

### KILLED WHILE SLEEPING

Eight in One Dunmore Family Wiped Out by Explosion—Cause Either Dynamite or Gas.

[From The Scranton Times.] Eight persons are dead and another is in the State hospital with little chance of recovery as the result of an explosion at 3:10 o'clock Wednesday morning in the home of Jean Batiste Coviello at 242 Elm street, Dunmore.

Just what caused the explosion has not been determined, and may never be. One theory is that it was the result of a diabolical Black Hand plot, in which dynamite, nitro-glycerine or some other high explosive was used, and the other is that gas escaping from a broken main, caused by a lamp or stove in the Coviello home.

The dead: Mrs. Jean Batiste Coviello, aged forty-eight years; William Coviello, aged twenty-one years; Lizzie Coviello, aged fourteen years; Lucy Coviello, aged fourteen years; Dominick Coviello, aged eight years; Mrs. Vito Summa, aged twenty-eight years; a married daughter; Rose Summa, aged four years; Frank Summa, aged five years; son of Mrs. Vito Summa; The injured: Mamie Summa, aged ten years; daughter of Mrs. Vito Summa; Jean Batiste Coviello, the head of the household, is a night watchman for the Scranton Gas and Water company and was busy last night on Green Ridge street, watching a repair job the company is doing. He was summoned about 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, and after he had viewed the wreck, friends took him to the home of another married daughter, Mrs. Jean DeLorenzo, 231 Smith street, about four blocks from the scene of the tragedy. He and Mrs. DeLorenzo are the only two members of the family alive. She moved from her father's home a couple of months ago.

Only a mass of charred timber and wood that is torn and split into shreds remains of the two-story house occupied by the family. The three-story house of Michael Simone, occupied by two families and located at 244 Elm street, caught fire and is also a total loss.

Just a few minutes before the explosion occurred two men were said to have been seen running at full speed down Dudley street, five or six blocks away from the scene of the horror.

It is estimated that at least a thousand windows were broken in houses and stores in the neighborhood. Little Mamie Summa was heard moaning and tender hands took her from a tree in front of the house, where she had been thrown. She is the only occupant of the house alive. She was unconscious when taken from the tree and was still in that condition at 3 o'clock this afternoon, according to officials at the State hospital. There are a number of lacerations and contusions on her body and about the head, and she is probably injured internally.

Coviello's house is just across the street from the house of Mrs. Patrick Jordan, at 241 Elm street, whose cellar dropped into the mines a week ago. She heard voices shouting and lowered a ladder into the hole in the cellar and rescued two miners whose escape, otherwise, was cut off by the cavern.

That cavern extended to the street and broke the gas main. The hole had been filled up and men employed by the Scranton Gas & Water company were still busy this morning repairing the break.

Houses on each side were knocked out of plumb, one burned to the ground and two across the street partially wrecked. People asleep in



Photo by American Press Association. Top arrow designates where Mamie Summa was found; lower arrow where seven bodies laid.

them were lifted out of their beds; doors blown off their hinges; shades cut off their rollers as if by a keen knife, and hundreds of window panes blown in and the glass scattered over the floor.

Next to the home of the stricken family of Coviello, the principal damage was sustained at the home of John Banks, at 243 Elm street, almost across the street where the explosion occurred, the home of Patrick Jordan, a big double dwelling

### 150 MINERS ENTOMBED

Twenty Bodies Taken Out Today—All Found Huddled in a Heap.

(Special to The Citizen.) McCurtain, Okla., March 21.—One hundred and five men were found dead in the San Born mine as the result of an explosion here yesterday. Twenty of the bodies taken out today were found in a heap, which is evidence that the men tried to get out. The fire is still raging. Hundreds of women are standing at the foot of the mine which is a most pathetic scene. Many of their beloved ones are still in the mine.

While the bodies were all found in the one pile, it became known that Mrs. Coviello and three of her girls slept on the first floor, and the other five on the second floor. That they should all have been blown to the same spot was another freakish performance of the explosion. They were completely covered by debris.

### REVS. SIGNOR AND WILSON

Two Methodist Preachers Who Are Missing to Be Discussed by Bishop and Cabinet Friday.

(Special to The Citizen.) Scranton, March 21.—The Wyoming conference of the Methodist church will go into executive session at 9 o'clock Friday morning at which time the case of Rev. Watson B. Signor, a former pastor of Orson, Wayne county, Pa., and also that of Rev. R. S. Wilson, of Genessee, N. Y., will be taken up.

Rev. F. P. Doty was named as one of the auditors of conference in place of Mr. Signor.

