

AWFUL CALAMITY AT ST. PIERRE

It is Generally Admitted That at Least 30,000 Lost Their Lives.

THE FIRST REPORTS WERE ACCURATE

American Consul at Guadeloupe Sends Additional Facts—The Rain of Ashes Began on Wednesday—Experience of the Crew of the British Steamship Roraima. Human Bodies Float Upon the Water and Are Devoured by Sharks—The Streets of St. Pierre Filled with Volcanic Stones and the Air is Filled with Odors of Burning Flesh.

Fort de France, Island of Martinique, May 12.—It now seems to be generally admitted that about 30,000 persons lost their lives as a result of the outbreak of the Mont Pelee volcano at St. Pierre, on Thursday last. Careful investigation by competent government officials show that the early reports of the Associated Press were accurate.

Briefly put, last Thursday morning the city of St. Pierre disappeared within ten minutes, in a whirling fire vomited from Mont Pelee; thirty thousand persons were instantly and horribly killed, and the volcano whose ancient crater for miles than any other volcano occupied by a quiet lake in which picnic parties bathed, suddenly discharged a torrent of fiery mud, which rolled towards the sea, engulfing everything before it. Then the last of cable communication was broken, and the doomed city was isolated from the world.

The American consul at Guadeloupe, Louis H. Ayne, has reached the desolated spot where St. Pierre stood and confirms the awful story in all its essential details.

From an interview with Colonel Ayne, who is a trained American newspaper man, a correspondent of the Associated Press learned the following facts:

Thursday morning the inhabitants of the city awoke to find heavy clouds surrounding the mountain. At half past five a horrid detonation had been heard. These were echoed from St. Thomas on the north to Barbadoes on the south. The commanding ceased on Wednesday night and fine ashes fell like rain on St. Pierre. The inhabitants were alarmed, but Governor Montpelier, who had a quiet life, did everything possible to allay the panic.

The British steamer Roraima reached St. Pierre on Thursday with ten passengers, among whom were Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Ince, three children and Mrs. H. J. Ince. There were watching the rain of ashes, when, with a frightful roar and terrific electric discharges, a cyclone of fire, mud and steam swept down from the crater over the town and bay, sweeping all before it and destroying the best of vessels at anchor off the shore. There and watching the rain of ash tropic so far obtainable cease. Thirty thousand corpses are strewn about, buried in the ruins of St. Pierre, or else floating, gnawed by sharks, in the surrounding seas. Twenty-eight cities, half-dead human beings were brought here, sixteen of them already dead and of the whole number only four are expected to recover.

Hidden Behind a Veil. The Associated Press steamer, chartered at Guadeloupe, neared Martinique at 6:30 Sunday morning. The island, with its lofty mountains, was hidden behind a huge veil of violet, a leaden colored haze. Enormous quantities of the wreckage of large and small ships and houses strewn the surface of the sea. Huge flocks of sea gulls soaring above and hissing sharks circling about them, were floating here and there. From behind the volcanic veil came blasts of hot wind, mingled with others, ice cold.

At Le Precheur, five miles north of St. Pierre, canoes with men and women frantic to get away, begged for a passage on the steamer. The captain, who was covered with a silver gray coating of ashes resembling dirty snow. Furious blasts of fire, ashes and mud swept over the steamer, but finally St. Pierre was reached.

The City of St. Pierre stretched nearly two miles along the coast and half a mile back to a cliff at the base of the volcano. The houses of richer French families were built of stone.

The still smoking volcano towered above the ash covered hills. The ruins were burning in many places and frightful odors of burned flesh filled the air.

With great difficulty a landing was effected. Not one house was left intact. Viscid heaps of mud, of brighter ashes or piles of volcanic stones were seen on every side. The streets could hardly be traced. Here and there amid the ruins were heaps of corpses, almost all faces were downward.

