

The Farmers' Leader

CANTON, S. D.
PUBLISHER
SCOFFS AT DR. COOK

WILLMAN PICKS FLAWS IN EX-PLORER NO. 1'S STORY.

See Time Seeker After Polo Honors Takes Up Work of Both Travelers and Points Out What He Terms Weak Spots in Brooklyn Man's Tale.

Walter Wellman, whose preparations for a conquest of the north pole in an airship was abandoned upon the announcement of the claims of Dr. Frederick A. Cook and Commander Robert E. Peary, issued in Washington Sunday night a long statement in which he analyzed the narratives of the two explorers, declaring that of Peary "precise, workmanlike, consistent and credible in every particular," and denouncing that of Dr. Cook as a self-evident and even deliberate imposture.

"Cook's story is suspicious, both in what he does tell and what it does not tell," Mr. Wellman declares.

"He is generally vague and indefinite, but, like most men of his class, altogether too precise at the wrong place. Nowhere does his story ring true. It is always an approximation of reality itself. This is true of his figures, his descriptions of everything.

"Those of us who have had a share in arctic work and who have felt anxiety that no blot of fraud should stain the proud record of effort and sacrifice had a first hope that Dr. Cook would be able to demonstrate his good faith. This has been dissolved in the analysis of his own story.

"A second hope—that he was the victim of some hallucination or mental illness and himself believed he had been to the pole, though of course he has not, vanished in the light of earlier and subsequent events. There remains, though one says it with keenest regret, only the wretched alternative that the journey which he did make and the report which he gave of it were deliberately planned from the outset."

The gist of Mr. Wellman's finding is that with his meager party and equipment Dr. Cook could not possibly have accomplished the feat for which he claims credit; that his astronomical data are too minutely and precisely made, under the climatic conditions in the field, and that the explorer's dash for the lecture platform and his acceptance of "crowns of flowers placed upon his head by innocent women and children" before submitting his field records to scientific examination all conspire to his discredit.

MISSING MAN IS LOCATED.

Dr. F. A. Cook Reported to Be Among the Living.

They found Dr. Frederick A. Cook; that is, an authoritative statement was issued by his brother, W. L. Cook, saying that the explorer, who mysteriously dropped from public view Saturday, was still in the vicinity of New York recuperating. He was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and his retirement was absolutely necessary.

The statement as issued by Mr. Cook follows: "Dr. Cook is in the vicinity of New York trying to get a much needed rest. If he decides to go to Europe there will be no secrecy concerning his departure. I think that his friends and critics alike should be charitable enough to allow him to rest until his health is fully restored. He has not been reading the newspapers in the last few days and is not responsible for the statements that have been issued by those who are acting as his spokesmen."

"In sending his data to Copenhagen, Dr. Cook has fulfilled his obligations to the public."

The foregoing was issued by the explorer's brother in view of the fact that the doctor's apparent seclusion caused great anxiety among his friends, leaving even John R. Bradley, his financial backer, puzzled and exasperated. Mrs. Cook is also in New York, but her exact whereabouts, as in her husband's case, has not been announced.

Shoos Army Officer.

An individual, believed to be insane and having an imaginary grievance against the war department, shot and seriously wounded Gen. Verand, of the French army, Sunday.

Plans for an International Show.

Plans are under consideration for the holding of a great international exhibition at The Hague in 1918 in celebration of the opening of the palace of peace.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

Saturday's quotations on the Sioux City live stock market follow: Beaves, 25.00 @ 25.10. Top hogs, 12.10.

Many Lives in Fire.

Elements of coal is believed to have been the cause of an explosion Sunday night in the furnaces of the Chicago hospital in Chicago in which the lives of patients, nurses and doctors attending the institution were imperiled.

One hundred and forty horses were smothered Sunday night when the Blinnard brewery caught at Kansas City, Mo., burst fire in some unexplained manner.

Man in Fog Found.

A man, accompanied with the land, the territory discovered by Commander Peary in his dash to the north pole, will start next July, according to Prof. Donald McMillan, who was one of the Peary party.

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LEAVE SAVING BOAT UPSETS.

Four Persons Meet Death Off Tillamook, Ore.

A life saving boat which had on board several passengers from the steamer Argo, which struck Tillamook bar late Friday, was overturned on Barbaldi beach and two children, an unidentified woman and a member of the life saving crew were drowned.

