Pe Ashamed to Show Your Ignorances, und Tell Pad Lies Like Dot!"

nel has contributed 25,000 lire (\$5,000) to the fund being raised for the relief of sufferers from the Martinique disaster.

Burning of the Roraima.

New York, May 13.—James Taylor, who was one of the officers of the Roraima, the Quebec line steamer which was destroyed in the harbor of St. Pierre, gives a graphic account of the tragedy of Thursday, says a dispatch to the Herald from St. Kitts, island of St. Christopher, B. W. I.

"We experienced the greatest difficulty in getting into port," he said. "A appalling sound was issuing from the mountains behind the town, which were shrouded in darkness. All the passengers were up and some were trying to obtain photographs. Suddenly I heard a tremendous explosion. Ashes began to fall thick upon the deck, and I could see a black cloud sweeping down upon us. I dived below, and dragging with me the Samuel Thomas, a gangway man and a fellow countryman, sprang into a room shutting the door to keep out the heat that was already unbearable.

The ship rocked, and I expected every moment it would sink. I heard a voice pleading for the door to be opened. It was Scott, the first officer, and I opened the door and dragged him into the room. It soon became unbearably hot, and I went on deck. All about were lying the dead and dying. Little children were moaning for water. I did what I could for them. I obtained water, but when it was held to their swollen lips they were unable to swallow, because of the ashes which clogged their throats. One little chap took water into his mouth rinsed out the ashes, but even then could not swallow, so badly was his throat burned. He sank back unconscious, and a few minutes later was dead.

"All aft the ship was afire, and from the main came a column of terrible heat. At last, when I could stand it no longer, I sprang overboard. The water was hot enough to parboil me, but a wave soon swept in from the ocean bringing with it cold water. I was caught in the receding wave, which was of tidal velocity, and was carried out to sea. Then on the second return of the wave, I was washed up against an overturned sloop, to which I clung.

"A few minutes later I was joined by another man, whom I learned was Captain Muggah, of the Roraima. He was in dreadful agony and kept begging piteously to be put on board his ship. Picking up some wreckage and a tool chest, I and five others who joined me, succeeded in forming a rude raft, on which we placed the captain. Seeing one overturned boat, I asked one of the five to swim out to it, so that he (Muggah) might have an opportunity to live. The man succeeded in getting the boat righted, but instead of returning he picked up two of his countrymen and went

away in the direction of Port de France. "Seeing the Roraima, which had arrived in port soon after we anchored, making for the Roraima, I said good-bye to Capt. Muggah, and swam to the Roraima. Before I could reach her she burst into flames and put out to sea. I finally reached the Roraima about 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, and later was taken off by the cruiser Suctet."

Fear an Eruption.

Omaha, Neb., May 13.—According to dispatches received from Pander, Mont., Lean Mountain, Nebraska's miniature volcano, has been for two days sending up smoke and steam. The volcano is situated on the Missouri river, in Cedar county, about 150 miles above Omaha, and has been practically dead for thirty years. Reports say that all the settlers in the immediate neighborhood are preparing to move. Geologists say smoke is caused by water from Missouri soaking into the limestone rock formation of the mountain, but the people are fearful of an eruption.

Moving From Volcano.

Guadalupe, Mexico, May 13.—The Colima volcano shows strong indications of a great eruption, and the inhabitants are leaving the valley at the base and are moving to unsafe distance from the peak from which smoke and puffs of flames have been belching for several days. Monte Calima has threatened renewed activity for several weeks. This condition causes the work of construction of the extension of Mexican Central railroad to Manzanillo, passing near the base of the mountain, to cease temporarily. The route of extension will probably be changed in order to avoid any possible disaster that an eruption might bring.

Few Bodies Recovered.

Port de France, Martinique, May 13.—Strange to relate, in view of the number of victims on St. Pierre, who were swept to death by the volcanic waves from Mount Pelée, on Thursday last, very few corpses have been found by those who are engaged in the work of excavating the dead bodies. This is due to the fact that the most populous quarters of the town are buried under a thick layer of cinerated lava, which apparently entirely consumed the bodies of the victims.

