

MINE DISASTER.

Fifty Lives Lost as the Result of an Explosion.

The Worst Calamity in the History of the New River Mining District of West Virginia is Recorded—The Work of Rescue Proceeds Slowly.

Fire Creek, W. Va., March 7.—The most disastrous mine explosion ever known in the New River district occurred at the Red Ash mine shortly after the miners went to work early yesterday morning.

The scene of the disaster is between this place and Thurmond, on the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad and every assistance possible was rendered by the railroad company and by the adjoining mining towns.

J. Fred Effinger, of Staunton, Va., the principal owner of the mines, spared no effort in the work of rescue and relief and his manager, Ferdinand Howell, had all the men available at hand in trying to clear away the debris and rescue the entombed men.

The large heavy side tires of the entrance were blown out to some distance, together with a lot of heavy timbers. Even mules were blown out some distance.

The first successful strike of the rescuers was about 10 a. m., when ten bodies were recovered. Seven of them were dead and the other three were dying.

At the mouth of the mine the scene was beyond description. The wives, children and neighbors of those who were known to be entombed were there in force and their distress was most intense.

The mine is one of the largest in West Virginia and was heavily timbered in the different drifts.

Fire Creek, W. Va., March 8.—The rescuing parties continued work yesterday at Red Ash mine. It is still impossible to give the exact number of the victims, or to identify all of the bodies recovered.

A report from the rescuers at the mine last night was that 34 had been taken out, 29 being dead and five seriously injured.

Explains His Attitude. President McKinley Tells Why He Has Agreed to Sign the Porto Rican Tariff Bill.

Washington, March 7.—The Post says: President McKinley, in conversation with callers at the White House yesterday reiterated his belief that the people of Porto Rico were entitled to free trade with the United States.

Republicans Win in Omaha. Omaha, Neb., March 7.—With but one precinct to hear from Frank E. Moores, republican, is re-elected mayor of Omaha by a majority of nearly 1,000 over W. S. Poppleton, fusion.

Father of the House Dies. Philadelphia, March 7.—Congressman Alfred C. Harmer, "Father of the House," the representative from the Fifth Pennsylvania district, died at his home here last night, aged 75 years.

THOUSANDS OF NEW BANKS.

They Will be Organized Just as Soon as the Financial Bill Becomes a Law.

New York, March 8.—Advisers received by local banking interests from small towns and villages throughout the United States indicate that state banks in all sections of the country are preparing to take out charters under the national system as soon as the currency bill becomes a law.

The Evening Post says: "It was estimated to-day that any one with \$3,000 capital could start a national bank under the new system. All that is required is \$25,000 in 2 per cent. government bonds, which could be secured at ruling rates for about \$25,750.

A bank president cited the difficulties of the present system as the reason why New York banks, with their enormous volume of business, found it expedient to take out only about \$17,000,000 in circulation.

Off the three went for the guns—I saw them go—Schofield, Congreve, who had been leisurely giving me notes out of his pocketbook an hour before up near his battery, and young Roberts.

BESSEMER STEEL.

Product of American Mills Increased 14 Per Cent. During 1899.

Philadelphia, March 8.—The American Iron and Steel association has received complete statistics of the production of Bessemer steel ingots and Bessemer steel rails in the United States in 1899, except the comparatively small quantity of standard rails and street rails which were made from purchased blooms, or were re-rolled from old steel rails.

The production of all kinds of Bessemer steel rails direct from ingots by the producers of Bessemer steel ingots in 1899 was 2,249,767 gross tons, against a similar production in 1898 of 1,955,427 tons, and 1,614,399 tons in 1897.

PROMINENT FINANCIERS.

Miller, of Franklin Syndicate Notoriety, Promises to Expose Them.

New York, March 8.—The Evening World prints an interview with William F. Miller, the head of the so-called Franklin syndicate, who swindled a great many people through promises to pay 10 per cent. a week.

A Great Smallpox Epidemic. Jackson, Miss., March 8.—An official report made to the Hinds county board of supervisors reveals an appalling state of affairs in the Jonesville neighborhood, in that county.

GEN. BULLER AND THE TUGELA

The English General Was Eating Sandwiches Where the Fire Was Hottest.

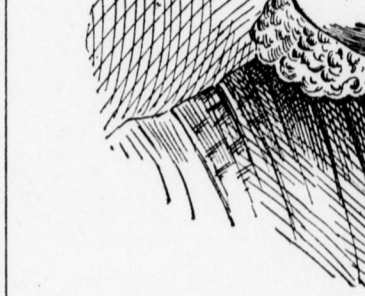
It was during the advance of the Devons and the Queens that the series of brilliant attempts to rescue the guns (at the Tugela) began, says a Colenso correspondent of the Manchester Guardian. A little earlier—about ten o'clock—Sir Redvers Buller had left the position he had appointed for himself at the naval battery—the situation on the right was too serious for a man of Buller's spirit to stay there now—and had ridden off toward the guns with all his staff and the escort of the Natal police.

