

TERRIBLE CALAMITY.

Explosion of Fire-Damp in a Pennsylvania Mine Shaft.

OVER A HUNDRED MINERS MET THEIR DEATH.

Sixty Families Left Wholly Dependent on Charity for Subsistence—Everything Being Done to Supply the Widowed Mothers and Children With the Necessities of Life.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

SCOTTDALE (Pa.), Jan. 27.—By an explosion of fire-damp in the mammoth shaft of the H. C. Fricke Coke Company to-day, eighty sturdy miners were ushered into eternity and a number seriously injured.

The explosion occurred this morning shortly after eleven o'clock, and it is supposed it was the result of the ignition of a miner's oil lamp. The after-damp, which followed the fire-damp explosion, suffocated nearly every workman. A few men, realizing the full situation, fell to the ground, thereby preventing the gas from striking them. The persons not killed are in such a critical condition, that their deaths are momentarily expected.

Up to this writing fifty bodies have been recovered, without a sign of life. The fire which broke out after the explosion was soon extinguished by immense fans which were put in operation. The gas was about the same as that from the pit, and the work of rescuing the entombed miners commenced.

The mammoth shaft embraces 500 acres, one of the largest in the entire coke region, but it is hard access. It is situated near the United Works, where an explosion recently destroyed the entire shaft.

The affair has cast a gloom over the entire coke region, and to-night hundreds of miners are flocking to the scene of the disaster, offering assistance. The appalling loss of life in the Dunbar disaster is more than overshadowed by the destruction of life in the Mammoth calamity. The miners are throughout the entire coke region with great rapidity, and everybody was awe-stricken. Coffins have been ordered for the victims, and the bodies of the dead are being taken to the morgue.

It is estimated that there are sixty wives and families left wholly dependent on the charity of the world for subsistence by this disaster. In fact they are almost penniless, and the means of earning a living full for some time, and work has been scarce. Everything possible will be resorted to to supply the widowed mothers and children with the necessities of life. The Fricke Company will set liberally in this direction, and Master Workman Peter Wise has sent an appeal for aid to the miners and coopers of the region.

LATER—At midnight it is stated that 110 men were killed in the explosion. Sixty bodies have been taken out so far, and the rest are being feared all other bodies will be cremated.

MORE DETAILS.—This evening a partial story of the disaster was obtained. An expected flow of gas was heading, and the miners working in the heading, connected with flags No. 2, 3 and 4 were all killed. The fire boss, as is his duty, had been at the mine at the time of the working parties. His mangled body lies at the morgue. The only evidence that he attended to his duties as the regular fire boss, was the fact that he was with him this morning, which guaranteed the mines safe.

The miners knew these certificates had been filled and went to work. They never returned. Superintendent Keighly, who was Mine Inspector in Dunbar District when that disaster occurred, was with them when the explosion took place. He immediately called for volunteers, and gathering a few about him, descended the shaft. Being alone, he was unable to do much, and he returned to the surface, and then the explosion took place. He immediately called for volunteers, and gathering a few about him, descended the shaft. Being alone, he was unable to do much, and he returned to the surface, and then the explosion took place.

When the miners entered the mine a sight impossible to picture met them. A bank of cars, mules and, more terrible than all, men, were piled in a compact mass against the ribs, or veins of coal, and not a living thing was in the wreckage.

It was almost as solid as the coal itself, and the first step of an explosion. This obstruction was removed with difficulty, and they entered a veritable chamber of horrors. The first object they recovered after leaving the main entry was a gun boot.

In it was the leg of a man. Further on, they found a human head. The hair was matted, and the trunk that had borne it, but in a few minutes, after walking a short distance, surrounded by dangers unseen, they found the trunk. The mangled remains of the man, who had been at the mine at the time of the disaster, working their way in, they found bodies strewn all along the gangway.

The unfortunate met his death while on his knees in prayer, with his hands clasped and his eyes uplifted. His body was found in this position. It was a pathetic sight, and the people of the region were concentrating at the scene of the disaster. Women and children and relatives of the victims, who were fortunate victims rushed to the mouth of the pit shrieking and sobbing, and the scene was one never to be forgotten.

Following them came the physicians and undertakers from Scottdale, Mount Pleasant and Greensburg, and after them Father Lambing of Scotland, who went among the bereaved with words of sympathy and condolence, besides urging the men to greater work in rescuing any who might be alive and imprisoned. The services by the physicians were little needed, for every man in the buildings where the explosion occurred was killed. None were injured and lived.

