WORK IN POWDER MILLS

Where Men Live in Constant Fear of Death.

HIGH WAGES TEMPT THEM.

Precaution Taken Against Explosion. Narrow Escapes From Sparks—Effect on Workmen of Their Hazardous Occupation—How the Powder is Made.

Within ten miles of Kansas City is a village whose people live in continual dread of a terrible death.

Near this village is a powder mill in which are made each day 1,000 kegs of the most powerful blasting powder.

In this powder plant twenty-four men work. Death, stark and fearful, stares them in the face every moment. The tiniest spark struck fro ma bit of iron anywhere would cause the explosion that every one dreads.

These men who work eye to eye with death have faces somber and drawn with anxiety, and fear and continual brooding over what might happen. No man ever becomes accustomed to it, says the Kansas City Star, so that he forgets and is care free as workmen in other trades are. In or around this powder mill is never heard a snatch of song or merry laugh. The men work in silence.

The mental strain is hard and the men do not stay long. They come and go. Some stay for a year; more stay for six months; but the majority quit after a few weeks of it. There are always new men to take the places of those who go. The high wages tempt them. Men who do common labor are paid $2 a day. Others who work in the "corning mill," where the liability of explosion is ever present, are paid $3.50 a day.

There are sixty acres in the powder mill grounds. It is very hilly. The mill has twenty different houses, each of them small and built of sheet iron. Each is built into an excavation dug in the side of the hill and each is far enough from the other so that if one explodes it might not cause any of the other nineteen to explode too.

To minimize the danger of hot boxes all the journal bearings of the machinery are of brass, the tools of the workmen are of brass, so that no spark may be struck. There are twenty tons of brass upon the plant.

The powder is made of sodium nitrate, which comes from Peru, sulphur which comes from Louisiana, and charcoal from Missouri. The charcoal and sulphur are put into great iron drums and chunks of steel are put in with them. They revolve all night and by morning the steel balls have reduced the charcoal and sulphur to an impalpable black powder. This is put in bags and goes up the hillside to the four incorporating mills.

Each mill has a "pan" nine feet across, shaped exactly like a milk pan, with a floor of steel plate. In this pan two great steel rollers, six feet in diameter, each with a 24 inch face and weighing thirteen tons apiece, roll around and around upon the bed plate. The charcoal, sulphur and nitrate of sodium are dumped into the pan. For two hours the rollers revolve and thoroughly mix and "incorporate" them.

The mixture goes next to the press, where it is poured into a long box set full of aluminum plates two inches apart. Hydraulic pressure squeezes it into cakes 24 inches square and an inch thick.

Then the cakes go to the corning mill, where they are ground into grains of different diameter, the largst about the size of kernels of corn. These are shoveled into bags and are wheeled around the hillside to another mill, where they go into cylinders and revolve in plumbago until they generate a heat of 160 to 200 degrees. Each grain takes on a high polish from the coating of plumbago, which preserves the powder grain and makes it sell more readily. Next they go to the separator, which assorts the grains into nine different sizes. Here the powder is packed into metal cans, each holding twenty-five pounds, and these cans are stored in the magazine, ready for the market.

German Death Test.

Although it is asserted by nearly every practicing physician that the possibility of being buried alive can only occur where a medical examination has not been made, an eminent German physician and surgeon states that a stronger, absolutely reliable guarantee for discerning actual death is still demanded, and the demand has been met by the discovery of a new medium for ascertaining death with perfect certainty.

This new death test consists in injecting a solution of flourescine deep into the tissues. If circulation exists the skin and mucous membranes become very yellow and the eyes assume the color of emeralds; if the circulation has ceased none of these results occur.

The discoverer proposes that at least two hours before the body is placed into the coffin such an injection with fluorescine be made. If life is not yet extinct the injection does no harm and the coloring within a short time entirely disappears without the slightest injury to the patient.

HOMES OF CELEBRITIES.

