

HUNDRED MINERS PERISH BY EXPLOSION AND DAMP

Scores of Convicts, Employed in Alabama Property, Meet Death in Horrible Form.

MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION IS FOLLOWED BY GAS

Ventilating Fans Are Wrecked and Unseen Enemy Over-takes Men as They Flee For Their Lives—Hundred and Seventy Men Underground at Time, But Forty-Five Make Successful Rush For Safety.

Littleton, Ala., April 8.—One hundred and eighteen men are tonight entombed in the Banner coal mine near here, following a terrific explosion early this morning. Three bodies have been recovered. The fatal aftermath, which followed the explosion, has so far kept the rescuers from penetrating the mine, although they have been far enough into the interior to see a gruesome pile of human bodies huddled together near the shaft.

It is estimated that about 20 corpses are in this pile. Officials of the Pratt Consolidated Coal company, which owns the mine, have abandoned hope of bringing out alive any of those below the surface.

This afternoon the entombed men could be heard knocking on the pipes below, but there is an ominous stillness tonight, which indicates the after-damp had done its deadly work.

The rescue work cannot proceed safely until the mine can be bratticed so that fresh air can be forced in to drive out the afterdamp. This work is going on tonight, but it probably will be several days before all of the bodies are recovered.

A special train is bringing the government rescue car from Chattanooga. Today's explosion differs from others in that there are practically no mourners at the opening. The men at Banner were convicts, without friends here, and whose relatives are scattered throughout the counties of Alabama.

Probable Cause. It is believed the explosion was caused by safety powder ignited by a lamp and followed by dust. When the night crew left the mines shortly before the explosion happened, Night Fire Boss Sparks reported the condition of the mine as good and the day shift was sent to work.

There were 170 men in all, only five of whom were free laborers. The others were convicts, mostly negroes.

Immediately following the explosion, several of the convicts with mining experience, discovered that black damp was forming. They spread the alarm and many started a race with death to the entrance.

Forty-five of the miners either reached the outside in safety or got within hailing distance in the shaft and were taken out by rescuers. Scores of volunteers made heroic efforts to bring out the victims. This work proved effective until the deadly gases reached the main shaft into which the men were headed.

State Mine Inspector James Hillhouse and Assistant Dickerson, together with several others, hurried to the mine when news of the disaster reached Birmingham. Dr. Brown, in

NOT AN ASPIRANT SAYS ROOSEVELT

Former President, Speaking in Spokane, Intimates He Is Not a Candidate For the Presidency or Anything Else—Is Ahead of the Game and Has Had a Run For His Money.

Spokane, April 8.—Theodore Roosevelt came very close today to making a positive and public declaration, that he would not be a candidate for president in 1912 or at any other time. In the course of a post luncheon address he said:

"I am not an aspirant for anything because I have had everything. I am ahead of the game."

This is the first declaration of the kind that Mr. Roosevelt has made during the present tour and was made in connection with his explanation of his trip. It is the closest he has come to making a definite statement as regards the possibility of his nomination for the presidency since the days preceding the last presidential campaign.

Mr. Roosevelt said in part: "I have a certain difficulty in the fact that when one acts from motives sufficiently simple there are always so many people who persist in thinking what they are too simple to be believable and ascribe to me a Mephistophelean character, with far-reaching and sinister aspects."

Ahead of the Game. "I am not an aspirant for anything, because I have had everything. I am ahead of the game. No man alive has had as good a run for his money as I have had. The man who has been a president of the United States is, forever after, the debtor of the Amer-

ican people. Mind you, I do not care for any office in itself. The only reason why I value any office is because of the opportunity given by that office to do work worth doing.

"It is what the man does in the position and not the position he holds which adds honor and usefulness to his career."

