

130 WORKERS PERISH IN FIREDAMP EXPLOSION IN GERMAN MINE

A despatch from Essen, Germany, says: Crushed under tons of earth and coal or smothered slowly and painfully by gas, 130 miners of the Minister Stein Mine were killed in a firedamp explosion on Thursday night.

At eight o'clock the night shift, 180 men, had gone down into the pits, regarded as among the safest in the world. One explosion put out the lights and wrecked the ventilating system. Two others followed in rapid succession and brought down the supports of the galleries.

A thousand feet under the surface, practically all the men were caught under masses of falling coal and rock. Those who survived in protected niches were mostly seized with panic and rushed out to be ground to death or caught in the gas-filled galleries. Only nine of them made their way to the surface, and eight of these may die.

Those not instantly killed suffered most. As the rescuers dug feverishly through the debris of the choked passages they came to one open space and the story of those who survived the three blasts. Pencilled on a bit of paper on the floor of the pit was a note:

"All well until eleven o'clock. We are nine."

Beside the bit of paper lay nine bodies. They had been killed slowly, agonizingly, shut up in the dark of their cavern, by the creeping fumes of firedamp.

The same gas met the men who were digging in frantic effort to save any of their comrades who might remain alive. Two of these rescuers were added to the list of fatalities.

They were caught in a gas-filled gallery and died before they could escape into the open air.

Already eighty bodies have been brought up to the little village of Kirdorf, where nearly all the victims lived. Thirty or forty more have been exhumed and still lie in the shaft. All hope of any of the others being alive underground has been abandoned. Most of the dead are unrecognizable, crushed and burned and blackened.

On Thursday night, standing in the glare of the cluster of lights at the shaft head, the relatives and friends of the dead wait in the hope of identifying their own. A little apart from these tragic figures a great group of the workers of the Ruhr have gathered, muttering curses on fate and the employers who permitted the accident to occur.

The Minister Stein Mine is the property of the Hugo Stinnes estate and lies in the heart of the most Communist section of the radical Ruhr. All lay the chief guilt for the explosion on the employers.

"Stinnes doesn't care; there are plenty more of us to get him his coal," one woman shrieked through the darkness, and in low mutters the men agreed.

In an improvised hospital the few men who escaped are being cared for, along with many of the rescue workers who were overcome by gas. Here, too, extra doctors and nurses wait in the vain hope that some shred of life may yet survive in the men still entombed.

The accident is the worst in years, with the exception of that in 1909 when 341 lives were lost not far from here.

GOLD STANDARD AGAIN IN BRITAIN

Commons Passes Supplementary Budget to Cover Expenses of Prince's Trip.

A despatch from London says: That it is the intention of the British Government to revert to the gold standard at the earliest possible moment, was announced in the House of Commons on Thursday by Winston Spencer Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was replying to a question put to him on the subject.

"His Majesty's Government," said Mr. Churchill, "are in full agreement with the declared intentions of previous administrations to revert to the gold standard at the earliest possible moment. But I am not in a position to make a more definite statement at present."

The House Thursday evening by a vote of 295 against 87 passed a supplementary budget estimate to cover the expenses of the forthcoming trip of the Prince of Wales to South Africa and South America.

The vote was taken after the Chamber had rejected a motion by David Kirkwood, Labour member for the Dumbarton burghs, to reduce the £15,000 which it has been estimated will be required for the trip. The vote on this question was 304 against 90.

Slavery Exists in Nepal, One of the States of India

A despatch from London says: There are 51,419 slaves and 15,719 slave-owners in Nepal. Publication of these figures came as a startling surprise to the majority of the British public, who have been generally unaware of the existence of slavery in this Indian state, which, although independent, is under the aegis of the British Empire.

The Maharajah Sir Chandra Shumsher Jung, Prime Minister and de facto ruler of Nepal, has undertaken to suppress the evil. Announcing that a date would be fixed when slavery would cease to be legal in Nepal, the Prime Minister outlined a scheme whereby the government would assist in the suppression by buying slaves from those owners inclined to sell and liberating them.

