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THIRD TERRIBLE MINING DISASTER

Probably 500 Men Have Perished in Pennsylvania Colliery

heavy Explosion Shook the Surrounding Country, and Only One Survivor Has Turned Up—Loss of Life Would Have Been Greater Had Not Many of the Greek Workmen Been Attending Religious Services.

Jacob's Creek, Pa., Dec. 19.—An explosion of gas in the Dar mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, situated here, today entombed between 200 and 500 miners, and there is scarcely a ray of hope that a single one of them will be taken out of the mine alive.

Partially wrecked buildings in the vicinity of the mine and the condition of the few bodies found early by rescuers indicate an explosion of such terrific force that it seems impossible that any one survived it. All of the thirteen bodies taken out up to this time are terribly mutilated.

This is the third mine disaster since the first of the month in the veins of bituminous coal underlying western Pennsylvania and West Virginia for the Noomi mine near Fayette City, and two mines at Monongah (W. Va.) in which the earlier explosions happened in the same belt as the local workings. Today's catastrophe reveals the number of victims of deadly mine gas for the nineteen days between 350 and 600.

Today's disaster does not equal or even surpass in loss of life and attendant horrors the one in West Virginia is due to the devotion to church duties of a considerable number of the miners. In observance of the church festival many of the 400 or more men regularly employed at the mine did not go to work this morning. Those who escaped for this reason are members of the Greek Catholic church and they stopped work to celebrate St. Nicholas Day.

As was the case at Monongah, the explosion followed a brief suspension of the Dar mine, it having been closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Just at 11:30 o'clock when loaded cars had been brought out to the tipple, there came an awful rumbling sound, followed immediately by a loud report and a concussion that shook nearby buildings and was felt within a radius of several miles. Simultaneously there came out of the mouth of the mine a massive cloud of smoke and dust that floated across the Youghiogheny River.

Intuitively everyone in the vicinity knew what had happened and all started for the mouth of the mine. The force of the mine and the homes of many of the miners, so that only a portion of those who started for the scene were able to reach there, there being scant facilities for passing the stream to those who could not cross the river. The smoke and dust not only blinded the eyes but also caused the miners' mouths to be choked with it. Intuitively everyone in the vicinity knew what had happened and all started for the mouth of the mine.

The ventilating fans were kept in operation almost without interruption. However, the power plant having withstood the force of the explosion and up to this time the rescuers have found no one. As far as known only one man who went to work this morning escaped, Joseph Mapleton, a pumpman, emerging from one of the side entries shortly after the explosion. He had left the part of the mine where most of the men were working and was on his way to the engine room for oil.

A Survivor's Story. "I was near entry 21," said he, "when I heard an awful rumbling. I started towards the entry but the next instant I was blinded and for a little while I did not know anything. Then I got to the side entry and worked my way out." Mapleton was somewhat out of breath but after going home and having his injuries dressed he returned to the mine and joined the rescuing parties.

William Kelvington, superintendent of the mine was not in the mine when the explosion occurred and he quickly organized rescuing parties in the main entry.

It is hoped that the progress made up to now that the farther section will be reached early tomorrow. There are several entrances through which it is expected some of the men will be reached. The remarkable feature of this disaster is the almost complete absence of the harrowing scenes usually enacted by women friends and relatives of the miners on such occasions. Conditions preventative of easy access to the mouth of the mine are partly responsible for this and those in charge of the work are doing everything possible to keep the women and children away from the scene. The blacksmith shop has been fitted up as a temporary morgue and a number of physicians are waiting to render any services that may be required of them.

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The main office of the company is in Pittsburgh, and immediately upon receipt of the news of the explosion, the officers hurried to the mine and are leading and directing the rescue work.

About 1,500 feet from the mouth of the mine a heavy fall of roof was encountered by the rescuers. It is believed that most of the men will be found nearly a mile and a half beyond this point. How long it will require to remove enough of the debris to open a passage to the most remote workings can only be conjectured; it depends upon how frequent these falls are.

