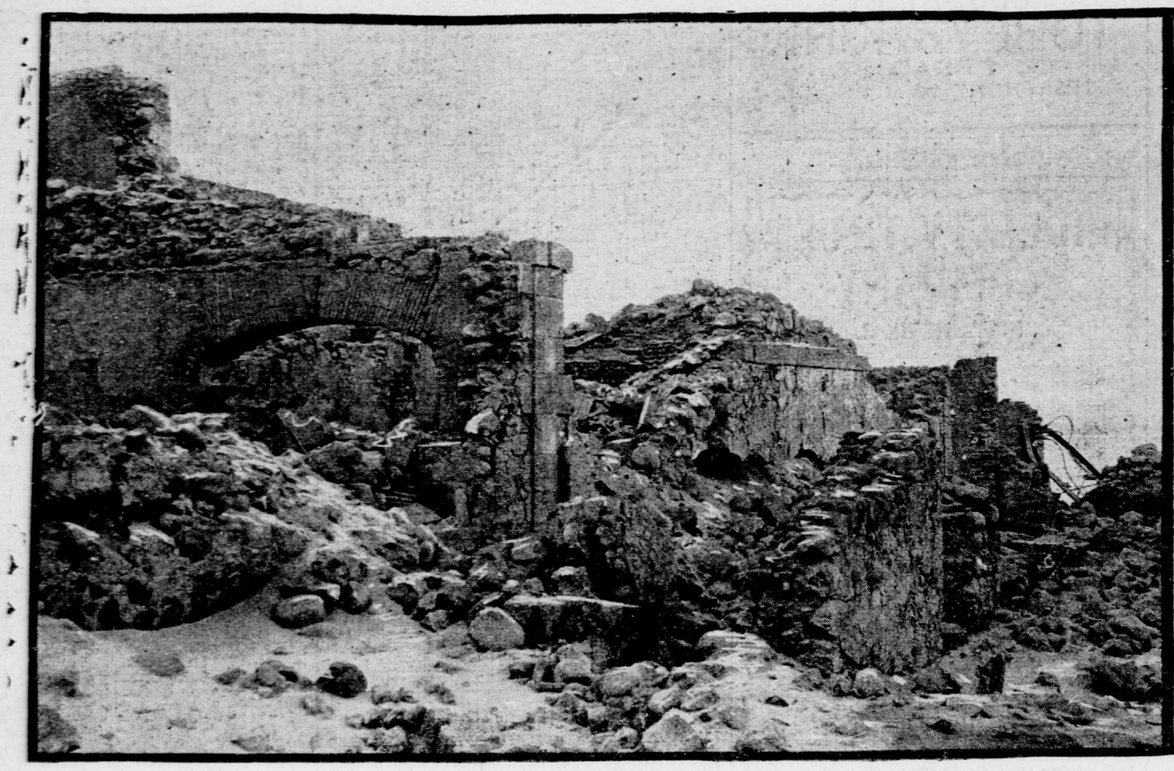
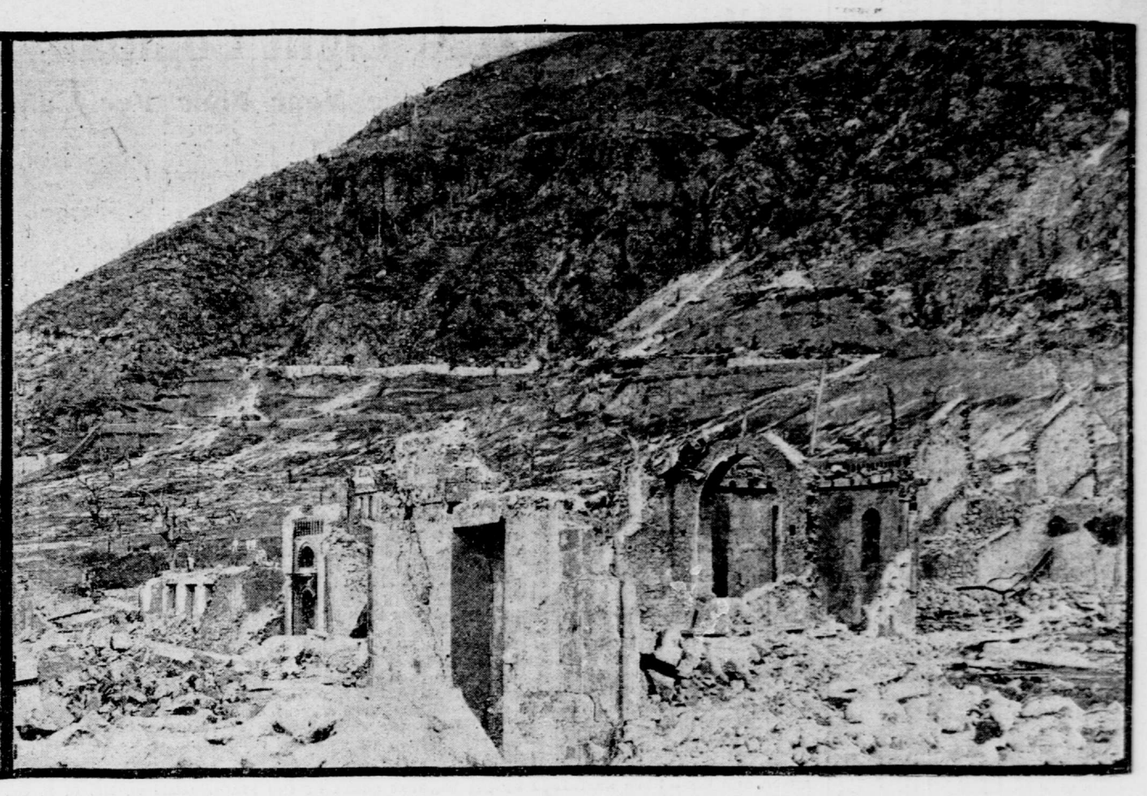
THE TERRORS OF THE CATASTROPHE IN THE WEST INDIES ARE HERE GRAPHICALLY SET FORTH WITH PEN AND CAMERA.