Unattractive Rooms Under the Eaves Where Genius Dozzled.

The enthusiastic society of hero worshippers in Paris known as the "Hugophiles" discovered the first garret which their idol occupied in the capital. It was at the age of 17 that Victor Hugo took a garret at No. 55 Rue du Dragon, an old Louis XIV. house, which has a curious little turret window from which the future author of "Les Miserables" looked over the towers and roofs of the city. He wrote his first poems here, and sighed over his first love—Adele Foucher, who afterwards became his wife, and to whom he was, indeed, engaged long before either of them was born. For it was at Pierre Foucher's wedding that Hugo's father, his best man, when drinking his health, expressed this wish: "May you have a daughter and I a son, and we will arrange a marriage between them." The poet doubtless went from this humble lodging to marry Adele in 1822, and it was probably there that he wrote many of the beautiful verses addressed to his sweetheart. A tablet is to be placed on the house recalling the sojourn of its distinguished tenant.

Quite close to this early lodging of the poet is a house—No. 45 in the Rue Bonaparte—where another distinguished man lived in humble circumstances 40 years later. This was Leon Gambetta, who took a tiny apartment there about 1860 after failing in the examination for the magistracy, and determining to go in for the bar. But the garret which Gambetta occupied prior to this was at the Hotel du Senat, Rue de Tournon, in a different part of the city.

Among the numerous garrets of distinguished Parisians, one of the most memorable is that of Balzac. It is at No. 9, Rue Lesdiguieres, off the Boulevard Henri IV. Te Balzac family, who in 1819 were quitting Paris, decided to leave Honore, who had no position and was determined to seek his fortune. The little garret, near the Arsenal library, was a very modest affair, having only a bed a table, and a couple of chairs—true a budding novelist only requires one—and here he settled down to write, and reap the whirlwind of disappointed hopes—tragedies that never got staged. He often was hungry and cold in this garret of his, but when he returned to the more comfortable home of his father he looked back with regret to the attic wener his first ideas of the "Comedie Humaine" had sprung. "I was so quiet there," he said.

The life of Henri Murger, the historian of Bohemia, was spent mostly in garrets. When, with his father, who was a tailor and a concierge, in the first place, he lived just under the roof in the Rue des Trois Freres, and when his father objected to his frequenting his Bohemian friends he left the paternal roof. He lived in a succession of garrets after this—there was one in the Due due Cherche-Midi, one at 61 Due Taitbout, and one in the Rue Montholon. At No. 1 Rue de la Tour d'Auvergne—again a garret—"with a low ceiling," says Murger, "lighted on one side by a small window over a courtyard, from which one could see the heights of Montmartre," he founded his eccentric club, the "Cenacle des Buveurs d'Eau."

"How good it is at 20 in a garret!" sang Beranger, and he too had had experience. The garret he inhabited in his youth still exists, little changed, at No. 50, Rue Bondy, off the Boulevard St. Martin. Here he sang his songs to "Lisette," and was happy.

Carbonic Acid in the Soil.

In the Auvergne region of France a large amount of carbonic acid gas comes from the soil and is one of the last traces of former volcanic activity of this region. The springs that yield the gas are found generally in the fissures of the ground which allow the water to rise. One of the Mont-pensier springs has been known as the "poisoned spring." Animals which descend into the cavity to drink are soon asphyxiated by the gas which is given off by the water.

Opposed to Navy Men.

The proposal to extend employment in the British civil service to ex-soldiers and sailors is bitterly opposed by labor leaders. The fear is that such men will be disposed to accept small pay in addition to any pension they may have, and thus reduce wages.

A Clean Record.

During the 100 years of its existence Durbanville, near Cape Town, has never raised a public loan. It is a flourishing municipality, and its centenary has just been celebrated by the laying of the foundation stone of a new town hall of elaborate design.

Selling Cod Fish.