Dead bodies were brought up every few minutes. Every corpse was covered, and no one even ventured to inquire which body it was, for the boss, and they were discharged one a couple of weeks ago to reduce expenses, and one man has been ordered to do the work. I managed to secure the last report of the Mine Inspector,

and it is a very important document just now.

The latest examination of the mammoth mine by the State Inspector was made on January 10th. It shows that at the inlet, which is a slope a mile or more away from the shaft, there was 55,000 cubic feet of gas entombed. The general condition of the mine was marked as fair.

Superintendent Lynch said to-night that he thought it possible in drawing off the gas, some might be trapped. All lights were open and the gas was an unexpected thing.

Up to 1 o'clock sixty have been recovered. Fifty bodies were brought to the surface and passed through the line of watchers without comment, save the expression of "another one." It is possible to obtain a list of the dead, as not even the bosses knew who went down in the morning.

FATAL RAILROAD COLLISION.

Particulars of the Accident to a Special Military Train.

TOPEKA, Jan. 27.—The particulars of the collision between the passenger train and the special riding United States troops from Pine Ridge, which occurred last evening on the Union Pacific, near Marysville, Kan., have been received here.

The special train consisted of seven passenger cars and three freight cars, and had on board 400 soldiers. Part of the Seventh Cavalry and Battery E of the Light Artillery were bound for Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, Ill.

Three engines and several cars are a complete wreck. Sergeant Schorbat, of the Light Battery E, and private O'Neil, Troop 7, Seventh Cavalry, were killed. Captain Godfrey, of Troop D, and Sergeant Sharp, of Troop G, were seriously injured, and a number of non-commissioned officers and privates were painfully hurt.

Lizzie Bennett, of Lincoln, Neb., had her arm broken and her head cut, and was brought to the hospital. Flynn and one or two others were slightly injured. A number of cavalry horses were killed.

The conductor of the military train, whose carelessness is responsible for the wreck, has disappeared.

New Barbed Wire Company.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—The barbed wire manufacturers, after a lengthy discussion, have decided to form the Columbia Patent Company, to handle and control the barbed wire patents after they are purchased from Washburn & Moen.

Instead of the latter firm each manufacturer will pay \$1 per ton royalty to the new company and the profits of the company will be distributed among the shareholders.

Washburn & Moen will be paid in the neighborhood of \$300,000 for the patent. The company will be organized within a couple of months.

Passenger Agents Meeting.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—A meeting of the passenger officials of the transcontinental lines was held to-day at the Hotel Grand Central, Chicago, to consider the complaint of Salt Lake City, Utah, of high rates, as compared with those of Montana and California.

No action was taken, pending the arrival of the Salt Lake representatives to-morrow. A majority of the roads favor equalizing the rates by advancing those to Montana, instead of cutting them to Salt Lake, but it remains to be seen what will be done.

The Brooklyn Bridge.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—It was thought the great mass of snow Sunday subjected the Brooklyn suspension bridge to a heavy and dangerous strain.

Engineer Martin has been calculating the extra weight on the cables and the result of his investigations show the strain was not so great as was feared. The weight of the cables, he calculates, the snow on the bridge at 400 tons, about the weight of four trains. The deflection of the cable is so slight that it is not noticeable.

Tariff Bill and Reciprocity.

SPRINGFIELD (Mass.), Jan. 27.—The agricultural papers which a short time ago were full of the results of the postal card votes of 110,000 farmers in favor of the country on Presidential preferences, has compiled the result on the tariff. It shows a considerable majority for the tariff, and a smaller one for reciprocity.

Ray Hamilton Reported Alive.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—The Times to-morrow will publish a story in substantiation of the report in regard to Robert Ray Hamilton being alive and residing in San Francisco under an assumed name. The statement was made to a reporter by an intimate friend of Hamilton, and the truth of it is vouched for by several letters he received from Hamilton since his alleged death.

World's Fair.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—The first stake was driven and the first spadeful of earth turned on the Lake Front to-day in connection with the World's Fair. Preparations began by the erection of a temporary building to be used by the Chief of Construction and his assistants. Some construction property-owners oppose Lake Front threaten an injunction.

International Press Club Convention.

PITTSBURG (Pa.), Jan. 27.—The first International Press Club Convention opened in this city this morning. Sixty delegates were present from the principal cities of this country and Canada. Foster King was elected president and elected resident. After the appointment of a committee to prepare plans for organization, the convention adjourned.

Durango Steel Company.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—The Directors of the Durango Steel and Iron Company of Mexico, representing interests of eight millions, to-day considered propositions from an English syndicate to purchase the company. The matter was referred to a committee.

