

A MINE HORROR.

Twenty-three Men Killed by an Explosion of Firedamp.

Fifty Men Were in the Braznel Shaft, Near Brownsville, Pa., When the Disaster Occurred—Workmen Claim that Mining Laws Were Disregarded.

Brownsville, Pa., Dec. 25.—The explosion of firedamp at the Stockdale Coal Co.'s Braznel shaft on Saturday is the worst since the Hill mine disaster at Dunbar. The explosion was terrific and was heard plainly at Brownsville, four miles distant. The main shaft was totally wrecked.

Pittsburg, Dec. 25.—A special to the Post from Brownsville says: The horror of the Braznel mine grows in intensity with every hour. There were fifty men in the mine when the explosion occurred.

On Sunday the first bodies of the victims were brought out of the mine and never in the history of mine disasters were human beings so horribly mutilated. It was nearly 11 o'clock before the first five bodies were taken out, 25 hours after the explosion.

From statements obtained yesterday it seems clear that the presence of gas in quantities in the mine was perfectly well known and that naked lights were used for several days before the explosion. According to credible authority, not a single safety lamp was used in the mine by the working crews since last Tuesday morning, four days before the explosion.

William Pastorious, a driver in the mine, tells a sensational story. Pastorious, who has lived in Brownsville for many years and is regarded as a man of intelligence, says that Pit Boss Jones on last Tuesday morning issued a general order that all safety lamps might be dispensed with and in their stead the miners were permitted to use naked lamps. Pastorious also states that the lamps were unlocked, contrary to regulation.

"The miners always prefer to use naked lights," said Pastorious, "whenever possible, as they give better light and are more easily handled. I have been working here a couple of months and used a safety lamp until last Tuesday morning. At that time mine safeties were in use by drivers and others who were constantly moving about the mine and therefore exposed to greater risk than a digger in a room. Contrary to the mining regulations the safety lamps in use were in many cases unlocked. The safeties were provided by the company, as usual, and they should be locked so that it is impossible for a miner to open them while at work. My lamp was unlocked and I frequently opened and closed it. On Tuesday the pit boss issued an order that the men could use open lamps and they of course discarded the safeties, which made a poorer light. About 100 yards from the bottom of the main shaft there was a fall which had been boarded up and in which the gas stood against the roof. I think it was this gas which exploded."

Brownsville, Pa., Dec. 26.—Work at the Braznel mine is progressing very slowly. The country roads from Brownsville to the mine are almost impassable and there is no telegraph or telephone connections with Braznel, so all news from the mine has to be brought overland. The fact that last Saturday was pay day at the mine and that there were no empty wagons to load, accounts for many not going into the mine that morning. Had the accident occurred any other day there would have been more than 100 men in the mine.

That naked lights and unlocked safety lamps were used in a dangerous mine was officially confirmed Monday by Pitt Boss Thomas Jones, who made a statement which forms the most sensational chapter on the management of the mine which has yet developed. Mr. Jones was asked if it was true that on last Tuesday he issued a general order that the miners could dispense with safety lamps.

"Yes sir," was the reply. "Why did you issue the order?" "I considered that the mine was safe, as a 'break through' had been fixed up." "Safety lamps were used before Tuesday?" "Yes."

"Is it true that some safety lamps in use in the mine were not locked?" "Yes, it is true that some were not locked, because I thought the men who used them were competent to carry them unlocked."

"Was that not contrary to regulations?" "Oh, there may be a regulation, but men sometimes carry unlocked lamps where it is known that they are experienced miners."

Brownsville, Pa., Dec. 27.—Search for the dead was kept up at the Braznel mine yesterday, resulting in the finding of eight more bodies, making 23 victims of the explosion.

Disastrous Floods. Seattle, Wash., Dec. 28.—One of the most disastrous floods in the history of the state is raging along the Nooksack river in Whatcom county. It is estimated that at least \$30,000 worth of damage has been done to the farms and buildings in the flooded district, and still the waters show no indication of subsiding. Five or seven bridges over the river have been swept away, four of them being iron.

Fell From a High Bridge. Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 25.—Two men were knocked from a railroad bridge 70 feet high at London, Tenn., yesterday under peculiar circumstances. Sam Eldridge, one of the men, will die. The other will probably recover. John Weare in a drunken condition attempted to ride across the high bridge and had forced his horse along about 40 feet before it fell between the crosses. An oncoming train was flagged just in time to prevent horse and rider being killed. In attempting to get the horse off the bridge Sam Eldridge and William Boggs were knocked off the structure.

