

THE NEWS.

A premature dynamite explosion at Minersville caused the serious injury of eight Italian and Hungarian workmen.

FORCE OF DYNAMITE.

Hovec Wrought By the Explosion of Fifty Cartridges.

Six Persons Killed and Over Twenty Injured, Two Fatally.

An explosion, which shook the length and breadth of Long Island City, N. Y., occurred at 8 o'clock the other morning, at the mouth of the shaft recently sunk by the New York and Long Island Tunnel Company.

The scene of the explosion is the most thickly settled portion of Hunter's Point. In the vicinity are the Long Island Savings Bank, Davron's flats, a row of four-story brick buildings, the post-office, Petro Rocco's barber shop, John Hopkin's restaurant and F. Plala's jewelry store.

Some 50 cartridges of Forsythe's powder had been brought from the storage house on the 15th, to be prepared for sending down to the drillers working in the heading which is being blasted out under Fourth street at a depth of 85 feet.

The effect of the explosion on Davron's flats was terrible. Every window in the rear was rapped out and the glass driven in pieces of all sizes, through the room, and those in the front room blown out.

Bureaus, tables and stoves were overturned. A wreck was ever more complete. A strip of brick wall, about ten feet wide, extending from basement to roof, fell in a terrible crash.

The ambulance from St. John's Hospital and a corps of doctors arrived simultaneously, and the wounded were quickly removed to the hospital. The dead and dying were taken to stores near by.

While all this was going on the horror of the occasion was intensified by the bursting of a pipe in the third floor of one of the apartment buildings. The flames spread rapidly, and before the firemen got under control nearly the whole row of buildings was destroyed.

There were no men working in the tunnel when the explosion occurred. One of them said they felt the shock at 10 o'clock the shaft had collapsed. It was nearly half an hour before any of them would venture to investigate and ask to be drawn to the surface.

ON A LOCOMOTIVE PILOT.

Charles Griggs Struck and Carried Six Miles Unconscious.

Charles Griggs, a drug clerk was taken to his home in Keokuk, Pa., suffering from the terrific nervous shock of a remarkable escape. He was struck by the Milwaukee limited train on the Northwestern road, traveling at the rate of 45 miles an hour, and carried six miles on the pilot of the locomotive in an unconscious condition.

The Executive Committee of the Industrial Legion has made the amendments suggested by General Paul Vandervort, and the latter has accepted the office of commander-in-chief.

Dr. Ligario, the director of the Chicago Pasture Institute, says he is the discoverer of the new cure for epilepsy. Silas W. R. Jones, a wealthy Kokomo man, arrested on a charge of bigamy, claims that he is not guilty, and is fighting extradition.

Fire broke out in Delaware county's elegant new court-house in Muncie, Ind., and the building, valued at \$300,000, was ruined. The origin of the fire was in the court-room. The South Side street car barns in Milwaukee were destroyed. The loss is mostly on cars. Many hundred of them were destroyed. The fire is claimed by the watchman to have been incendiary. Loss estimated at \$300,000.

The doctors fear he will never recover from the shock. HE MAY EXPLODE. The Peculiar and Terrible Condition of a Sufferer From Emphysema. Frederick Ott, a patient in the City Hospital, Baltimore, is likely to explode at any moment.

HAMBURG'S PLAGUE.

Four More Cases of Cholera and Two More Deaths.

Four more cases of cholera and two more deaths were reported to the health authorities in Hamburg. Besides this, seven persons suspected of having the disease were sent to the detention hospital.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

Epitome of News Gleaned from Various Parts of the State.

It has come to light that the funds of the city of Reading are impaired through City Treasurer John Obold having accepted the bills in lieu of taxes and advanced money to contractors on city work.

RICHARD REESE, an engineer in mines near Monongahela City, was found dead with a bullet hole in his head. There is a suspicion that he was murdered by friends of men now on trial for the murder of Reese's brother under similar circumstances some weeks ago.

A motion was made to squash the indictment against ex-Prothomarty Metzger, of Lancaster County, on trial for embezzlement, and the court will consider the matter.