Taft Postpones Meeting. Washington, D. C., March 21.—President Taft today postponed indefinitely his proposed conference with John Mitchell regarding the coal situation. The announcement, however, was made in connection with a conference between the president and Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel, who saw the president shortly after his return from New England.

Wayne Coal Company Now Ready to Begin Operations. The Wayne Coal company, a new subsidiary of the Erie, showed much foresight and worked all winter constructing a track from No. 17 fill and Quintin's fill, in Lake township, this county, to the mill switch on the Scranton division of the Erie near Clemo. There are several hundred thousand tons of small sizes of coal in the fills, which were part of the abandoned Pennsylvania Gravity railroad. The material will be put through a washery that has been erected at the switch, and the resulting product rushed to New York.

Now that the prices of anthracite are increasing in the large eastern cities, the Wayne Coal company's preliminary outlay, which is reported to be \$80,000, will likely be amply returned.

Judge Searle Will Decide. (Special to The Citizen.) Scranton, March 21.—Judge A. T. Searle, of Honesdale, heard argument in the case of the Court of Lackawanna county vs. The Lackawanna commissioners yesterday and today. The court held out that the commissioners had no right to appoint Henry Welter and Thomas Law as stipstaves of the court, while the commissioners claimed that they had a right. Former Judge Kelly was for the court while Attorney George Watkins was counsel for the commissioners.

Judge Searle told the court here that he would give his decision in a few days.

Who is Presiding Over the Sessions of Wyoming Methodist Episcopal Conference, in Elm Park Church, Scranton.

church issues will come, and passing upon the annual appointments to the ministers to their charges.

Bishop Cranston has grown old in the service of God, but his 71 odd years set lightly upon his erect shoulders, although his life has been active, and, at periods, strenuous. He was born in Athens, Ohio, on June 27, 1840. He was graduated from Ohio University in 1861, and later received degrees of A. M. and L. L. B. from that school and that of D. D. from Allegheny College in 1882. He answered the call to arms in 1861, serving in the Union Army until 1864 with distinction and attaining the rank of captain. Following the war he entered the Methodist ministry. In 1884 he became an agent for the Book Concern. In 1886 he was elected a bishop of his church and spent the next two years in visitation work in the Far East. Bishop Cranston lives at Washington.

The Wyoming conference is one of the large conferences of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1911 at conference time there were 210 charges, having a membership in full standing of 49,530, which was an increase of 2,000 over the previous year, so that it might well be assumed that the membership is now much in excess of 50,000. The provisional report, numbered 3,302. There are 139 local preachers in the conference. In connection with the churches there are maintained 425 Sunday schools, with 6,384 officers and teachers and 57,647 scholars, a total of more than 64,000. There are also 235 Epworth Leagues (senior), with a membership of 10,527, and 112 Junior Epworth Leagues having a membership of 4,789. For pastors' salaries the charges pay \$185,306, and for house rent for the pastors \$34,724 is paid annually, while for all ministerial purposes, including pastor, district superintendent and bishop the Wyoming conference paid in the year ending in 1911 \$245,944. The support of the physical property of the conference, and its maintenance cost \$111,323, while for benevolences there was paid by all charges of the conference in the year closing a year ago \$101,365. The annual expenditure for improvements on church property and annual payment on church indebtedness adds another \$100,000 annually, bringing the total moneys raised by the conference each year up to \$550,000. The property of the churches of the conference is valued at more than three and a quarter millions of dollars, the exact total being \$3,317,690. There are 422 churches valued at \$2,767,850 and 214 parsonages valued at \$549,750. The indebtedness on church property at conference time last year was only \$80,366.