Codfish are sold in Norway by count, regardless of size, which varies greatly. Salt is considered the only desirable preservative, but many are air dried and are known as "gloek fish."

FEBRUARY JURORS.

Jury Commissioners and Sheriff Drew Names for Next Session of Court.

Sheriff C. B. Ent, and Jury Commissioners A. C. Hidlay and James Trump drew the jurors for February court on Monday. This is the last time Mr. Trump will act, as his term of office expires this year. Mr. Hidlay will succeed himself.

The jurors drawn are as follows:

GRAND JURORS.

First Monday in February.

E. D. Ceen,—Berwick
Grant Martz,—Briarcreek
Fred Colemens—Berwick
Earl Brown,—Main
Aaron Hartman,—Hemlock
John Crawford,—Berwick
Charles E. Eck,—Montour
John Wanich,—Scott
Wesley Davis,—Benton Twp.
O. W. Larish,—Sugarloaf
C. O. Maust,—Madison
Boyd Vance,—Orange
E. E. Hagenbuch,—Scott
Thos. M. Lynn,—Briarcreek
C. A. Wesley,—Stillwater
Wm. Achenbuch,—Bloom
William Edwards,—Centre
Orville Meeker,—Sugarloaf
Frank Meyers,—Sugarloaf
R. H. Bardo,—Greenwood
Charles Artley,—Cleveland
Leander Fetterman,—Locust
Geo. Reinard,—West Berwick
Jacob R. Moser,—Conyngham

PETIT JURORS

First Tuesday in February.

David Howell,—Mt. Pleasant
D. F. Mordan,—Mt. Pleasant
David E. Yeager,—Locust
Howard Gteenley,—Berwick
Calvin P. Blecker,—Montour
T. E. Brittain,—Benton
G. C. Fenst,—Berwick
Samuel W. Ikeler,—Berwick
Wesley Morris,—Greenwood
E. W. Greenley,—Greenwood
Samuel H. Mordan,—Madison
Isaac Fetterman,—Conyngham
Wes'ey Fairchilds,—West Berwick
G. P. Davis,—Bloom
R. H. Hess,—Berwick
Sylvester Beaver,—Conyngham
Clem Marteet y,—Berwick
Frank S. Leighow,—Centre
F. E. Boice,—Berwick
Thomas Merell,—Scott
A. L. Fritz,—Sugarloaf
Jacob Getty,—Centralia
Henry S. Keck,—Berwick
E. R. Wilson,—Benton Twp.
Jhon Shalles,—Berwick
J. Lawrence,—Montour
D. J. Hummer,—Bloom
Wm. Elmes, Sr.,—Berwick
Wm. C. Hartman,—Scott
C. E. Blame,—Berwick
W. F. Rough,—Berwick
Zehneder Low,—Orange
M. E. Ervin,—Catawissa
John J. Rielly, Centralia
John Watters,—Catawissa
William Singleton,—Conyngham

CIVIL COURT JURORS.

Second Tuesday in February.

S. T. Pollock,—Berwick
E. Ward Ritter,—Bloomsburg
Boyd M. Freas,—Briarcreek.
J. P. Creasy, Jr.,—Fishingcreek
Edward Hartman,—Madison
Albert Low,—Montour
Charles A. Shaffer,—Berwick
Thomas Morton,—Berwick
C. R. Pealer,—Fishingcreek
G. W. Hartman,—Hemlock
I. Neal Maust,—Hemlock
Harry Fahringer,—Berwick
Wesley Bower,—Briarcreek
James Walters, Bloom
I. B. Ikeler,—Greenwood
William Roup,—Berwick
Ezra Yocum,—Cleveland
David Fisher,—Bloom
Wm. Watkins,—Franklin
W. R. Ringrose,—Bloom
R. R. Smith,—Catawissa
D. C. Yocum,—Locust
Clarence Trumbley,—Centre
Peter Shultz,—Sugarloaf
Aaron Kester,—Millville
William Harry,—Berwick
T. L. Keifer,—Berwick
Joseph G. Swank,—Mifflin
Samson Townsend,—Mt. Pleasant
Erastus Kline,—Pine
Albert Fetterolf,—Conyngham
Elmer Klinger,—Berwick
W. W. Karshner,—Greenwood
Charles Bower,—Berwick
A. C. Fisher,—Montour,
P. V. Closen, Orange
James Stricker,—Catawissa
John Ash,—Berwick
J. S. Grimes,—Bloomsburg
T. W. Rielly,—Centralia
William H. Utt,—Bloom
M. H. Mensch,—Montour
Chas. Cadman,—Millville
Rodger Sheran,—Centralia
Albert Widger,—Briarcreek
Edward Kaustenbauder,—Catawissa
James Ruch,—Berwick