TWENTY-TWO SHIPLOADS OF FLOUR BOUGHT IN CANADA FOR RUSSIA

A despatch from Toronto says: What constitutes the largest order for flour ever given at one time on this continent was placed recently by Russian buyers with two Canadian milling companies. The total business placed amounts to 1,300,000 barrels, to be shipped as early as possible to Black Sea ports. Of this, the Maple Leaf Milling Co. secured 1,150,000 barrels, with another Toronto company taking the balance. The transaction is on a cash basis, and it is understood that the Soviet authorities have arranged credits at New York to cover this and previous orders. Further purchases are believed to be pending.

The large quantity of flour being bought by Russia is due to the near-famine conditions prevailing in that country, and it is estimated that the supplies bought should, under famine conditions, feed 1,950,000 persons for one year, or 7,800,000 people for a period of three months, allowing one barrel to one individual as sufficient for eighteen months under such con-

Thieves Pass for Respectable Because They Wear Spats

If you wear spats in London you're respectable. That at least is the conclusion drawn in a newspaper discussion on the recent burglary in the heart of London. Several persons saw two thieves back up a van to the door of a warehouse and carry off goods worth £1,200, but inasmuch as both burglars wore spats nobody thought there was anything amiss.

"The Daily Herald," the labor organ, passionately attacks the public attitude in this respect, remarking bitterly: "With a good suit of clothes, a good hat, a pair of spats and plenty of cheek there is scarcely any limit to the frauds a cool swindler can perpetrate."

London journalists who wear spats in winter because it's cheaper than buying stout shoes now wonder whether they may not be apprehended as confidence men or burglars.

People on Warm Beach See Fresh Snow on Mountain

Mauna Kea, one of the Pacific's highest mountain peaks, recently donned a coat of fresh snow as a result of Hawaii's "winter weather."

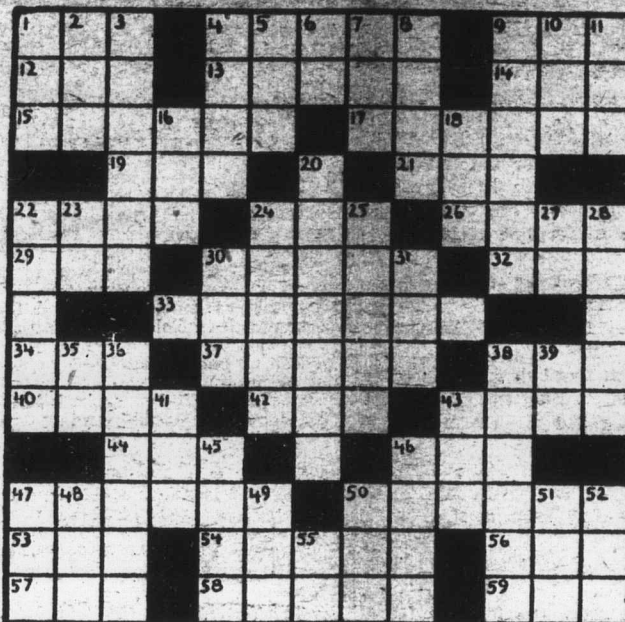
The great mountain, which caps the island of Hawaii, hid itself in the clouds for a few days while the rest of the island enjoyed tropical weather. When the clouds lifted, those who stood on the warm beaches saw the snow.

Hundreds of tourists continue to visit the volcano, the largest party of recent date being that from the Red Star liner, Belgiumland, which stopped at the island on its way around the world.