An Awful Silence. In one corner, twenty-two bodies of men, women and children were mingled in one mass, arms and legs protruding as the hapless beings fell in the last struggles of death's agony.

Through the middle of the old place, Berlin, ran a tiny stream, the remains of the river Gayave. Great trees, with roots upward and scorched by fire, were strewn in every direction. Huge rocks and still hot stones were scattered about.

From under one large stone, the arm of a white woman protruded. Most notable was the utter absence and the awful, overpowering stench from the thousands of dead.

Careful inspection showed that the fiery stream which so completely destroyed St. Pierre must have been composed of poisonous gases, which instantly suffocated everyone who inhaled them, and of other gases burning furiously for nearly all the victims found their hands covering their mouths, or were in some other attitude showing that they had sought relief from suffocation. All the bodies were carbonized or roasted.

A. G. Austin, the manager of the Colonial bank of Barbadoes, landed at St. Pierre with a party from the British Royal Mail steamer Solent. He found the bank clock stopped at some minutes before 8 o'clock. A horse and buggy and a policeman were in a dead group at the door.

At the request of S. A. McAllister, United States consul at Barbadoes, Captain Inglis, of the Solent, had his disposition by the Barbadoes government. The Solent arrived at about the same time as the Associated Press steamer, and brought to St. Pierre the colonial secretary, two civil doctors, two military officers and Dr. W. E. Aughinbaugh, of Washington, as well as a corporal and four privates, who were trained nurses and a full field hospital outfit. The Barbadoes government also sent seven hundred barrels of provisions, one ton of tea, and a full supply of medicine. These were useful, but the dead only needed quick burial.

Stories of Survivors. The stories of the survivors added to the awful details of the particularly harrowing account of the loss of the British steamer Roraima.

C. C. Evans, of Montreal, and John G. Morris, of New York, who are now at the military hospital at Fort de France, say the vessel arrived at six. As eight bells was struck, a frightful explosion was heard up the mountain. A cloud of fire, popping and roaring, swept with lightning speed down the mountain side and over the town and bay. The Roraima was nearly sunk and caught fire at once.

"I never can forget the horrid, fiery, choking whirlwind which enveloped me," said Mr. Evans. "Mr. Morris and I rushed below. We are not very badly burned, but so bad as most of them. When the fire came we were going to our posts (we are engineers) to weigh anchor and get out. When we came up we found the ship afloat and fought it forward until 3 o'clock, when the Sucker came to our rescue. We were then blown a raft."

Benjamin, the carpenter of the Roraima, said: "I was on deck, amidsthips, when I heard an explosion. The captain ordered me to up anchor. I got to the windlass but when the fire came I went into the forecabin and got my 'duddis.' When I came out I found the captain, Mr. Muggs, Mr. Scott, the first officer and others. They had been on the bridge. The captain was horribly burned. He had inhaled flames and wanted to jump into the sea.

I tried to make him take a life preserver. The captain who was undressed, jumped overboard and hung to a line for awhile. Then he disappeared."

"Gus" Linder, the quartermaster of the steamer, who is horribly burned and can scarcely talk, confirmed this.

The Captain a Brave Man. Francisco Angelo, who speaks poor English, vividly described the onrush of the fire. He says the captain was a very brave man, too brave to be burned to death. Angelo further asserted that the smoke of fire lasted not more than five minutes.

Joseph Beckels, a seaman, who is fifty years of age and is so frightfully burned that he cannot live, having inhaled flame, said in weak tones that he was the last man to see the captain. The captain was then trying to reach a safe place. It burned worse than the fire. When it struck people they fell dead. The cyclone of gas tore the masts out of ships, blew others up and sunk some of them. Soon afterwards came a wave of fire bigger than the smoke cloud.

Susquehanna-Wayne Conference. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Susquehanna, May 12.—The Republican senatorial conference for the Susquehanna-Wayne district met here today with four conferees from each county. Susquehanna county presented the names of Colonel C. Pratt, of New Bedford, and the Wayne county men, of William Haller, of Honesdale, for state senator. Several ballots were taken, but no nomination was made. The conference adjourned last Tuesday.