Of New York's wealthy men, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"There are a few of them, I think, who are crooks, and I will get at a rich crook just as quick as I will a poor crook, no quicker. But most of them are honest men who are absolutely hindered by their environments. That is the literal truth. A great many of them don't read anything but I say and don't read anything about what I say excepting the headlines of the papers they themselves subsidize. They don't know what I preach, they don't know that I am really preaching in their interest."

Colonel Roosevelt will leave Spokane tomorrow afternoon for Moscow, Ida.

Charge of the government rescue station at Birmingham, joined them. Among the white men believed to be dead are:

JOHN WHITE, ED CAUSEY, of Calhoun county, O. W. SPRADLING, a convict foreman, LEE JONES.

FIVE THOUSAND RAISED IN BIG MUNICIPAL BALL

Milwaukee, April 8.—The Milwaukee city council last night raised about \$5,000 by holding a popular municipal ball for the benefit of the 10,000 unemployed, who, according to the statement sent out by the city council committee, are in deep misery owing to their inability to get work.

The ball was managed by a council committee and the funds, taken in charge by the city treasurer, are to be used to employ men to do extra city work. Mayor Emil Seidel and his wife led the march.

Compromise Offered. Helena, April 8.—(Special.)—While lawyers were filing the injunction suit, a proposition was being circulated for signatures by taxpayers requesting the water company to make an offer of its plant to the city at \$400,000, the proposition carrying with it the intimation that if such an offer were made the signers would exert themselves to see that it was accepted at an election and thus end the long litigation. The lowest offer the company has made of its property has been for \$350,000.

JOSIE RAY HELD. Helena, April 8.—(Special.)—United States Commissioner W. D. Ranking today held Josie Ray, keeper of a resort here, for the federal grand jury. The woman is charged with importing two women from Minneapolis to Helena for immoral purposes. She is out on bail.

DEATH OF A PIONEER. Deer Lodge, April 8.—(Special.)—John N. Welton, a prominent resident of Powell county, and a pioneer of Montana, died today at his home here. He formerly was postmaster at Race Track. Death was due to rheumatism.

DR. LARSON DIES. Butte, April 8.—(Special.)—Dr. C. L. Larson, a well-known Butte physician, died in Chicago yesterday. Dr. Larson was for many years connected with the Murray hospital in this city.

INSURRECTOS SLAUGHTERED AND THEIR LEADER WOUNDED IN BATTLE NEAR MEXICALI

Stanley Williams, Deserter From United States Army, Lies Dying in Custom House, as Result of Attack on Superior Force.

Mexicali, Mexico, April 8.—General Stanley Williams hurled his little battalion of rebels against Colonel Miguel Mayot's 500 Mexican regulars on the mesa, five miles south of Mexicali, today. Eighty insurgents went into the fight; 29 returned from the battlefield. Williams himself was fatally wounded and is now in the custom house here with his head torn by a fragment from an exploding shell. With a half dozen fugitives of his fleeing command, he was overtaken by a federal shell that lit in their midst and sent up a geyser of flame and smoke and fragments of human bodies. His wagon trains were captured with nearly all of the stores and livestock which he took in his raid yesterday on American ranches.

No Prisoners. Survivors straggling into Mexicali tonight declare that the federals took no prisoners. All those not killed by the fire of the federal rifles, machine guns and artillery, were, it is alleged, slaughtered mercilessly by bayonets in the hands of federal soldiers. These latter, also, it is declared, fired on the hospital tent and ambulance which accompanied the rebels to the battlefield. Dr. W. B. Larkins, the surgeon in charge, and his assistants, who reached Mexicali with the survivors, appealed to United States authorities to send Red Cross aid to the scene of the battle and save those they could of the wounded.

News of the rebel repulse was brought by a mounted rebel who, with one arm nearly shot off, fell exhausted from his horse in front of the headquarters of the insurrecto commander-in-chief, General Salinas, and burst into tears.