Murderer of Sirdar is a Law Student at Cairo

A despatch from Cairo says: The Procureur-General interrogated Abdel Fattah Enay, a student at the School of Law, who is one of the two persons arrested in a Mariut train. He confessed he took part in the murder of Sir Lee Stack, and has implicated several others, including his brother, Abdel Hamid, a student at the higher training college, who was arrested with him.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLVING CROSS-WORD PUZZLES

Start out by filling in the words of which you feel reasonably sure. These will give you a clue to other words crossing them, and they in turn to still others. A letter belongs in each white space, words starting at the numbered squares and running either horizontally or vertically or both.

- HORIZONTAL**
- 1—A doll
 - 4—To take oath
 - 9—Article
 - 12—In the past
 - 13—Handle of an axe
 - 14—An element
 - 15—A water-sprite
 - 17—A feast day
 - 19—To drink with the tongue
 - 21—A division of land
 - 22—To surf
 - 24—A cleaning implement
 - 26—Curved
 - 28—Not elevated
 - 30—Bravery
 - 32—Fish eggs
 - 33—Friendly
 - 34—To plant
 - 37—To twist violently
 - 38—An animal
 - 40—A fish
 - 42—Still
 - 43—The two
 - 44—Tear
 - 46—A place to sleep
 - 47—A mark
 - 50—Warmed
 - 53—Rag
 - 54—Soothed
 - 56—Metal-bearing rock
 - 57—Writing implement
 - 58—Lying flat
 - 59—Novel
- VERTICAL**
- 1—A tree
 - 2—Number of years
 - 3—To pursue
 - 4—Large boat
 - 5—They
 - 6—A letter
 - 7—Hall
 - 8—Genuine
 - 9—Loose hanging rag
 - 10—Hasten
 - 11—To make a mistake
 - 16—Compensation
 - 18—Convulsive cry
 - 20—A defender
 - 22—Group of pupils
 - 23—An exclamation
 - 24—To join
 - 25—The end
 - 27—Negative
 - 28—Used for chewing
 - 30—A pledge
 - 31—A bit of cloth
 - 35—An exclamation
 - 36—Home of an animal
 - 38—Agricultural product
 - 39—Close by
 - 41—To excavate
 - 43—A serpent
 - 45—To look alyly
 - 46—To grant
 - 47—A gratuity
 - 48—Existing
 - 49—Material for calking
 - 50—A fowl
 - 51—Beforehand
 - 52—Precipitation
 - 55—In this manner

RAIL MILL WILL BE OPENED ON MARCH 2ND

Algoma Steel Plant Has Already Taken on 500 Additional Workers.

A despatch from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., says: Up to Thursday about 500 men have been taken on at the steel plant of the Algoma Steel Corporation since the first of the month in connection with the preparations for the opening of the rail mill on March 2, on orders for the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways. There are now about 1,200 men on the payroll at the plant.

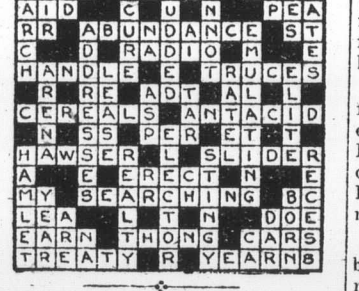
The open-hearth furnaces and one blast furnace will start operations on February 20. This will mean two blast furnaces in operation, as one blast furnace and one battery of coke ovens have been running right through. Everything will be in readiness for the rail mill to start on double shift on March 2.

Londoners Protest Against Replacing of Waterloo Bridge

After St. Paul's—Waterloo Bridge! While the controversy concerning the safety of the dome of famous St. Paul's Cathedral was still raging, Londoners with a taste of antiquarianism were confounded by the recommendation of the London County Council committee that Waterloo Bridge, built just over 100 years ago by John Rennie, be completely demolished instead of merely being restored.

At present there is a temporary span being built to the east of Waterloo Bridge, which it has been planned to repair. As Waterloo Bridge is considered the best architecturally of all across the Thames, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is organizing a strong protest against the proposal to replace it by another.

Solution of Last Week's Puzzle.



