

Pittsburgh Gazette.

VOLUME LXXXIV.

PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1869.

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FIRST EDITION.

MIDNIGHT.

THE COAL MINE HORROR.

The Worst Fears Fully Realized.

TWO HUNDRED AND THREE DEAD BODIES FOUND.

Harrowing Agony of Relatives.

THE LATEST PARTICULARS.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

SCRANTON, Sept. 7.—At 7:50 o'clock to-night John Price, E. Morris, William M. Thomas, and Elijah Thomas went down to bring Morris' second trip, for the purpose of arranging the hose. They were down twenty minutes, and E. Morris was brought out insensible, falling before he reached the carriage. The second trip proved more than he could stand; he was resuscitated in a short time. The others were all right and they succeeded in getting the hose ready to haul up.

There were not less than one hundred and thirty-eight nor more than two hundred and fifty people in the Avondale mine when the accident occurred. Some of the men who were in the mine reported that the fire in the furnace was all out. The presumption is that when the fire broke out the miners had kept their senses, and having dragged the hose had tied to the upper chambers, closing the doors behind them. Supporting this is the fact that the furnace was not a simple plan of forcing fresh air into the mine. This was continued until four o'clock in the morning, when a party of men, penetrating two hundred feet and opening the door, made the discovery that the fire was still burning in the furnace and had even ignited the coal piled up inside, and those understanding the situation upon hearing this fact, saw in a moment that all hope was at an end, and that all that could be done was to drag the lost miners from their tomb to a Christian burial.

A change of operation was then instantly acted on, and it was determined to direct immediate efforts to the extinguishment of the fire. Means were now arranged to be tried, and the night will be occupied by deluging the mine with water.

WEDNESDAY MORNING'S DEVELOPMENTS.

WILKESBARRE, September 8.—A gentleman who has returned from the Avondale mine, reports that early this morning a successful descent was made, and some of the chambers of the mine entered. A large number of dead bodies were found. There were no signs of life anywhere around in the fearful sepulchre. The bodies were being brought to the surface as fast as possible, and the shriek of the heart-broken relatives on beholding the lifeless forms of their husbands, fathers and brothers, is harrowing indeed.

AVONDALE, September 8.—3 A. M.—An entrance to the mine was effected about half an hour ago. The chambers were reached without serious difficulty. The first body discovered was that of Mr. Steele. Further on and in the next chamber an appalling spectacle presented itself to the explorers. There in a heap and in all sorts of positions in which their last agonies had ended, lay the bodies of two hundred and three dead men, not a vestige of life being visible in the countenance or form of any of the unfortunate men who had met so untimely and horrible a death.

The wildest excitement prevailed at the entrance to the shaft, and the cries of the friends of the dead as the bodies were brought up were deafening. Nothing can approximate to a description of the scenes that took place. The scene was one of those who still hoped against fate, went forth in walls of heart-breaking agony. The shrieking and tender words of the mother or wife, as she grasped the lifeless form of her son or husband and tried to bring it again to life, refusing to believe it could be dead, and defending it against all attempts at removal.

PITTSBURGH, September 8.—11 A. M.—There have been one hundred and twenty bodies brought up out of the mine, and they are still being piled into the basket below. The features are not contorted; they look natural and are easily recognized by friends and relatives. The bodies are being placed in ice. Some of them are being removed to their former homes and partly cared for, while the majority are allowed to remain until preparations are made for their funerals. Many of them will be buried together.

THE DISTRESSING PARTICULARS.

SCRANTON, Pa., September 8.—At 6:15 o'clock A. M. four men went down to the Avondale mine to see if any more bodies were discovered. They discovered dinner cans and caps. At 6:50 A. M. four men went down and were gone thirty minutes. They discovered the whole company dead on the east side of the plane.

Preparations are making to send down six gallons of four men, each, and the bodies will be brought out as rapidly as possible. The foul air does not interfere to any extent.

At half past seven one of the cages reported that they went up the plane, just beyond which a barrier was met, consisting of a car packed around with coal and things. This was cleared away, and proceeding a little further another barrier was met nearly completed, and one man was struck on the head by a heavy weight at work laying up the wall. All was completed, save a small aperture sufficient to admit the passage of a human body, and it is inferred he had just finished his task and was preparing to join his companions on the opposite side of the crawling back. But he was removed, when the whole force of miners were found congregated, piled one upon another and one upon another.