AFTER making merry with a party of children on Christmas evening, Margaret McLane, known as "Grandma," was burned to death in her home at Trexler.

MRS. JOHN C. WALTON, a Republican, the wife of the present office-holder, a Democrat, has been appointed postmistress of Kennett.

FRANK COOLEY's composition, Lida Pastorius, was sentenced at Uniontown to eighteen months imprisonment.

THE State Music Teachers' Association held a very successful session at Reading.

THE St. Louis Express, due in York at 4:05 P. M., was rapidly approaching the Princess Street crossing when E. B. Harrison, a prominent South End merchant, and his clerk, Ephraim Wertz, who were driving home from market, attempted to cross the tracks ahead of the train.

In order to decide which was the better man Anthony Mitchell, a hotel, porter at the St. Cloud Hotel, and John Hill engaged in a rough and tumble fight at Houtzdale. The fight continued for one round, and while no apparent injury was inflicted on either, Mitchell was a corpse within a half hour after the fight. Hill was arrested.

ROBERT MOTLEY, residing at Greenburg, in the Heckscheville Valley, while returning from a hunting expedition was wounded perhaps fatally, by the accidental discharge of his gun.

TWENTY-FOUR years ago Edwin H. Miller, of Allestown, suddenly left his wife and children for parts unknown. The other morning he turned up as unexpectedly as he had left, looking hale and hearty. He called upon his wife who received him with open arms. Miller is 55 years old and during his absence has crossed the ocean six times. His wife believing him dead applied for a pension several years ago. Miller had done the same thing and was successful while his wife failed.

CABLE SPARKS.

At the sale of the orchard belonging to the late Duke of Marlborough the highest price realized was \$100.

A MAN named Chaillet was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment in Germany for spitting upon and striking a bust of Emperor William.

PROFESSOR GAINNEY, who left England for the baboon country in Africa to study the language of monkeys, expects to return in January with a gorilla's fully trained as a servant.

ROBERTS entered the bedroom of Lady Miles, wife of Sir Cecil Miles, of Lorges Court, near Bristol, Eng., and stole jewelry valued at \$35,000, which Lady Miles left in an unlocked safe.

AT Sydney, N. S. W., Makin and his wife, the baby farmers who killed thirteen infants by piercing their hearts or spines with needles, were committed for trial. Both pleaded not guilty.

ALEXANDER RUSSELL WEIR, recent United States consul at Manila, has been converted to Islamism, and is now in India collecting funds to convert the people of the United States to that faith.

DR. FRANCIS CHARLES SCOTT SANDERS, formerly manager of the Lyric Club of London, was sentenced to six years penal servitude for having forged the name of the Earl of Londesborough to a banker's check for \$3,753.

MURDERED HIS FAMILY.

Horrible Triple Tragedy on Christmas Day.

Henry C. Varnum Kills His Wife, Daughter and Himself.

A horrible triple murder and suicide was discovered at noon in the upper flat of a tenement building at 81 Taintor street, Worcester, Mass. Henry C. Varnum, and his little adopted daughter, Florence, were found dead, his wife was nearly dead when discovered and died on the way to the hospital, and Mrs. Wright, the mother of Mrs. Varnum, now lies at the hospital in a critical condition, unable, as yet, to tell or indicate in any way the story of the awful event.

Henry C. Varnum came to Worcester from Haron, Vt., in September, and found employment as a machinist in the shop of L. J. Folland. He then hired the tenement house at 81 Taintor street for his family, which consisted of his wife, an adopted daughter, Florence, and his wife's mother, Mrs. Wright.

The family lived quietly and all appeared to be happy. Varnum was a regular attendant at Hope Congregational Church, where he sang in the choir. His wife and little daughter often accompanied him. Varnum was not present at any of the church services on Sunday, and the pastor, Rev. E. W. Phillips, remarked the absence and expressed some surprise, saying that Mrs. Varnum was not the sort of woman to stay at home because it was cold. Mr. Phillips had occasion to make a call on Christy street, near Taintor, and in passing thought he would see if anything was wrong. He rang the Varnum bell, but received no answer, and called up the lower tenement and later the occupant of the middle dwelling, Mrs. F. E. Hall, who said she had heard nothing from the Varnums, and that she felt nervous about them.