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A Terrific Explosion. Mrs. Campbell, wife of the mine foreman, whose home is about fifty yards from the mouth of the mine, graphically describes the explosion. She said: "About 11:30 o'clock there was a loud report and the dust in my cupboard and on the table were rattled and knocked out of place, while the glass in the windows was shattered. Instinctively I knew what had happened. I have for a long time feared an explosion in the mine for I had talked of it, and he often referred to the gas in the mine. My husband was just about due for his dinner when this loud report came, and I looked out the back door towards a manway from the mine through which he always came to his meals. Instead of my husband I saw a great cloud of dust and smoke pouring out of the mouth of the mine and through the manway. It floated upward and appeared across the river. I am sure Mr. Campbell will be found in the entry not far from the mouth of the mine for I know he must have been on his way to dinner."

In the store of the Federal Supply Company, 100 yards from the mouth of the mine, Frank Ballantyne, manager of the store and Elmer Cunningham, an employe, were sitting in chairs. The force of the explosion was so great that they were thrown to the floor. Others standing in the store were thrown against the walls or counters. The store building was terribly shaken and considerably damaged.

Some of the officers tonight estimated that probably more than half of the victims are Americans as many of the foreigners did not work today. The Dar mine is one of the largest of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, having a daily capacity of 2,000 tons and it is modern in all equipment, including a complete electrical plant.

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PERSIAN REFORMERS, READY FOR BATTLE, HOLD PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS



THE SHAH'S HAREM, SEEN FROM THE COURT OF THE PALACE - TEHERAN - THE LADIES OF A PERSIAN HOUSEHOLD

Teheran, Dec. 19.—Matters looked more hopeful for a brief period this morning, and the armed forces which have occupied the streets of Persian capital since Sunday began to disperse when suddenly a few random shots were fired in the public squares causing a speedy re-assembling of the organized forces.

As a result of the deliberations of last night between the Shah and the parliamentary party, it was agreed that the negotiations could continue with a chance of success only if both sides struck their swords and dispersed. Accordingly the reformers, who were bivouacked in Artillery square, and the constitutionalists, who surrounded the assembly building, started to withdraw from their positions.

A number of shops had re-opened, the people were beginning to circulate on the streets, and the members of the assembly were deliberating the best solution of the crisis, when suddenly the firing from the square was heard. Each faction thought it had been deceived. In the course of the early afternoon large and fully armed forces representing each side re-occupied their former positions. The attitude of each faction is largely defensive. The assembly has received telegrams from the principal cities of Persia promising help.

Canada's Imports Show Big Increase and Exports the Reverse. Volume of Trade for November Over \$6,000,000 Less Than Same Period a Year Ago—Little Actual Extreme Poverty in Ottawa, But Many Men Are Out of Work.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The financial stricture is making itself felt in the trade returns. While the eight months of the fiscal year ended with November show an increase in the aggregate trade of Canada of \$2,799,313, as compared with the same time last year, this increase was entirely in imports.

There was a decrease in exports of \$5,572,331. About the half of this decrease was in foreign exports. Domestic exports for the eight months show about \$2,000,000 of a decrease, while the imports increased by over \$2,000,000. The output of the mine shows a decrease of about \$1,750,000, the fisheries a small increase, the forests a decrease of about \$300,000, and animals and their product a decrease of over \$1,000,000, agriculture an increase of nearly \$7,000,000, manufactures an increase of \$1,250,000 as compared with the same eight months in 1906.

An investigation carried on by one of the local papers during the past few days relative to the effect of the alleged hard times in Ottawa shows that only four or five cases of extreme poverty and need were found in the whole city and in each case the cause could be traced to decrease in foreign exports. Domestic exports for the most cases they had preferred to stay in the city, although employment could have been secured in the surrounding country. The market for skilled labor was found to be not unduly overstocked.

STEAMERS PASSED THE NEWS OF LINER'S MISHAP IN MID-OCEAN. London, Dec. 19.—(via Fastnet)—The Harz liner Lusitania, when in communication by wireless telegraphy with Fleetnet at 6:10 this evening, signalled that she had been in communication with the Canadian Pacific liner Empress of Britain from St. John (N. B.) for Liverpool, which reported that she had spoken the British steamer Cambrian, bound from London for Philadelphia, in latitude 50, longitude 30, with broken shaft.

