

EXPLOSION KILLS MINERS

Twenty-four Bodies Found and Some Still Missing.

EXPLOSION CAUSED BY GAS

Mine Is One of the Largest Independent Workings in the Northern Part of the State.

An explosion occurred in the shaft of the Century Coal Company at Century, W. Va., a small mining town 50 miles south of Fairmont on the Belington & Buckhannon branch of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

The explosion took place at 4:30 p. m. Thursday and 24 hours after the bodies of 24 of the victims had been recovered. It is believed that the death list will not reach more than 30. It is possible that three or four bodies remain in the mine.

The Century mine, which is owned by Shaw Brothers, well-known coal men of Baltimore, is one of the largest independent operations in Northern West Virginia. More than 250 men are employed daily in the shaft, and had the explosion been an hour earlier the loss of life would have been appalling. As it was only a few stragglers remained in the shaft, the main body of the miners having quit work for the day.

The giant fan which furnished air for the shaft was partially wrecked by the explosion, but was repaired immediately, and within an hour Superintendent James Ward had a relief gang in the mine. The first trip out brought 10 men—five dead and five badly burned. They were found in the main heading near the bottom of the shaft. The living could give no details of the explosion, saying they were on their way to the surface when the explosion took place behind them.

A second expedition immediately went down and explored the main heading, which was found to be uninjured, except that the brittices were blown out. Four more bodies were found in this heading and 20 injured men were making their way toward the bottom of the shaft. They were brought to the surface by the rescuers.

Relief trains bearing physicians were hurried from Pocahontas and Buckhannon, and the doctors immediately took care of the wounded in the office building, which was transformed into a temporary hospital.

MAN RIDES ON CAR TRUCK

Uncomfortable Position Selected by a Traveler Without Money.

As Big Four train No. 36 pulled into Marion, O., bystanders at the union station were dumbfounded upon seeing a man lodged on the trucks of one of the rear cars, completely covered with snow. The man was pulled from his uncomfortable position, but he was so stiff from cold that he could not stand alone and it was with difficulty he was revived. He explained that he wanted to get to Cleveland, where he could get work. He said he had boarded the train at Indianapolis, but having no money the conductor put him off before getting out of the yards. Then he resorted to the desperate means of riding on the trucks.

SHIP CANAL FAVORED

Senate Committee Adds Amendment to Protect Niagara Falls.

The Senate Committee on Commerce ordered a favorable report on the Lake Erie and Ohio river ship canal bill. The committee agreed to all the amendments made by the sub-committee.

It also added one at the request of Senator Platt of New York forbidding the canal company creating any work that will sever the discharge of water over Niagara Falls. The Ohio river is several hundred feet higher than the lake. The summit of the canal is 300 feet above the lake. Inasmuch as no practicable way has yet been found to make water run up hill the amendment does not appear to be of use. But Senator Platt was anxious about it and the committee obliged him.

TWO BANKERS CONVICTED

Charged With Misappropriating Funds—One Was Candidate for Judge.

George P. Brock, former cashier of the Doylestown (Pa.) National Bank, was convicted in the United States Court of misappropriating funds. Pending application for a new trial Brock was permitted to enter bail in \$10,000.

Brock was indicted on a charge of embezzling, abstracting and misappropriating about \$84,000 of the bank funds. Judge McPherson, in his charge, directed the jury to disregard the first two counts. The Government charged that Brock secured the money by overdraft without the consent of the directors.

Henry Lear, President of the bank at the time of its failure, who is a brother-in-law of Brock, was convicted of a similar offense and his case is pending on an appeal. Lear at the time of his arrest was the Republican candidate for judge of Bucks county, but withdrew.

Roosevelt Family Going on Cruise.
Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by her sons, Archie and Quentin and her daughter, Miss Ethel, and possibly her son Kermit, will leave Washington soon for Florida. At some convenient port there, possibly Fernandina, they will board the President's yacht Mayflower and make a cruise to the West Indies. They will visit Cuba and Porto Rico, stopping at both Havana and San Juan. It is expected the party will be absent 10 days or two weeks.

DUN'S WEEKLY SUMMARY

Snow Blockade Served to Check the Distribution of Spring Goods—Manufactories Are Busy.

The distribution of spring merchandise has received a check because of the heavy snowfall and severe storms in many sections of the country but some offset is noted in renewed inquiry for winter goods, and there is no interruption to the activity of shipping departments. Confidence in the future is remarkably bright, and the outlook would be far better than ever before at this season if the fuel situation were removed.

Manufacturing plants operate close to maximum capacity in the leading industries and it is an evidence of no little significance that many mills cannot undertake deliveries before 1907. While these are extreme cases, it is a common thing to find production engaged for several months in advance. Mercantile collection is also more prompt, except in certain parts of the south, where cotton is still held for better terms.