ASK GRIGGS TO ACT.

Freight Shippers Request the Attorney General to Prevent Railroads from Increasing Rates.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Yesterday the interstate commerce commission, in compliance with the request of the freight shippers and representatives of the commercial interests, transmitted to Attorney General Griggs a transcript of the evidence taken at the hearing last week respecting the new classification of freight made by the official classification committee. The proposed classification is to be made effective on January 1 by all railroads using the official classification. These include more than 60 lines east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers. The petition of the shippers was that the commission should transmit the evidence taken before it to the attorney general, with a recommendation that he institute legal proceedings, by injunction or otherwise, to restrain the railroads from putting the new classification into effect. To the request of the shippers the commission in part complies. The evidence and arguments are transmitted to the attorney general, but without recommendation.

The letter of transmittal is long, the committee desiring to place the case fully before the attorney general. After reviewing the proceedings which led up to the hearing, the letter reads:

"In the course of this hearing the commission took the testimony of C. E. Gill, chairman of the official classification committee; Nathan Guilford, traffic manager of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Co., and Frank Harriott, a member of the official classification committee, who is also the general freight traffic manager of the Erie railroad. At the conclusion of the testimony given by these witnesses, an application was made by many of the shippers present that such testimony be transmitted to the attorney general of the United States, the claim being made by them that the evidence shows a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

"While it is not the province of this commission to determine whether the testimony above referred to shows a violation of the anti-trust law, and no opinion is expressed upon that point, there are certain features of the case to which we deem it proper to call your attention.

"With some unimportant exceptions the general fact appears to be that the class rates at present in force and which will presumably be applied to the new classification are now the same as or higher than they were in 1887 when the act to regulate commerce was passed.

"The protesting shippers assert that the increases in rates, to the extent affected by these changes in classification, are without justification, and will result in excessive charges upon most if not all of the articles in question. They also allege that hardship and injustice will further result from the changes which will be made in the relation of rates, and especially from the increases in the difference between carload and less than carload charges. If their contention in these respects is well founded, as to which we express no opinion, a wrong is about to be accomplished which the commission is powerless to prevent and for which the act to regulate commerce affords no adequate redress. The facts above set forth are submitted for your consideration."

Attorney General Griggs, who is ill, has given no intimation yet as to what action, if any, he may take in the premises. He will have to review the testimony before he can reach an intelligent conclusion. In any event it will be several days before the matter can be determined.

AN ORIENTAL SCOURGE.

Health Authorities in California are Trying to Prevent the Introduction of Bubonic Plague.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—The news of the breaking out of the plague in Honolulu, brought here by the transport Centennial, has created some alarm among the state and city health officials and every precaution is being taken to prevent a possible admission of the disease into this city. The transports Centennial and Newport, which arrived Wednesday night, and the Tartar, which arrived from Manila yesterday, are now at the quarantine station undergoing fumigation and will be detained at Angel island for some time. The steamer Gaelic is due here to-day from the Orient via Honolulu and will be sent to quarantine and held there until all possible danger is past.

News from the Orient is to the effect that the disease is prevalent in China and Japan to an unusual extent and that the officers at Manila have taken precautions to prevent the plague from getting a foothold there. News from Bombay is to the effect that the plague is rampant in India.

War Spirit is Rampant.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 29.—Willis G. Cannon, a lawyer of Montreal, who is here, was asked yesterday what the true condition of Canadian sentiment is in connection with the African war. He replied that it was truly represented in the newspapers of Canada, the only difference being that newspapers were unable to express the intensity of the war spirit that pervades all classes of Canadian subjects.

Dowie to Have a Bodyguard.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—The Tribune says: "Dr." John Alexander Dowie, "divine" healer, will ask no further police protection from the city. He is organizing a military company of stalwart disciples of his faith, who will carry firearms, wear uniforms and be paid as the professional bodyguard of Zion. The company consists at present of 300 men, chosen for physique and ability to use weapons. Gov. Tanner has granted permission to Dowie to have his company, which is to be called the Volunteers of Zion, parade in Chicago streets and carry rifles next Sunday afternoon.

AT REST IN ARLINGTON.

