



TWO CENTS.

SCRANTON, PA., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1899.

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BRAZELL MINE HORROR STILL GROWS

Number of the Dead Is Now Estimated at Forty.

MINE LAWS DISREGARDED?

A Strong Presumption That the Disaster Has Been the Result of Criminal Carelessness—List of the Dead and Injured—Bodies Horribly Mutilated—Story of Jonah Meese. Evidence That Naked Lamps Were Used and That the Presence of Gas in the Mine Was Well Known. Not a Safety Lamp in Use.

Pittsburg, Dec. 4.—A special to the Post from Brownsville says: The horror of the Brazell mine grows in intensity with every hour. The number of dead is now estimated at forty and may pass that figure. At the same time there is a strong presumption that the laws regulating mining were carelessly and probably criminally disregarded. Today 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 bodies were taken out, twenty-eight hours after the explosion. At 5.30 three more bodies were brought to the surface, and at 6.30 three more came up in the cage of the main shaft.

- Henry Hagar, 50 years old, leaves wife and six children. Peter Orosz, 36, leaves wife and four children. William Thomas, 36, leaves wife and four children. Michael Benihelli, 21, single. Samuel Meese, 28, leaves wife and three children. Albert Meese, 31, died after being rescued yesterday. Michael Maho, 28, leaves wife and two children. George Kovitz, 49, single. Joseph Posteky, 27, leaves wife. Joseph Magyar, 31, single. William Molok, 33, leaves wife and two children. Paul Proloc, 24, leaves wife and one child.

At least twelve other bodies are in sight, but cannot be reached an account of the debris.

The estimate of the number of dead is conflicting. A. B. Brazell, of Stockdale Coal company, this afternoon said he believed that about twenty to twenty-five men had been killed. Men who were working around the mine yesterday give different figures. They say thirty-five to forty men were down the main shaft in the cages, while about twenty climbed down the steps in the elevator shaft. From fifty to sixty men were in the mine and of this number but twelve have been recovered alive. All the rest, whatever the number, are dead.

Among the men missing and known to be dead in the mine are the following Hungarians: Michael Parahok, Andrew Parahok, brothers; Paul Landis, Thomas Kuelcak and Andrew Tourish.

Rough but reverent hands carried the bodies of the victims, when they reached the top of the shaft, to the temporary morgue on the hillside, a hundred feet away. Of one man, Peter Orosz, but a portion of the trunk and the back of the skull remained and that was virtually his only remains. He was identified by a shred of his shirt that had been blown into his flesh. Of the twelve dead there was but one that was not a hideous spectacle. Among the men at the Brazell mine today were many who had been at other explosions, but never had they seen such mangled, burned and distorted bodies.

Dr. N. H. Taylor, coroner of Fayette county, arrived early in the morning from Uniontown. He empaneled a jury, who viewed the bodies as they were brought to the surface. The inquest will be held at Uniontown as soon as all of the bodies are recovered.

Story of Jonah Meese. John, or, as he is popularly known, "Jonah" Meese, is one of the thirteen men who escaped from the mine alive. He is fearfully burned and is lying at his home with his head swathed in bandages. He told this story today: "I was in the stable," Meese said, "carrying my mule, when the explosion occurred. My brother Sam was by my side, and his boy, Albert, was standing in front of him. Then came the crack of the explosion. Next to my life I have I heard such a terrible noise. I thought my head had been blown off. In about two seconds the mule was filled with dazzling light, and the coal dust in the air was consumed. My brother Sam dropped to the ground as if shot through the heart. His boy, Albert, swayed and fell over on his face. I began to back out of the stable, that is why my face is so terribly burned. Our lamps were blown out and we were in total darkness. "After I got out of the stable I heard Albert crying for help. I went back and found him and Henry Atwood, a driver, I began to back out of the mine shaft. They were both delirious and I believe I was, too. Both of them persisted in standing up and began to walk around. I immediately forced them to lie down, and got them out of the path of the fatal after-damp, which hovered about four feet above the ground. Then I felt myself going to sleep, but I did not care, although I realized that it was the sleep of death. I laid down upon something which

DISMAL CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND

HOLIDAY SEASON ONE OF EXTRAORDINARY DEPRESSION.

One Pleasing Circumstance in the Days of Gloom Is the Exhibition of Patriotism Throughout the Land—A Keen Rivalry as to Who Shall Do the Most for the Country in Its Hour of Need—Wild War Enthusiasm Has Been Replaced by a Spirit of Grim Determination.

London, Dec. 24.—Not for many years past has Great Britain faced such a situation as confronts her this Christmas. Yet, to meet it, there has arisen a new Britain, which by its virility and pluck extorts admiration even from her bitterest Continental critics. Since the boastfulness has disappeared from the British press the comments of the foreign papers, as long as they are printed here, are couched in tones far more fair and friendly than when it was believed a speedy victory awaited General Buller. As repeatedly asserted, there is no likelihood of European interference, yet W. T. Stead, in The Chronicle today, has printed here, are couched in tones far more fair and friendly than when it was believed a speedy victory awaited General Buller. As repeatedly asserted, there is no likelihood of European interference, yet W. T. Stead, in The Chronicle today, has printed here, are couched in tones far more fair and friendly than when it was believed a speedy victory awaited General Buller.

William Pastorius, a driver in the mine, 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. Pastorius also states that the lamps were unlocked, contrary to regulation. "The miners always prefer to use naked lamps," said Pastorius, "whenever possible, as they give better light and are more easily handled."

Safety Lamps Unlocked. "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 it up 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 safety lamps, which made a power light. About 160 yards above the top 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."