FOUND BY THE PASTOR. She also said that the door upstairs was open. Mr. Phillips went up stairs immediately and entered the apartments through the parlor. The rooms were very cold and the furniture undisturbed. He passed through the parlor into the back parlor and then to the kitchen. He then pushed open the door of the bedroom leading off from the kitchen and a terrible sight met his eyes. Lying on the bed, covered with blood, were Mr. Varnum and his wife. The man was quite dead, but the woman was breathing feebly. In a corner of the room lay the child, turned over on her face, also dead.

Mr. Phillips waited to see no more, but rushed down stairs to the office of the coroner, Dr. W. R. Wood, where he telegraphed for the police. When the police arrived the mother, Mrs. Wright, was discovered in an adjoining room. She was conscious, but not able to speak, though she understood what was said to her at about 5 o'clock and made attempts to articulate. The bodies of the man and child were removed by an undertaker, and the two women were carried to the hospital. The younger woman died just as the ambulance stopped at the hospital door.

Mrs. Wright is still unable to speak, but she may live. She is about 50 years of age. The weapon with which the crime was committed was an iron door-scraper, an iron strap about 15 inches long, and a cylindrical knob. The instrument weighed fully four pounds. Varnum himself was killed by a stab from a knife, identified as his own. He was out in the region of the heart. There were no other marks upon his body.

The bodies of the man and child when found were cold and water in the kitchen was frozen. There was no sign of violence about the house outside of the bedrooms. Mrs. F. E. Hall, who lives in the tenement below, says that she heard a slight sound from the child at about 5 o'clock and a moment later the sound of footsteps. The noise ceased immediately and she thought nothing of them.

WORK AND WORKERS.

The woolen weavers employed in the Blackstone Woolen Mill, at Blackstone, Mass., struck alleging that excessive fines were enforced by the company. The strike will affect 300 hands.

ALL the miners and workmen of the Spring Hill Collieries, at Spring Hill, the largest in Nova Scotia, struck and operations entirely ceased. The immediate cause of the trouble is grievances respecting shift weight and docking. One thousand persons are thrown out of employment.

THE issue of an order reducing the wages of the molders in the employ of the Phoenix Iron Works, of Baltimore, resulted in a strike, in which 50 men participated. The reduction meant about \$2 per week, a small amount, the firm claims, was in excess of the prices paid by competing firms.

The alleged gold fields near the junction of the San Juan and Colorado rivers, in Utah, are attracting thousands of prospectors from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. The excitement is unparalleled, and towns along the Denver and Rio Grande, both in Southern Colorado and New Mexico are almost deserted.

IT is proposed by some Cincinnati trades unionists that "when a strike becomes necessary or a lock-out is precipitated by a corporation against unionists, a general order shall be promulgated calling upon every union man in the country to withhold from counting all funds that he may possess or control, so as to cause a stringency in the money market and thus compel the business men of the United States to bring such a pressure to bear upon the corporation having a strike on its hands that it will be forced to yield to the demands of its employees or show a disposition to settle the differences between them."

CHANGE OF VENUE.

A Ravisher Taken From Court and Disposed of by Judge Lynch.

A despatch from Bowling Green, Ky., says: Bob Harper has paid a penalty for the assault upon Mrs. Anderson, and the people feel that the terrible crime has been avenged. When court opened the witnesses for the commonwealth were examined, and Hon. J. C. Simms had just announced that the commonwealth was to rest. Judge Duane had retired to the witness room to consult with his witness, who a mob entered the court room, armed with guns. It was just 11:40 o'clock. The mob leaders seized the witness and dragged him to the court-room. He was taken to the fair ground one mile distant.