DOG IN THE SCHOOLROOM.

A Courageous Teacher Who Found That Her Pupils Were Better for His Presence.

Since Dr. Hale promulgated his plan about pets in the public schools, I have heard from several teachers who have made experiments of this sort with success, says the Boston Transcript. One excellent teacher had an experience with a dog which was instructive. One of her pupils, a slum boy with a bad reputation, had a very "ornery" bull terrier which was sure to go everywhere the boy did, and followed him to school one day.

MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

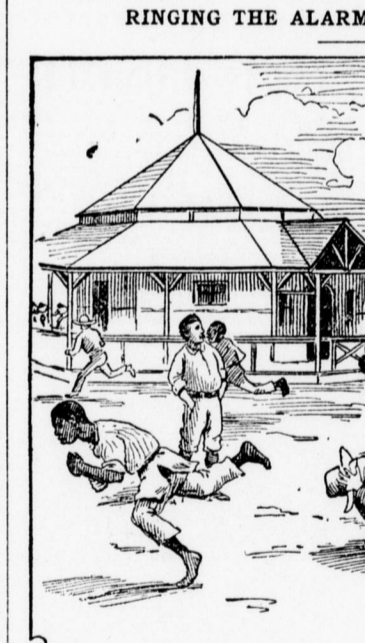


This lady, who succeeds Susan B. Anthony as president of the American Woman Suffrage association, is reputed to be the foremost active suffragist of the day.

"You oughtn't to be here, sir," gasped Ogilvy. "I'm all right, my boy," said the general. The staff lingered about the place; Sir Redvers Buller was eating sandwiches, and from the scattered groups of men emerged one of the most gallant trios that ever tried to win the Victoria cross.

The teacher showed no sign of surprise, but said: "Ah, I see we have a new scholar. What's his name, Michael?" Michael said his name was Grip, or something like that—I am not quite sure what it was. "Ah, Grip, here, Grip!" said the teacher, hospitably and sympathetically, and the dog came up to her and let her pat his head.

RINGING THE ALARM BELL AT MAFEKING.



When the Boers begin firing shells into Mafeking the alarm bell in the market place is rung to give warning to the inhabitants. At times a shell drops into the town without the warning having been given.

had been shot in the neck; Capt. Hughes, the doctor of his staff, had been killed—half blown to pieces—by a shell; one of the Natal police (the general's escort) had had his horse grazed in the fetlock, in the belly, and in the mouth, and two bullets had passed through his holsters. That is the sort of fire the general had been under eating sandwiches.

Boer Marksmanship.

The fine marksmanship of the Boers is attested by the fact that of the 305 men wounded by them in the battle of the Tugela in December, 1899, or more than half, were hit in the extremities, or which soldiers usually aim. All but seven were struck with mauler bullets, the wounds, according to the British surgeons, being "humane in the extreme." Twenty-six were hit about the head and 20 in the body.

AN EXPLANATION.

A Cabinet Officer Discusses the Porto Rican Bill.

Washington, March 9.—A member of the cabinet last night gave out the following statement: "There has been a wide misapprehension of the Porto Rican tariff bill, of the attitude of the president, of the action of congress and of their relations to each other.

"The attempt to represent that there has been a disagreement between the president and congress is unfounded. There has been no essential difference between them. Both have sought the same object. The recommendation of the president and the house bill in their purpose and their effect, come to the same thing.

"What the president proposed was that the United States should offer the largest measure of help to the distressed island, and he has never wavered a single instant in the object he sought. Had his suggestion been accepted and followed by all in his spirit and as he meant it, with the limitations he intended, all would have been well. But when the time came for action in congress two tendencies were seen.

"On the other hand what the president proposed as a worthy act of national generosity was seized by political opponents and claimed as a necessary measure of inherent constitutional right. They insisted that the constitution by its own force extends to Porto Rico and all the new island possessions and spreads all its provisions over them, including uniform taxation.

"It was a cunning game, but it did not succeed. The apprehension of the honest objectors who feared that the concession of full free trade to Porto Rico would lead to misconstruction, and the designs of the crafty partisans who meant that it should, were both met and frustrated by the bill which passed the house and which levies 15 per cent., or less than one-sixth of the Dingley rates. That low rate involves no possible hardship. It has the advantage of producing needed revenue, which until civil government and law are fully organized in Porto Rico cannot be raised as well from any other source.

"There was another point which was not generally understood. The bill provides that the whole amount of duties on goods coming from Porto Rico shall be paid back to Porto Rico for the benefit of the island. Thus it fully harmonizes with the object at which the president aimed, of relieving the trade of Porto Rico from burdensome restrictions and of extending the largest degree of help; and when it was crowned by the president's special message, promptly carried out by the house, providing not only that the duties hereafter collected, but that those heretofore collected to the amount of \$2,000,000, should be appropriated to be expended wholly in Porto Rico for her development, no ground was left for any pretense that the policy of the president and congress was oppressive.

