

ANOTHER DISASTER IN A MINE.

Thirty Men Entombed in a Coal Pit,

With Little Hope That Any Will Be Rescued Alive.

Separated From the Searching Parties by Walls of Debris.

The Result of an Explosion of Gas in the Braznell Mine, Near Brownsville, Pennsylvania.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 23.—A special to the "Post" from Brownsville, Pa., says: "There is scarcely any hope that any of the men in the pit are now alive."

These were the words of Mine Inspector James E. Blick, uttered by him at 10 o'clock to-night as he stood at the mouth of the Braznell mine, in whose depths thirty men are entombed. That they will get out alive is exceedingly improbable, and to-night mothers, wives and sisters mourn them as dead.

Since early this morning the imprisoned men have been without air and food. They are separated from eager searchers by walls of debris which fell when the explosion took place and blocked the road to liberty.

At 7:30 this morning the death dealing blast was loosened. Owing to a shortage of cars, less than the usual number of men entered the pit. The mine is that of the Stockdale Commercial Coal Company, and lies four miles from Brownsville and fourteen miles from Uniontown. It is known as the Braznell mine, and lies near a station of that name on the Red Stone Creek branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

At 5 o'clock this morning Fire Boss James Radcliffe went through the mine as usual, and found gas or "fire damp," in two places. He found about three inches of gas in the main shaft, and about an equal quantity in a room on a side entry a short distance away. The fire boss reported the presence of the gas, but informed the Superintendent that it was all right for the men to enter. The men were lowered into the mine in the cage, descending the main shaft, which is vertical. From forty to fifty men had entered the mine and dispersed through it, when the gas was ignited in some manner not yet ascertained.

A tremendous explosion occurred. Its force must have reached every man in the mine. The cage in the main shaft, which was at the bottom, was blown into splinters, and the hoisting machinery wrecked. About 100 yards from the main entrance was an air shaft, also vertical and brick lined. It was torn by the blast, and the bricks were blown to the very top.

Altogether, there were from forty-five to fifty workers in the mine. The men descended in the cage of the mine shaft from eight to ten at a time. A moment after the fifth load had descended there was a roar that shook the immense iron tippie above the main shaft, and reverberated from the hillsides. There was no need to tell what had happened. Frantic women and frightened children dashed out of their dwellings just across the railroad track, and rushed toward the mouth of the shaft. They were driven back by the smoke that poured up from the mine. A minute later everything was quiet. The big engines stopped, and the fan was hushed. There was no possibility of aiding the imprisoned men through the main shaft, and a rush was made for the ventilating shaft, 150 feet away. This is 112 feet deep, bricked inside to strengthen it and has iron steps from top to bottom.

A shout came from below, and it was known that not all were killed, but who had drawn the fatal prizes in the lottery of life and death? The anxious ones at the top waited a few minutes for the men to appear. They did not appear, and an investigation was made. It was found that the explosion had torn away the brick lining of the shaft, taking with it about twenty feet of the iron steps. The men below were in a

tray. Promptly a rope and bucket was lowered and the men hauled up. The first was Albert Meese, 13 years of age, a tapper. He was unconscious, and was lifted out and restoratives applied without avail. He gasped once or twice and then died, a victim of after damp.

Fourteen men were rescued by the bucket and rope. All were sick, and some half fainting. They were given restoratives and sent to their homes, several having to be carried. As no more men appeared at the foot of the airshaft, attention was turned to the main shaft, from which the after damp was pouring out in a thick volume. The fan was crippled, and the cages would not work. The first thing to do was to start the fan. This was accomplished by 10:30 a. m. and the after damp began to force its way out of the ventilating shaft.

The brattices in the mine which guide the air through the workings had been wrecked by the explosion, and much of the force of the fan was lost. Gradually the air around the main shaft became purer, and at 3 o'clock the first body of rescuers descended, the cages having been temporarily repaired. When they got within ten feet of the bottom the cage stopped. A mass of wreckage was piled up at the bottom of the shaft. With their faces blackened and burned, and their bodies distorted, laid seven men. The rescuers started to clear away the debris, but it was slow work, as the force of the explosion had been terrific.

