MINE DISASTER.

Fifty Lives Lost as the Result of an Explosion.

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

Fire Creek, W. Va., March 7 .- The Fire Creek, W. Va., March 7.—The most disastrous mine explosion ever known in the New river district oc-curred at the Red Ash mine shortly after the miners went to work early yesterday morning. Although heroic more the start of the start of the start of the start work of the start of the s work of the rescuing party has been going on incessantly, it is impossible to estimate the full extent of the loss of life and property. More than 50 dead bodies have already been taken out and the number of the dead may reach 75 or more. It is thought that at least 45 miners are yet entombed in the wrecked mine. The scene of the disaster is between

The scene of the disaster is between this place and Thurmond, on the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad and every

An estimate a bible was rendered by assistance possible was rendered by the railroad company and by the ad-joining 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 and relief and his manager, reromand Howell, had all the men available at work in trying to clear away the de-bris and rescue the entombed men. The managers and bosses of all the mines in this district came to the scene as soon as possible and joined in the work of rescue. It is impossible to describe the amount of work done to describe the amount of work done by this army of men, but they were greatly impeded because of the enormous blockade at the entrance to the drift

The large heavy side tires of the en trance were blown out to some dis-tance, together with a lot of heavy fimbers. Even mules were blown out some distance. The force of such an explosion caused an immediate falling of the slate and other debris, so that the entrance was filled up for a great distance and the difficulties in digging through it caused delay in the work of rescue. As many men as could work at one time were digging away with all their might and were relieved in short relays by other men, so as to expedite the work of rescue as much as possible.

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. As the miners were located at different places in the drift and the explosion caused the following skate to blockade the rooms in different parts of the mine, the work of rescue met with one great obstruction after another another.

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. While they were all seeking to help those who were rescued and to get the mine reopened, yet these bereaved people were for the most part in the way of the rescuers and had to be held back from the en-

trance. The mine is one of the largest in West Virginia and was heavily tim-bered in the different drifts. Fire Creek, W. Va., March 8.—The rescuing parties continued work yes-terday at Red Ash mine. It is still impossible to give the exact number of the victims, or to identify all of the bodies recovered. bodies recovered.

A report from the rescuers at the mine last night was that 34 had been taken out, 29 being dead and five se-riously injured. While the surviving miners and others estimate that there are at least 39 miners still entombed General Manager Howell says there are still in the mine only 36. The es-timate of the latter would indicate that there were 70 killed and five injured, and it is conceded that all of those still in the mine are dead.

EXPLAINS HIS ATTITUDE.

President McKinley Tells Why He Has Agreed to Sign the Porto Rican Tar-IT BIII. Washington, March 7.-The Post

says: President McKinley, in conver-sation with callers at the White House

THOUSANDS OF NEW BANKS. They Will be Organized Just as Sool the Financial Bill Becomes a as th Law.

New York, March 8 .- Advices received by local banking interests from small towns and villages throughout the United States indicate that state are preparing to take out charters un-der the national system as soon as the currency bill becomes a law. New York banks are already making ef-forts to secure the business of these institutions, one bank in this city alone receiving more than 30 inquiries yesterday upon the subject. One man from a western town told a bank offi-

rom a western town tond a bank one cer that he expected to start eight banks with a capital of \$25,000 each. Reports of similar preparations in other sections of the country led to the prediction by an officer of one of the best known banks that 2,000 na-tional chapters would be analied for tional charters would be applied for after existing restrictions were modified.

The Evening Post says: "It was es The Evening Post says: "It was es-timated 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. gov-ernpment bonds, which could be se-cured at ruling rates for about \$26,-750. These, representing the capital of the bank, could be sent to Washing-ton and circulation for the full amount of the capital immediately taken out.

of the capital immediately taken out. The organizer of the bank then has only \$2,750 tied up in the enterprise, but could take deposits in the regular way. Whether the system can be properly safeguarded under such re-quirements is not known, "Such extension of the system is

quirements is not known. "Such extension of the system is expected to yield large profits to na-tional banks of this city, since state banks at interior points, keeping their balances with state banks or trust companies in this city, will have to transfer their accounts to national banks (if they wish them counted as reserve) as soon as the new charters are taken out. This, it is thought, may result in a serious loss for some of the large state banks." A bank president cited the difficul-