He was there lifted to the seat of a wagon, and allowed to make a statement. He stoutly protested his innocence and died game. The wagon was pulled from under him at 11:57 o'clock, and he was pronounced to be dead ten minutes later. Not a shot was fired and the crowd dispersed quietly. The mob was composed of over 1,000 men.

Along the streets leading to the fair ground the women rushed to the windows and much excitement was created in the masses, but there was a general sigh of relief when the crowd returned, the people felt that the commonwealth had been saved of an awful suspense.

DISASTERS AND CASUALTIES

A CRUDE OIL TANK at Springfield, O., exploded when a Wm. Kohler, an employee of P. F. Mast & Co., was fatally burned.

ONE man was fatally and three dangerously injured by an explosion of dynamite while blasting rock at Lynn, Massachusetts.

JEFFERSON LENTZ, of Tamaqua, Penna., a brakeman, was killed by falling under the wheels of his train while attempting to get aboard.

ENGINEER Wm. KEMPER, of New Albany, Indiana, was killed by being thrown under a engine, which ran into a box car and turned over.

THREE young girls, daughters of John and Wm. Clark, of North Bay, Ontario, were drowned by falling through the ice of Resolute Lake.

An explosion at the Blockford Pice Factory, at Hop Meadows, Connecticut, fatally injured one employe and demolished the building. The cause is unknown.

An elephant escaped from a circus near Crawfordville, Indiana, a few days ago, and did considerable damage to farmer's property. He was finally recaptured.

JOHN CROSSWELL and James Duffy, both employed in the Pine Forest Colliery, at St. Clair, Penna., were seriously injured by the breaking of a hoisting rope, and the consequent fall of a car.

Two children of Mrs. Hineley were buried to death at Sargent, Col., by a fire which destroyed their home. Robert Hineley, the husband and father, was crushed to death a few weeks ago while working in a mine near Sargent.

A SOUTHERN BLIZZARD.

Charleston Covered With Snow and Bleat-Port Monroe Snowed Up.

A blizzard struck Charleston, S. C., and for the first time within the past 15 years housetops were covered with a thin coating of snow and sleet. The mercury averaged about three or four degrees below freezing point during the day, and the pedestrian not being accustomed to ice had a hard time getting along the sidewalks.

The orange trees in the city are injured somewhat and will probably bear only one crop this year. They usually bear two crops. Planting and truck farm crops are not far enough advanced to suffer any damage. Strawberries are well protected and the plants will escape without severe trouble.

PORT MONROE SNOW-BOUND.

PORT MONROE, VA.—The worst blizzard in 50 years struck this vicinity about midnight. The electric car lines to Hampton is blocked and navigation is suspended.

THE people of Williamsburg, Col., recently learned the resignation of Professor Voochis, principal of the primary department of the public school. He is accused of having pulled the teeth of pupils as punishment for disobedience. One boy is said to have had fifteen teeth extracted in this manner. The professor resigned.

MARKETS.

Table with columns for BALTIMORE, GRAIN, ETC., and various market prices for flour, wheat, and other commodities.

Table with columns for CANNED GOODS, TOMATOES, and various market prices for food items.

Table with columns for BUTTER, CHEESE, and various market prices for dairy products.

Table with columns for EGGS, POULTRY, TOBACCO, and various market prices for farm products.

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

HOW A SERPENT FEEDS.—A tenant of more than ordinary interest has lived in the Garden of Plants, Paris, since August, 1885, and has been an object of study by M. Vaillant. This is a South American boa (Boa murina), at least 20 feet long. Up to the end of 1891 the serpent had taken food in this place 34 times, an average of five times a year.

The interval between its meals ranging from 28 to 204 days. It calls for its meals by characteristic uneasiness. Its usual food has been small goats, with rabbits on three occasions and a goose on one, and the largest animal it has swallowed has been a kid of 26 pounds, or about one-tenth of its own weight. Such prey is not of remarkable size, as serpents are capable of swallowing animals nearly as large as themselves. A few years ago, indeed, a horned viper was caught in the act of swallowing a French viper a little larger than itself, and no ill effects followed this enormous meal.

