

Miss Kaiser's sixth and ~~seventh~~  
letter will appear Saturday.

# Scranton Tribune.

EIGHT PAGES--56 COLUMNS.

SCRANTON, PA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 10, 1894.

By the way, you will want to  
see THE TRIBUNE on that  
day.

TWO CENTS A COPY.

## THE TRIBUNE HAS A LARGER BONA FIDE CIRCULATION AMONG SCRANTON BUSINESS MEN THAN ANY OTHER MORNING PAPER

### COLLIERY FIRE AT SHAMOKIN

Terrible Results of a Carpenter's Carelessness.

### FIVE PERSONS ARE SUFFOCATED

Several Workers Missing—Irwin Buffington Carries a Naked Lamp Into the Luke Fidler Shaft and Fires the Oil Soaked Boards in the Passage Way—The Host of Miners at the Bottom of the Shaft Narrowly Escape Death—The Whole Mine is on Fire.

SHAMOKIN, Oct. 9.—The most disastrous mine fire in the history of the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania, started at the Luke Fidler colliery last night from the naked lamp of a workman. Five persons are known to be dead. They are: Irwin Buffington, carpenter; George Brown, miner; John Giese, laborer; Michael Buzofski, laborer, and Anthony Zobert, driver boy.

Buffington, with a number of other carpenters, was at work half-way down the shaft, calking up holes in the side of the brattice, which connects the shaft with the air passage. It is the rule when doing this work for the men to use lanterns, but in this case the rule was disregarded and naked lamps were substituted. Detecting a leak, Buffington placed his lamp to the draft and the flame immediately caught the boards, which were saturated with oil, and was taken into the air chamber.

Realizing the awful consequences of his act the man at once started for the bottom of the shaft to notify the workmen employed there of their danger, his companions in the meantime, rushing up the shaft to safety. When Buffington had notified the workmen below, he stopped to exchange his rubber boots for a pair of shoes, and the delay in doing this cost him his life. Buffington staggered to within thirty feet of the door of the passageway which led to the open air, but here he was overcome by smoke and fell. His body was found this morning. The other bodies are still in the mine.

#### A NUMBER ARE RESCUED.

Michael Golden, one of the inside officials, was at the bottom of the shaft when the alarm was given and he at once notified the men working in another three slope, while John Dummeter performed a like duty for those employed in the two slopes. Golden told the men of an opening by which it was possible to reach another shaft and leading the way for the seventy men employed in this portion of the mines. Golden made for the passage, which was safely reached, although it was nearly filled with smoke. The iron bucket used to hoist the men holds about six persons. This was quickly filled, and in response to the frantic signal given by those below, the engineer began to hoist. Nearly ten trips had been made when it was discovered that a number were missing, among them David E. Immons and Harry Evans. They had succeeded in getting half way of the old shaft when the smoke forced them back. The traveling way to the east of the shaft was then tried with better success, although the smoke was very strong.

When nearly half way to safety Evans, who is but a boy, gave out, and to save his young comrade from a certain death, Edmunds picked him up and succeeded in reaching the open air. Two miners, whose names could not be obtained, seeing that escape through the old shaft was impossible, and that their retreat in the direction of the new one was covered with smoke, groped their way back further and succeeded in reaching in safety an opening which came out on top of the mountain.

Among the last to escape from No. 3 slope was a Hungarian who excitedly told the man at the bottom of the new shaft waiting to be hoisted, that there were three or four fellows overcome by the smoke while getting out of the working, and that they were nearly dead.

#### LEFT TO THEIR FATE.

Somebody suggested that a party be formed to go back and rescue them, but it was clearly seen that the course would be suicidal, so it was abandoned, and the sufferers were left to their fate. When all who could do so had reached the surface and an enumeration had been made, it was found that four workmen, in addition to Buffington, were missing.

Superintendent Williams and Mine Inspector Brennan arrived on the scene while the men were being hoisted to safety and they organized rescuing parties to go to the relief of those imprisoned. Before the places where the men were known to have worked could be reached, however, the smoke drove the rescuers back and the attempt was given up. When the report of the disaster reached Springfield and Shamokin, men, women and children who had relatives working at the mine rushed to the scene, and soon the air was filled with the lamentations of those who sought their dear ones.

As quickly as a load was hoisted and the men could get off the cage they were seized by their wives or other relatives and almost smothered with caresses.

The fire had scarcely been started a minute before up through the air passage shot a sheet of flame twenty feet high. In three minutes the fanhouse was a mass of blackened cinders. The flames by this time were communicating to the workings below, the beds of anthracite were beginning to ignite, and the whole mine in the vicinity of the bottom of the shaft was soon a seething furnace.

#### WORK OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Shamokin Fire department began to pour water into the mine within an hour after the fire started, but thus far without any perceptible effect. Early this morning Outside Foreman Francis Kohlbreaker, accompanied by a number of men, went inside to see if

### ARE MARCHING ON MOUKDEN

It is Expected to Fall to the Japanese Very Soon.

### THE CHINESE ARE DEMORALIZED

The Invaders Reported to Have Taken Chee Foo—Nearly 8,000 Soldiers of the Mikado's Army Have Landed at Chempulo—Italy Desires to Make Peace and Advises the Chinese Government to Approach Japan.

YOKOHAMA, Oct. 9.—It is reported here that the Japanese have captured the treaty port, Choofoo.

The advance guard of the Japanese army has crossed the Yalu river and formed a new camp. A battle is believed to be imminent.

HONG KONG, Oct. 9.—A dispatch from the important treaty port, Foo-Choo, capital of the province of Kien-Kiang, and situated about twenty five miles from the mouth of the Min river, says that the river has been closed to shipping.

The British first-class armored cruiser Undaunted, twelve guns, Commander Edwin H. Richards, which had been ordered to proceed to Nagasaki, Japan, for repairs, has now been ordered to remain here. The British second-class gunboat Firebrand, four guns, Lieutenant and Commander Lionel G. Tuffnell, has been ordered to go to New-Chang, at the head of the Gulf of Liao-Ton.

SHANGHAI, Oct. 9.—A dispatch from Ceamulpo, Korea, dated Oct. 8, says that fourteen Japanese transports are in the harbor there, and that since Sept. 27 they have landed 7,800 troops and 750 coolies. The defenses of Seoul, the capital of Korea, are being strengthened, and the garrison has been reinforced by 4,000 Japanese troops in anticipation of an outbreak upon the part of Korean insurgents. Referring to the conduct of the Japanese troops in Korea, the dispatch says that while on the march even the private soldiers pay the Koreans for everything obtained from them. The daily expense of the operations of the Japanese army is 300,000 yen. The Chinese are reported to have recently crucified two Japanese prisoners who fell into their hands, and they are also said to have beheaded two wounded Japanese soldiers who were found in an outpost hospital which had been hurriedly abandoned.

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