Miss Agnes Hunter, daughter of George Hunter, and Mrs. W. C. King, of Tillamook, were rescued.

A high wind and heavy sea drove the Argo out of the narrow channel as the steamer was attempting to cross into Tillamook bay and she struck the bay proper. Distress signals were displayed and the Caribaldi beach life saving crew put out in a boat to the rescue.

In the boat were taken Mrs. W. C. King, Nellie and Agnes Hunter, of Tillamook, and a woman who has not been identified.

The boat upset in water not sufficiently deep for it to right itself. The two Hunter children, the unidentified woman and Henry Wickham, of the crew, were pinned underneath. Capt. Farley and other members of the crew escaped. Farley got Agnes Hunter clear, but the others were swept out to sea.

DEATH HIDES IN BALLOON.

Two Daring German Aeronauts Are Killed.

Dr. Brechmann and Hugo Francke, the two most daring members of the Aero club of Berlin, have been killed through the collapse of their balloon "Kolmanr." Their bodies were found Friday near Flume, Austria-Hungary. Nearby was their balloon, a huge rent in the envelope telling the story of their death.

Brechmann had been the third person to insure his life with the newly formed company which takes air navigation risks. He was connected with the Charity hospital of Berlin. Francke was an architect. Their aerial exploits in the past have attracted much attention and no little alarm on the part of intimate friends.

They ascended on Monday from Schmagendorf, a suburb of Berlin. The plane in which the bodies were found is on the northern edge of the gulf of Quarenaro, at the northeast extremity of the Adriatic sea and in an almost direct line about 500 miles from Berlin.

BANKER ALLEN PLEADS GUILTY.

Big Embezzler Receives a Ten-Year Sentence.

Phil Allen, Jr., former vice president of the First National bank at Mineral Point, Wis., appeared Friday before the United States district court and pleaded guilty to four out of twenty-six counts in the indictment against him and was sentenced to ten years in the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Allen was charged with embezzling \$168,000 from the Mineral Point bank.

Allen, who is in his 63d year, has been in jail for several weeks, having pleaded not guilty at Leavenworth to the indictment rendered against him by the grand jury in that city, and has been unable to furnish \$50,000 bail. He came into court Friday morning quite unexpectedly and with bowed head and in an almost inaudible voice pleaded guilty.

Buying Up Independents.

Attorney General Major, of Missouri, has received complaints from various parts of the state that the Bell telephone interests are purchasing the central of many independent companies in Missouri. Friday night he said such purchases are violations of the state's anti-trust laws.

After Milk Combine.

Attorney General O'Malley announced Friday that he had appointed John B. Coleman, of New York City, to investigate the charges in regard to the existence of a combination to control or advance the prices of milk in greater New York.

Cuban Envoy to Mexico.

The nomination of Manuel Garcia Koby as Cuban minister to Mexico was confirmed Friday by the Cuban senate.

Throne Approves Sessions.

The sessions of the recently constituted provincial assemblies in China, on being brought to a close Thursday, received the approval of the throne based upon government reports of the progress made in opening of the two years' constitutional program. An imperial edict urged all government officials to co-operate with the throne at the present critical moment for the purpose of realizing the success of the constitutional plan.

Referred to Canada.

The invitation from the United States for Great Britain to participate in an international conference was with a view to regulating the killing of seals in the international waters of North America, and has been referred through the colonial office to Canada, as it is considered that the Dominion is more interested in this question than is the mother country.

Kerens to Vienna.

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REVOLT SPREADS OUT.

Situation in Nicaragua is Growing Worse Daily.

Groce and Cannon, the two Americans executed by order of President Zelaya, of Nicaragua last week, held commissions in the insurgent army, according to private advices received in Washington Thursday night from Bluefields, where the revolutionist government is located. This dispatch stated that the state department of the United States had been notified to this effect.

The state department has been anxious to clear up the point whether the two men held commissions or were merely acting in their individual capacities, for in the former event they would have been entitled to treatment as prisoners of war.

Groce and Cannon were volunteers in the revolutionary army. This information came Thursday to Salvador Christillo, the representative of the revolutionists in Washington. The cablegram follows: "Groce, ex-superintendent of the Luluz and Los Angeles Mining company, and Cannon, a most esteemed person, were serving as volunteers with the rank of colonels in the revolutionary army, and consequently did not deserve the penalty of death, among other powerful persons, because they were not military personages in the actual service of Zelaya. A similar crime of Zelaya has never been witnessed in the history of Central America."