"We have been slaughtered," he cried. "My pal was killed beside me." Asked who his comrade was, he replied, "General Stanley." Williams was still known as Stanley to his men of the "independent division of liberal army," despite the revelation of his real name and the fact that he was a deserter from the Ninth infantry of the United States army. Later he was brought in alive, but pronounced fatally wounded and taken to the United States army hospital in the custom house at Calexico, across the line.

When General Salinas heard of his subordinate's fate, he maintained his stoical calm. "I told him he was a fool when he said he was going out to fight them," he remarked, philosophically. "If he had remained here the federals would have been forced to attack us in a position of our own choosing. I ordered him to go out, but only when he demanded it."

Daring Assault. Every detail of Williams' sortie from the entrenched position of the rebels here in Mexicali emphasized the daring of his assault on the overwhelming federal force. With his whirling military formation of a column of two, he marched directly south after crossing the 60-foot wash of the New river, which surrounds the town on three sides, and constitutes its most formidable defense. His cavalry, numbering 27, formed the advance guard for his infantry, and in the rear brought up his wagon train with all the supplies and livestock taken in his recent raids, as if fully confident of

cutting his way through the federals, the ambulance, a converted wagon taken from the Cadahy ranch, trailing behind.

In short dashes the cavalry advanced to reconnoiter while the infantry waited. This was at 9 a. m. Two hours later they encountered the first outposts of Mayot's force, four miles south of Mexicali. Mayot's men of the Eighth battalion used smokeless powder, but the smoke from the black powder of the rebels' cartridges revealed their position at each shot. Williams deployed his men in open order to render the fire of the federal machine guns and artillery least disastrous. The ambulance was posted in a clump of trees on the little ranch, while the rebel battle line plunged into a field of barley and under-cover of the growing grain advanced steadily.

Machine Guns. Engrossed in apparently deliberate preparations for a battle Sunday, Mayot seemed surprised, by the attack and for a time it looked as if Williams' idea of doing the unexpected and taking the fight to the enemy might succeed. But in a few minutes the barley was trampled flat and the exposed insurgents were then subjected to their first experience of machine gun fire.

The automatics spat viciously from the federals' main position on the south bank of the Encina canal as the rebels sought cover in gullies caused by the overflow of the Colorado. Here they fought until about 3 o'clock, holding their own amid the crackle of rifle shots that could be heard faintly against the hail of lead from the federal automatic guns and high-powered rifles.

For some reason the federal did not bring up their field pieces until that hour. In the meantime a reconnoitering force of nearly 100 men made their way to the border east of Mexicali and there, learning that Williams was unsupported, marched quickly southward.

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TOWN THREATENED BY FLAMES

LITTLE TENNESSEE CITY FACES OBLITERATION IN FIERCE CONFLAGRATION.

Chatanooga, Tenn., April 9.—At 2 a. m. a telephone message from Dalton states that the entire town is threatened by fire which broke out at midnight in the kitchen of the Hotel Dalton.

A special train is now being made up in this city to carry an engine and firefighters to the assistance of the doomed city.

The loss at 2 o'clock is estimated at \$400,000, and there is little prospect of stopping the spread of the flames. A stiff breeze is fanning the flames and the volunteer fire department is helpless to arrest the fire's spread. Besides the request to Chattanooga for fighting apparatus, other towns have been appealed to for help.

AVIATORS' CHARTS. Paris, April 8.—A permanent aerial navigation commission, empowered to elaborate a system of air charts, today reported to the minister of public works a plan which the commission suggests should be adopted by all the governments of the world in order to insure its effectiveness.

The charts will be cut according to meridians and parallels, each chart including one degree of longitude and one degree of latitude.



THE PORTALS OF THE MARKET

CHIHUAHUA TAKES STEPS AGAINST AN ATTACK

CITY NOW BEING THREATENED BY MADERO IS ENCLOSED BY BARB WIRE TROCHA.