A bank president cited the difficul-A bank president cited the dimension of the present system as the rea-son why New York banks, with their enormous volume of busines, found it expedient to take out only about \$17,000,000 in circulation. A bank pay-ing 120 or 130 for **a** 4 per cent, bond on which only 90 per cent of circulaon which only 90 per cent, of circula-tion could be issued would have to tie up \$30 or \$40 on each \$100 so invested. besides paying double the tax called for in the proposed law. On that ba-sis the transaction would be decidedly unprofitable, to say nothing of the expenses incident to printing, etc., which would still further cut into the in-come. This is why local banks, carrycome. This is why local banks, carry-ing the greatest number of out of town accounts and shipping millions of currency each year to western, eastern and southern correspondents when crop moving demands cut down interior money supplies, took out little or no circulation, although it might

have materially protected their re-serves during periods of money stringency.

BESSEMER STEEL.

Product of American Mills Increased

14 Per Cent. During 1899. Philadelphia, March 8.—The Ameri-can Iron and Steel association has reran Iron and Steel association has re-ceived complete statistics of the pro-duction of Bessemer steel ingots and Bessemer steel rails in the United States in 1899, except the comparative-ly small quantity of standard rails and street rails which were made from purchased blooms, or were re-rolled from old steel rails. The total pro-duction of Bessemer steel ingots in 1899 was 7,586,354 gross tons, against 6,609,017 tons in 1898, showing an in-crease in 1899 of 977,337 tons, or over 14 per cent. The production of 1899 was more than twice the production of 1894 and was almost twice the pro-duction of 1896. Of the ingots pro-duction of 1899 Pennsylvania made 3, 968,779 tons, Ohio 1,679,337 tons, Illi-nois 1,211,246 tons, other states 727,092 tons. The production of all kinds of Bes-

tons. The production of all kinds of Bes-semer steel rails direct from ingots by the producers of Bessemer steel ingots in 1899 was 2,240,767 gross tons against a similar production in 1898 of 1,955,427 tons, and 1,614,399 tons in 1897.

Of the total production of Bessemer

GEN. BULLER AND THE TUGELA 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. "Out of this, please," he he was down among the naval 12said-

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 experi ence 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 every-where the boy did, and followed him to

school one day. The boy arrived a little late with the dog; the other children knew that the pair were coming, and they were on the alert for a scene. In came the boy with pounders behind Long's guns now. The alert for a scene. In came the boy with Boers had perhaps recognized the the big bull terrier at his heels. The baff; the whistling in the air trebled. pupils held their hands to their mouths.

MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.



This lady, who succeeds Susan B. Anthony as president of the American Wom-an Suffrage association, is reputed to be the foremost active suffragist of the day. Mrs. Catt was born in Iowa, and lived in that state until she became the wife of George A. Catt, the big New York dredging contractor. She enjoys the reputa-tion of being an ideal hostess, a housekeeper of enviable abilities, and a cook whose dishes are famous. She is fond of horses, flowers and plants and pretty bric-a-brac. She is likewise a student and one of the most eloquent women speakers in the country. Her personality is said to be exceedingly pleasing.

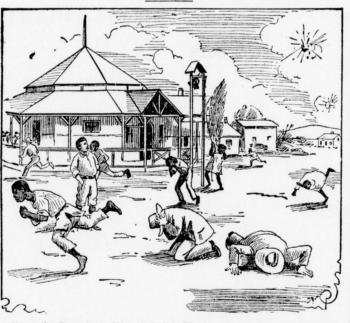
the place; Sir Redvers Buller was eat-ing sandwiches, and from the scattered groups of men emerged one of the most gallant trios that ever tried to win the Victoria cross.

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 the naval battery, and young Roberts. * * * It was all no good; a general retirement was ordered, ten guns were left on the field. * * * Sir Redvers Buller and his staff came by me on their return. The general climbed down limply and wearily from his horse like an old, old man. I thought he was wounded with vexation; I did not know wounded with vexation; I did not know then that he was wounded—though slightly—with a bullet, which had been passed round his ribs. The horse of Lord Gerard, one of his aids-de-camp,

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. Then

quietly watching the proceedings of the school, until the intermission. The children were all over their and from that time on spent most of his time by the teacher's desk, though often he accompanied his master into

RINGING THE ALARM BELL AT MAFEKING.