POSSIBILITIES OF "SUGGESTION."—Hypnotism formed a subject of considerable importance at the late Congress of Psychology in London. Aside from its scientific interest, it was shown to have a practical bearing upon criminal affairs—as in crime believed to have been committed under the influence of hypnotic suggestion—and upon medicine and education. The case was described of a woman who had been afflicted with a suicidal mania for eleven months, which was cured by suggestion during hypnotic sleep. Dr. Berillon mentioned educational applications. In experiments upon 250 children of both sexes, he had found that eight out of ten children from six to fifteen years old could be put into profound sleep, the ones most susceptible being, contrary to general belief, those most free from hereditary nervous defects. In these subjects it is easy to obtain automatic accomplishment of acts suggested during sleep. This has been verified by many authors, and advantage has been taken of it to treat habits of nervousness, filthiness and immorality that concern pedagogues as much as medicine. Suggestion also offers a means of analyzing the different intellectual faculties of children.

THE OPTICAL THEATRE.—Apparatus for combining pictures of successive phases of action to produce a moving picture have been mostly limited to the representation of a single motion or very simple action. A French optician, M. Reynaud, has greatly extended the idea. He has devised a so-called optical theatre, the object of which is to reproduce a large series of actions, even a whole scene lasting fifteen or twenty minutes, by the use of a very long band carrying a great number of poses. The pictures are enlarged by lantern projection. To give the illusion of life, the postures must succeed each other without any extinction or eclipse between, and this has not been before attained by any projection apparatus. The construction of the optical theatre provides that the succession of the postures may be interrupted at every instant without causing the disappearance of the image from the screen. The long band, upon which the images are produced in colors by a special process, may be moved in either direction before the lantern, when the images are projected through a lens upon an inclined mirror, which projects them upon a transparent screen. Another projecting lantern causes the appearance on the stage of the scenery amid which the characters move.

FACTS ABOUT LIGHT AND SOUND.—Light falling on any ordinary substance produces sound. Throw a beam of it on a glass vessel full of lambchick and sound may be detected. Or, pass the light through a prism and form a rainbow; as the rainbow falls on the glass vessel a distinct sound will be caused. Red and blue light makes a louder sound than green. Fill the glass vessel with red worsted and throw the green light from a prism on it and the noise is very loud. And so, one by one, we penetrate the mysteries of nature. Stand at one end of a stone or brick wall, and have some one strike the other end with a hammer. You will detect two distinct sounds from each blow of the hammer. One comes to your ear through the medium of the air; the other through the wall itself. From particle to particle, whether of air, stone or any other substance, the impulse of sound travels, and so it is that you hear two strokes instead of one. The discovery of the fact that the fall of light creates sound is new; the double sounds from brick or stone is old, and any one can test it for himself. Explode a fire-cracker in an empty barrel, and it sounds about as loud as a gun; fire a gun off on the top of a mountain, where the air is very thin, and it will sound about as loud as a fire-cracker. Sound travels at the rate of about 1,100 feet every second. Fire a gun and any one at a distance will see the flash before he hears the sound; light goes faster than sound, you see. I stood, the other day, on the platform of a railroad station in the country. As the cars got near they whistled, also while going by, and again while going on past us. I noticed a singular thing, and that was that four hundred yards off the whistle sounded one note higher each way. That is, at the station it was "B," four hundred yards before it got there the same whistle had been "C," and after falling, directly opposite the station, to "B," when the train got four or five hundred yards away again the sound went up to "C" again. It was owing to the pulsations of sound being crowded together on the ear by the swiftness of the train. Directly opposite to us they were not crowded on the ear.

A Word About His Mother. A neat report is recorded of the Marquis of Carmarthen, the Duke of Leeds' eldest son, who, at the recent elections in England, was returned to Brixton by a large majority. The night before election, while he was addressing a mass meeting, he was interrupted by a cry of, "Does your mother know you're out?"—a reference to his very youthful appearance. "Oh, yes, she knows I'm out," said the young candidate, "and she hopes to-morrow she'll know I'm in."—(New York News.