Little Frost in Ground, Grey County Farmers Start Plowing

A despatch from Owen Sound says: All records were shattered for this section of the country on Tuesday, when the spring plowing was started on the farm of Adolphus Matthews, near Chatsworth, and one or two other farms in the neighborhood were also enabled to break ground. There is very little frost in the ground, and the mild, springlike weather of the last few days has had the effect of melting the snow.

The Week's Markets

TORONTO.

Man. wheat—No. 1 North, \$2.01; No. 2 North, \$1.95; No. 3 North, \$1.90; No. 4 wheat, \$1.81.

Man. oats—No. 2 CW, 71c; No. 3 CW, 66½c; extra No. 1 feed, 67c; No. 1 feed, 65½c; No. 2 feed, 62½c.

All the above c.i.f. bay ports.

Am. corn, track, Toronto—No. 2 yellow, \$1.35.

Millfeed—Del. Montreal freights; bags included: Bran, per ton, \$38.25; shorts, per ton, \$38.25; middlings, \$44.25; good feed flour, per bag, \$2.80.

Ont. oats—No. 2 white, 67 to 69c.

Ont. wheat—No. 2 winter, \$1.60 to \$1.64; No. 3 winter, \$1.58 to \$1.62; No. 1 commercial, \$1.57 to \$1.61, f.o.b. shipping points according to freights.

Barley—Malt, 89 to 93c.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 80 to 84c.

Rye—No. 2, \$1.84 to \$1.89.

Man. flour, first pat., \$10.90, Toronto; do, second pat., \$10.40 Toronto.

Ont. flour—90 per cent. pat., \$8.75; in bags, Montreal or Toronto; do, export, 56c, cotton bags c.i.f.

Straw—Carlots, per ton, \$9.

Screenings—Standard, re-cleaned, f.o.b. bay ports, per ton, \$28.

Cheese—New, large, 23c; twins, 23½c; triplets, 24c; Stiltons, 24c. Old, large, 24 to 25c; twins, 25 to 26c; triplets, 26 to 27c.

Butter—Finest creamery prints, 84 to 86c; No. 1 creamery, 83 to 85c; No. 2, 81 to 83c. Dairy prints, 26 to 28c.

Eggs—Fresh extras, in cartons, 56c; loose, 52c; fresh firsts, 50c.

Live poultry—Hens, over 5 lbs., 24c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 18c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 13c; spring chickens, 2 lbs. and over, 25c; roosters, 12c; ducklings, 6 lbs. and up, 18c.

Dressed poultry—Hens, over 5 lbs., 23c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 23c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 16c; spring chickens, 2 lbs. and over, 30c; roosters, 18c; ducklings, 5 lbs. and up, 25c; turkeys, 35c.

Beans—Can. hand-picked, lb., 6½c; primes, 6c.

Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., \$2.40; per 5-gal. tin, \$2.30 per gal.; maple sugar, lb., 25 to 26c.

Honey—60-lb. tins, 13½c per lb.; 10-lb. tins, 13½c; 5-lb. tins, 14c; 2½-lb. tins, 15½ to 16c.

Smoked meats—Hams, med., 25 to 26c; cooked hams, 37 to 38c; smoked rolls, 18 to 20c; cottage rolls, 21 to 23c; breakfast bacon, 23 to 27c; special brand breakfast bacon, 29 to 31c; backs, boneless, 33 to 36c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 50 to 70 lbs., \$17.50; 70 to 90 lbs., \$16.50; 90 lbs. and up, \$15.50; lightweight rolls, in barrels, \$33; heavyweight rolls, \$27.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 18 to 18½c; tubs, 18½ to 19c; pails, 18½ to 19½c; prints, 21 to 22c; shortening, tierces, 14½ to 15c; tubs, 14½ to 15½c pails, 15½ to 16½c; prints, 16½ to 17c.