Pit Boss Thomas and three men went back a hundred feet to find the source. They think they succeeded, but did not have time to investigate, as they were overcome by the after damp. Other members of the rescuing party hastily brought them above ground, where they were given brandy and coffee. Thomas was about dead, and to-night is indeed suffering severely.

When the first party was worn out and nearly poisoned, another took its place, and the work was kept up without a moment's cessation. The rescuers found the carcasses of five mules that had been killed outright.

At 10 o'clock to-night the work of rescue had progressed so far that Superintendent Blower expected to have some bodies out by midnight. Mine Inspector Henry Louttit is working away in the wrecked main shaft at the head of gangs of picked men, who are straining every nerve to save the survivors, if there are any.

Mine Inspector James Blick, who reached the scene to-night, said: "I would not like to say there is no hope for the men in the pit, but I doubt whether a single one remains alive. The fan is running, but the big part of the mine remains unventilated, and is probably still choked with deadly after damp, in which no human being can live. If the men have not been able to contrive to save themselves from the after damp, I fear that they are dead."

One of the mine officials, who spent almost the entire day working in the pit, said: "The havoc wrought is almost complete, and I have little hope that the men are alive."

As the night grew blacker the scene at the shaft became more sorrowful. The rain came down in pitiless torrents, and each moment the air was more chill. Back of the fateful pit rose a solid mass of mountainous darkness. In front, but far across the railroad tracks, were the flickering lights of the homes of the miners. At one side of the mouth of the shaft, some huge lumps of coal made a blazing camp fire and around were seated a score of workers.

No complete list of the dead can be compiled to-night. The managers of the mine have the pay roll, but it was impossible for them to discover all the survivors. But there is a general opinion that from thirty to thirty-five men are entombed. About half are Americans and the balance are Hungarians or Slavs. The list as obtained is: Joseph Wagroyer, single; Joseph Butsch, 40, wife and three children; Albert Meese, aged 13; Samuel Meese, his father, pit boss; Peter Oris, 36, married, has five children; Henry Hager, 50, wife and children; James Thomas, married; Carl Hobidski was hauled up from the bottom, the rope being tied about his wrists. In twenty minutes after the rescue he appeared on the scene as calm as ever.

Soon after the extent of the accident became known undertakers were summoned from Brownsville, and a new building, just back of the mine, intended for a blacksmith shop, was converted into a morgue. Here pine boards on trestles were shaped into receptacles for the dead. All is in readiness for the victims of the mine when brought to the surface.

Recruits For the Boers. CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—Thirty-five recruits for the Boer army were examined here to-day. Those who passed will be forwarded to-morrow. It is believed that Dr. Leyds, the European representative of the Transvaal, is furnishing the means. The recruits will go from here to New York, and thence are expected to go via Antwerp to Delagoa Bay.

WAR OFFICE WITHOUT NEWS.

Beyond a Statement That All Was Well at Ladysmith

Nothing Has Been Received From the Seat of Hostilities in Natal.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts, Who is to Assume Command of the British Forces in South Africa, Sails From Southampton on the Steamship Dunottar Castle.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—4:45 a. m.—Beyond the statement that a heliograph message from Ladysmith reports "all well to Friday afternoon, with no fighting except outpost skirmishes," absolutely no news has been received from the seat of war during the night. The War Office officers at midnight said they had not received any war dispatches.