The Danish cruiser Valkyrien, having done everything possible in the effort being made to succor the refugees, left this port to-day. The German cruiser Falke has just arrived here. The work of succoring the refugees continues incessantly. When the French cable repair ship started on her mission of mercy, she had to pass through clouds of burning cinerated lava, the risk of catching fire, in order to reach the terror-stricken people ashore. She succeeded, as already announced, in bringing to this port 456 people, mainly former residents of the village of Le

ner as will most promptly and efficiently relieve the people of the French Indies. The resolution was adopted.

The following was issued from the White House this afternoon: "The President has appointed a committee to receive funds for the relief of the sufferers from the recent catastrophe in Martinique and St. Vincent. The gentlemen appointed from each city are asked to collect and receive funds from their localities and neighborhoods and forward them to Hon. C. N. Bliss, treasurer of the New York committee, which committee will act as a central distributing point for the country. The President directs all the postmasters throughout the country, and requests the presidents of all national banks to act as agents for the collection of contributions and to forward the same at once to Mr. Bliss at New York. The President appeals to the people to contribute generously for the relief of those upon whom this appalling calamity has fallen."

The Death Toll Increasing.

New York, May 14.—In a dispatch from his correspondent on the Island of St. Vincent, B. W. I., the Herald says: "Admonitory rumblings and earthquakes in the vicinity of Soufriere came two weeks ago. On Monday, May 5th, the lake in the old crater became greatly disturbed. On Tuesday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon the mountain began a series of volcanic efforts. Severe earthquakes accompanied these terrific noises, and detonations succeeded quickly. At 7 o'clock in the evening an immense column of steam issued from the crater and lasted until midnight.

"Terrific explosions followed on Wednesday morning, and at 7 o'clock there was another sudden violent escape of steam. This ascended for three hours, when other material was ejected. At noon three craters appeared to open and began to vomit lava. Six streams at once ran down the sides of the mountain, making an awful scene. The mountains labored heavily for an hour after the appearance of the lava. Fire flashed around the edges of the craters, and there were tremendous detonations in succession. The eruption began on Wednesday. A huge cloud, in a dark and dense column, changed with volcanic matter, rose to a height of eight miles from the mountain, and the sulphurous air was laden with fine dust. A black rain followed a rain of tavela, scoriae, rocks and stones. There were bright flashes, luminous and marvellously rapid. These, with the thundering mountain shocks and earthquake roar, the lava and falling stones, created a scene of horror. Large areas of cultivated land have been buried beneath the volcanic matter. On the windward coast seven plantations are totally destroyed. Nothing green is visible.

Sixteen hundred and twenty deaths are already reported. There are 167 cases in the hospital at Georgetown under treatment. The deaths have been caused chiefly by suffocation by the sulphurous gas from igniting and burning the masses. Few of the cases in the hospital are likely to recover.

The crew of H. M. S. Indefatigable landed thirty persons found dead on the Ovia estate, north of Soufriere. A new crater is reported formed on the Richmond estate near the shore. The country districts on the windward coast are littered with dead bodies. Kingston, the capital, and the whole population are safe. There have been no accidents or deaths. Clouds of dust are blowing over the city, however. The royal mail steamer Wear is transporting food and water to the leeward coast. Sailing vessels proceeding to the windward coast are being held up by the distress. The majority of the corpses are covered with ashes, decomposed and hardly approachable. The dead are buried in trenches, thirty in each.

Island Unapproachable.

Castri, Island of St. Lucia, May 13.—The Soufriere volcano on the Island of St. Vincent, is still in destructive eruption. Terrific detonations can be heard a hundred miles away. The reports are followed by columns of smoke, running miles in the air. Immense balls of colored fire also issue from the crater. Lightning is playing fiercely in the upper sky, and the whole northern part of the island is one mass of travelling flames. It is impossible to reach the burning district by land or sea, and there are no signs of life and property. Kingston, the capital of St. Vincent, is still safe, though showers of ashes and pebbles are continually falling on the town. The volcano itself is invisible. It has just been officially reported that there are 1,600 dead up to yesterday found on St. Vincent.

Worse Than Reported.

