

**Awful Disaster in Two Collieries at Monongah, W. Va.**

**TAKING OUT THE BODIES**

Monongah, W. Va., Dec. 10.—A total of 78 bodies had been brought from the two wrecked mines at Monongah. Rescue work while slow is progressing smoothly and as rapidly as due precaution for the rescuers would permit. The fire which caused a suspension of rescue work in mine No. 8 was extinguished.

Scenes of touching sadness were caused by the burial of the recovered dead and the pitiful actions of relatives of the entombed victims.

The company issued a statement in which the claim is made that later developments lead the officials to believe there were only 250 men in the mine when the explosion occurred. The statement, however, is believed to be purely conjecture and no one who is familiar with conditions here takes it seriously. It is insisted by miners of the vicinity that 406 men were checked off as entering the two mines last Friday morning and in addition to that number there were many having duties in the mine who are not under the check system.

Five men hovering between life and death from awful bruises sustained and the deadly gases inhaled are in a temporary hospital.

The explosion occurred shortly after the men had gone to work in the two mines affected. These mines are Nos. 6 and 8 of the Consolidation Coal company, located on opposite sides of the West Fork river, at this place, but merged in their underground workings by a heading and on the surface by a great steel tippie and bridge.

There is much speculation as to the cause of the explosion, but the most generally accepted theory is that it resulted from black damp. It is believed that a miner attempted to set off a blast which blew out and ignited an accumulation of this deadly gas, and that this in turn ignited the coal dust, a highly inflammable substance found in greater or less quantity in all the West Virginia mines.

**Interior of Mines Wrecked.**

The explosion affected both mines, and so far as now known appears to have done about as much damage in one as in the other. Evidencing the terrific force of the concussion, props in the entry of No. 6 mine, supporting the roof, were not only shattered and torn from their position, but were blown out of the entry and to the opposite side of the river. Other evidence of the awful force is shown in every section of the mines that has been reached by the rescuers. Huge quantities of coal and rock have been loosened and hurled into every opening, and all of the underground structure is wrecked beyond semblance of its original shape.

All of the headings leading off from the main entry are being cut off by canvas and barricaded as fast as they are reached by the relief workers, so that the innermost workings of the mine may be given the benefit of the ventilating system to sustain any that may be yet living and make possible an early exploration of these workings.

Along the hills, far back from the main opening of mine No. 8, there are a number of openings into the mine, and to these hundreds of relatives and friends of the entombed men frantically rushed in the vain hope that their loved ones might find escape through these channels or that they might be more readily reached and released. So far as known, however, not a single man escaped this way, and the would-be rescuers are helpless at these points, for out of each entry there is pouring a volume of poisonous gas which no human being can face for more than a few minutes at a time.

The condition of the bodies thus far recovered is horrible. Many are dismembered, some are fearfully crushed and the rest are blackened and burned beyond recognition. The body of J. M. McGraw, pit boss, and one of the best known mining men in West Virginia, was recovered in mine No. 8. It was headless and otherwise disfigured, identification having been made by the clothing and the shoes he wore.

A score or more of men of the rescuing parties are in a critical condition from inhaling poisonous gas. Several of them are expected to die. One of these men, John Gabbert, was carried from the mine almost a raving maniac. His lungs were filled with gas, which produced a condition similar to one insane, and the services of four doctors were necessary to hold him while doctors attended him.

There were many instances of quiet heroism shown by the men who have gone into the mines to rescue the bodies of their fellow-workmen.

**Unusually Pathetic Scenes.**

The scenes round about the entries to the mines and throughout the town are even more pathetic and heartrending than those which usually attend a mine disaster because of a larger proportion of American and Americanized foreigners than are usually found in a purely mining settlement. Wives and mothers and sweethearts together with children and members of the stronger sex move from place to place, vainly seeking information and making no attempt to conceal the grief that overwhelms them. But no news can be given them, and such as they do get is bad.

Many women believe their husbands or sons will be still found alive and refuse to leave the vicinity of the mine. When bodies are carried from the mine these women become almost insane, screaming and pacing back and forth, and calling aloud the names of their loved ones. One woman overheard a man say that most of the bodies were badly mutilated. With a piercing shriek, she fell to the ground and was carried to her home nearby. She is still unconscious and her condition is critical.

The mines are owned and operated by the Consolidated Coal company, of Baltimore. General offices are located in Baltimore, and the operating offices are in Fairmount, W. Va. The company is said to be one of the largest operating in the bituminous coal industry in the United States. It is capitalized at \$20,000,000, and has in operation about 100 producing plants. Its largest mines are located in Fairmount and Clarksville, W. Va.; Somerset, Pa., and at Cumberland, Md.

**DEAD AT THROTTLE**

**Engineer Ran Train Past a Danger Signal and Caused Wreck.**

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 9.—Under conditions which seem to indicate that he was dead at the throttle, Calvin Frederick, an engineer on the Lehigh Valley railroad, ran his locomotive past a danger signal near Parryville, Carbon county, and caused a wreck in which Richard Miller and Cyrus Young, brakemen, were dangerously scalded.

Frederick was engineer on a west-bound freight train, which crashed into the rear end of another freight. Frederick's locomotive was overturned, the caboose into which it crashed was demolished and a freight car was wrecked. Miller and Young were scalded by steam from the locomotive. Frederick's body was scalded, and his hand was on the throttle of the locomotive. The body was in such a position that he could easily have extricated himself, and it is believed he was dead at the throttle or unconscious and ran past the danger signal.

Shortly before the accident Frederick had complained that he had a peculiar pain in his head, but he did not ask relief and the members of the crew thought he was all right because they did not hear from him.