STORY OF LOGAN'S DEATH

Interesting Letter from Dr. B. Albert Leiberman—Certain Statements Disproved Effectually. Kansas City, Dec. 24.—Apropos of the reports put in circulation at the time of the death of Major John A. Logan, a man in the Philippines, the following letter received today by Dr. B. Leiberman, from his son, Dr. B. Albert Leiberman, major and surgeon in the Thirty-third United States Infantry (Major Logan's regiment), effectually disproves the statement that Major Logan was shot by his own men.

San Fabian, Luzon, Nov. 12. As I wrote you before yesterday, we were to attack a town in the morning, but we did not do it, although we whipped them the cost was severe, the killed including Major Logan. We left here at 7 a. m., and marched about two or three miles when we ran into the enemy who were in houses, rice fields and tops of trees along the road. Corporal Robinson, in the advance, was wounded by the first volley. Major Logan, in passing him, stopped and asked him if he had a first aid package, and with a bear's head and game pipe, will assist in adorning her majesty's sideboard on Christmas day.

Queen's Christmas. A haron of beef for the queen's Christmas dinner will be roasted next Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Great Kitchen fire, Windsor, in readiness for the royal dinner party on Monday. The great joint when cold will be garnished with the royal and imperial monogram in shirred horseradish, and with a bear's head and game pipe, will assist in adorning her majesty's sideboard on Christmas day.

GOOD NEWS AT SHAMOKIN.

Work Will Be Provided for 1,500 Men and Boys. Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 24.—The Union Coal company, of this place, has announced that work on the Scott breaker, which was postponed on account of the coal trade depression two years ago, will be resumed in a few weeks, and that when in operation 1,500 men and boys will be given employment. It is expected the coal veins will last fifty years, and that the shipments every working day will be about 3,000 tons. A modern breaker will be erected at the mine.

CONDITIONS AT PUERTO RICO

NUMBER OF AMERICANS ON THE ISLAND INCREASING.

Report of Mr. Dingman, Who Has Charge of the Census Bureau. Fraudulent Voting—An Order Concerning the Display of Flags—People Carrying Deadly Weapons Must Avoid the Police.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Dec. 15.—This census district in this island completely up to date is that of Playa de Ponce. According to the last Spanish census this district had a population numbering 3,471 persons. The present census enrollment, however, shows an increase of 1,170. This gain is unexpected, as Playa de Ponce is the point which received the greatest damage during the hurricane of August 8 last. The center of the storm struck this section, and in consequence a great part of the buildings in the town in six feet of water for several days.

OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR

Impressive Ceremony at St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome—Service Conducted by Pope Leo.

Rome, Dec. 21.—The pope solemnly inaugurated the holy year by performing the impressive ceremony of opening the holy door of St. Peter's cathedral at 11 o'clock this morning. The ceremony was performed in the vestibule, which was handsomely decorated, by the pope, who was accompanied by the members of the diplomatic corps, leading representatives of the Roman nobility, and a number of specially invited guests.

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BRICK BUILDING BURNED.

Six-Story Edifice in New York Was Destroyed. New York, Dec. 24.—The six-story brick building, 143-145, Villaville street was gutted by fire today and the adjoining structures at 132 and 138 were damaged considerably. The fire resulted in a loss of about \$100,000, believed to be fully insured.

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NO WAR NEWS IS EXPECTED

A Truce Will Be Kept for Observance of Christmas. CONNAUGHT CANNOT GO Government Refuses to Allow the Duke to Take Active Part at the Front—Dispatch from Modder River—General Gatacre's Reconcentrado Order—The Need of 100,000 More Men.

London, Dec. 25.—4.30 a. m.—The war office has received a telegram from General Forester-Walker, dated at Cape Town yesterday, saying: "Have no further news of the general situation." It may be almost safely predicted that nothing will occur today. A truce, either formal or informal, is being kept for the observance of Christmas by the opposing forces.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Superintendent Kibball tomorrow will instruct Lieutenant Johnson, of the revenue cutter service, who is attached to his office to proceed to the scene of the wreck and make a report of the circumstances attending the loss of life. This is the practice always followed by the life saving service when there is loss of life attending an accident to a steamer to which the surfmen have given assistance. The superintendent believes that the distressing loss of life is probably due to the hurried efforts of the men to get away from the ship instead of waiting until the breeches buoy was lowered to get to the shore and their rescue effected.

LAWTON MONUMENT.

Fund Will Be Collected by Spanish War Veterans. Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 24.—A movement has been started among the members of the National Association of Spanish-American War Veterans to raise a monument in honor of the late Major General Henry W. Lawton. A number of prominent soldiers throughout the country have interested themselves in the movement and a fund is about to be started under the auspices of the National Association of Spanish-American War Veterans to be known as the "Henry W. Lawton Memorial Fund."

KILLED AT A CROSSING.

Daniel Strauss and Charles Lyttle Meet Death on the Pennsy. Sunbury, Pa., Dec. 24.—Daniel Strauss, aged 65 years, and Charles Lyttle, aged 35 years, were killed at a crossing on the Pennsylvania railroad, about a mile below this place, late tonight. They were farmers, and came here during the day to make their Christmas purchases.

Shot from Ambush.

New Orleans, Dec. 24.—B. F. Scarborough, a citizen of Sidal, La., was shot from ambush last night and mortally wounded. A second shot killed his 13-year-old daughter, who was sitting before a grate fire. No arrests have been made.

Damage Along the Coast.

New York, Dec. 24.—The storm today did considerable damage along the Jersey coast about Staten Island, and along the water front generally. The tides were the highest of the season and the gale blew 50 miles an hour at times.

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WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Forecast for Monday and Tuesday: Eastern Pennsylvania—Fair, colder, Monday, Tuesday, fair; high west to northwest winds, diminishing by Monday night.