REMAINS OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE.
This ruin was nearly two stories high until after the second eruption.



RUINS OF THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE, ST. PIERRE.
The first eruption left much higher walls, which fell in the second.

FEW EYEWITNESSES ALIVE

Continued from second page.

the same story of the destruction of the city. Both were badly burned, but were rapidly improving, and the surgeon said they would recover. They said the Roraima had run out of her course during the night in approaching St. Pierre, as ashes were falling thickly on the deck and the summit of Pelée was shrouded in thick smoke. A heavy cloud seemed to hang low over the city at 7 o'clock, when the ship made fast to one of the harbor buoys about two hundred yards off shore. Hardly had the ship been brought to anchor when a thick, white cloud settled slowly down the slope of the volcano and then spread with indescribable rapidity over the city from north to south. It seemed to boil down over the bluff back of the town, and roared like a tornado. In an instant the city was hidden from view.

The order to slip the Roraima's anchor had been given, but before it could be complied with darts of flame or lightning shot athwart the cloud in every direction and there was a tremendous explosion. The two engineers ran below, and the next instant the ship was enveloped in a burst of flame that seemed to reach to the remotest parts of its interior. The fumes were suffocating, and the air the men breathed seemed to burn their throats and lungs. The ship keeled over on her beam ends and everything loose was carried away in a great crash. The hot ashes which fell afterward seemed to stick to the flesh and burn into it. The engineers heard cries for water in other parts of the ship and added their hoarse voices to the frantic call. It seemed hours before they were taken off the wreck by the French cruiser Suchet.

Benjamin Benson, the Roraima's carpenter, came to New-York on the Quebec Steamship Company's liner Madiana, a sister ship of the Roraima. He said the Roraima had three-eighths of an inch of ashes on her deck when she anchored in the roadstead at St. Pierre. Soon after the ship had been anchored Captain Muggah appeared on the deck forward with a camera and was exposing a film when the cloud reached the north end of the city. The captain at once ordered the mate, Scott, to slip the anchor and put to sea, and then went on the bridge. The mate took Benson into the forecastle, and they were trying to free the ship from her moorings when the sound of a heavy explosion was heard ashore and the carpenter fled to his room and covered his head with a blanket. The next instant he was enveloped in fire and choked by a sour gas, which he could hardly breathe.