"The revolution in Nicaragua is spreading, in the opinion of Capt. Shipley, commander of the United States cruiser Des Moines, which is off the east coast of Nicaragua. The revolutionary forces are reported to be maintaining an effective blockade and are patrolling off Greyton with two gunboats. Assurance was given that American and foreign interests are being protected."

PLEASED WITH THE CANAL.

Congressional Committee Coming Home from Inspection Tour.

The American congressional appropriation committee, which has been inspecting the Panama canal, arrived at Havana Thursday morning from Colon.

Members of the committee said they were pleased with the progress of the canal and believed the channel would be open for traffic in advance of the estimated date. Senator C. E. Crawford, of South Dakota, said all the members of the committee were impressed with the splendid work of Col. Goethals, chairman of the canal commission and chief engineer of the work. They were convinced, he said, of the desirability of the passage of the bill designed to reduce the number of canal commissioners and simplify the administration, which would give Col. Goethals a freer hand. It is also probable that the committee will recommend a reduction of from \$3,000 to \$10,000 in the estimate of the canal commission.

FIVE LOSE LIVES IN LAKE.

Gasoline Explosion on a Boat Causes Panic.

Five persons were drowned in Muskegon lake in Michigan Thursday afternoon when the pleasure launch Olga, carrying a party of nine young people, capsized as a result of a panic following a gasoline explosion. Four of those who lost their lives were members of one family.

The party started out to attend a wedding on the north side of the lake and decided to take a short cruise before going to the festivities. They circled the lake and were within 150 feet of the north landing when the gasoline exploded. The girls became panic stricken and all rushed to the stern of the boat, capsizing it.

NEW NAVAL ORDER.

Midshipmen Will Have Use of Battleship for Future Practice.

For the first time in the history of the United States naval academy midshipmen will have the use next summer of three battleships for their annual practice cruise. Acting Secretary Winthrop of the navy department, Friday assigned the Iowa, the Indiana and the Massachusetts for this service. The use of the battleships in place of much smaller craft usually assigned to the midshipmen will enable the officers to take an extended trip. Mediterranean ports will probably be visited in the next cruise, which will take place in the three months following graduating exercises in June.

London Wool Auction.

The offerings of the wool auction sales in London Thursday amounted to 13,685 bales. There was a brisk demand and animated bidding for the large supply of merinos. Americans bought a few lots of medium and also fine cross-breeds.

Philadelphia Ball Team Sold.

The Philadelphia National league baseball club was sold Friday to a syndicate of which Charles W. Murphy, of the Chicago National league club, is a member.

Stock Exchange in San Juan.

The stock exchange and produce exchange, the first institution of its kind in Porto Rico, was inaugurated at San Juan Thursday. Gov. Colton made an address to the members.

Heavy loss of life is feared as the result of an explosion Thursday in a coal mine at Onoua, Eukuoka province, Japan. Fifteen men are known to have perished, while 228 miners are entombed in the workings.

Murdered Her Lover.

Alma Bell, of Auburn, Cal., was acquitted of the murder of Joe Arnes, her lover. The jury was out but a short time. The girl was accused of shooting Arnes on the night of June 5 last.

Not to Be Prosecuted.

Albert Bell, alleged affinity chaser, who was taken back to Deadwood from Aberdeen at the instance of his wife, who charged desertion, will not be prosecuted. The other woman in the case has left the country.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE NEWS News of the Week in Concise Form

ENGINE RUNS "WILD."

Cars in Aberdeen Yards Scattered About Promiscuously.

A runaway engine of the heavy motor type ran amuck down the Milwaukee railroad yards at Aberdeen, scattering loaded freight cars right and left as it passed along for a distance of four blocks. The engine had been taken out of the roundhouse, when the engineer saw a large stock train rapidly rounding a curve. Seeing a collision was inevitable, the engineer and fireman jumped, after reversing the engine. The two big engines then raced through the yards, crashing into freight cars, until they finally struck a crossing, four blocks from where the trouble started and were stopped. The damage amounted to several hundred dollars, as the contents of three of the cars were scattered over the yards, and as many more cars badly damaged, while the engines themselves were put out of commission until extensive repairs are made.

NEW CHURCH FOR WAGNER.

Catholics Will Erect One of Finest Buildings in State.