Commercial prices are slightly higher on the whole, and building materials continue very strong, structural work being abnormally heavy for the season. Railroad earnings for March far surpass last year's by 9.1 per cent and foreign commerce at New York for the last week shows a gain of \$2,697,662 in imports over the same period of 1905, while exports are practically unchanged.

No decrease is noted in the activity of textile mills, producers exhibiting persistent confidence in the future, despite the irregularity that is noted in primary markets. A somewhat better tone in the hide market was the result of last week's activity in leather.

Recent heavy transactions in leather improved the tone of the market. New England shoe manufacturers are receiving orders for fall goods from submen in the west and south, the demand being chiefly for heavy goods.

Bradstreets will say: Business feels the effects of continued snowfalls and freezing temperatures. Building has been interrupted, but this is only temporary. Uncertainty as to the coal strike induces hesitancy in some lines of industry, but has immensely stimulated coal and coke. Pig iron is dull, but steel rail sales are numerous and immense expenditures for railway building West and Northwest are projected.

FIVE KILLED IN WRECKS

Two Freight Ditched and Third Collides With Passenger Train.

A train on the Lehigh Valley railroad was wrecked at Honesdale Falls, N. Y. The engineer, William Gaffney, of Rochester, was instantly killed, and the fireman, Edward Brusky, of Honesdale Falls, was taken from the wreck, but died while being taken to a hospital.

A double-header freight train on the Grand Trunk railroad collided head-on a few miles from Sarnia, Ontario, with an eastbound passenger train. Firemen Craig and Fireman N. Hughes of the two freight trains were killed.

Illinois Central passenger train No. 1 crashed into a freight train one mile west of Duncombe, Ind., causing the death of Fireman Walter E. Cutting of the passenger train, who jumped and broke his neck. Engineer O. M. Brown of the passenger train, Fireman Clegg and Fireman N. Hughes of the two freight trains were killed.

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John Redmond Thinks England Will Give to Emerald Isle All She Demands.

After being snowbound for 12 days on the lofty summit of Cambria Pass, at the crest of the San Juan range, 50 miles from the nearest town, a Denver & Rio Grande train containing 50 passengers arrived in Alamosa. The train left Durango March 16, and became stalled that night.

Snow continued falling day after day until it lay on the level higher than the smokestack of the locomotive. Owing to the high altitude, several passengers became sick.

REVIVAL KILLS PASTOR

After Seeing 4,000 Conversions He Is Taken South to Die.

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Roosevelt Sends Whole Dollar.

John D. Rockefeller celebrated the birth of his grandson, born to Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., by donating \$1 to St. James hospital, a struggling institution at Lakewood. The contribution was received in the form of a check by the Sisters of St. Joseph, who are endeavoring to maintain a free institution. In the same mail that brought Mr. Rockefeller's check there came another check from Mrs. Marshall Field, Jr., for 100 times the amount of the Rockefeller donation.

Blame Captain for Wreck.

The finding of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the Valencia disaster was delivered at Victoria, B. C. The report found Captain Johnson blameless in not having located his position by Umatilla reef lightship before attempting to enter the straits, and held him guilty of grave errors of judgment also in not having made due allowance for the northward set of the current, well known to coast navigators.

Killed By Snow Slide.

Twelve miners employed at the Shenandoah mine near Silverton, Col., were caught by a great snow slide and swept to their death. Their bodies have not yet been recovered.

Assistance has been summoned from Silverton to help dig the victims from beneath the snow. The slide struck the boarding house while they were at dinner. It is said that 21 men were caught in the slide, and that nine died during their way out.

Congressman Patterson Dead.

The death from heart disease, of George Robert Patterson, Representative from the Twelfth district of Pennsylvania, Schuylkill county, leaves two vacancies in the delegation from the Keystone Commonwealth, the other vacancy being in Philadelphia district, represented by the late George A. Castor. It is probable that both vacancies will be permitted to continue until the regular election next November.

MOSCOW BANK IS LOOTED

Almost Half Million Carried Away by Twenty Masked Men.

OFFICERS ON DUTY OUTSIDE

Chief of Robbers, With Key to Vault's Combination, Swings Back Heavy Doors.

The Credit Mutual, one of the largest banks in Moscow, was mysteriously robbed by masked men at dusk, the robbers securing \$452,500. It was an extremely daring job. The facts already developed raise the question that the robbery was committed by or under the direction of someone at present or previously employed in the institution.

The bank is situated in Lulka street, in the heart of the city. The last of the clerks had just departed, leaving an inside guard of three men, while outside were a policeman and the house porter. The street was crowded with people hurrying homeward. According to the story of the guards, in the twinkling of an eye they were confronted with revolvers in the hands of 20 masked men, who had entered silently by the main door, which had been locked when the office force left.