Remains of the Victims of the Maine Disaster are Buried in a National Cemetery.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Upon the windy heights of Arlington cemetery the Maine dead, brought from Havana by the battleship Texas, yesterday were laid away to their final resting places with simple religious services and the impressive honors of war, in the presence of the president, members of his cabinet, officers of the army and navy and other representatives of the government. A cabinet officer surveying the flag-draped coffins before the ceremonies began said: "The lives of those men cost Spain her colonies."

The caskets interred yesterday ranged row on row. Over each was spread an American ensign upon which lay a wreath of smilax leaves. Around the enclosure, shoulder to shoulder, the yellow of their coat linings forming a band of color, were drawn up the cavalry of Fort Meyer; to the right was a battalion of marines from the navy yard; to the left a detachment of jacksies from the Texas; in the flag-draped stand in the rear, the president and his cabinet, Admiral Dewey, Maj. Gen. Miles and a distinguished group of officers of the army and navy in their showy dress uniforms; while all around pressed the throng of people who had braved the snow and biting cold to pay their last tribute to the dead.

There was a tender appropriateness in the fact that Capt. Sigsbee, who was in command of the Maine when she was blown up, had charge of the ceremonies in honor of his men and that Father Chidwick, who was chaplain of the Maine, was there to perform the last rites. Three other men who lived through that awful night in Havana harbor were at the side of the graves of their comrades, Lieut. Commander Wainwright, who was executive officer of the Maine and who sunk the Pluton and the Furor at Santiago; Lieut. F. C. Bowers, who was assistant engineer of the Maine, and Jeremiah Shea, a fireman on the Maine, who was blown out of the stokehole of the ship through the debris, escaping uninjured most miraculously.

Slowly, solemnly, the Marine band broke the deep hush, pealing forth the sad, sweet strains of the dixer "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," and then Chaplain Clark, of the naval academy at Annapolis, came forward and took his place under a canvas-covered shelter in the open space in front of the dead.

The Protestant services were held first and were very simple. Chaplain Clark read the burial service of the Episcopal church and then gave way to Father Chidwick, who was assisted by Revs. Holland and Brown and two acolytes. With head bared to the wintery blast the Maine's chaplain read a memorial service according to the rites of the Catholic church, blessed the ground, repeated the Lord's Prayer and concluded with a fervent appeal for the repose of the souls of the departed. A detachment of marines then marched to the right of the graves and fired three volleys over the dead, and in the deep stillness that followed the crash, the clear notes of a bugle rang out the soldiers and sailors' last good night.

A BIG INSURANCE DEAL.

A Chicago Company Absorbs a Rival Concern Having 28,000 Policy Holders.

Galesburg, Ill., Dec. 29.—By a vote of 17,097 to 76 the Covenant Mutual Life association, of this city, yesterday decided to amalgamate with the Northwestern Life Assurance Co., of Chicago. This is the largest insurance transfer on record, as the 28,000 members of the Covenant Mutual Life association, whose policies aggregate \$45,000,000, will go over to the Northwestern Co. in a body.

There was much opposition among some members of the Covenant association to the transfer and for a time it looked as though the deal would not be carried through, but a speech made by Judge Fawcett, of Omaha, carried the day for the amalgamation and once the break was made in the ranks of the objectors they came over very fast, and at the close there was practically no opposition. The thing is likely to get into the courts, however, as some of the minority are determined to stop the transfer if it be possible. An attempt was made to invalidate the proxies held by the officers of the Covenant association, but it failed.

Hostilities Renewed.

Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 29.—Colombian advisers say the endeavors to effect a compromise between the government and the insurgents have failed, resulting in a renewal of hostilities. On the Pacific side both parties are marking time, while on the Atlantic side severe fighting has occurred. The government troops, it appears, broke the truce and attacked the insurgents near Barranquilla, who retreated after a stubborn battle. The government forces subsequently fell into a trap and suffered severe losses.

Price of Thread Advances.

New York, Dec. 29.—It was announced at the office of the Clark Thread Co. in Newark, N. J., yesterday that the concern had made an advance on the price of cotton thread to the extent of 15 cents a dozen spools. The increased price of cotton and the increase in wages in the New England mills is given as the cause of the increase in price.

Ford's Will Filed for Probate.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 29.—The will of the late Daniel Ford, publisher of the Youth's Companion, filed for probate in the probate court Thursday, disposes of an estate of \$2,500,000. The will gives \$77,000 to charitable and religious institutions, mostly in Massachusetts, and provides annuities for others. The will also bequeaths \$350,000 to the Baptist Social union. This sum is to be used for the erection of a building for the union. The Youth's Companion plant, with certain real estate, is left to the executors to be administered for the benefit of the Baptist Social union.