The Catholics of Wagner, one of the prosperous towns of Charles Mix county, have decided to erect what will without doubt be one of the finest church buildings in that part of the state. The new edifice will cost about \$20,000, and will be erected on ground which now belongs to the Wagner Catholic society. The new church will be erected in proximity to the present church structure, which has become entirely too small for the constantly growing membership. The movement for the erection of the new edifice is being pushed by Rev. Father Kelley, who has been in charge of the Wagner church for a period of about four years.

TERM ENDS AT ABERDEEN.

Federal Court to Open in Sioux Falls December 7.

The United States officials, who have just returned to their headquarters at Sioux Falls after holding at Aberdeen a term of federal court which lasted more than two weeks, will have only a few days' respite when they have to take up the work of preparing for another term of United States court, which will convene in Sioux Falls on December 7. This will be the postponed October term, it having been continued from that time until December owing to the fact that various federal officials were busy during October in connection with the registration for lands in the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock reservations.

SIoux FALLS ORATORS CHOSEN.

Two Accept Invitations to Deliver Elk Memorial Addresses.

Two Sioux Falls speakers have accepted invitations to deliver addresses elsewhere on the occasion of the annual memorial services of the Elks lodge, to be held throughout the country on the first Sunday in December. Charles M. Day, editor of the Sioux Falls Daily Argus Leader, will deliver the memorial address at Estherville, Ia., while C. P. Bates, a prominent Sioux Falls attorney and a leading Elk, has consented to deliver the memorial address at Aberdeen. Hundreds of Elks will gather at the various central points in the state to attend the annual memorial services.

New Paper for Ravinia.

Leroy Beemer, a competent newspaper man of Charles Mix county, is to be the editor of a new weekly newspaper, which is to be established by Frank Strohbehn, a business man of the county, at Ravinia, a new town which has come into existence on the Milwaukee railway about midway between the towns of Lake Andes and Wagner. The paper will be named the Lake Front Booster.

"Tag Day" at Aberdeen.

"Tag day" in Aberdeen recently was a pronounced success. From early morning until late at night the women of the city walked the streets, selling tags to every passerby, the receipts to be used for the benefit of the children's home at Sioux Falls. The total receipts have not yet been compiled, but they will run somewhere between \$1,200 and \$1,500.

Ends Life with Noose.

A young man named George Barnes, aged 21, who it is known has relatives at George Ia., and who is believed to have formerly been a resident of that place, committed suicide by hanging at Chester, a small town on the South Dakota Central railroad north of Sioux Falls.

Yankton Elks' Minstrel Show.

Yankton Elks gave a good minstrel show Tuesday night for the benefit of the new Elks temple, being planned to be built next March. The best local talent was secured for the affair.

Gas Well for LeBeau.

The Le Beau Gas company has been reorganized and will soon advertise for bids for the drilling of a six-inch well and for a quantity of supplies, including a complete plant.

Officer Loses His Star.

Mayor Hitchcock, of Mitchell, exercised his prerogative in unmaking policeman as well as making them when he asked for the star of Robert J. Foran for conduct unbecoming an officer.

Not to Be Prosecuted.

Albert Bell, alleged affinity chaser, who was taken back to Deadwood from Aberdeen at the instance of his wife, who charged desertion, will not be prosecuted. The other woman in the case has left the country.

BERESFORD FIRE MYSTERY.

State Marshal Craft Will Make Investigation.

Frank A. Craft, state fire marshal for South Dakota, has been asked to make a searching investigation of the recent disastrous fire at Beresford, which destroyed what is known as the Stephen corner, including four business places, entailing a loss of \$15,000, upon which there was insurance to the amount of \$6,500.

That the fire was of incendiary origin has been the firm belief of D. Stephen, owner of the destroyed structure, and others, and this belief has been strengthened by developments since the fire and the suspicious actions of the party who is supposed to know how the fire originated. The suspected party has been closely watched since the fire, and it is expected an arrest will be made at almost any time.

The fire broke out at 4 o'clock in the morning, and with such persistence that its spread could not be stayed by the fire department with three strong streams of water.

At the time of the fire and since that time Mr. Stephen has insisted that it was of incendiary origin, he declaring that he heard the "firebug" go down the back stairs of the building after the fire had been started. It being very dark at the time, Stephen was unable to discover the identity of the unknown person.

HUNTERS PAY OVER \$10,000.

Plenty of Money to Meet Expenses of Game Warden.