Chihuahua, via Laredo, Texas, April 8.—All doubt that this city is preparing defenses against a long siege was removed today when the military authorities began to enclose the place within a trocha, or barbed wire entanglement. Trochas are being dug and mines have been placed in the avenues leading to the heart of the town.

An American who occupied a house owned by an Englishman today protested to the British consul against the invasion of his home by soldiers who h h punching rifle loopholes in the walls. When the protest was filed the soldiers desisted.

All those who called on Governor Alvarado were assured of the safety of the city.

Despite the governor's assurance, the work on the defenses is continued day and night.

To the west, in the direction of Madero's camp, the hill tops are fitted with breastworks occupied by pickets on duty continuously.

Some of the insurrecto camps are as near as five miles. The federal outposts are not more than a mile out. Madero has now at his command about 3,000 men mounted. The insurrecto forces recently received large quantities of ammunition and supplies brought down from near the border.

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MYERS SELECTS SECRETARY

Washington, April 8.—(Special.)—C. W. Draper, formerly secretary to Charles S. Hartman, will act as secretary to Senator Myers during the extra session. Miss Grayce Behmer, for several years secretary to Senator Dixon when he was in the lower house, is to be his stenographer.

C. T. Laiken of Miles City, Henry O. Hanlon of Chinook, W. L. Frary and J. T. Standford of Great Falls, Mrs. James Shoemaker and son of Helena, and Mrs. J. H. Clements of Butte are here today. Mrs. Shoemaker came east to enter her son at the naval academy.

H. E. C. BRYANT. Leaves Tonight. Miss Grayce Behmer, who has many friends in her professional work as expert stenographer as well as in a social way leaves this evening on the North Coast Limited for Washington, D. C. Miss Behmer goes to serve as stenographer for Senator-Elect Henry L. Myers. She is well qualified for such a position, having been stenographer for Senator Dixon while he was in the house of representatives, and later private secretary for Charles Pray.

BACK TO THE PEN. Butte, April 8.—(Special.)—Homer Cole, released from the Deer Lodge penitentiary last October, will go back tomorrow morning. He pleaded guilty to a boxcar theft, in which he was caught redhanded, and was sentenced to a term of four years.

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SEVENTY-THREE KILLED IN PENNSYLVANIA MINE

Recovery of Bodies From Pancoast Shows a Greater Death List Than Expected.

MANY WIDOWS AND ORPHANS WITHOUT SUPPORT

Disgraceful Scenes Are Enacted When Undertakers Fight For Bodies, Believing Pay For Burial Will Be Lucrative—Finally Stopped By Police—Several Explanations of the Fire.

Scranton, Pa., April 8.—A revised list of dead tonight shows that 73 men and boys met their deaths in the fire in the Pancoast colliery at Throop, near here, yesterday. A canvass of the victims' families shows 45 widows and 137 orphans.

It is said that every corner of the workings, which a fleeing victim might have reached in his search for pure air, has been entered and that every body has been removed. The last group of dead, comprising seven men, was brought up shortly before noon today.

As fast as the bodies were identified and if relatives did not come to undertakers, according to nationality, to be prepared for burial. The undertakers fairly fought for the bodies, believing the company would stand for a good round charge, and disgraceful scenes resulted. Police authorities had to interfere.

The funerals probably will be held Monday.

In the number of victims this is the worst mine horror that has ever occurred in the Lackawanna valley region and the worst in the whole anthracite coal fields since the Avondale disaster of September 6, 1869, when 110 men lost their lives by suffocation consequent to the burning of the breaker.

Officials of the federal mine rescue service refuse to believe there was any defect in the "armor" worn by Joseph Evans, who went to his death, the first sacrifice of the service.

Evans overtaxed the capacity of the apparatus and collapsed. His companions say he tugged madly at his helmet, probably feeling asphyxiation coming on, and tore it from his head, thus exposing himself to the smoke and gas that killed the men he was seeking to rescue.