London, May 14.—The governor of the Windward Islands, Sir Robert Lawry, has telegraphed to the colonial secretary from the Island of St. Vincent, under date of Tuesday, May 13th, as follows: "I arrived here yesterday and found the state of affairs much worse than had been stated. The administrator's reports show that the country on the east coast, between Robin Rock and Georgetown, was apparently entirely destroyed. St. Pierre, and I fear that practically all living things in that radius were killed. Probably 1,000 persons lost their lives. The exact number will never be known.

"Managers and owners of the estates, with their families, and several of the better class of people, have been killed. A thousand bodies have been found and buried. One hundred and sixty persons

are in the hospital at Georgetown. Probably only six of this number will recover.

"The details of the disaster are too harrowing for description. I got the St. Lucia, a coasting steamer, which is running up and down the Leeward coast, with water and provisions. Two thousand two hundred persons have received relief. I have asked for officers from Trinidad and Grenada. All the neighboring British colonies are assisting generously. Every effort is being made to grapple with the awful calamity. The best sugar estates in the Caribbean are devastated and the cattle dead.

"The eruption continues, but is apparently moderating. Anxiety is still felt. All the officers and residents are co-operating with me. The ladies are making clothing."

Another Report.

London, May 14.—Sir Frederick M. Hodgson, the governor of Barbados, B. W. I., forward to the colonial office for the report of the colonial secretary, who has just returned from a visit to St. Pierre, Martinique. It confirms the worst accounts of the disaster. The secretary commences the limited matter, which destroyed everything within an area of ten miles long by six wide, to burning sealing wax. He adds significantly that the services of doctors are not required, as there are no wounded persons.

Governor Hodgson estimates that two million tons of dust from the Island of St. Vincent fell on the Island of Barbados. Visit to the Ruins.

Castri, Island of St. Lucia, May 13.—The correspondent of the Associated Press, who has visited St. Pierre, Martinique, on the relieving steamer Konnect, says the destruction there is appalling. The streets are two feet deep in ashes and cinders, which cover thousands of dead bodies, scorched black and shiny as they have been plunged into boiling water. Many of the dead were never touched by the volcanic fire, and some of the houses and woodwork destroyed show no signs of having been burned.

At Montserrat, in the northwestern part of St. Pierre, the most massive stone wall is enclosed. The church tower, built by the Jesuits two centuries ago, is now like a heap of old metal. Scaffolding property from propping up the roof, who are robbing the land. They meet with severe punishment when caught. The stench throughout St. Pierre is terrible. The streets are still obstructed by huge piles of debris and dead bodies. The work of clearing the thoroughfares will necessitate the employment of a large number of men for many months.

Monday Rouge, near St. Pierre, is preserved and Base Point and Macouba are yet unharmed but the crater is active and smoke and ashes are blowing steadily northward. The surviving inhabitants are trying to cross from St. Pierre to the Island of Dominica in boats. Many drowning accidents are reported. Assistance is constantly arriving at Port de France from all the neighboring islands.

Overbank of Fire.

Castri, Island of St. Lucia, May 14.—The St. Lucia signal station here reports having seen a conflagration last night in the direction of Port de France, Martinique.

Canada's Contribution.

(Special to the Times) Ottawa, May 14.—A supplementary estimate was brought down in the House this afternoon, voting \$50,000 for the disaster at Martinique and St. Vincent. Half of the sum will go to Martinique and half to St. Vincent.

Hon. W. S. Fielding moved the vote in the House and R. L. Borden seconded it. It was unanimously carried.

LORD KITCHENER'S WEEKLY REPORT

OVER EIGHT HUNDRED BOERS WERE TAKEN

Miles, Wagons, Horses and Cattle Fell Into Hands of British—Delarey's Force Reduced.

London, May 13.—The weekly report of Lord Kitchener, received to-day, shows that 19 Boers were killed, 6 were wounded, 802 were made prisoners, 9 surrendered, and that 600 rifles, 157 wagons, 400 horses and 4,300 head of cattle fell into the hands of the British.

Gen. Ian Hamilton's columns have arrived at West Em, after sweeping the Lichtenberg district of southwest Transvaal. These troops brought 357 prisoners, and practically all the wagons and stock of the Boer commands in that district. This makes a reduction in Gen. Delarey's forces of 800 men since he defeated Major Paris at Roraima's Fountain on March 28th, and captured Gen. Methuen.

Wm. Gordon, a city railway contractor, died suddenly at Winipeg yesterday.