POLITICAL CIRCLES.

The Senatorial Question in Kansas Settled.

W. A. PFEFFER WILL SUCCEED SENATOR INGALLS.

Ex-Senator Vilas Elected as Senator to Succeed Spinoer of Wisconsin—Proceedings of the Farmers' National Alliance at Omaha—The Nebraska Legislature Approves the Nebraska Action on the Election Bill.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

TOPEKA, Jan. 27.—When the next Congress meets the seat of Hon. William Ingalls will be occupied by William Alfred Pfeffer, of the Farmers' Alliance, who in the joint session of the Kansas Legislature to-morrow will be formally declared elected United States Senator.

The predictions of the "knowing ones" that the Alliance would be unable to agree upon a candidate, and that its failure to agree would disrupt the organization, went wide of the mark. The caucus was harmonious last night, and on each ballot the one receiving the lowest vote was dropped from the list until the choice was made.

The rumors of a defection in the vote in the House to-day were likewise proved unfounded. The proceedings of both Houses were of an orderly character. In the House fifty-three petitions from the State, for veterans through the State, for re-election of Ingalls, were over and over read. When the result of the ballot was announced, the Alliance men went wild and cheered for several minutes.

The ballot for United States Senator resulted: House—Pfeffer, 96; Ingalls, 23; Blair, 5. Senate—Ingalls, 35; Pfeffer, 21; Blair, 1. Congressman Morrill and Senator Kelly 1 each.

William Alfred Pfeffer was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1831, and is of Dutch parentage. In 1850 he came to the gold fields and went to California, where he remained two years. He made considerable money and returned to Pennsylvania, and soon after removed to Indiana and later to Missouri. He served during the war in the Eighty-third Illinois Volunteers.

At the close of the war he settled at Clarksville, Tenn., practicing law, and in 1870 he moved to Kansas, taking the same name. At different times he edited various papers, served in the State Senate, and was elected to the National Republican Convention in 1880. In that year he moved to Topeka and assumed editorial control of the Kansas Farmer, and afterwards bought the latter. He has been engaged in the publication of the paper ever since. The paper was of wide circulation among the Kansas farmers, and a great influence over them.

He joined the Farmers' Alliance movement a year ago, and in the spring of last year began a bitter determined warfare against Ingalls, and in the fall of 1889 he moved to Topeka, where he remained two years. He made considerable money and returned to Pennsylvania, and soon after removed to Indiana and later to Missouri. He served during the war in the Eighty-third Illinois Volunteers.

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COAST CHRONICLES.

The Orchards Around Portland Alive With Song Birds.

TWO MEN BURNED TO DEATH AT SAN JOSE.

Mrs. Ballou's Painting Sold to a Rest-Home in Australia—A Man Stabbed to Death with a Pitchfork at Spokane Falls—Holstein Convicted of Forging William McLane's Name on Pension Vouchers.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

PORTLAND (Or.), Jan. 27.—Large flocks of goldfinches, bullfinches, American robins and other birds, descendants of those imported by the Society for the Importation of Song Birds, have returned from their winter migration and are making the orchards in the vicinity of the city vocal with their sweet songs. Linnets and some other birds have remained here all winter, and are perfectly at home in the gardens about town.

The society is so well pleased with the success of its experiment that it has ordered another thousand dollars' worth of nightingales, black thrushes, song thrushes, European red-breasted robins, American mocking birds, etc., which will arrive here about the middle of March, and, after being exhibited a few days, will be turned loose. All of these birds are insectivorous, and will be useful in destroying orchard pests, as well as in furnishing melody.

The Legislature has passed an Act providing for the protection of both imported and native song birds, and their nests and eggs.

FATAL FIRE.

Two Men Burned to Death at San Jose.

SAN JOSE, Jan. 27.—At 1:30 this morning a fire broke out in the Central lodging-house, on San Fernando street, in the rear of the Lick House, and the building was wholly consumed. It was one of the oldest buildings in the town. The fire was confined to that house and the shops in front.

Two men were burned to death. Their names are: John Foley, a laborer, 52 years of age, and a man named Michael Burke, who was badly burned about the side and face, and injured on the right side by jumping from a porch. Sixteen people were in the house and buildings at the time.

The property was owned by James Phelan, and the loss is about \$4,000, with no insurance. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the kitchen. The fire was confined to that house and the shops in front.

"MORNING."

Mrs. Ballou's Picture Sold to an Australian Gentleman.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—Considerable comment was created in art circles to-day owing to the reported sale of Mrs. Ada L. Ballou's celebrated picture of "Morning." This was the picture which was given to the State Fair at Sacramento several months ago when the Directors of the State Fair at Sacramento refused to allow it to be placed on exhibition in the art gallery, claiming that it was too obscene and suggestive.