Engineers' Convention. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Reading, May 12.—The sixteenth annual convention of the American Order of Steam Engineers opened here today. The delegates represent twenty-two states. This afternoon was taken up with business and tonight a theater party was given. Tomorrow evening an elaborate banquet will be served at Raleigh temple. A feature of this convention is an exhibition of steam specialties and electric appliances.

Judgment Affirmed in Fenner Case. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Philadelphia, May 12.—The Supreme court today affirmed the judgment of the common pleas court of Luzerne county in the case of Fenner et al vs. Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley Traction company.

GANS DEFEATS ERNE.

Baltimore Colored Light-Weight Is Champion of His Class.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Fort Erie, Ontario, May 12.—Joe Gans, the Baltimore colored light-weight pugilist, is champion in his class, after knocking at the door for the past ten years. Frank Erne lost to him in the first round tonight at Fort Erie.

The end came with startling suddenness. The men were scarcely warmed up, when Gans, trying cautiously, caught Erne napping and landed a hard right on the ear, which appeared to jar Frank badly. Erne snarled wildly and Gans sent out a left jab as a feeder. It went home through Erne's guard, drawing blood from his nose. Then Gans rushed in. Erne's defense was pitifully weak and Gans slapped left to the face and right to the point of the jaw. The blow completely settled Erne. He sank slowly to the floor, fell on his back and was rolling over on his stomach when Referee Charley White had finished counting him out. Time of round, one minute and forty seconds.

The quick defeat astounded the thousands of Erne men at the ring side.

Generous Response From All Sides.

The President Asks for \$500,000 from the United States—His Message Refers to the Destruction of St. Pierre as One of the Greatest Calamities in History—Orders Transport Dixie to Take the Supplies at Brooklyn Navy Yard to the Sufferers at Once—King Edward and the Kaiser Make Generous Contributions.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, May 12.—The President today ordered the food supplies at the Brooklyn navy yard to be sent to Martinique on the navy transport Dixie. He then sent the following message to congress:

One of the greatest calamities in history has fallen upon our neighboring island of Martinique. The consul of the United States at Guadeloupe has telegraphed from Fort-de-France, under date of yesterday, that the disaster is complete; that the city of St. Pierre has ceased to exist, and that the American consul and his family have perished. It is estimated that 30,000 people have lost their lives, and that 20,000 are homeless and hungry; that there is urgent need of all kinds of provisions, and that the visit of vessels for the work of supply and rescue is imperatively required.

The government of France, while expressing their thanks for the marks of sympathy, which have reached them from America, inform us that Fort-de-France and the entire island of Martinique are still threatened. They, therefore, request that, for the purpose of rescuing the people who are in such deadly peril and threatened with starvation, the government of the United States should make the means of transporting them from the stricken island. The island of St. Vincent, and perhaps, others in that region, are also seriously menaced by the calamity which has taken so appalling a toll.

I have directed the departments of the treasury and of the navy to take such measures for the relief of these stricken people as lies within the executive discretion and I earnestly commend this case of unexampled disaster to the generous consideration of the congress. For \$500,000 he made to be immediately available. Theodore Roosevelt.

The state department already is acting through its consuls in that section. The navy transport Dixie will be ready to sail from the Brooklyn navy yard for Martinique on Wednesday. The relief committee also will render all possible aid, and, having at least two cutters in southern waters, it is believed they will be ordered at once to the Western Antilles.

The bill appropriating \$200,000 for the relief of the Martinique sufferers passed the house today by a vote of 196 to 9.

MESSAGE TO FRANCE. Mr. Roosevelt and M. Loubet Exchange Dispatches.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, May 12.—Following is the text of the cable dispatches between Presidents Roosevelt and Loubet on the Martinique disaster:

Washington, May 10, 1902. His Excellency, M. Emile Loubet, President of the French Republic, Paris.