From a continental Dutch source, however, comes the incredible rumor that a British army corps has disembarked at Lourenco Marques and is marching towards the Transvaal frontier.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts, who is to assume command of the British forces in South Africa, left Waterloo Railroad Station at noon yesterday amid scenes of enthusiasm vividly demonstrating the national interest in the event and the guarantee that whatever can be done in South Africa will be carried out by thoroughly competent hands and on carefully matured lines. Although only privileged persons were permitted to enter the station, this did not prevent the gathering of immense throngs at all the approaches and other points of vantage, who cheered repeatedly as "Bobs," accompanied by his wife and two daughters, drove up. Seidom has the terminus witnessed such an inspiring send-off. Every appearance of the Field Marshal was the signal for ringing hurrahs, lusty shouts and good wishes. The moment the veteran commander arrived he was surrounded by military officers and other friends, and held a semi-private reception in the waiting room. After a personal leave-taking Lord Roberts reached the platform, where general greetings and parting words were exchanged. Many ladies pressed eagerly forward to get a last handshake, express deep sympathy with the distinguished soldier in his recent bereavement and bid him goodspeed. One woman with her eyes filled with tears exclaimed: "God bless you and bring you safely back to us." This wish was echoed and re-echoed in varying phraseology by hundreds thronging the vicinity of the train.

As the General joined his wife and daughters at the door of the saloon carriage, he was speedily surrounded by distinguished statesmen and military men, including A. J. Balfour, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Field Marshal Sir Donald Stewart and Lieutenant Colonel Carrington, the Queen's equerry. Lord Roberts and others arrived late, and it required all the efforts of the police to clear a passage for them.

Scarcely had the Commander-in-Chief joined Lord Roberts when a great cheer announced the approach of the Duke of Cambridge. The crush was so great that the Duke, in spite of police protection, was so huddled that more than once he gave verbal expression of re- nounce to the rough treatment he had to submit to, and the police redoubled their efforts, finally enabling the Duke of Cambridge to reach Lord Roberts, though in the confusion the police thrust aside many of those who were best entitled to remain, including Wolsey, who, however, took the Duke to the ladies present suffered much from the crowd, but their piteous appeals were unavailing to stem the crush.

Renewed cheering heralded the Duke of Connaught's arrival. Then rousing cheers momentarily diverted attention from the hero of the hour as the Prince of Wales appeared and greeted Lord Roberts in the most cordial manner. The Prince and the distinguished General engaged in earnest conversation, and furnished a striking center to a notable group, which included no less than five field marshals.

Lord Roberts, who was in mourning dress, looked fit for anything. In spite of his 47 years, he was straight and soldierly, and his rugged features reflected determination.

At the time the train was due to start the Prince of Wales again shook hands with Lord Roberts, and spoke a few words to the General, of which phraseology the phrases "God bless you," "good luck to you," were caught by those near by.

The Prince also said: "Good-by, Bob, a happy Christmas, a prosperous New Year and every possible luck in your job."

LONDON TO-DAY A DREARY CITY.

Bad News From the Seat of War in South Africa

Cast a Shadow of Gloom Over Festivities Usual in Christmas Season.

The Queen Will Spend Christmas Day at Windsor Instead of Osborne, Sacrificing a Habit Very Dear to Her for Years Past, Owing to Her Wish to be Near the Cabinet During the Trying Times of War.

(Copyright, 1899, by Associated Press.) LONDON, Dec. 23.—"A baron of beef for the Queen's Christmas will be roasted next Saturday, December 23d, at the great kitchen fire, Windsor, in readiness for the royal dinner party on Monday. The great joint, when cold, will be garnished with the royal and imperial monogram in shredded horse-radish, and, with a boer's head and game pie, will assist in honoring Her Majesty's sideboard on Christmas day."

The quiet announcement in the court circular, with the spirit of royal plenty breathed in every line, sounds almost like a hollow mockery of the sorrow and death which have turned the season of rejoicing into one of mourning.

"Bad news from the Cape," writes one society authority, "has made London the dreariest city in the world at this season when it ought to be most gay."