9:10 A. M.—The fourth body exhumed was Wm. P. Ewell, of Plymouth; eyes both open and head turned aside. He had a son in the mine.

9:30 A. M.—Daniel Jones, who lost his life in an effort to rescue his companions

Monday night, and Thomas Williams, who also ascended but died in the same object, are to be buried this afternoon.

At 8:45 Mr. Wm. Halliday was brought from the mine nearly unconscious. The fifth body rescued this day named Wm. Williams, aged fourteen. He worked here but one day. The sixth body is Matthew Evans; he died in great agony. Active preparations are making for the immediate removal of the bodies, which will consume the greater part of the day owing to the lack of facilities for hoisting. The condition of the mine is improving.

8:55 A. M. Coroner Eno, of Plymouth, who is on the ground, has impounded a jury of inquest, who will view the bodies as they are brought out.

8:55 A. M. The body of John Bowen, of Plymouth, a miner, was the third brought out. His left eye is partially open, but otherwise his countenance is placid. He leaves a wife and one child. He was found outside the barricade, behind which were all the other bodies. He was evidently overcome before he could get through.

The names of the dead men will be announced as fast as they are brought out and relatives will be allowed to enter the mine.

The coroner's jury have just viewed the bodies of the men who were killed in the Avondale mine. The men engaged in bringing out the bodies are required to be sworn to the facts in each case. C. P. Merriman and H. C. Fay are lawyers, of Wilkesbarre, attending the jury, and Father O'Hara, of Wilkesbarre, is present.

SCRANTON, Sept. 8.—Up to this time ten bodies have been raised from the mine. Some of the bodies were disfigured. The watches of the men had stopped at from four to five o'clock, supposed to have been on Tuesday morning. The bodies of two of the boys recovered were found clasped in their father's arms.

One of the men who lost his life in an effort to rescue the men in the mine, on Monday, took place this afternoon.

8:45 A. M. William Halliday, of Pine Ridge, one of the working party, was brought from the mine nearly exhausted, but subsequently recovered.

Up to 7:15 this evening the work of bringing the dead bodies to the surface proceeded steadily. Sixty bodies have been raised, and their funerals will be held to-morrow.

Subscriptions have been received for the sufferers, viz: \$5,000 from New York board of brokers, \$1,000 from Asa Packer and \$500 from Gov. Geary.

KEOKUK.

The Mississippi Valley Commercial Convention—Second Day's Proceedings.

By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

KEOKUK, Ia., September 8.—The Mississippi Valley Convention reassembled at nine o'clock this morning.

The committee on Permanent Organization reported, and the following President, Wm. Van Meter, Iowa; Vice Presidents, R. H. Reynolds, Alabama; J. S. Sharp, Tennessee; Horace Reed, Wisconsin; Cyrus Aldrich, Minnesota; M. W. Delahay, Kansas; Judge Sutton, Louisiana; M. W. Beitzhoefer, Pennsylvania; J. W. Batcheller, Ohio; E. W. Webb, Illinois; J. D. Bar, Iowa; J. M. Thompson, New York; J. M. Ram Barney, New York; B. Field, Kentucky; M. Schenberger, Arkansas; Secretaries, E. A. James, Tennessee; W. B. Murray, Minnesota; J. Collins, Kansas; M. Flood, Louisiana; R. J. Sloan, Ohio; A. J. Messenger, Wisconsin; E. A. Lane, Illinois; Geo. C. Tucker, Iowa; and the temporary secretaries were added by resolution.

The President was conducted to the Chamber and made a speech of considerable length from a pamphlet which he prepared for the occasion.

Mr. Howell, from the Committee on Order of Business, presented the majority report. He explained the reasons which induced a division of sentiment in the Committee. The Committee reported the following subjects to be acted upon:

First—Mississippi river and its tributaries.

Second—Foreign commerce.

Third—Immigration.

Fourth—Postal telegraph.

The Committee further recommended that Standing Committees be appointed upon each of the foregoing subjects. The Committee on the Mississippi river and its tributaries to consist of one member from each State; the other Standing Committees to consist of five each.