The picture has just been sold to T. W. Stanford, brother of Senator Leland Stanford, who is a resident of Melbourne, Australia. Mr. Stanford is a very wealthy gentleman, and is said to possess one of the most valuable art galleries in Australia.

A Forger Convicted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—The jury in the case of F. M. O. Holstein, on trial in the United States Circuit Court on eleven charges of forgery, this evening returned a verdict of guilty in eight cases. Holstein was sentenced to one year in prison for forgery of the name of Wm. McLane on pension vouchers and obtaining about \$700. He left the State, but was arrested three months ago in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Jury Disagreed.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27.—The trial of Walter C. Lockwood, ex-City Justice, on a charge of embezzling \$300, has been in progress for four days. The jury, after being out twenty-four hours, were unable to agree, and were discharged. They stood seven for conviction to one for acquittal. The Judge has excused the dissenting juror from further service on the panel.

Killed With a Pitchfork.

SPOKANE FALLS, Jan. 27.—Alfred Call, the boss of the street grading camp, killed Thomas King, another foreman, in a stable in this city, near the Union Pacific passenger depot, with a pitchfork yesterday afternoon. They quarreled over the shooting of horses, and Call attempted to draw a revolver on the other. Call then stabbed King with a pitchfork, inflicting fatal wounds. There were no witnesses to the affray.

An Ex-Sheriff Drowned.

MERCED, Jan. 27.—John Clark, ex-Sheriff of Mariposa County, was drowned at Merced Bar, in the Merced River, yesterday. A man had started to cross the river in a boat which capsized. Clark jumped in to save the man and was drowned, while the man whom he attempted to rescue escaped. Clark was one of the most popular men in Mariposa County. His body has not yet been recovered.

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Latest Particulars Concerning the Revolution in Chile.

DIPLOMATS DISCOURAGED AT THE OUTLOOK.

The Italian Government Occupying Itself Diplomatically Regarding the Successor to Pope Leo—Emperor William Celebrates His Thirty-second Anniversary—Great Rejoicing Among the People of Germany.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—Dispatches from Chile via Buenos Ayres bring further particulars concerning the revolution on Chile. The rebel Chilean war vessels at Puerto Quequen fired shots into the town, probably at the rebels, sending the coal deposits. Troops from Valparaiso are occupying Lacerena in force. The insurgents have blockaded Tongoy Bay, thirty miles from Coquimbo. Tongoy is connected by rail with Tamaya and Ovalle, the latter town being in turn connected by railroad with Coquimbo. Forbaralis is also blockaded by rebel forces. Three thousand Government troops have been sent to reinforce the Government garrison at Tongoy.

Later advices say that the reported battle was fought at Tongoy. The rebels have occupied Linaoche Alto, a town only twenty-five miles from Valparaiso. The rebels have also occupied Quillota, in the province of Valparaiso, fifty miles from Santiago, and Coaconga, twenty miles from the Pacific.

The property of foreign residents is suffering considerably from the rebellion, in spite of the efforts of the various consuls of foreign powers to protect the interests of the citizens of the various countries. The action of the diplomatic representatives has been so discouraging to those officials that they have formally informed the Chilean Government that they will withdraw from the board of the fleets of foreign powers if the conflict continues.

President Balmaceda, in his reply, has asked the Ministers and Congress to delay taking any action for a few days, as he hopes to be able to suppress the rebellion within that time.

THE POPE'S SUCCESSOR.

The Italian Government Wants One Favorable to Italy. [Copyrighted 1891 by N. Y. Associated Press.] ROME, Jan. 27.—The Vatican has been advised that the Italian Government is occupying itself diplomatically regarding the successor of Pope Leo, in order to prevent the election of a Pope unfavorable to Italy and favorable to France.

Premier Crispi will endeavor to demonstrate to the triple alliance that in view of the hostile attitude of the various cabinets it is to the interest of all the cabinets to prepare for the coming conclave. Everyone at the Vatican, however, is of opinion that the Pope will still enjoy perfect health, and as because the Sacred College can in case of necessity, meet elsewhere than in Rome.

In conversation with a highly placed foreign Cardinal accept the veto of the monarchies. Absolute liberty will henceforth be the principle on which the conclave works.

The personage in question said it was difficult to determine the probabilities of the next conclave, partly because the Pope still enjoys perfect health, and as because the Sacred College can in case of necessity, meet elsewhere than in Rome.

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