Though this may be exaggerated there is certainly much truth in it. The Queen will spend Christmas at Windsor instead of as for years at Osborne, owing to her wish to be near the Cabinet, thereby sacrificing a habit very dear to her for years past. With her will be the Duchess of Albany and her children. The Prince of Wales will spend Christmas at Sandringham and the Duke and Duchess of York will also be there. But, neither at Windsor, at Sandringham nor in the noblest or loveliest homes in Great Britain will there be much merry-making, for with 7,000 men killed, wounded or missing in South Africa, there are few families which have not been touched with this depression, which only serves to make the nation more determined than ever, and which is a silent accompaniment to one of the most spontaneous outbursts of patriotism and universal desire to risk life and give up property that ever marked the history of any country.

Cook's sons are no less anxious to serve their country on the battlefield than the Dukes or the Dukes themselves. The Duke of Marlborough's offer to equip 150 men of yeomanry for service in South Africa is merely one among hundreds of such offers from his class. Peers with vast business, property and political interests are exhibiting the utmost eagerness in their desire to have their names enrolled among the volunteers who are going to endeavor to retrieve the reverses of the British and yeomanry, of which the Earl of Londsdale is Colonel, every officer and nearly every man in the regiment has volunteered and is using every influence to get accepted. Among the officers is Captain Hugh Jefferson, well known in America, formerly manager of the Sand Creek Cattle Company of Wyoming. The Duke of Marlborough will probably receive an appointment on Lord Chesham's staff.

In the northern counties there is keen rivalry as to who shall do the most for his country in the hour of need. Northumbrians, headed by Earl Grey, have subscribed large sums to equip 100 men, and the Earl of Durham, William Sherrin, manager of the Clearing-house Association, was also at the conference for a short time.

In his informal talk to the reporters after the conference Secretary Gage said: "I was at East Orange last night, and I thought I would come over here to-day to see Treasurer Jordan and talk with him about the situation. While here I have been looking up the evidence of this panic we hear so much about, as indicated by the operations of the past year. Last Christmas easier money was happy and plentiful, and freer. No conditions of distress appeared anywhere in sight. At the present time there is a very different Christmas feeling, and I have been looking at the facts to see what has occurred to justify the change."

"I find that a year ago this date the deposits of the associated banks of New York were \$86,000,000, the loans were \$78,000,000, and cash on hand \$218,000,000. To-day the deposits are \$740,000,000, a shrinkage of \$86,000,000; loans show a decrease of \$32,000,000; cash shows a decrease of \$24,000,000, and perhaps the worst estimate that would be safe to say that ten million in the shrinkage in deposits is due to the fact that New York charges for check collections."

"The shrinkage in loans and cash just offsets the shrinkage of \$56,000,000 in deposits. The clearing-house statement to-day shows an increase in reserve of \$3,500,000 for the week, bringing the surplus reserves of the banks in excess of legal requirements to substantially \$11,000,000. I cannot see, looking at it from the outside, where the panic conditions are justified by the facts of the case."

The Secretary was asked whether his talk with Messrs. Morgan and Stillman foreshadowed any further action on the part of the Treasury.

Mr. Gage answered: "No, not at all." "Do you propose to accept any more United States bonds and extend the time for so doing?" "No, I do not. The option closes to-day."

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LAWTON HOME FUND.

Now Amounts to Over Seven Thousand Dollars.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Lawton home fund is coming along with most gratifying rapidity. The indications are now such as to encourage the committee which has undertaken to collect the fund in the hope, if the contributions continue at the present rate, they will be able to carry out the idea of making the fund a Christmas present to Lawton's family. The total reported this morning was \$7,449.55.

Professor Dean C. Worcester, a member of the Philippine Commission, who was very near to General Lawton, made the following statement to-day of the last conversation he had with the General before his return to this country: "Nothing that could possibly be done would please General Lawton more than the prompt response that is being made to the appeal for funds to put his wife and children beyond the reach of need."

"His bravery was something more than a boast. The night before I left Manila I was with him until 12 o'clock, and just before bidding me to be more careful about exposing himself to the fire of the enemy. At that time he had been seriously exposed on twenty-different occasions since his arrival in the Philippines, and I told him he ought not to do it."