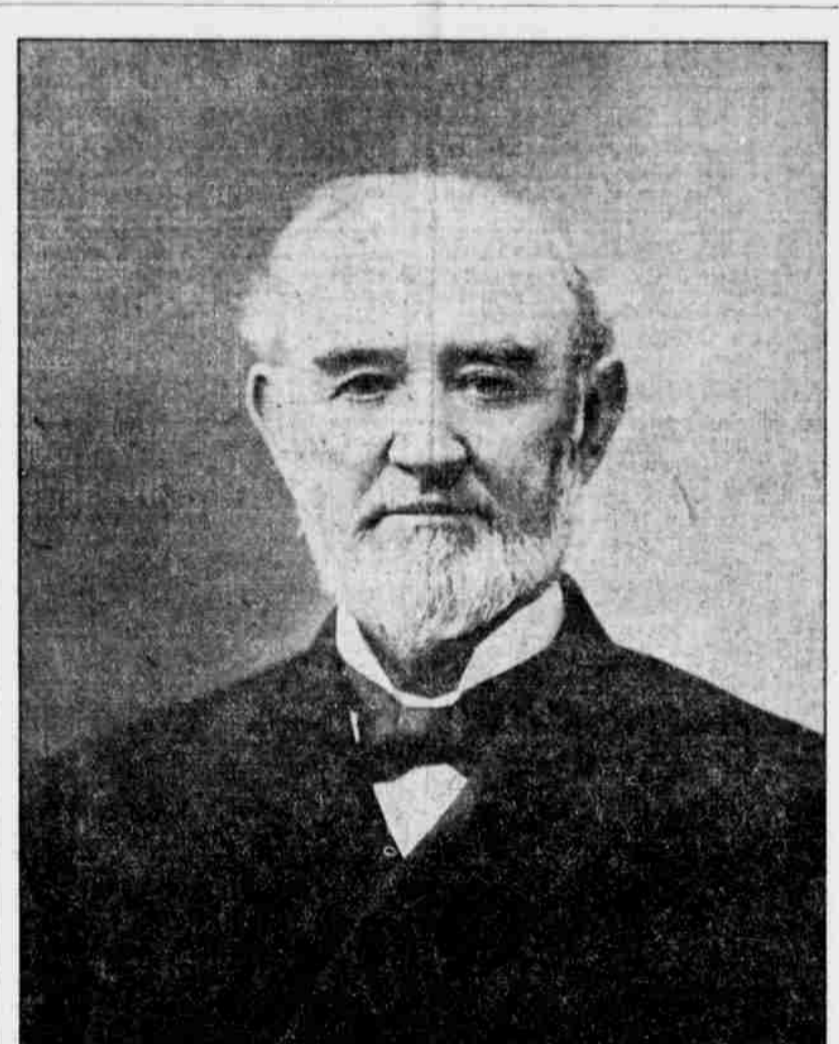
The Elm Park church has one of the handsomest and most valuable sacred edifices in the conference, and not only the Methodists but all people of the city of Scranton take pride in the splendid temple, its organ and chimes, and the great influence the

### WYOMING CONFERENCE IN ANNUAL SESSION

OPENING TUESDAY EVENING IN SCRANTON—BISHOP CRANSTON PRESIDING—BRIEF SKETCH OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS GROWTH.

The 61st session of the Wyoming conference of the Methodist Episcopal church was opened in Elm Park church, Scranton, Tuesday evening, Bishop Earl Cranston presiding, with a great temperance rally.

Upon the bishop is imposed the arduous task of directing the deliberations of this large church body, before which a number of important



Courtesy of Pittston Gazette. BISHOP EARL CRANSTON Who is Presiding Over the Sessions of Wyoming Methodist Episcopal Conference, in Elm Park Church, Scranton.

The Wyoming conference has met six times in Scranton since the first conference was held in Carbondale in 1852, Elm Park church has entertained only once, and that was in 1894, eighteen years ago. The Scranton Methodist Episcopal church, formerly the Adams avenue church, later the Elm Park, entertained the conference in 1860 and in 1880, Simpson church of West Scranton, was the most of the conference in 1867 and in 1884. There are eleven churches of the conference in Scranton, with a total membership of more than 5,000.

The conference opened with the celebration of the sacrament of the Holy Communion under the direction of the bishop, assisted by the members of his cabinet.

The preliminary events of the conference included the examination of candidates for admission to the conference and for advancement in the different classes. An unusual feature of the examinations was the presence of father and son, Rev. Edgar D. Cook, of Norris, N. Y., a candidate for advancement to studies of the fourth year and his son, E. L. Cook, who is one of five young men to join the conference from Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J.

Rev. Alfred Smith, D. D., of Wilmington, Del., secretary of the Temperance Society of the Methodist Episcopal church, was the speaker Tuesday night at the anniversary session of the temperance society of the conference. Rev. J. A. Hensley, D. D., of Binghamton, district superintendent of the Binghamton district, presided at the meeting and introduced Dr. Smith.

Dr. Smith's address was entitled "From Maine to Texas on the Water Wagon." He told of the fight in Maine last fall in which an effort was made to repeal the constitutional amendment providing for prohibition. He said that the liquor element from other states invaded Maine and put up the cry that local option would give the people of Maine the right to decide.

"I decided in that fight that when the liquor interests boarded a local option wagon," he said, "that it was time for men to get off. Local option as a means for solving the liquor question is obsolete. We should have a prohibitory clause in the federal constitution, for it every state favors prohibition, there would be enough liquor sold in the District of Columbia to dam the whole country."