Choking and gasping he crawled out after the ship had righted. Scott was not seriously injured, but Benson's hands were burned. He heard cries for water, and he and Scott sought fresh water in the after and amidship tanks, but they were either empty or the pipes were so bent and twisted that no water could be drawn. At last a little was found in the forward tank and was given to those still alive, of whom there were probably a dozen. Some died in a short time. The city of St. Pierre was burning fiercely, and not a living creature could be seen ashore. Scott and Benson began constructing a raft of lumber on the forward deck. The after part of the ship was afire, and it seemed the flames would creep forward before the raft was ready.

Benson's burned hands could be used only with the greatest effort, and the others, except Scott, were in even worse condition. The raft was at last finished, and what little provisions and water could be secured were placed on board. It was then well into the afternoon, and the Suchet came and took off the two assistant engineers, five seamen, all badly burned, except Scott and Benson, and little Margaret Hamilton Stokes, nine years old, and her nurse, Clara King, colored, of Barbadoes. Three of the nine persons thus rescued died shortly after being taken to the hospital at Fort de France.

Jean Louis Prudent, colored, and Louise, his wife, were on one of the ships moored in the roadstead. Prudent was a St. Pierre machinist, and was at work in the ship. As Ascension Day was a holiday, Prudent had secured permission to have his wife spend the day with him, and they breakfasted together. They were on deck when the fiery cloud covered the city, and were thrown flat by the explosion. The wife fell on the body of Prudent, and was more severely burned than he. She has since died. All others aboard the ship were lost. The couple were rescued by the Suchet, and Prudent is the only person who dwelt in St. Pierre and was a witness of its destruction who still lives. A woman was found alive in a cellar by gendarmes several days after the catastrophe, but died without speaking before reaching the hospital in Fort de France. A careful inquiry failed to elicit the slightest foundation for the earlier report that a murderer in the dungeon of the jail in St. Pierre had escaped. The story was doubtless due to the release of a prisoner for drunkenness in one of the mountain villages several days before the disaster. The residents of the village had fled, and mercifully set the drunkard free. He went to Fort de France, where he was rearrested and confined in the jail eight days—the unexpired term of his sentence. He was then set free, and disappeared.

As nearly as can be estimated the loss of life in St. Pierre and neighboring villages was 30,000. Of the 26,000 people in the city, about seven hundred had fled to Fort de France and to other islands. This number was considerably more than compensated for by the number of refugees from Precheur and other villages who had gone to the city, by the mariners in the roadstead and by strangers come from other parts to view the eruption. Among the dead were Governor M. L. Mouttet and his wife, who had gone to St. Pierre the day before the calamity to reassure the panic-stricken populace. The Governor's residence was at Fort de France, and there he and his wife would have been out of danger. The American consul, Mr. Prentis, and all the members of his family and his servants were killed. The Potomac, of the United States Navy, recovered the body of the consul, which was identified by Consul Ayme, at Guadaloupe. The exciting incidents attending the removal of the body after it was abandoned on the beach on account of the third eruption of Pelée have already been reported in The Tribune.

There appears to be a conflict of testimony as to how Captain Muggah, of the Roraima died. Benson, the carpenter, says the captain was horribly burned and thrown into the sea by the explosion. A negro who had jumped overboard pulled the captain on the deckhouse of another ship, and it floated ashore, the captain dying on the beach about an hour before the Suchet rescued the survivors from the burning ship. The Roraima was afloat eight days after the destruction of St. Pierre, sinking on May 16 in thirty to thirty-five fathoms of water.

Among the victims were seventy-one Sisters of Charity, thirteen secular priests and a large number of regular clergymen of the Catholic Church. Seven priests were out of the city and escaped. The Bishop of the diocese was in France when his people died. The Vicar General and the Mayor of Precheur, Monsignor Grelet, were among the dead. Professor Landes, who sought to allay the people's fears by visiting the volcano, and all the commissioners who reported that there was no danger, were among the dead.

Chaplain MacGrail, of the Dixie, recovered the marble door of the tabernacle of the altar of the cathedral bearing a bass-relief representation of the Virgin and child and will send it to Rome. The communion service of the cathedral was carried away by the captain of the British warship Indefatigable, who said he intended to send it to the head of the Catholic Church in France.