"He replied that he knew perfectly the risk he was running, but that it was simply a matter of business with him; that with the force at his disposal and the work that he was called upon to do, he felt it necessary that he should personally direct every movement. The loss of a little time or an error of judgment on the part of a subordinate might result in defeat, and we could not afford to be defeated. Furthermore, the thought so long as I was with them his men would never fail to respond to any request or call that might be made upon them, and his personal bravery was an inspiration to every soldier in his command."

"He told me that he had not an anxious thought for himself; that he had been told that a soldier's death, but he thought of what might be in store for his wife and children if he should be taken off and this weighed heavily upon him. No man ever deserved better of his country, and General Lawton's countrymen will see to it that his wife and children are put beyond the fear of want."

Secretary Root and Adjutant General Corbin received a flood of telegrams this afternoon subscribing to the Lawton fund. Among the subscribers was President McKinley, who contributed \$100.

Kentucky Election Commission.

FRANKFORT (Ky.), Dec. 23.—The State Election Commission met here to-day. The vacancy caused by the resignation of Chairman Pryor will probably be filled immediately by the election of John A. Fulton. Commissioner Ellis will resign either to-day or next week, and Commissioner Poyntz and Pryor's successor will elect a successor to Ellis. Those who claim that Governor Taylor has the right to make these appointments will probably undertake to join the new Commissioners from being sworn in.

A Defaulter Commits Suicide.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Weary of trying to elude the officers, A. W. Peterson, County Treasurer of Yankton County, S. D., who fled from Yankton after a shortage in his accounts had been discovered, took his own life by plunging into the river here. Deckhands of a ferry to-day found the body, which had been in the water apparently only a very short time. Engraved on a silver cardcase in one of the pockets was the name and address, "A. W. Peterson, Yankton, S. D."

The Rhein Arrives at New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The new twin screw vessel Rhein, the last addition to the North German Lloyd fleet of steamers, arrived at her pier to-day from Bremen with thirty-five cabin and 532 steerage passengers and a full cargo of merchandise. The Rhein was built by Blohm & Voss of Hamburg. She is 10,088 tons gross and 6,398 tons register, has four pole masts and has accommodations for 350 cabin and over 1,000 steerage passengers.

The Passengers Escaped.

MASON CITY (Ia.), Dec. 23.—A message received in this city to-day direct from Clarence Dumbolt refutes the report recently received from Vancouver relative to the death by drowning of Mrs. Dumbolt and four others. The vessel was caught in the jam and was destroyed with its contents, but the passengers escaped and were at Delawana.

Verdict in Favor of the University.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—A verdict for \$231,367 against the bondsmen of Charles Warren Spalding, and in favor of the University of Illinois, was returned to-day. The sum sued for was \$758,903, the amount of university funds in the Globe Savings Bank, of which Spalding was President at the time of its failure.

Fatal Crossing Accident.

PALMYRA (Mo.), Dec. 23.—Peter Nichol, a well-to-do colored farmer was returning home in a wagon, when a train struck and demolished the vehicle at a railroad crossing, killing the old man, one of his daughters and a grandchild. Another daughter was badly injured and a second grandchild has since died from its injuries.

Transport Thomas at Manila.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—General Otis has informed the War Department that the transport Thomas arrived at Manila last evening, and had no casualties on the trip. The Thomas left New York November 24th, and carried the Forty-seventh Volunteer Infantry.

Governor-General of the Sudan.

CAIRO, Dec. 23.—Colonel Wyngate has succeeded General Kitchener as Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan.

CLEANINGS AT GERMAN CAPITAL.

Christmas Weather Is Now Prevailing at Berlin.

The Spree Frozen Solid, and Skaters Having a Merry Time.

Public Opinion Fast Changing in Favor of Great Britain in the War With the Boers—Papers Teem With Discussion of England's Position in the Future.