I pay your excellency to accept the profound sympathy of the American people in the appalling calamity which has come upon the people of Martinique.

Paris, May 11, 1902. President Roosevelt.

I thank your excellency for the expression of profound sympathy you have sent me in the name of the American people on the occasion of the awful catastrophe in Martinique. The French people will certainly join me in thanks to the American people.

THE KAISER ASSISTS. Sends \$2,500 to President Loubet for Martinique Victims.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Weisbaden, May 12.—Emperor William has telegraphed to President Loubet, in French, as follows:

Profoundly moved by the news of the terrible catastrophe which has just overtaken St. Pierre, and which has cost the lives of nearly as many persons as perished at Pompeii, I hasten to offer France my sincerest sympathy. May the Almighty comfort the hearts of those who weep for their irreparable losses. My ambassador will transmit to your excellency the sum of 25,000 marks (\$2,500) in my behalf as a contribution for the relief of the afflicted.

President Loubet replied: An gratuly touched, the mark of sympathy which your excellency has deigned to convey to me, I beg you to accept my warm thanks, and also the gratitude of the victims whom you propose to succor.

KING EDWARD GIVES \$5,000. Contribution to Fund for Relief of Martinique Sufferers.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Paris, May 12.—King Edward has sent £1,000 (\$5,000) as his contribution to the fund being raised for the relief of the sufferers from the Martinique disaster.

The car has telegraphed to President Loubet expressing the sincere sympathy of himself and the czarina, who share with France the sorrow caused by the terrific West Indian catastrophe.

POPE EXPRESSES SYMPATHY. Sorrow Over the Loss of Life in Martinique Island.

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ATTITUDE OF OPERATORS.

Expect to Close All Collieries Indefinitely if Strike is Declared.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, May 12.—Discussing the attitude of the operators, the Tribune says tomorrow:

Anthracite coal operators in this city said last night (Monday) that if at the delegates' convention in Hazleton, Pa., a general strike of the 147,000 anthracite miners is declared it would be immediately followed by a shut-down in all of the mines. One of the best known operators, who was firm in the belief last week that there would be no strike, admitted yesterday that he had changed his mind since the result of the miners' convention in Scranton, Pa., was announced.

W. H. Truesdale, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad company, said that the shut down would be general, and might last indefinitely.

There was a report that the operators were to have a conference to-day, but President's O'Connell's spokesman denied all knowledge of any such meeting.

Knocked From Cab. Fireman Hagerman Killed Near Moscow Yesterday.

Fred Hagerman, of 214 Mulberry street, a fireman on the Lackawanna railroad, was found dead alongside the main track of the Lackawanna railroad near the Moscow passenger station at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Just how he met death is not known, as there was no one who saw him fall from his engine. The theory is that his head struck some object along the road, and knocked him from the engine.

The remains were brought to this city on a casket and taken in charge by Funeral Director Price, who removed them to deceased's home. Hagerman was married and is survived by his wife.

Sheriff Came Out. York State Official Had H. H. Penny Held on a Warrant.

Joseph P. Weirmantle, sheriff of Tioga county, N. Y., came to this city yesterday and swore out a warrant for the arrest of H. H. Penny, charging him with being a fugitive from justice. The warrant was served on Penny, who has been confined in the central police station, and he was committed to the county jail for thirty days.

Penny was arrested here over two weeks ago, and was being held for the Tioga officials. They were so slow that Superintendent Day announced his intention of releasing the prisoner. This brought on the sheriff, who promises to secure requisition papers at once. Penny having now been arrested on a warrant, must be held by the local authorities.

Argument Fixed for Wednesday. Attorney Scragg Secures Another Delay in the Poor Board Case.

Assisted by Mr. Murphy. There was a rather warm interchange of remarks in court yesterday between Attorney John J. Murphy and Attorney John P. Scragg over the poor board case.