The British liner William Cliff, from New Orleans for Liverpool, was standing by and rendering all assistance necessary. The Cambrian left London December 7 and was almost in mid-ocean when reported.

BALANCE ON THE WRONG SIDE

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MAN FROM NEAR HERE HAS SMALLPOX IN BOSTON

George Fitzgerald, on a Visit to the Hub, Has Mild Attack. George Fitzgerald, 25 years old, and on a visit to Boston from St. John (N. B.), was removed to the detention hospital in Southampton street yesterday by orders of the board of health. He is suffering from smallpox in an advanced stage.

Mr. Fitzgerald's home is ten miles or so outside St. John. Last week Wednesday he arrived in Salem, where he remained until Saturday. Late in the afternoon he came to Boston by train, and from the railroad station rode on the elevated to Dudley street station. He arrived in West Roxbury about 8 p. m., going direct to the home of a family in Beech street. He remained a guest with the Beech street family until removed yesterday by orders of the board of health.

It is the opinion of Dr. Shea, chief medical inspector of the board, that Fitzgerald has been sick about ten days. The case, fortunately, is of a very mild form. The members of the family were at once vaccinated and the house disinfected.—Boston Globe, Thursday.

ECCENTRIC MAINE WOMAN FOUND DEAD

Harpwell, Me., Dec. 19.—Miss Susan A. Halpin, an eccentric woman who lived alone in her house at South Harpwell, was found dead in the house today by two neighbors who broke into the dwelling. Miss Halpin had not been seen about since last Tuesday, and this fact led to an investigation and the discovery of her body in the house today. Coroner William E. Gordon, of Brunswick, is of the opinion that the woman died from starvation and cold.

Nothing is known of the woman's relatives, but it is believed that she was in comfortable circumstances, although mentally unbalanced. A considerable amount of money was found in the house. She was about 45 years of age. A large number of letters, many of them from foreign cities, were found in the house and there were also many letters which the woman herself had written and had failed to mail. From these unmailed letters and the answers she received to others, the coroner was convinced that the woman was of unsound mind. Tomorrow the coroner will go through the entire mass of correspondence carefully in an effort to discover a clue to her relatives. Most of the letters, however, appear to have been from strangers.

TORONTO DEPARTS 19 MORE BULGARIANS (Special to The Telegraph.) Toronto, Dec. 19.—Ten policemen escorted nineteen Bulgarians to the Union station this morning to be deported under instructions from Ottawa and placed them on an eastbound train for Quebec. They were rounded up in east end begging because they refused to work.

FOILED IN ATTEMPT TO ROB A TRAIN

Wm. H. Hewitt, With Relatives in St. John, Arrested in Philadelphia

Officers Say They Caught Him Sawing Acetylene Gas Pipes Under Car, and That Two Other Men Were on Guard, Escaped—It is Thought They Planned to Secure \$250,000 in Valuables in Express Car After Lights Went Out—Prisoner Visited here Last Summer and Sent Christmas Card to Hostess Lately.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Philadelphia, Dec. 19.—A train robbery was frustrated in the heart of this city last night by the vigilance of a yardman in the Reading terminal yards. A carefully laid plot to make off with valuables valued at \$250,000, including \$90,000 in gold, from the Buffalo express was checked.

William H. Hewitt, who gave New York as his address, was arrested and held in \$5,000 for further hearing. The Buffalo express, which three men were trying to loot, leaves this city at 8:40 p. m. It had pulled in on a track at 7:30 and was being placed in readiness for the passengers to board. Long before this time a consignment of \$90,000 from the Philadelphia mint consigned to a bank in Buffalo was loaded into one of the express cars which was then sealed and a guard placed over it. There were five cars of the United States Express Company in the make-up of the train and all were loaded with valuables, and the estimate of \$250,000 seems to be generally conceded as a conservative one.

Valuables Heavily Guarded. Inside each car was an armed guard and five other armed guards in civilian dress were assigned to each car. The coin was in a fire and burglar-proof safe. Shortly before the departure time of the express a yardman heard a rasping noise and glancing in the direction from whence it came saw a man crouching under one of the express cars of the Buffalo express. He told Assistant Station Agent H. F. Allebach, who called a special policeman on duty in the station, and the three went to the car.