"Nobody can understandingly object to the 15 per cent. duty all paid back to Porto Rico on the ground that it is unfair towards Porto Rico. He can understandingly object, only on the claim that there is no power to levy any duty at all, and such a claim would leave the president and congress powerless and helpless in the Philippines as well as in Porto Rico.

"Between a 15 per cent. duty as provided by the congressional bill, every cent of which is to be returned to Porto Rico, that island also getting all collected at the other end, and the removal of customs duties as suggested by the president for humanity's sake, there is no difference whatever in practical results.

"The partisans who sought to put the president and congress in a hole have, perhaps unconsciously, dug a pit for themselves. They will find that they have taken a position which would stop them from carrying out the policy they have prepared for the disposition of the Philippines."

Famous Theater Burned.

Paris, March 9.—The Theater Francaise, the historical playhouse of Paris and the home of the world-famed Comedie Francaise, was burned yesterday.

A Triumphant Progress.

London, March 9.—Queen Victoria and the people of London yesterday celebrated the victories which have transformed the campaign in South Africa from one of reverse into one of success. That is the only explanation of the unbounded enthusiasm with which hundreds of thousands hailed their sovereign. In many ways these demonstrations out-did those of the diamond jubilee, although there were no glittering pageants, but only a dozen Life Guards, followed by a little old lady in a plain black costume who went to Buckingham palace.

ONE AMENDMENT

Proposed to Hay-Pauncefote Treaty by Senators.

OUR RIGHT TO DEFEND. It Should be Conceded in Building Nicaragua Canal.

ENGLAND CAN'T INTERFERE. Report Made by Senate's Foreign Relations Committee Says that Uncle Sam Will Be Able to Hold the Canal Against Any Enemy.

Washington, March 10.—The senate committee on foreign relations yesterday reported the Hay-Pauncefote treaty amending the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, with an amendment granting authority for the defense of the canal by this country when constructed.

Referring to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty the committee says it "certainly avoided hostile collision between the two great powers (England and the United States) whatever may have been its faults as an entangling alliance, or national humiliation to us, or as the cause of heated diplomatic controversy.

"Since 1860 the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been in some way recognized by the government in each of the succeeding administrations as a subsisting compact.

"Strong reasons for its abrogation have been frequently stated, and some have always denied its obligatory force, but no movement to accomplish that result has been made.

"As matters stand, it has been a race between American and British concessionaires as to which of them should gain the control of the canal. One company being installed would, necessarily, exclude any other.

"The right to a footing in Nicaragua, thus acquired by Great Britain, is full of peril to this republic and could only be disposed of by further agreements, or by war, or by uniting the interests of both governments in the joint ownership and control of the canal. Such an arrangement would be a fatal mistake that would soon involve the countries in war, or it would enlarge the scheme of alliance that is embodied in the Clayton-Bulwer treaty into a practical alliance, offensive and defensive, in the control of navigation and the commerce of the world. It is these later treaties that present the real ground of our present difficulty, from which the convention of 1899 relieves us."

Coming to the pending treaty, the report says: "No other nation except the United States could have so great an interest in the exclusive right to own and control an isthmian canal, but in this matter, come what may, we are compelled to assert the superiority of our own policy. It is wise, therefore, that the value of this concession to us should be estimated as a great consideration for anything we may yield, if we, indeed, yield anything, in acquiring the exclusive right to control the canal by a modification of the Clayton Bulwer treaty.

"In the convention of February 5, 1890, Great Britain agrees that the restriction as to the exclusive control of the canal imposed by the Clayton-Bulwer treaty shall continue to bind her, while the United States is released from it.

"This leaves us free to acquire from Costa Rica and Nicaragua the exclusive control of the canal for the government, or for our citizens under the protection of the United States, while it cuts off Great Britain from any such right."

Speaking of the restrictions in the treaty the report says: "These grounds of objection to our exclusive control of the canal are all removed by this convention, except those that relate to fortifications, which, being expressly restated, are retained in a new or modified form.

"If this convention is ratified, Great Britain could not negotiate with Costa Rica or Nicaragua or any other American state for any right to build, own, control, manage, regulate or protect a canal to connect the oceans, while the United States is left free to conclude such negotiations.

Touching upon the strategic importance of the canal the report says: "We stipulate against the blockade of the canal by any nation.

"In conditions that may not be entirely remote, we would find this provision, in letting our ships through the canal free from capture by our enemy, of great security to our coastwise trade.

"With our naval bases at Manila, Honolulu, San Francisco and San Diego on one side, and at San Juan, Porto Rico, the Isle of Pines and Key West, with other fortified naval stations on the other side, it is improbable that a fleet would cross either of the great oceans and approach the canal to find a gateway to the coasts of the other ocean."

As to the prohibition of fortifications the report says: "With the military police by the United States, provided for in this convention for the protection of the canal, its defense can be made perfect against any foreign power that is not strong enough to occupy and hold it against all comers.