Referring to the Clayton-Bulwer largest measure of help to the dis-tressed island, and he has never wavertreaty the committee says it "certain-It avoided hostile collision between the two great powers (England and the United States) whatever may have been its faults as an entangling alli-ance, or national humiliation to us, or as the avera of hested direformatic coned a single instant in the object he sought. Had his suggestion been ac-cepted and followed by all in his spirit and as he meant it, with the limita-tions he intended, all would have been well. But when the time came for ac-tion in congress two tendencies were as the cause of heated diplomatic con-"Store system of heated uptoinate con-troversy. "Since 1860 the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been in some way recog-nized by the government in each of the succeeding administrations as a subsisting compact. "Storeg researces for its abromation seen. On the one hand there were good men and some business and ag-ricultural interests that, while not objecting to free trade with Porto Rico alone, feared that free trade with Porto Rico would be made a precedent

stitution by its own force extends to Porto Rico and all the new island pos-sessions and spreads all its provisions

over them, including uniform taxation. They were eager to commit a republi-can congress to the adoption of free trade with Porto Rico, not as a meas-

ure of generous expediency, but be-cause they could then claim that it had riveted a hard and fast principle which would the the hands of the gov-

ernment everywhere, in the Philippines as well as in Porto Rico, without re-

gard to varying conditions, and which would expose the administration and its party to all the attacks that would

"It was a cunning game, but it did not succeed. The apprehension of the honest objectors who feared that

the honest objectors who feared that the concession of full free trade to Porto Rico would lead to misconstruc-tion, and the designs of the cratty partisans who meant that it should, were both met and frustrated by the bill which passed t.c 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 need-ed revenue, which until civil govern-ment 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 reliev-ing the trade of Porto Rico from bur-

densome restrictions and of extending the largest degree of help; and when it was crowned by the president's spe-

It was crowned by the president's spe-cial message, promptly carried out by the house, providing not only that the duties hereafter collected, but that those hereafter collected to the amount of \$2,000,000, should be appro-

priated to be expended wholly in Porta Rico for her development, no ground

was left for any pretense that the pol-icy of the president and congress was

oppressive. "Nobody can understandingly object

be made on such a position.

"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. Forto files would be made a precedent for free trade with the Philippines. "On the other hand what the presi-dent proposed as a worthy act of na-tional generosity was seized by politi-cal opponents and claimed as a neces-sary measure of inherent constitution-al right. They insisted that the con-stitution by its own force extends to

"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.

necessarily, exclude any other. "The right to a footing in Nicara-gua, 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 involve the countries in war, or it would enlarge the scheme of alliance that is embodied in the Clayton-Bul-wer treaty into a practical alliance, offensive and defensive, in the control of navigation and the commerce of teh world. It is these later treaties that present the real ground of our that present the real ground of our present difficulty, from which the con-vention of 1900 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 sup-ising out not not individual of a super-time conceded by Great Britain. It is wise, therefore, that the value of this concession to us should be estimated as a great consideration for anything as a great consideration for anything we may yield, if we, indeed, yield any-thing, in acquiring the exclusive right to control the canal by a modification of the Clayton Bulwer treaty.

"In the convention of February 5, 1900, Great Britain agrees that the re-striction 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 exclu-sive control of the canal for the government, or for our eitzens under the protection of the United States, while it cuts off Great Britain from any such right."

Speaking of the restrictions in grounds of objection to our exclusive control of the canal are all removed by this convention, except those that fortificat 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 pro-tect a canal to connect the oceans, while the United States is left free to conclude such negotiations.

"You oughtn't to be here, sir," gasped The teacher showed no sign of surprise Ogilvy. "I'm all right, my boy," said but said: "Ah, I see we have a new scholar. What's his name, Michael?" the place; Sir Redvers Buller was eat-ing sandwiches, and from the scat-scholar. What's his name was Grip, or something like that—I am not quite

she told him, gently but firmly, to lie down by her desk, and he did. There he remained, sleeping peacefully or

snickering and wondering in a few minutes and seemed pleased and cheerful because the dog was in the room. He was adopted as a regular attendant

the recitation-room, where his behavior was always excellent. The teacher avers that her pupils are

yesterday reiterated his belief that the people of Porto Rico were entitled to free trade with the United States. He made it clear that his views had undergone no change since he wrot his message to congress. He still ad-hered to the sentiment therein ex-pressed. At the same time he said he was unable to subscribe to the theory that the constitution followed the flag; that the Porto Ricans must have free trade as a necessary legal right When he found that the house deemed it wise to impose a small tariff, upon condition that the revenues so collected all be returned to the island, he had yielded to the judgment of the house. The tariff, under such condi-tions, would be no hardship to the Porto Ricans.