When the law was passed at the last legislative session creating the office of state game warden, with a salary dependent upon the collections from game licenses, and this was followed by a law absolutely protecting grouse and prairie chicken for five years, it was predicted that the license fees received would not pay the salary of the game warden, let alone any other expenses of the department. Warden Bancroft took his chances on that and began to look after the enforcement of the law. The returns so far received by the state treasurer, with reports from practically all the counties, show collections for the year amounting to \$10,193. This fund has been largely collected from resident hunters, as the cutting out of chicken shooting for five years kept most non-resident hunters out of the state. While the probabilities are that there was more or less "stubble duck" shooting, reports would indicate that the law was fairly well observed, and that its working has been generally satisfactory to the hunters of the state who have accepted it as one for the benefit of preservation of the game of the state.

BIG DITCH IS COMPLETED.

Will Drain a Large Tract of Land in Sanborn County.

The biggest drainage proposition in the central part of the state was completed when the last gap of excavating was finished on Long lake, located in the southern part of Sanborn county. When the dredger finished its work the dam at the top of the bluffs was removed and a great body of water was open to run into the Jim river. There are several lateral ditches running into Long lake, which drains an immense amount of country. For the past four years thousands of acres of land have been under water. It is seen a good portion of the land under plow once more. The lake territory has been utilized for duck hunting territory for three years, and it has been a popular rendezvous for hunters. The ditch is four miles long, from five to sixteen feet deep and from twenty to fifty feet wide in places. The work was accomplished at a cost of \$18,000.

Falls Into a Creek.

Eddie Primrose, of Lead, a 9-year-old boy, while coasting on lower Main street Sunday morning fell from the sidewalk on which he was sliding to the bottom of Gold Run creek, striking on his head on rocky bottom. His skull was crushed and after lingering for three hours he died.

Huron Attorney Dead.

Attorney Henry C. Hinckley, of Huron, died suddenly Sunday morning aged about 60. He was one of the most prominent members of the State Bar association. He resided in Huron twenty-five years and represented this district in the state senate and held various positions of trust.

Ramona to Light Up.

Ramona, situated north of Sioux Falls, is the latest South Dakota town to arrange for the installing of an electric light system, which will be pushed to completion as speedily as possible.

Fort Pierre Woman Dies.

In the death of Mrs. George Mathie son, at Fort Pierre Monday that place loses one of its pioneer residents, she having made her home at that place when it was a part of the reservation.

Platte's New Water Supply.

The people of the thriving town of Platte, Charles Mix county, are very proud of a new municipal waterworks system which has just been completed at that place, after having been under construction for several months.

Pierre Wins All Games.

By defeating Belle Fourche Saturday by a score of 16 to 0 the Pierre high school football team closed the season with an unbroken line of victories and claims the high school championship of the state for this year.

POSTOFFICE RECEIPTS SHOW BUSINESS GAIN

Increase of 6.31 Per Cent in the Revenues Indicates a Healthy Condition.

DECREASE IN MONEY ORDERS

A Washington Correspondent Says Postal Statistics Clearly Set Forth Country's Growth.

The postoffice returns furnish the most accurate barometer we have of the condition of business. If a man or a firm is not doing anything they do not use the mails, but when they are busy they have to buy stamps and a return is made of every one that is sold. Hence the sales of postage stamps are an index of the condition of business, and during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, the receipts from that source were \$184,967,815.46, an increase of \$11,593,104.44 over 1908. The second-class postage paid in money amounted to \$7,236,058.70, an increase of \$285,551.95. Third and fourth class postage paid in money was \$3,229,741.35, an increase of \$395,797.90, and the revenue from box rents in the post offices throughout the country was \$2,946,259.71, an increase of \$112,956.16 over the previous year.

There was a falling off in various other sources of revenue, the most conspicuous being that from the money order business. During the last fiscal year there was a decrease of \$188,000 in the amount of domestic money orders issued and a decrease of \$12,310,759 in the amount of foreign money orders issued. The revenue from this source was \$3,417,625.33 for the year, showing a decrease of \$260,130.06 from 1908.

The total revenues of the Postoffice Department for the fiscal year 1909 were \$293,562,333.97, being an increase from the previous year of \$12,933,719.66, or 6.31 per cent—a very healthful sign of the restoration of business from the panic of 1907, which was felt even into the first and second quarters of the recent fiscal year.