The minority report was then read. It proposes that the Convention shall consider all matters connected with the commerce and travel of the Mississippi river and its tributaries, or which may in any way hinder the development of the country drained by its waters, and that the Convention ought not to be confined to the four subjects mentioned in the majority report; that one subject included in the minority report, the postal telegraph, be referred to the Committee on the Mississippi and Mississippi Valley, while other subjects of great importance to the Mississippi Valley are excluded. The Committee also think it would be unjust and unwise to refer all the resolutions to Committees without debate. They also believe no Standing Committees should be appointed, but that all subjects should be considered in open Convention, unless Special Committees are ordered. The minority Committee therefore recommend the following order of business:

First—Mississippi river and its tributaries.

Second—Foreign commerce.

Third—Immigration.

And that the Convention shall then be open to consider other matters pertinent to those objects.

Mr. Einkelberry, who made this report, said that since the Committee had prepared the report, by a change in the views of members it had become the majority report. After an hour's discussion, which took a wide range, the minority report was adopted.

Mr. James, of Tennessee, offered a resolution that the vote of each State be represented by its representation in Congress; if not, then the members of the State should be equalized. A Committee of five each on the subjects of Immigration, Foreign Commerce and the removal of the Capital.

The resolution was adopted and the following gentlemen appointed:

On Mississippi River—M. A. Bryson, Missouri; J. A. James, Tennessee; J. K. Kerr, Pennsylvania; R. M. Reynolds, Alabama; Col. Collins, Kansas; F. Del-

haude, Louisiana; Col. Schroeder, Arkansas; H. C. Claussen, Ia.; E. C. Clouston, Iowa; E. W. Reed, Indiana; A. J. Messinger, Wisconsin; R. Summer Kentucky; R. Blakely, Minnesota; J. W. Beckwith, Ohio.

On Foreign Commerce—Wm. Barwell, Louisiana; L. A. Shyrock, Missouri; C. Winsten, Illinois; R. T. Bowen, Iowa; A. Baines, Tennessee.

Removal of the Capital—A. F. Muller, Iowa; T. A. Reeves, Missouri; M. W. Dwyer, Kansas; J. W. Busssey, Louisiana; W. A. Steel, Illinois.

On Immigration—E. A. Stander, Missouri; J. Chambers, Iowa; D. R. Edgell, Illinois; A. T. Shaw, Tennessee; W. R. Fish, Louisiana.

The Convention then adjourned until three o'clock on Friday morning.

The morning session was exhausted in motions and in counter motions and fruitless debate. Very little business was done. The subjects of the Convention was transacted.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

During the morning session of the Convention letters were read from President Grant, written by his Private Secretary, Robert M. Dowd, and from Wm. Loughridge, of Iowa; Jas. S. Negley, of Pittsburgh, Penna.; Governor Butler, of Nebraska; C. H. Murray, of Illinois; regretting their inability to be present. The Convention reassembled at three o'clock.

Mr. Swift, of St. Louis, offered the following:

Resolved, That both science and experience have fully demonstrated that there is no necessity, in order to facilitate railroad transportation, for the construction of three hundred feet span bridges across rivers.

Resolved, That the piers of the bridges now in course of construction for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, of three hundred feet span, will be a dangerous obstruction to the navigation of the Ohio river, and the attempt of the Company to erect bridges across said river with spans over the channel of less than four hundred feet, is an act of bad faith towards the river navigators of the Ohio river, and the Company should be required to change the construction of the same, and the Company shall fall to do so, and should urge upon Congress the passage of a law for the removal of the same.

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress to pass a law authorizing the erection of bridges over the Ohio river above the mouth of Big Bend, of three hundred feet span, and that the height of the span of bridges to be erected over the navigable rivers in the United States, specifying that the height of the Ohio river shall not be less than four hundred feet.

Resolved, That the interests of the whole Mississippi Valley require the removal of the National Capital to its present location, and that it is the duty of Congress to pass a law to that effect, and the removal of the National Capital to its present location.

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SECOND EDITION.

FOUR O'CLOCK, A. M.

TIDIOUTE.

Heavy Freshet in the Allegheny—Forty-Eight Hours' Continuous Rain—Railroads Obstructed by Land-Slides—Bridges Washed Away.

(Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 7.—7:45 P. M. It has been raining steadily at all points on the Allegheny river at the past forty-eight hours, and it is still pouring down with no sign of cessation. A large quantity of lumber has been swept away. All the tributaries of the Allegheny are swollen over their banks. The river at this point is rising at the rate of six inches per hour, with nine feet in the channel at this time. A heavy freshet may be expected at Pittsburgh, perhaps a great one that of 1855. The railroads along the river are all out of order, obstructed by land-slides and the washing away of bridges. A vast amount of lumber will be run out on the present rise.