Choice heavy steers, \$7.75 to \$8.25; butcher steers, choice, \$6.75 to \$7.25; do, good, \$6.25 to \$6.75; do, med., \$5.50 to \$6; do, com., \$4.50 to \$5.25; butcher heifers, choice, \$6.75 to \$7; do, good, \$6 to \$6.50; do, med., 5 to \$5.75; do, com., \$4.50 to \$5.25; butcher cows, choice, \$4.50 to \$5.25; do, fair to good, \$3.50 to \$4; canners and cutters, \$2.25 to \$2.75; butcher bulls, good, \$4.25 to \$5.25; do, fair, \$3.75 to \$4; bologna, \$2.50 to \$3.25; feeding steers, good, \$5.75 to \$6.50; do, fair, \$4.75 to \$5.50; stockers, good, \$4.50 to \$5.50; do, fair, \$4 to \$4.25; calves, choice, \$11 to \$12; do, med., \$7 to \$9; do, grassers, \$3.50 to \$4.50; milch cows, choice, \$60 to \$70; fair cows, \$40 to \$50; springers, choice, \$70 to \$90; good light sheep, \$7 to \$8; heavies and bucks, \$4.50 to \$6.25; bulls, \$3 to \$4; good ewe lambs, \$14.50 to \$15; bucks, \$12.50 to \$13; do, med., \$10 to \$12; do, culls, \$8 to \$9.

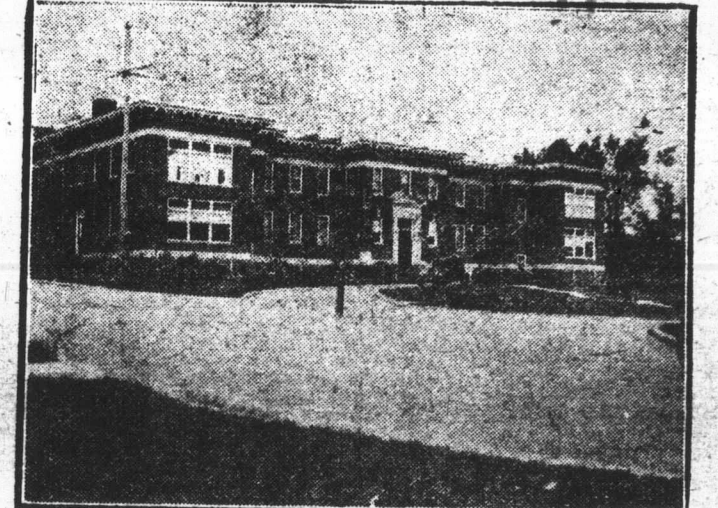
MONTREAL.

Oats, Can. west., No. 2, 78c; do, No. 3, 72c; do extra No. 1 feed, 69c.

Flour, Man. spring wheat pats., firsts, 10.50; do, seconds, \$10; do, strong bakers winter pats., choice, \$9.20 to \$9.30. Rolled oats, bag 90 lbs., \$4.10. Bran, \$36.25. Shorts, \$38.25. Middlings, \$44.25. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$14 to \$15.

Beans were steady at \$2.90 per bus. Butter, No. 1, pasteurized, 29½ to 30c; do, No. 1 creamery, 28½ to 29c; do, seconds, 28c. Eggs, fresh extras, 58c; do, fresh firsts, 55c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, \$8 to \$11.

Good calves, \$10; do, med., \$9; do, com., \$7 to \$8. Hogs, mixed lots of good weight, \$11.75.



Every returned soldier in Orillia and district is entitled to free treatment for the rest of his life in this magnificent new memorial hospital. The fun for its construction was donated by the community.

Canada from Coast to Coast

Charlottetown, P.E.I.—Fisheries production in Prince Edward Island in 1924 had a total value of \$1,162,682, according to the annual report of the Provincial Fishery Inspector. Hake, mackerel, salmon, live lobsters and smelts recorded increases, while canned lobsters showed a heavy decrease.