There are times when every man, away down in his heart, realizes that the fools are not all dead yet.

Kipling and the 'Bus Owner.

Annoyed by the injury done to one of his trees by the driver of the local 'bus, Mr. Kipling once wrote a vigorous letter of complaint to the 'bus owner, who is also landlord of an inn. The landlord laid the letter before the select company of the bar parlor, who advised calm indifference. Also, a Croesus among them offered 10 shillings in cash for the autograph letter. Both advice and cash were accepted. A second and stronger letter followed; and this also found a purchaser, this time at £1, as befitted its increased violence. Boniface again said nothing. To him next day entered Mr. Kipling, briskly wrathful. "Why didn't I answer your letters, sir? Why, I was hoping you'd send me a fresh one every day. They pay a deal better than 'bus driving."—Boston Times.

Decapitated Turtle Walks.

Arthur Thomason caught a fine turtle one day last week, cut off its head and placed it on ice, expecting to have a few friends enjoy it with him the following night. The next day he went to the ice-box after it, but found the creature walking aimlessly about. He has been back to the ice-box several hours daily since, but the turtle is liveller than ever. Arthur is opposed to boiling it alive and he fears the turtle feast may have to be postponed indefinitely. Friends have informed him that a turtle will give signs of life six months after it is decapitated.—Liberty (Mo.) Tribune.

Pity She's No more.

There was an old-fashioned woman who would blush if company caught her with less than six different kinds of cake and seven different kinds of preserves in the house. If a guest liked coffee for supper, she thought it was right that she should have it. Her pies were always rich, and she used lots of butter and cream. She had never heard of the diet cure, and believed in people eating just what they liked. What a pity it is that she isn't alive, so we folks who are tired of dieting could go and visit her.

The Blue Ribbons of Mathematics.

This year's "senior wranglership" at the University of Cambridge, England, gave great honors to a young Russian Jew. The result of the "mathematical tripos" shows that Selig Brodertsky, whose father had sought an asylum in England from Russian oppression, has been bracketed with Mr. Ibbotson, scholar of Pembroke, for the coveted British blue ribbon of mathematics.

Trolley Time Tables

Cars leave Market Square, Bloomsburg for Berwick:

A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
¶ 5.00	1 2.50	7.50
5.40	1.50	8.50
6.20	2.50	9.50
6.50	3.50	10.50
7.50	4.50	* 11.50
8.50	5.50	
9.50	6.50	
10.50		
11.50		

First car leaves Market Square for Berwick on Sunday at 6.50 a. m.
¶ From Power House.
* Saturday Night Only.

Cars leave Berwick for Danville:

A. M.	M.	P. M.
6.00	12.00	6.00
7.00	P. M.	7.00
*7.20	1.00	8.00
8.00	2.00	9.00
9.00	3.00	*10.00
10.00	4.00	*11.00
11.00	5.00	*12.00
		† 1.00

First car leaves Berwick for Danville on Sunday at 8.00 a. m.
* Bloomsburg Only.
† Saturday Night to Bloomsburg Only.