As they approached two men who had been promenadeing up and down the platform darted across some tracks out on to the floor of the station and down the steps and escaped into the street. Hewitt, who was the man at work under the platform, was not able to make his escape and was placed under arrest. Under the car where Hewitt had been at work was found an adjustable saw such as is used by craftsmen. Its blade was of the finest tempered steel and can be carried handily in the coat pocket. In the pipes that carry the gas to the cars of the train were found two incisions that had been made by Hewitt's saw.

The plan, as appeared, was to tap these gas pipes and allow the gas to escape until the train should be in darkness, when it is ignited by the police that the men counting somewhat upon a panic, could descend upon the precious freight and take the guards at a disadvantage. It is also said by the police that by the time the gas was exhausted the burglars evidently figured that the train would have been in some sparsely settled locality along the road.

C. P. Russ, general agent of the United States Express Company, said it would have been impossible for an ordinary body of men to have robbed any of the cars, guarded as they were. He said further that at this season of the year the shipments by the express company are valuable that extra precautions to guard the freight entrusted to them are taken to prevent robberies.

Hewitt Had Relatives in St. John. Later Hewitt was taken to the detective bureau, where he was "sweated" and afterwards photographed for the rogues' gallery. He had but fifteen cents in his pockets. He said he had relatives in St. John (N. B.). He claimed to be a college graduate and had worked as a baker and a musician at various times. He was once employed

in the billiard room of the exclusive Somerset Club of Boston. Further than this he refused to tell anything of himself beyond saying he had been in Philadelphia but a week. He expressed a wish to write to his relatives in New Brunswick that he might obtain money for a lawyer to defend him.

Had Nine Pocket Books When Searched. (Associated Press.) Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 19.—The following version of the capture of Hewitt was given at the office of J. B. Warrington, superintendent of the Philadelphia division of the Reading R. R. Company: "Shortly after the time scheduled for the departure of the flyer, Angelo Tutolo, car inspector, was inspecting a train. Glancing over toward the adjoining track he saw three men crouched under three of the passenger coaches of the Buffalo express. Two of the three men saw that they had been noticed, and crawling from beneath the cars, walked swiftly down the platform."

"At that time Tutolo did not know what the men had been doing so he watched the third, who, unconscious that he had been seen, sawed away industriously at the pipes that carried the acetylene which lighted the cars. In a few minutes he finished his job and entered the car. The inspector hunted up the conductor of the flyer and told "the latter what he had seen. The two went into the car where Hewitt had entered and as they did so, the lights became lower and railway went out. In the half darkness, however, Tutolo had recognized Hewitt, who fled, and was captured. Hewitt was indignant but he was searched and nine pocket-books were found on him. In the back of the seat where he was sitting was found a small adjustable saw with a blade of wonderfully tempered steel that fitted into the handle and could be closed up and carried in the pocket."

From the discovery of the pocketbooks, which Hewitt is thought to have picked up during the ay, the railroad people believe that the plan of the young man and his companions was to pick the pockets of the passengers on the train, and that the lights went out, rather than to attempt the herculean task of robbing the express cars.

William Hewitt is the nephew of Mrs. John Cullinan, 55 Sheriff street, and spent a week at her home last August. He was born in Halifax and was the son of Daniel Hewitt, whose present whereabouts are unknown but he is thought to be somewhere in the United States. Hewitt went to Boston when a mere boy and has visited in St. John twice since then. He was learning telegraphy operating and during the summer play of the corner in a musical organization which toured the summer hotels in Maine.

Mrs. Cullinan showed a reporter a set of handsome carved wooden ornaments which Hewitt had brought her from Northeast Harbor (Me.) She said she was a smart, fine-looking lad and she was surprised to hear of him being in trouble. She received several cards from him while he was in New York and only on Wednesday she received a card from him dated Philadelphia and wishing her a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She wondered what he was doing in Philadelphia, she said, as he was learning telegraphy in New York. She had sent him a Christmas card in return and thought he should get it before Christmas. Several relatives live in Nova Scotia.