DEATH OF SENATOR PESSENDER.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

PORTLAND, Me., September 8.—Senator Pessender died at half past six o'clock this morning. He was sensible until the hour of death, and had passed a comfortable night until three o'clock. Physicians were in attendance and did everything to relieve his sufferings, which otherwise would have been great at the close.

Senator Pessender's funeral will take place at half-past ten o'clock, Saturday morning.

LATEST FROM CUBA.

Contradictory Accounts of Recent Engagements.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

HAVANA, September 7.—Céspedes and Quesada, with 5,000 men, attacked Los Tunas, garrisoned by 100 sick and invalid soldiers. They were repulsed with a loss of five hundred men, many arms and flags. It was reported that the loss of five hundred men, many arms and flags, would not oppose the column of Penuel, only five hundred men. They were attacked and defeated with the loss of almost the entire command, in casualties, desertions and prisoners. The town of Puerto Principe is reported deserted by General Penuel's troops, who after recent engagements retreated to Nevitas. These reports reported that the "Amorosa" force, who had moved out from Los Tunas, had attacked the Cuban troops, who were numbering over seven hundred, were repulsed, and a complete victory was achieved by the force of General Quesada. The Spanish troops, composed of the entire strength of General Valmadesa in person, consisted of 2,500 regulars and 1,500 volunteers. With this force General Quesada was attacked, and the entire force was repulsed with very severe loss, while that of the Cuban force was but trifling. Valmadesa retreated to Los Tunas, and under the cover of the fortifications of that place secured protection for his troops. The Cuban volunteers occupied the sea coast and coast fortifications. A fight is reported near Puerto La Grande, in which the Spanish forces, numbering over seven hundred, were defeated. It is reported that after the first fire the troops deserted in a body to the Cuban, leaving their officers, who were captured and paroled by General Penuel. Gens. Quesada and Jordan assert their confidence in the result, and their ability to secure Cuban independence.

NEW YORK CITY.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

NEW YORK, September 8, 1869. This afternoon ex-Collector Shook called at the office of United States Commissioner Shields, and expressed his readiness to furnish every facility in his power to detect the parties who perpetrated the alleged revenue frauds. Assessor Cleveland states that he did not intend to charge Mr. Shook with committing the fraud, and believes him innocent. It is charged that in August, 1857, H. B. Matteson received a check for \$7,700 from J. B. Alexander & Co., brokers, in payment of their taxes for that year, and deposited the money in the bank to his own credit, but the firm was not credited with the amount on the tax books. J. P. Abraham, Assistant Assessor, made the assessment, which was not, however, returned to the Collector.

Collector Grinnell has requested that the flag of all vessels in port be displayed at half mast to-morrow, in testimony of respect to the memory of the late Gen. Rawlins.

The New York Stock Exchange this afternoon voted to appropriate \$100,000 for the relief of the widow and children of Gen. Rawlins, also to donate \$10,000 to the sufferers by the Avondale coal mine disaster.

The Rawlins' fund here now amounts to \$24,500.

Mr. Thurston went to-day sent a check for one hundred dollars for the relief of the Avondale mine sufferers.

NEWS BY CABLE.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, September 8.—Lord Elcho, who has taken a prominent part in volunteer movements recently, has suggested a rifle match between England and America.

The *Morning Telegraph* has an editorial to-day on the result of the recent rowing match. It says the merits of systems will be undecided until Oxford crosses the Atlantic and meets the American crew on American waters. If Oxford is beaten under such circumstances, it will show, however close the match may be, that the Harvards have something to unlearn.

The *Times* to-day is indignant over the late outrages in China. It says "Whether China understands that it is for its own advantage to be free to keep order in its own dominions or not, England is resolved to insist that it must keep the Maritime States under proper control. We shall refuse the responsibility of maintaining peace in China, if there is any foundation for the suggestion that is trying to deceive the western powers by a pretended desire to establish more direct relations. It is hard to understand how we should enter into war under less favorable conditions, because we abdicated the unpopular mission of chastising the Chinese for outrages really the work of Mandarins delegated from Peking. Should war arise, it would be unquestionably our interest to stipulate that the entire responsibility of the treaties be assumed solely by the Chinese. Our Government in giving a chance of success to the Burlingame mission has been acting wisely. 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