Dr. Smith told of the fight in Texas for a constitutional amendment saying that 147 newspapers had sold themselves, principle and all, to the liquor interest. Even at that, he declared, the amendment had been lost by only 5,000 votes. In Maine, on the other hand, Dr. Smith said, the newspapers could not be purchased, but stood a solid phalanx against the repeal of the amendment, with the result that victory followed. Dr. Smith charged the attempt to reestablish the saloon in Maine after sixty years of prohibition up to the Democratic party leaders and to Republicans.

Dr. Smith spoke to an audience which included many of the leading members of the local Prohibition party and his raps to local option were roundly applauded.

About one hundred and fifty delegates answered present when the roll was called by Rev. Ripley, of Hawley. Five of the members have died, namely, Rev. Haskele B. Benedict, Rev. William M. Hiller, Rev. Thos. Burgess, Rev. Samuel Moore and Rev. Charles M. Surdam. After the roll call the conference proceeded to organize by the election of officers.

Rev. Ripley Re-Elected. Rev. Mr. Ripley was re-elected conference secretary. His name was put before the conference by Rev. L. C. Murdock, D. D., superintendent of the Scranton district, promptly seconded and the election made unanimous. Rev. Mr. Ripley announced the following assistants: Thomas M. Furey, George H. Prentice, Ira L. Bronson, as reported anniversaries, and Elmer E. Pearce as expert penman.

Rev. Louis E. Van Holsen, of Luzerne, on motion of Rev. H. C. McDermott, D. D., superintendent of the Wilkes-Barre district, was re-elected conference treasurer. He named as assistants Rev. Elmer E. Pearce, Rev. R. E. Austin, Rev. John G. Frey, Rev. H. W. Thomas, Rev. William B. Arnold, Rev. H. S. Smith, Rev. W. E. Wolcott and Rev. William McAlpine.

On motion of Dr. Murdock, Rev. E. G. N. Holmes, of Thompson, Pa., was named statistical secretary and directed to select his own assistants to be announced later.

Rev. A. J. Hensley, D. D., superintendent of the Binghamton district, was introduced and submitted his annual report. The work in that section of conference has been one of universal growth. Especially is this true of the Binghamton churches.

Rev. O. L. Severson, D. D., next presented his report of work during the year in the Oneonta district. Referring to the worth of men turned out, the report said: "How much Wilkes-Barre and Scranton districts and cities are indebted to Oneonta none can measure. Elm Park and Simpson churches of this city each has in its active membership a grandson of George Peck, William H. Peck, president of the Third National bank, and George L. Peck, a successful attorney and superintendent of the Simpson M. E. Sunday school. Then think of Reuben Nelson, William H. Olin, Austin Griffin, N. M. Crydenwise, and last, perhaps not least, my distinguished colleague in the cabinet, L. C. Murdock."

On Thursday afternoon, the anniversary of the Women's Foreign Missionary society will be held and Mrs. McDowell, wife of Bishop W. F. McDowell will be the speaker. On Thursday evening, the Laymen's Association will hold a big mass meeting. On Friday afternoon, the lay delegates will elect general conference delegates in Immanuel Baptist church and the clergymen in Elm Park, to be followed by a joint meeting at which Bishop Cranston will read his message, which has the same relation to the conference that the president's has to Congress.

The appointments will be announced at the business session on Monday morning. On Sunday afternoon, Bishop Cranston will conduct the ordination service.

### CORONER TO INVESTIGATE

Will Hold Inquest Saturday Night to Inquire Into Death of Dunmore Families.

(Special to The Citizen.) Scranton, March 21.—Coroner William W. Lynch will hold an inquest Saturday night to determine whether it was gas or dynamite that caused the explosion at Dunmore yesterday morning and caused the death of eight persons.

Mamie Summa, aged eight years, who was found in a tree fifty feet from the explosion, is still unconscious and in a critical condition.

The funeral of the other victims will be held Friday morning.

Four of the smaller children will be buried in a single casket. The two men will be buried separately. The remains of Mrs. Grace Summa will be laid to rest in the same coffin with those of her five-year-old son, Frank Summa.

Despite the stormy weather large crowds are standing in Mount Carmel cemetery watching the grave diggers.

Concerning the Bartlett Family. Many inquiries have been received at this office relative to the article concerning Charles Bartlett and who his relatives might have been. Judge Henry Wilson furnishes us with the following information, which might throw some light upon the subject. If any of our readers know anything further about the Bartlett family, kindly mail or tell us about it and it will be thankfully received.