Halifax, N.S.—A fish meal plant, with the latest improved machinery, is being established on the premises of the National Fish Co. here. The plant will be in operation shortly and a fine grade of fish meal will be manufactured for domestic and export markets.

Fredericton, N.B.—The breeding of foxes on special farms is by no means confined to Prince Edward Island. Early in the month the organization of breeders of silver foxes in New Brunswick was announced with 100 names on the list.

Quebec, Que.—Over 3,000 pilotages between Quebec and Father Point, representing ocean tonnage running into many millions, during the past season of navigation on the St. Lawrence, and without a single serious accident in that time, is the proud achievement of the pilots of this district. It is without precedent in the annals of the St. Lawrence River, and is believed to be a world's record.

North Bay, Ont.—Exports to the United States from Northern Ontario during 1924 show an increase over the previous year of \$15,851,661, or approximately 50 per cent., according to a statement issued by the United States vice-consul here.

Winnipeg, Man.—In keenest competition at various fairs and exhibitions held in all parts of Canada and the United States, Manitoba butter manufacturers in 1924 secured 61 first, 86 seconds, and 51 thirds, 19 other prizes, 2 first in provincial championships, one silver cup, one highest award for average score and one sweepstakes.

Regina, Sask.—According to the latest information there are 606 industrial establishments in the Province of Saskatchewan, with a capital of \$30,268,144 and an annual production of \$38,672,828. Over four thousand people were employed, to whom salaries and wages totalling \$5,562,145 were paid. The cost of materials used in the different industries totalled \$22,450,051.

Edmonton, Alta.—More than 1,000,000 pounds of Canadian wool were purchased by English dealers last year, according to a statement by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers' Association. The first real effort to get Canadian wool into the English market was made in 1922 with the result that 600,000 pounds were shipped to the Old Country in the next year.

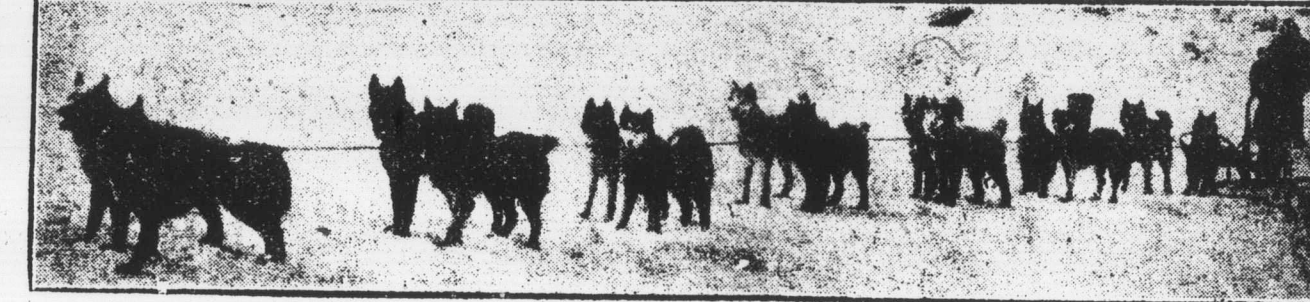
Vancouver, B.C.—One hundred British farm families will reach the province early next spring. These are the forerunners of 3,000 families that are to come out and go on the land in Canada. Provincial and British Government assistance is being given them to get started.

Influenza in England Caused by Weather Vagaries

England's changeable weather—and it is cruelly changeable just now—is held responsible for a wave of influenza which is sweeping over the country, says a London despatch.

While not so malignant as the last epidemic it has been sufficiently severe to lay about 60 per cent. of London's school teachers on the rest list, and in consequence an appeal has been sent out by the London County Council for temporary help.

The pupils also are catching the complaint en masse, and from 20 to 50 per cent. of the students have been ordered to stay home.



Here is shown an Alaskan dog team similar to those employed in rushing serum to stricken Nome, Alaska, fighting against the spread of hundreds of cases of diphtheria.