The only way to explain the falling off in the money orders is on the theory that the foreign-born element in the United States had not sufficiently recovered from the hard times of 1907 and 1908 to afford sending any part of their savings to the old folk in the countries from which they came.

During the last ten years \$498,883,915 has been sent abroad in money orders alone, practically the entire amount being the savings of the foreign-born population in the United States remitted to their parents and other relatives, or for investment.

The growth of the country is indicated more accurately by the postal statistics than by any other standard of comparison, although there has been a decided falling off in the total number of postoffices since the rural delivery was introduced. Highwater mark was reached in 1901, when there were 76,945 postoffices, but those of the fourth class on the country roads and at the four corners have gradually been abolished and the mail of their patrons has been delivered at the doorstep of the farmers' homes by carriers.

The total number of postoffices in operation on the 30th of June last was 60,144, which was a falling off of 10,801 since 1901 and a decrease of 1,014 during the previous twelve months. The number of first and second class offices increased considerably, however, and the amount of money devoted to postmasters' salaries was \$26,571,911, a decided increase from the previous year.

The revenue of the Postoffice Department is increasing rapidly, and amounted to \$203,563,343 last year, an increase of \$12,088,719, but it does not yet equal or even keep pace with the expenditures, which were \$221,004,102 during the fiscal year 1909—an increase of \$12,662,216 from the previous year. There seems to be no way of pulling down the expenses, notwithstanding the efforts of the Postoffice Department to economize and to rule out of the mails cast quantities of second-class matter that was formerly carried free.

The deficit in the earnings last year was larger than ever before in the history of the government, and amounted to \$17,479,770. Ten years ago the deficit was \$5,385,688, while in 1902 it was only \$2,961,169. It is increasing so rapidly every year that there is very little hope that the Postoffice Department will ever become self-supporting, as it is in nearly every other country.

Potomac Poisoning Is Fatal.

Mrs. Mary Turton, aged 55, a prominent state W. C. T. U. worker and treasurer of that organization at Bays, is dead as a result of potomac poisoning caused from eating boiled ham.

Explosion Kills Two Women.

Mrs. Margaret Smith, aged 25 years, and Mrs. Minnie Wright, aged 60 years, were killed by a gas explosion in a boarding-house in Rochester, N. Y. A burner in their room had leaked all night.

Crook Shoots Out His Eyes.

Thomas Lehnon, of Jersey City, formerly treasurer of the Manhattan Lighters Company, shot both his eyes out in a hotel in Newark, N. J., because of a shortage in his accounts. A warrant was out for his arrest.

Cousin of Lincoln's Wife Dies.

Mrs. Julia Orna Gaugh, a cousin of Abraham Lincoln's wife, and who when she was a girl of 9 years was kissed by the French general Lafayette, died Monday at her daughter's home in Kansas City, aged 94 years.

Boy Hurt in Football Game.

Webb Boone, of Loganville, had both bones of his leg broken and crushed in a football game at De Graff, O., and is thought also to be internally injured.

BODIES OF 168 FOUND IN THE CHERRY MINE

Dead Piled in Heaps in Lowest Level and Must Be Taken Out by Boat.

WADE IN WATER WAIST DEEP

Messages Written by Dying Victims Unearthed by Explorers—All Killed by Black Damp.

Discovery of 168 bodies in the fire-swept mine at Cherry, Ill., Wednesday effaced the hope of the stricken town that its lost might return from the tomb. Down in the blackened caverns where they had struggled with death the lifeless victims were found in a grewsome heap. The reaper was not to be denied his toll. On the faces of the sons and fathers of the women who were waiting above, confident that many would yet be found alive, was written the blackest chapter of the tragedy. Beside them was mute evidence of a battle with thirst, hunger and fire in which they were overwhelmed when escape seemed near. It was a story that awed the stanch-hearted searchers who stumbled upon the wasted forms; they shrank from telling it to those bereft when they returned from the charnel house. In the darkness of their prison the victims had fought for days—how many no one can say as yet—until human endurance was exhausted and their lives were snuffed out.

The bodies were found 500 feet from the main shaft on an elevated surface where the victims had retreated before the advancing water and fatal black damp. They had not been able to escape the latter, and had died after a struggle that may have continued for two days.

To take out the bodies a skiff was brought from the Illinois River, seven miles away, and lowered 500 feet to the vein in which the bodies were found. It was rowed across the four feet of water in the vein