A DASTARDLY PLOT.

Chinese Highbinders are Suspected of Throwing a Bomb into a Methodist Mission.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 28.—During service Tuesday in the Methodist Mission church in Chinatown an explosion occurred and 60 or 70 Chinese converts and white people rushed for the street with the building tumbling about their heads. All escaped serious injury. It was found that a bomb had been exploded by a slow fuse underneath the church, and the police are on the track of Chinese suspects. The explosion is supposed to be the work of Chinese highbinders who hoped to kill seven mission women and the preacher, Rev. Gardner, who married a Chinese woman and learned many secrets of the highbinders through his wife's relatives.

Twelve months ago he disclosed a plot by which several Chinese were to be murdered and the highbinders then sent him notice that he was marked for death. The seven Methodist women were instrumental in having the Chinese girl slaves of prominent Chinese taken from their masters and placed in the Methodist home, where they were taught English and Christianity. Eighteen of the rescued girls were in the church at the time of the explosion.

A CORKSCREW BOAT.

Brooklyn Man Claims Great Things for His Invention.

New York, Dec. 29.—James Gresham, of Brooklyn, has found capital to demonstrate the commercial value of his corkscrew boat for which is anticipated a speed of 50 miles an hour. A syndicate of New York capitalists has agreed to furnish \$50,000 to build a small boat on the corkscrew plan, with the further understanding that if it demonstrates its ability on a commercial scale to approximate the speed which the models have reached, the syndicate will furnish sufficient capital to build a small boat. The inventor promises that his craft will cross the Atlantic in less than three days.

The vessel, the construction of which is being arranged for at the Newport News shipyard, is not intended for passenger service, but only for the conveyance of mail and fast freight and for use at life saving stations. It is so constructed that it can penetrate the surf or the waves of the roughest weather. The boat is cylindrical in shape, with a serpentine flange like a corkscrew extending from bow to stern, and the outer shell revolves through the water, while the inner compartment maintains its equipoise.

ANOTHER VICTORY.

Americans Completely Route the Insurgents in a Battle.

Manila, Dec. 28.—Col. Lockett, with a force of 2,500, including artillery, attacked Wednesday morning a strong force of insurgents entrenched in the mountains near Montalban, about five miles northeast of San Mateo. The enemy was completely routed, the Americans pursuing them through the hills amid which they fled in every direction. Four Americans were wounded. The Filipino loss was large, resulting from a heavy infantry and artillery fire for three hours into the trenches.

A dozen lines of insurgent trenches covered the steep trail through the hills and likewise the valley below, along which the Americans passed. The main attacking party consisting of the 46th volunteer infantry, a troop of cavalry and artillery, Col. Lockett commanding in person. The rest of the command operated from remote points in an endeavor to carry out Col. Lockett's plan of throwing his lines around the enemy and thus cutting off retreat. The nature of the mountainous country made it impracticable to execute this movement successfully.

TEST OF ARMOR PLATE.

Part of the Defensive Outfit of a Russian Battleship Stands a Severe Trial.

Washington, Dec. 29.—In the presence of officials of the Russian government, several United States naval officers and representatives of the Carnegie Steel Co. an eight-inch Krupp plate, a part of a lot of armor intended for the Russian battleship Retvisan, now being built at the Cramp shipyard, was tested yesterday at the Indian Head proving ground. The plate was 190 inches long, 93 inches wide, eight inches thick and curved. The gun used in making the test was an eight-inch rifle, the projectiles being armor piercing shells 250 pounds each in weight. The striking velocity was 1,780 feet per second. Four shots were fired at the corners of a 28-inch square drawn in the center of the plate. The striking velocity was 1,837 feet per second for the first shot, 1,791 for the second, 1,815 for the third and 1,834 for the fourth. The penetration attained by the shells ranged from 1 1/4 to 2 1/2 inches. The plate did not crack under the test and was very little injured.

Shot by a Collector.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 29.—Samuel Mills, a collector for an installment house, attempted yesterday to seize furniture in the house of Mary Venable for a small debt. The woman attempted to prevent it, and in the struggle that ensued Mills shot the woman and her little son and daughter, all seriously.