The History of Wayne County in the sketches of the bar of the county, contains the following in relation to an attorney who seems to be described by the prisoner as a brother—viz:

"Ara Bartlett is a native of Prompton, Wayne county. He was educated at the academy in Bethany, and subsequently taught school. He read law with R. M. Grennell and F. M. Crane, and was admitted to the bar May 3, 1853. He married Lucinda, a daughter of Judge Eldred, and removed to Kankakee, Ill., where he commenced practice. President Lincoln subsequently appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Dakota. At the close of his term he returned to Illinois and resumed practice."

Beyond this, the only information given by the records is that he was a member of the Town Council of Prompton in 1848 and 1849. Nothing can be learned respecting other brothers of the prisoner.

Fire at Callicoon. The cottage of Mrs. D. Hahn on the Hortonville road near Callicoon was destroyed by fire Friday night. The fire department was summoned, and the people had their choice of going to the fire or watching the flood in the Delaware. The fire started in a little building near the house and it wasn't five minutes before the whole structure was a mass of flames and blazed fiercely as though it was an oil tank instead of a house. The supposition is that it was the work of an incendiary, for it does not seem that any building could go so quickly and burn with such fierceness without a guiding hand.

Samuel R. French Dead. Samuel R. French, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry French, of East Honesdale, died at the home of his parents on Wednesday morning, at about half past three o'clock. Death was the result of tuberculosis. Samuel R. French was 20 years and 11 months of age and was born in Honesdale on April 21, 1891. He is survived by his parents, three brothers and two sisters, Raymond, Carl and Clarence, and Verna, and Mrs. Walter Dodge, all of Honesdale. The funeral services will be conducted by Rev. W. H. Hiller at the home on Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Interment will be in the Indian Orchard cemetery.

Manufactures Total Billions. Washington, March 21.—Twenty billion dollars is the value of the present annual output of American factories, the total having just doubled during the past ten years, according to a Commerce and Labor Department estimate. Exports from the United States in 1911 amounted to over \$2,413,500,000, of which only \$900,000,000 was in manufactures. Germany is credited with being the greatest rival of the United States in commerce.

### NO NEW LICENSES GRANTED BY COURT

P. E. McGranaghan and John Woodmanson Granted Hotel Licenses, Others Refused—No Wholesale Licenses Granted.

On Wednesday morning the decision in the various applications for hotel licenses was pronounced by the Court. Court was to have convened at eleven o'clock but it was eleven-thirty before Judge Searle showed up owing to illness caused by a hard week's work.

The application of Michael F. Downs, Buckingham township, was refused until such time as business will be more constant there and until the business of the place will warrant a license. Mr. Downs was granted permission to keep summer boarders but no license was granted to him for a hotel. There were no new licenses granted.

The application of John Woodmanson for hotel license at Starrucca was granted and the Judge stated he did not believe Mr. Woodmanson had violated his license.

The application of Frank Mang for a hotel license in Texas was refused.

The application for a license for a new hotel by Lafayette Roloson at Hawley was refused.

The application of George W. Stiles and Joseph Herwitton, for wholesale licenses at Browdale, Clinton township, were refused.

The application of Paul McGranaghan for a hotel license in Honesdale borough was granted. Mr. McGranaghan has had a wholesale license but this has been withdrawn by the Court.

The application of Paul Vaverschak for a hotel license in Canaan was refused.

The application of Mathew F. Clemo for a hotel license at Derby will be heard next week.

Judge Searle went to Scranton Wednesday where he will sit in the Lackawanna county court.

Body Found in River. Pittston—While engaged in dredging the river in the vicinity of West Pittston cemetery the body of a man was found floating down the stream Tuesday. Engraved on a ring on the man's left hand were the initials "H. O." It is believed to be the body of Harold Owens, of Lestershire, N. Y., who has been missing since last November.

Found Dead on Road and Money Gone. (Special to The Citizen.) Jessup, March 21.—John Sopskie, of this place, who disappeared a month ago after he had received his pay, was found dead lying on the Mooste road a short distance from here to-day. There were no marks on Sopskie's body to denote any violence, but his money was gone.

Theodore Kline Too Late. Harrisburg, March 21.—Theodore Kline, of Lake Ariel, Wayne county, to-day filed a petition to be a candidate for the house on the Republican ticket in Wayne county. As the time for filing such papers expired on Saturday it was rejected.

Buying Land at Narrowsburg. Strangers have been in Narrowsburg for several days past securing options on lands along the river front and it is thought that some industry intends to locate there.

\$12,000 Fire in Jessup. (Special to The Citizen.) Jessup, March 21.—A fire in this town this morning destroyed two frame dwellings and a clothing store. Loss, \$12,000.