As is generally known, Mr. Murphy has been struggling for more than three years to prove that the present poor board is not a legal body. To have a standing he has had himself elected as poor director from the South ward on three different occasions. Mr. Scragg, attorney for the poor board, and the innumerable springs he has succeeded in throwing into the wheels of the litigation has proved him a man of more than ordinary resourcefulness.

Eventually the matter got before the court and Judge Edwards decided that poor board was not a legal body, and that in some of the districts, at least, it would be impossible to hold a valid election without securing certain legislation. Mr. Murphy is of the opinion that a valid election can be held in the South ward, and had himself elected there again on Wednesday last. After this he again demanded his seat on the board, and it was again refused. Then he asked the court for a writ of quo warranto to compel Frank J. Dickert, the present representative on the board from the South ward, to show by what right he holds the office.

Mr. Murphy is to have time fixed for making return to the request for the writ, and Mr. Murphy and Mr. Scragg and Attorney Warren and O'Brien, who are associated with Mr. Scragg in the defense of the poor board, were present in court. While the three judges were sitting Mr. Murphy's motion hour was the time for Mr. Scragg to present his answer to Mr. Murphy's request, but he failed to do so until Judge Edwards and Newcomb had retired and Judge Kelly had taken up the business of common pleas court.

Mr. Scragg's answer to argument in the absence of the full bench, and Mr. Murphy, somewhat bitterly referred to the manner in which Mr. Scragg had secured the endless delays by which he has prevented the case from getting before the court. Judge Kelly perceived the answer to be read, and after consulting with the other judges announced that on Wednesday morning the court will hear argument.

The answer questions in many different ways the standing of Mr. Murphy's petition and alleges that it is defective in various ways.

Mr. Murphy is contemplating asking for an injunction to restrain the poor board from levying or collecting taxes. He believes that, as at present constituted, it has no power to perform such functions.

NEW RITUAL EXEMPLIFIED. Degree Team from Division No. 1, of West Scranton, Did Work.

The recently-adopted ritual and decorative work of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was exemplified at Old Forge Saturday night, in Holland's hall, by a degree team from Division No. 1, of West Scranton, who made the journey from this city in a special street car.

A class of sixteen, representing Divisions Nos. 25 and 21, of Old Forge, and one from Moosic, who comprise a group in the lower section of Lackawanna county, were put through the degrees, in the presence of a large attendance of members.

The degree team, which also comprises a glee club, has a membership of thirty-two, and they were accompanied by Miss Johnson, of Hyde Park, as pianist; Mrs. Gahan, president of the Ladies' auxiliary; County President C. C. Donovan and James F. Foley, a member of the board of directors.

The new ritual was adopted about two years ago, and it is intended to form the various divisions of the division of the country in groups.

FIRST DAY OF THE BIG COAL STRIKE

MINING Was Entirely Suspended in Obedience to the Instructions of the Union.

RESULT OF VOTING IN THREE DISTRICTS

In the Scranton District the Sentiment Seems to Be Strongly Opposed to a Prolongation of the Strike, While in the Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Shamokin and Schuylkill Districts It Is Just the Opposite—Out of Forty-Four Locals in the Lackawanna Valley, Twenty Voted Against and Fifteen for a Strike—Delegates Elected.

As was confidently expected, not a pound of coal was mined yesterday in the Lackawanna region. A few washeries operated, with bosses, office help and the like manning the machinery, but not a single mine even made an attempt at starting up. The miners gathered about the "corners" in the various mining communities and discussed the possibilities of Wednesday's convention and what the best thing would be to do in the matter of continuing or calling off the strike. Meetings were held either morning, afternoon or evening by all of the one hundred or more locals of the United Mine Workers and delegates elected to the Wednesday convention, with instructions as to how to vote. From what could be gathered by a careful canvass of the whole valley, sentiment was about evenly divided on the question of continuing the strike. Adjoining locals in several towns voted oppositely on the question, and in not a few instances the attendance at the meetings was rather small, indicating that the members did not want to enter into the decision of the question.