Frederick was 33 years of age and was engaged to be married on Christmas day to Miss Laura Reimensnyder, of Williamsport. All the men live in Lehighton.

**BOILER EXPLOSION**

**Three Men Killed and One Injured at Allentown.**

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 10.—One of a battery of nine boilers in the drawing department of a local plant of the American Steel & Wire company, a No. 6 Sterling boiler, blew up, killing two men instantly and injuring two others, one of whom died three hours later.

The dead: John Cyrns, aged 27, married; Simon Pollomisky, aged 21, single, and Francis Matula, aged 20, single.

The injured: George Kerechler, aged 30, married. The latter two were cut and scalded. They were removed to the Allentown hospital.

The accident has shut down the entire mill, throwing 800 men out of employment.

The cause is unknown. It was the lower plate of the mud drum that gave way. The force of the explosion was upward and southward. The boiler house was shattered. The drums of the exploded boiler were hurled through a frame storage house, crushing it like an egg shell, and they are lying in the Little Lehigh river, a hundred feet away.

**KILLED GRANDCHILDREN**

**Woman Stupefied Little Ones and Then Drowned Them.**

Somerville, Mass., Dec. 10.—Mrs. Emery Huntley walked into a police station and announced that she had killed her two grandchildren. The bodies of the children, Raymond Shomo, 6 years old, and Caroline Huntley, 4 years old, were found shortly afterward at Mrs. Huntley's home. They had been stupefied by illuminating gas and then drowned in a bathtub.

The children were on a visit to their grandmother. They were brother and sister, who on the death of their parents a few years ago had been adopted, the girl by her mother's uncle, Charles J. Huntley, of Boston, and the boy by his father's brother, a man named Shomo, who lives somewhere in the west.

Mrs. Huntley is 45 years of age. It is alleged that she has been considered mentally weak for some time past. The children had been dead about an hour and a half when their bodies were found. Their mother died by suicide shortly after the decease of her husband.

**Missing Man's Body Found in Canal.**

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 9.—The body of Miles G. Ott, who left home last week after leaving a note, in which he intimated that he intended to end his life, was found in the Lehigh canal below the city. The body was found after the canal had been drained. Ott's father and his grandfather committed suicide.

**Slayer of Husband Gets Ten Years.**

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 7.—Kaidus Howrisko, a Hungarian woman on trial here for murdering her husband by setting him afire while he slept, withdrew her plea of not guilty and pleaded guilty to second degree murder. She was sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary.

**Venerable Ruler of Sweden Dies Surrounded by Family.**

**COUNTRY BOWED WITH GRIEF**

Stockholm, Dec. 9.—Oscar II, king of Sweden, died Sunday. The death of the venerable monarch occurred in the royal apartments of the palace, where, surrounded by members of his family, including the aged Queen Sophia and high ministers of state, the inevitable end had been awaited, while outside the palace great crowds stood with bowed heads and tearful eyes long after the announcement came of the death of their well beloved sovereign.

The whole country is bowed with grief, for King Oscar was something



Oscar and Sophia.

more than a ruler of his people and had endeared himself to them as an intimate and personal friend. When the flag on the palace was dipped to half mast there was a moan of anguish from the assembled multitude and many of them cried "our dear old king is dead."

The succession to the throne of Sweden now passes to Oscar Gustave Adolphe, Duke of Vermland, the oldest son of the late king. At a meeting of the council of state the new king took the oath of allegiance under the title of Gustave V, and adopted the motto "with the people for the fatherland." The princes then took the oath of allegiance and the new monarch accepted the homage of the state officials.

The last hours of the expiring monarch were passed in unconsciousness and up to the end he gave no sign of

recognizing those about him. The queen was grief stricken because he could not bid her farewell. At times there were faint signs of consciousness as the attending physicians brought some temporary relief to the patient sufferer.

In the palace court yard in the dim cold grey mist of the morning stood a crowd of school boys, King Oscar's most devoted friends. Here they had stood for hours, blue and shivering, watching the palace flag staff. There, also, gathered many old men and women in rags, such as the king had always stopped to comfort with mild words and generous alms when he met them in the parks or streets, their faces tear-stained because their beloved king and benefactor was dying. Suddenly the flag drooped to half mast and a wall of misery and sorrow arose. The old folks clasped their hands and prayed and wept aloud, and the school boys' lamentations were pitiful to hear.

In a room near the death chamber the first marshal of the court read to the cabinet a draft of the new king's proclamation to the Swedish people. In an ante-chamber high officers and officials discussed the probable policy of the new king. One by one the ships in the harbor and the buildings throughout the city displayed the flag at half mast and the people soon crowded the streets near the palace, but all spoke in whispers, bearing witness to the kindness of him who had departed and to the love they bore him.

In the death chamber knelt the heart-broken queen and gathered about her were her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, praying for strength to bear their great affliction. The church bells began to toll and the minute guns boomed. All Sweden mourned its great loss.

**Murdered Over Division of Spoils.**

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 10.—George Zamfert, a well known Italian of Martins Ferry, Ohio, was shot and instantly killed, and John Stefan is in custody accused of the crime. Zamfert and Stefan were friends, and according to the story of the police they were implicated in the hold-up of two Syrians. They could not agree over the division of the spoils, it is said, and during the controversy Zamfert is said to have angrily remarked that he was going home for a gun. Stefan thereupon answered, it is said, "Don't wait that long; I will shoot you now," and suiting his action to his words, drew a revolver and shot Zamfert twice through the stomach, causing instant death.

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