He believed it advisable, at the ear liest moment, to secure a decision of liest moment, to secure a decision of the supreme court on the constitution-al question involved. Therefore, he had consented to the nominal tariff and agreed to sign such a bill. He left no doubt in the minds of his call-ers-whom he questioned closely re-garding the drift of public sentiment -that congress, not the executive, -that congress, not the executive was responsible for the change of policy.

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. The rest of the city ticket goes through with Moores, with the possible exception of tax commissioner.

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

1899 Pennsy 224,807 tons and other states made 1,015,960 tons.

PROMINENT FINANCIERS.

Miller, of Franklin Syndicate Notori ety, Promises to Expose Them.

New York, March 8.—The Evening World prints an interview with Wil-liam F. Miller, the head of the socalled Franklyn syndicate, who swincalled Franklyn syncicate, who swin-died a great many people through promises to pay 10 per cent, a week. Miller is reported as saying that the syndicate was started on a capital of \$50 and that at least \$1,500,000 had passed through his hands while he was in the syndicate. He said the police made no attemut to present his police made no attempt to prevent his escape. He was in the New York city hall when Brooklyn detectives were supposed to be searching for him. Miller said that he was merely **a** tool, hired by the real swindlers, Schlesinger, whom he accuses of be-

ing the real swindler, drew a salary of \$200 weekly. Miller declared he is being made a 'football" of by the district attorney's office. He says he will tell all he knows when brought to trial and in-timates that it will involve some big men.

A Great Smallpox Epidemic.

Jackson, Miss., March 8 .- An official made to the Hinds county report board of supervisors reveals an appalling state of affairs in the Jonesville neighborhood, in that county. The community is honeycombed with smallpox of the most loathsome form and during the past six weeks nearly 100 deaths occurred. On some days the death rate was so large that it was impossible to secure coffins and rude caskets were made from rails. Whole families have been wiped out of existence. Many patients are now in a critical condition.

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. The officer who sends the London Graphic the sketch from which the plcture here given is drawn describes how a shell burst the other day in the market place. The inhabitants scattered right and left. Some flung themselves on the ground, and one man was heard to say, as he groveled on the clay: "If anybody says he's not afraid of these shells he's a liar."

Hughes, the doctor of his staff, had been killed—half blown to pieces 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 he Tugela in December, 194, or more han half, were hit in the extremities. 'or which soldiers usually aim. All but ight were struck with mauser bullets he wounds, according to the British surcons, being "humane in the extreme. Ewenty six were hit about the head and 20 in the body.

had been shot in the neck; Capt. less disorderly and troublesome when the dog is present than when he is ab sent.

Breaking a Record.

Dr. Conan Doyle is a very quick writer. It is recorded of him that on one occasion, when returning home with a friend in the evening after a splendid day of cricket, he remarked that a certain incident would make a good story. After dinner the friend said: "You'd better do that story."

Effect of Lyddite Shells.

An English artilleryman says the effect of lyddite shells is greatly exag They are intended for naval gerated. use, and arranged to explode after penetrating armour. They will not explode by impact unless they strike a

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 Philip-pines as well as in Porto Rico. "Between a 15 per cent, duty as pro-

vided by the congressional bill, every cent of which is to be returned to Per-to Rico, that island also getting all collected at the other end, and the removal of customs duties as suggested

moval of customs duties as suggested by the president for humanity's sake, there is no difference wheatever 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 bere taken a position which 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 Fran-caise, the historical playhouse of Paris and the home of the world-famed Comedie Francaise, was burned vesterday. Mile. Henriot, a young actress, was burned to death.

A Triumphal 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 Africa from one of reverse into one of success. That is the only explana-tion of the unbounded enthusiasm with which hundreds of thousands hailed their sovereign. In many ways these demonstrations out-did those of the timesed inhibits additional 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.

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

"In conditions that may not be en-tirely remote, we would find this pro-vision, 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, Honohulu, San Francisco and San Di-ego on one side, and at San Juan, Porto Rico, the Isle of Pines and Key West, with other fortified naval sta-tions on the other side, it is improb-able 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 fortifica-tions 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 for-eign power that is not strong enough to occupy and hold is against all com-

"In any event, if wars are to come that will involve the control of the canal or the right of passage through it, no battle should ever be fought in the region near to it." Senator Morgan filed a minority re-port conversion the amendment in

port opposing the amendment, in which he says that "Great Britain confers no right on the United States as to anything in Nicaragua or Costa

rock.

To which recommendation Dr. Doyle replied: "I've done it."