Appended is the vote of the locals as far as it was possible to obtain it. Many locals voted to keep secret how they voted. Others gave out unwittingly a report of what was done:

How They Voted. (Some of these results were given out by the locals officially. For the others The Tribune had to rely on the best information at hand. All of them are from reliable sources.)

Colliery local and No. of employees. Vote in play. Strike.

DELAWARE AND HUDSON—Leggett's Creek, North Scranton, 553 Against; Marvins, North Scranton, 608 Against; Idaho Creek, Oldmont, 558 For; Olyphant, No. 2, Olyphant, 509 Against; Gray Island, Olyphant, 425 For; Jermyn, No. 1, Jermyn, 561 Against; Pottsville, Carbonate, 517 For; No. 1 slope, Carbonate, 682 Against; Coalbrook, Carbonate, 588 For; Clinton, Forest City, 511 For; Van Storch, North Scranton, 625 Against; D. L. & W. Co.—Stots, North Scranton, 1,106 For; Archibald, West Scranton, 640 For; Bellevue, West Scranton, 664 Against; British, North Scranton, 541 Against; Casuga, North Scranton, 574 For; Central, West Scranton, 586 Against; Continental, West Scranton, 601 Against; Mings, West Scranton, 590 Against; Diamond, West Scranton, 656 Against; Hyde Park, West Scranton, 509 For; Manville, North Scranton, 441 For; Hampton, North Scranton, 511 Against; Pine, Taylor, North Scranton, 682 Against; Taylor, Taylor, 614 For.

TEMPLE IRON CO.—Lackawanna, Olyphant, 613 Against; North Scranton, 588 Against; Edgerton, Jermyn, 372 Against; Northwest, Carbonate, 511 For.

HILLSIDE C. & L. CO.—Clifford, Forest City, 421 For; Forest City, Forest City, 829 Against; Erie, Mayfield, 382 For; Keystone, Mayfield, 117 For; Greenwood, Mayfield, 409 For; Archibald, No. 102, Archibald, 400 Against; Engineers, Pamp Run, 139 Against; Blacksmiths, West Scranton, 139 Against.

PENNA. COAL CO.—No. 1, Dunmore, 457 For; Gypsy Gown, Dunmore, 342 For; No. 5, Dunmore, 570 For; National, Minooka, 401 For.

GREENWOOD COAL CO.—Greenwood, Minooka, 687 For.

SCRANTON COAL CO.—Pine Brook, Pine Brook, 733 Against; Capone, West Scranton, 625 Against; Mr. Pleasant, West Scranton, 509 Against.

ELK HILL COAL AND IRON CO.—West Ridge, North Scranton, 332 For; Green Ridge, Scranton, 500 For.

RIVERSIDE COAL CO.—Riverside, Poekville, 300 Against.

MURRAY & NAY AD.—Joint local, Dunmore, 250 Against.

PANCOAST COAL CO.—Pancoast, Tiroop, 628 For.

PEOPLE'S COAL CO.—Spring Brook, North Scranton, 250 Against.

BULL'S HEAD COAL CO.—Bull's Head Slope, North Scranton, 125 Against.

SHING BROOK COAL CO.—Spring Brook, North Scranton, 130 Against.

ROBERTSON & LAW—Katydid, Moosic, 110 Against.

\*In the above table the number of employees are given.

(Continued on Page 3.)

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER. Local data for May 12, 1902.

Highest temperature, 63 degrees; lowest temperature, 29 degrees; relative humidity, 61 per cent; 8 p. m., 61 per cent; precipitation, 24 hours ended 8 p. m., none.

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, May 12.—Forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday: Eastern Pennsylvania—fair, warmer Tuesday, Wednesday, partly cloudy, probably showers and cooler in north portion; light to fresh westerly winds.

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