Cars leave Market Square, Bloomsburg, for Danville:

A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
5.10	12.10	6.10
6.00	1.10	7.10
7.10	2.10	8.10
8.10	3.10	9.10
9.10	4.10	10.10
10.10	5.10	*11.10
11.10		

First car leaves Market Square for Danville on Sunday at 7.10 a. m.
* Saturday Night Only.

Cars leave Danville for Berwick:

A. M.	M.	P. M.
6.00	12.00	6.00
7.00	P. M.	7.00
8.00	1.00	8.00
9.00	2.00	9.00
10:00	3.00	10.00
11.00	4 00	* 11.00
	5.00	¶12.00

First car leaves Danville for Berwick on Sunday at 8.00 a. m.
* Bloomsburg Only.
¶Saturday Night to Bloomsburg Only.

Cars leave Market Square, Bloomsburg for Catawissa:

A. M.	M.	P. M.
5.30	12.00	6.00
6.15	P. M.	†7.00
†7.00	1.00	8.00
†8.00	†2.00	9.00
9.00	†3.00	10.10
†10.00	4.00	*11.00
†11.00	5.00	

First car leaves Market Square for Catawissa on Sunday at 7.00 a. m.
* Saturday Night Only.
† P. R. R. Connections.

Cars leave Catawissa for Bloomsburg:

A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
5 50	12.30	6.30
6.35	1.30	7.30
7.30	2.30	8.30
8.30	3.30	9.30
9.30	4.30	10.30
10.30	5.30	* 11.30
11.30		

First car leaves Catawissa for Bloomsburg on Sunday at 7.30 a. m.
* Saturday Night Only.

Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad.

Taking Effect Dec'r. 9th, 1909, 12:05 a.m

NORTHWARD.

	21 A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	A.M.
Bloomsburg D L & W	9 00	2 35	6 15	6 00
Bloomsburg P & R	9 02	2 39	6 17	...
Paper Mill	9 14	2 52	6 29	6 29
Light Street	9 18	2 55	6 34	6 05
Orangeville	9 26	3 13	6 43	6 52
Forks	9 36	3 13	6 53	7 08
Zaners	f9 40	f3 17	6 57	7 15
Stillwater	9 48	3 25	7 03	7 30
Benton	9 56	3 33	7 13	8 10
Edsons	f10 00	f3 37	7 17	8 20
Coles Creek	f10 03	f3 40	7 21	8 26
Laubachs	f10 08	f3 45	7 31	8 35
Grass Mere Park	f1010	f3 47	7 33	....
Central	10 15	3 52	7 41	8 50
Jamison City	10 18	3 55	7 45	9 0

SOUTHWARD.

	22 A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	A.M.
Jamison City	5 50	10 48	4 35	7 00	11 15
Central	5 53	10 51	4 38	7 03	11 30
Grass Mere Park	f6 01	f11 00	f4 47	f7 12	.....
Laubachs	f6 03	f11 02	f4 48	f7 13	11 38
Coles Creek	f6 12	f11 06	f4 53	f7 22	11 45
Edsons	f6 14	f11 09	f4 56	f7 24	11 50
Benton	6 18	11 13	5 00	7 28	12 25
Stillwater	6 28	11 21	5 08	7 38	12 35
Zaners	f6 35	f11 29	f5 17	f7 45	1243
Forks	6 39	11 33	5 21	7 49	1 250
Orangeville	6 50	11 42	5 31	8 00	110
Light Street	7 00	11 50	5 39	8 10	122
Paper Mill	7 03	11 53	5 42	8 13	127
Bloom. P & R	7 18	12 05	5 55	8.25	1 37
Bloom. D L & W	7 20	12 10	6 00	8.30	1 50
		P. M			PM,

Trains No 21 and 22 mixed, second class.
† Daily except Sunday. ‡ Daily. ¶ Sunday only. f Flag stop. W. C. SNYDER, Supt