EARTHQUAKE KILLS 1,000

Injured Total 695, While 1,400 Houses Were Completely Destroyed by the Shock.

A dispatch from Tokyo to the London "Daily Telegraph" says:

Advices from Taihoku, capital of Formosa, state that the earthquake on that island was more serious than at first reported. In the prefecture of Kagi alone 1,400 houses were completely destroyed, 1,014 persons killed, and 695 injured.

The war department has issued the following. One half of Kagi has been destroyed. The garrison were marched outside, where they are now camping. All the soldiers are safe. We are sending them to Tainan. Trains between Kagi and Toreku have stopped.

WINDER SUCCEEDS ROBBINS

Coal Operators Choose New Chairman At Indianapolis.

J. H. Winder, president of the Sunday Creek Coal Co., in Ohio, the second largest bituminous coal producing concern in the country, has been elected by the anti-Robbins faction in the coal operators' conference at Indianapolis, Ind., to the chairmanship and leadership of the central competitive field operators.

Following the retirement of F. L. Robbins, president of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, as chairman of the operators, and the election of J. H. Winder of Ohio as his successor, a resolution was adopted providing that the operators of the four states should elect their own spokesmen, and that there be no official representatives of the four states collectively, either in joint convention or joint state committee.

HOPE FOR IRELAND

Redmond Thinks England Will Give to Emerald Isle All She Demands.

John Redmond, addressing a St. Patrick's day demonstration at Manchester, made the most hopeful speech yet heard from an Irish leader. He said he believed that Ireland had turned the corner; that the record of the last elections would never be reversed, and that the England of the future would give to Ireland all that she could reasonably expect or demand. The government would be given time to fulfill the pledges contained in the king's speech, and the Nationalists would not contemplate the possibility of a rising in which they would be forced to turn their weapons upon the present government as they had turned them upon previous ones.

ROCKEFELLER IN SECLUSION

Illness of Daughter Said to Be Cause of His Worry.

The mental and physical condition of John D. Rockefeller is causing the gravest concern to the oil magnate's friends, according to information from Lakewood, N. J., where Mr. Rockefeller is living in strict seclusion.

Reports that Mr. Rockefeller's mind is affected are denied by Henry H. Rogers, who took the direction of the oil company when Mr. Rockefeller was ill.

Mr. Rockefeller's condition is said to be aggravated by worry over the illness of his daughter, Mrs. Strong who lives in France.

Robbers Make Big Haul.

Porch climbers got away with jewelry valued at \$10,875 from the home of Mrs. E. L. Ford, 1120 Woodward avenue, Detroit, Mich. The robbers entered the home by climbing the front porch while the household was at dinner. Incited among the valuable stolen were a \$5,000 pearl necklace.

Mail Sack Wrecks Train.

An eastbound passenger train on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad was partly wrecked at Lockbridge, Ill., by a broken switch. A mail sack, when thrown out of a forward car of the passenger train, struck a switch post, breaking it and releasing the switch, thus side-tracking the last two cars of the passenger train. Five persons were injured.

Iowa After Standard Oil.

The Iowa House by a vote of 28 to 12 passed the anti-discrimination bill, which is intended to oust the Standard Oil company from Iowa or compel a revision of their business methods. The bill prohibits discriminating rates for oil and is patterned after the Missouri law. It provides a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for violation.

Farmer Finds Savings of Years.

William Shuman, a farmer near Shamokin, Pa., was breaking up housekeeping when he found a roll of bills amounting to \$6,000 hidden by his wife in her bedroom some time ago. She died recently before she was able to tell him about her hoard, the accumulation of 25 years.

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Officers on Duty Outside

Chief of Robbers, With Key to Vault's Combination, Swings Back Heavy Doors.

KUROPATKIN'S LAST ORDER

Russian Defeats Were Due to Bureaucratic Rule.

Gen. Kuropatkin's last order of the day to the first Manchurian army, printed in the Russky Invalid (the military organ) shows that the Russian defeats in the war with Japan were due to lack of preparation and equipment, and to the fact that there were no explosive shells for the mountain artillery, etc., in the early stages of the war. He does not shirk his own responsibility as minister of war before the war broke out, but points out that the causes of the defeat were deeper, namely, the morale of the troops and of the officers who did not display initiative, independence or enthusiasm in spite of the iron nerves and heroic spirits of the soldiers.

All this, the general boldly announces, is attributable to the oppression of bureaucratic rule during the last 50 years, which in the case of the officers drove men of independence from the service, leaving only worthless drones. He congratulated the troops on the advent of liberty and hope for the regeneration of the people.

IMMUNITY PLEAS ARE ALLOWED

Judge Says Mr. Garfield Made Advances and Impressed Packers With Powers of His Office.

All the meat packers who