Seal Herds Diminished.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Attention to the Bering Sea controversy between the United States and Great Britain has been renewed by the report of Mr. John M. Morton, the United States agent on the Seal Islands, who has come on to submit his report and confer with the authorities. The essential point of the report is that the seal herds have diminished 30 per cent. within the last year. When the Bering sea negotiations were on last year the main contention of the American authorities was that the herds were being so diminished by poaching that the animal would soon become extinct.

Cor.—"Do you like to hear a girl whistle?" Merritt—"No, but I like the way her mouth looks when she gets ready to try."—Town Topics.

Coughing Leads to Consumption. Kemp's Balsam will stop the Cough at once. Go to your druggist to-day and get a sample bottle free. Large bottles 25 and 50 cents. Go at once; delays are dangerous.

Cor.—"Do you like to hear a girl whistle?" Merritt—"No, but I like the way her mouth looks when she gets ready to try."—Town Topics.

To Cure a Cold in One Day Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund money if it fails to cure. 25c.

Self-respect is the corner stone of all virtue.—Sir John Herschel.

Be your character what it will, it will be known; and nobody will take it upon your word.—Chesterfield.

Actors, Vocalists, Public Speakers praise Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

Women, when cornered, cry, and thus gain a time in which to think up a new excuse.—Aitchison Globe.

Piso's Cure is the medicine to break up children's Coughs and Colds.—Mrs. M. G. Blunt, Sprague, Wash., March 8, '94.

It is only when she is poor and homely that a girl can be sure the man who woos her is really in love.—Chicago Dispatch.

Trust that man in nothing who has not a conscience in everything.—Sterne.

If you will return this coupon and three one-cent stamps to the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass., you will receive in return a copy of the 20th Century Year Book. This is not an ordinary almanac, but a handsome book, copiously illustrated, and sold for 5 cents on all news-stands. (We simply allow you the two cents you spend in postage for sending.) Great men have written for the Year Book. In it is summed up the progress of the 19th Century. In each important line of work and thought the greatest living specialist has recounted the events and advances of the past century and has prophesied what we may expect of the next. Each article is beautifully and appropriately illustrated, and the whole makes an invaluable book of reference, unequaled anywhere for the money. Address, J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

SAVE YOUR STAR TINS. "Star" tin tags (showing small stars printed on under side of tag), "Horse Shoe," "J. T.," "Good Luck," "Cross Bow," and "Drummond" Natural Leaf Tin Tags are of equal value in securing presents mentioned below, and may be assorted. Every man, woman and child can find something on the list that they would like to have, and can have FREE! THE ABOVE OFFER EXPIRES NOVEMBER 30th, 1900. Special Notice! Plain "Star" Tin Tags (that is, Star Tin tags with no small stars printed on under side of tag), are not good for presents, but will be paid for in CASH on the basis of twenty cents per hundred, if received by us on or before March 1st, 1900. BEAR IN MIND that a dime's worth of STAR PLUG TOBACCO will last longer and afford more pleasure than a dime's worth of any other brand. MAKE THE TEST! Send tags to CONTINENTAL TOBACCO CO., St. Louis, Mo.

PILES. Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment will cure Hemorrhoids, Bleeding and Itching Piles. It absorbs the tumors, always the itching at once, acts as a poultice, gives instant relief. Prepared for Piles and Itching of the private parts. At druggists. WILLIAMS' PILE OINTMENT. MILLIONS OF ACRES. 160 ACRES IN WESTERN CANADA FREE. of choice agricultural lands now opened for settlement in Western Canada. Here is a crown granted No. 1 Hard Wheat, which brings the highest price in the markets of the world. Thousands of cattle are fattened for market without being fed grain, and without any other feed except the hay and straw. out a day's shelter. Send for information and receive a free home in Western Canada. Write the Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, or address the undersigned, who will mail you all particulars, free of cost. F. FREDLEY, Sup. of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or to M. V. McINNIS, No. 1 Merrill Block, Detroit, Mich. Top Snap GUNS. FISH-TACKLE. Breech \$9-99. Leader \$9-99. POWELL & CLEMENS CO. 418 Main St., CHICAGO, ILL. CARTER'S INK. Grow up with it. PATENTS. Advice as to patentability and inventor's guide form. S. H. EVANS, 1010 F. Washington, D. C. A. N. K.-C. 17943. WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISEES please state that you saw the Advertisement in this paper.