The work of relieving the distress of the victims' families is well under way. The miners' "leg fund" will take care of the burial expense and the company for the present will supply food to the victims' families.

Many Explanations. Many explanations are offered as to how the Pancoast victims came to their deaths, but none is satisfactory. One contributing cause, it is said, was the failure of inside mine hoses to realize the imminence of danger in the tunnel until it was too late for them to be gotten out.

The fire started a little after 9 o'clock. It is believed that the danger was realized about 11 o'clock. Some of the men attempted to come back in the direction of the fire. Some got a

considerable distance in the other direction. None got anywhere near safety, however. They fell in their tracks or laid down exhausted, burying their faces in the wet culm to avoid the smoke and gas. Some stuffed wet handkerchiefs in their mouths. Many were found huddled up under sheets of canvas used in the mines in constructing air courses. All died in a struggle that told of itself in the dead features.

James Broderick, chief of the state department of mines, arrived on the scene today and will conduct an investigation.

Dr. J. A. Holmes of Washington, D. C., chief of the United States bureau of mines, also has undertaken an investigation on behalf of the federal government. County officials also are conducting an investigation.

It is supposed the fire had its origin in some oil soaked cotton waste in the engine room. This is merely guess work, however.

About 55 victims were Hungarians and Poles.

Laws Not Enforced. Philadelphia, April 8.—John Mitchell, former national president of the United Mineworkers, tonight said regarding the Pennsylvania and Alabama mine workers:

"Based upon newspaper reports, it seems to me both disasters could have been averted. The laws for the protection of the workman are not enforced until such disasters occur."

Red Cross to the Rescue. Washington, April 8.—The National Red Cross society today telegraphed the mayor of Scranton asking whether any assistance was needed for the relief of the families of the dead miners of the Pancoast disaster.

Director Holmes of the bureau of mines received a telegram from John Hays Hammond, special ambassador to the coronation of King George V., expressing distress over the death of heroic Joseph Evans of the bureau of mines staff and offering to head a subscription with \$250 for the widow of the dead man.

COFFEE BROKER DROWNS. Washington, April 8.—James De Mun Smith, a wealthy coffee broker of St. Louis, was found drowned in a pond of the United States soldiers' home ground here yesterday. It is believed that he committed suicide while despondent. Smith was once one of the best known amateur billiard players in America and took part in several national tournaments.

PRIEST RECOVERS SELF-POSSESSION

Ciro Vitozzi Reappears In Court at Trial of Camorrist Much Improved—Testimony Is Given Bearing on Complicity of De Angelis as One of the Alleged Murderers—George McClellan to Attend.

Viterbo, Italy, April 8.—A glorious day has followed a stormy night and this led Vitozzi, the priest, when brought into court with the other Camorrist prisoners, to remark that the weather corresponded with his spirit, which was calm after a week of passion. The interrogation to which he was subjected had told severely on the priest, but he has improved since the court commanded him to break his fast.

Speaking of the approaching Easter, Vitozzi said he hoped his ascension to heaven will come soon in the form of his liberation.

Pasquale Gargulio, Giovanni Rapi, Luigi Arna and Gennaro Ibelli, four of the Camorrist charged with complicity in the murder of Gennaro Cuocolo and his wife, were not in court, having been excused for various reasons. Ibelli has been ill. The proceedings opened with the examination of Gennaro Aceritro, who is accused of having denounced De Angelis and Amadeo as the murderers of Cuocolo in order to save the real assassins. His defense was that he acted in good faith and he described at length when he became convinced of De Angelis' guilt. He said in substance:

De Angelis, the Murderer. "Two days before the murder De Angelis came to my home and asked to be given a room for three days. Later I understood this to have been a

ruse on his part to aid him in establishing an alibi after Cuocolo had been killed. Some time afterward he returned to my home disguised as a coal hawker and opening his coat, exhibited a dagger. I allowed him to sleep in the courtyard.