AGAINST MILITARY TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Ontario Delegation Waits on Premier Whitney—Also Ask for Prison Penalty for Reckless Chauffeurs.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Toronto, Dec. 19.—A deputation from the Dominion Grange waited on Premier Whitney today to protest against military training in the public schools. They professed alarm at its establishment on the lines suggested by Sir Frederick Borden of the system of military training in the schools of Nova Scotia. They also wanted an amendment to the law so that reckless drivers of automobiles might be imprisoned.

NEW YORK REPUBLICANS TURN HUGHES DOWN. New York, Dec. 19.—At a session to night which lasted less than ten minutes, the Republican county committee of New York county by almost unanimous vote, refused to consider at present a resolution endorsing Governor Charles E. Hughes for the Republican presidential nomination. No sooner had the resolution been offered by the friends of the governor and its adoption moved than there came an amendment to receive and print the document and make it a special order for the regular meeting in January. This latter motion was carried with a shout that could be heard far out into the street. An immediate motion to adjourn was also carried with a whoop.

BLOOD SPILLED ON FLOORS OF CONGRESS. Democratic Leaders Indulge in Fist Fight After Wordy War. Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—The spirit of rivalry which for five years has alternately smoldered and blazed between John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, leader of the minority, and David A. Deamond, of Missouri, leader of the minority opposition, culminated in a fist fight today on the floor of the house of representatives. The blows of Representative Dorman caused blood to flow down the face of Representative Williams and only the forcible intervention of friends cut the combat short. Mr. Deamond bore away a marked nose.

The immediate cause of the fight was Mr. Deamond's charging Mr. Williams with untruthfulness resulting from a complaint by the former that the minority leader broke faith with him in "burying" Representative Booher, of Missouri, by recommending his assignment by Speaker Cannon to the committee on coinage, weights and measures. According to the statements of the principals, Mr. Williams defended his action by declaring he had been told by Mr. Booher's colleague, Representative Lloyd of Missouri, that the committee assignment would be satisfactory to Mr. Booher. Mr. Deamond bluntly questioned the statement and after failing to have the controversy shifted to somewhere else than the house, Mr. Williams struck Mr. Deamond a blow in the face with his clenched fist.

MOVE TO BUY STATE LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS

Bills Introduced in U. S. Congress to Acquire Big Blocks of Wild Land to Protect Navigation and Wasteful Destruction of Timber. Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—As a means of protecting the navigable conditions of rivers arising in the southern Appalachian and White Mountains and incidentally of saving from destruction by fire and wasteful exploitation, the first forests of the two regions, Messrs. Lever, of South Carolina, and Currier, of New Hampshire, introduced bills in the house today authorizing the secretary of agriculture to acquire lands for national forest purposes in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee, in the south and in New Hampshire and Maine in the north. It is understood that a similar bill will be introduced in the senate. The bill appropriated \$1,000,000 for the purchase of the necessary lands.

Ontario Flax Mill Burned. Toronto, Dec. 19.—(Special)—The flax mill at Forest was burned this morning. The loss is \$4,000 and insurance \$2,500. There is evidence that the fire was incendiary. Thirty hands are out of work.

BELL TELEPHONE CO. OFFER TO SELL MANITOBA LINES. Ask the Government \$4,000,000—Willing to Abandon the West Entirely. (Special to The Telegraph.) Winnipeg, Dec. 19.—Four million dollars was the figure named today by President Sise, of the Bell Telephone Company, who is in Winnipeg negotiating with the Manitoba government for sale of the company's lines and plant in Manitoba. It is understood the Bell Company is willing to dispose of its property in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and practically abandon the west.

KILLED BRIDE OF A FEW MONTHS AND THEN SUICIDED. Akron, Ohio, Dec. 19.—Thomas Larriemore, 30 years old, shot his wife, formerly Mrs. Lillian Summerton, through the head three times last night and then put a bullet into his own brain. Both died shortly afterwards at a hospital. The shooting occurred on the street. The couple were married last after Mrs. Summerton's husband a divorce. They did not live together. Larriemore left the house turned out yesterday to see the doctor. The dead man had Shelby, Iowa.