(Copyrighted, 1899, by Associated Press.) BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Cold, crisp, white Christmas weather prevails here. The Spree is frozen solid, the big Mueggelsee is alive with skaters, and everybody is busy with preparations for Christmas. Business is brisk, and many novelties are exhibited in the stores. Unfortunately, there is a scarcity of Christmas trees, owing to the deep snow in the Hartz Mountains and everywhere.

The change in public opinion in favor of Great Britain continues. Even the "Hamburger Nachrichten," which hitherto has been intensely Anglophobe, prints a communication to-day from a Hamburg merchant, protesting against blind Englisherhass (blind Anglophobia).

The papers are full of communications from literary writers on the subject of war. The "Neuste Nachrichten" to-day contains an article pointing out that the military success of the Boers, numbering a quarter of a million, against a nation which at home alone numbers 30,000,000, is explained because the Boers are armed with the best modern rifles, and know how to use them. The British, the writer adds, undervalued their adversary, and failed to appear on the scene with a numerical superiority which their strategy was largely ordered in London. Again, he points out, all the British Generals neglected reconnoitering, and were deficient in the A B C of field service.

On the other hand, the military critic in the "Boersens Courier" maintains that no Boers war has been so devoid of interesting features, of theoretical and strategic lessons, as this. The British have proved their stupendous "assault as a military nation in an unparalleled manner."

The papers also continue to discuss the probability as to Great Britain's position hereafter, since they claim her total collapse as a military power has been proved by their own. The "Kreuz Zeitung" contains a letter from a high personage at St. Petersburg, claiming that the question as to whether it is advisable to use Great Britain's powerlessness is again seriously considered in Russian Government circles.

The military power is urging the timeliness for an Asiatic advance. The correspondent of the Associated Press can assert, on high authority, that as concerns Germany no such step will be joined in under any circumstances, but that full neutrality will be maintained to the end.

During 1900 the North German Lloyd Bremen Company will plan lines to Singapore, Herberhshof, Sidney and other points, and to Hongkong, Papeete, Herberhshof, Friederichshafen and Sydney, while the Jaluit Company will also start a line making a circuit of the Carolines and Marannes.

A sensational trial has just been ended by the sentencing of Herr Joachim Gheizen, editor of a Charlottenburg paper, to eighteen months in jail for systematically blackmailing financially insecure banks and similar institutions. Herr Gheizen, during Prince Bismarck's time, headed the press campaign against Prince Bismarck, instigated by a number of his court clique enemies.

The latest administrative measure against the press is an order forbidding them to go hunting, on the ground that it is an immoral pastime.

Former Lieutenant Breuzwitz, who as a German army officer murdered a civilian workman, has gone to join the Boers. A private letter from him says he has been appointed commander of a battery in the Transvaal.

LATE DWIGHT L. MOODY.

The Funeral Will Be Held on Tuesday Afternoon.

EAST NORTHFIELD (Mass.), Dec. 23.—Yielding to pressure brought to bear by friends, the family of Dwight L. Moody to-day decided to defer the funeral of Mr. Moody until Tuesday afternoon, instead of holding it on Monday last evening, and had no casualties on the trip. The Thomas left New York November 24th, and carried the Forty-seventh Volunteer Infantry.

Rev. F. B. Meyer of London, who has been a prominent speaker at Northfield, and who, with Mr. Moody, held meetings in several of the large cities of the country last fall, cabled from England. Among the messages from the country were those from Commander Booth-Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. John Wanamaker and George B. Studd of Los Angeles.

The Trustees of the Northfield Seminary met to-day and set apart a spot at Round Top as the burial place for Mr. Moody. The grave will be school property, but it is very near the Moody home.

The selection of pall-bearers and other details will be attended to on Monday.

Chief Burgomaster of Berlin.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Emperor William has at last confirmed the election of Herr Kirschner as Chief Burgomaster of Berlin. His Majesty announced his decision at to-day's unveiling of the monument to his ancestor, Elector George William, in the Stages Alley.