Those who visited the desecrated city before the second eruption beheld the ghastliest of sights. Among them were United States Consul Haven, at St. Kitts, and his wife. They said the corpses lay in the streets and houses just as they fell. In the chief market place the bodies were piled so thickly that one could not move without trampling upon them. The shopping district streets were covered with long rows of corpses on the pavement. In dwellings, men, women and children had died in groups, showing that they were engaged in ordinary household duties and had succumbed without a struggle.

Consul Haven in one house found a woman and three children dead. The child nearest the door had been terribly burned, but the woman and two little girls seemed to have died painlessly and without a struggle. The bowl of gruel and spoon from which two of the children had been eating stood beside their bodies. The light clothing they wore was not even scorched or stained, except by the coating of ashes which covered everything. The woman reclined on a cot beside the children, and her clay pipe, still half filled lay on her shoulder with the stem only an inch or so from her lips. There was no distortion of the features. All appeared as calm and peaceful as if death had not come to them on the wings of a tornado of flame and in the vortex of an explosion which scarcely left one stone above another in a city more than a mile long.

Dr. Haven said he was told by a gendarme that a man had been found on the road over the hills back of the town in the attitude of prayer, and that another had been found with one leg thrown over a donkey, as if in the act of mounting. A gendarme who had visited the fort section of the city before it was deeply buried in mud and ashes said he had seen a corpse sitting bolt upright in a cart, to which the donkey was attached, both being as rigid as stone. Many other grewsome stories were told, but there was doubtless much of exaggeration mixed with the truth, and they were not easily separated.

As far as The Tribune correspondent's investigations extended, he could find no well authenticated case of instantaneous rigor mortis which deserved consideration as evidence that the gas which killed possessed any new or unknown element of deadliness. The stories inconsistent with the theory of carbonic acid gas asphyxiation and subsequent carbon dioxide explosion were extremely rare, and, it may be added, extremely doubtful. The case of the woman and children seen by Dr. Haven showed no instantaneous rigor of the bodies. The woman was reclining easily and in a posture of relaxation; her pipe had slipped from her relaxed lips, and the children were lying on the floor, where they had been sitting. No hand firmly grasped what it had held, and no limb was poised in action.

The gendarmes seen said the bodies, when they first visited the scene, nearly all lay face downward, and the hands in a large number of instances were over the mouths. That death came quickly could not be doubted, for bodies lay where the people had fallen in the midst of their ordinary vocations. It is said that post-mortem examinations of some of the victims who died in the hospitals at Fort de France showed that flame had been inhaled. The Roraima survivors complained that their throats were raw.

SLEEPING VOLCANOES.

SLUMBERING MONSTERS OF THE ANTILLES THAT MAY BREAK FORTH LIKE MONT PELEE AND LA SOUFFRIERE.

The recent volcanic cataclysms in Martinique and St. Vincent lend a peculiar interest to the dozen or more so-called extinct volcanoes of the Caribbean islands. During the eruptions of Pelée in Martinique and Souffrière in St. Vincent, nearly all the slumbering monsters of the chain manifested signs of unrest, and no man can say when they will burst into flame and fury. A peculiarity of these cloud capped craters of hundreds of years ago is that they seem to be connected in twos, threes and fours. While the Souffrière, of St. Lucia, and Pitons, of Dominica, one of which is said to be the highest of all the West Indian volcanoes, have not joined in the terrible demonstrations of Pelée and the Souffrière, of St. Vincent, they are believed by well informed men in those islands to be directly connected with them. Both have thrown up their curls of smoke or steam since the eruptions began, and the sulphur lakes in their craters are said to have boiled and sputtered threateningly.

The big volcano in Guadaloupe and that in Montserrat are said to be so intimately associated that there is never an earthquake in one of these islands that is not also felt in the other, although it may be imperceptible in other islands nearer to the apparent source of the disturbance. In the earthquake which so damaged Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadaloupe, a few years ago, Montserrat suffered more than any other island in the Windward chain.

This year the volcanoes in these two islands have been remarkably quiet. The lake in the crater of the Guadaloupe mountain is always hot and has apparently not been disturbed in any way by the outbreaks at Martinique and St. Vincent. The amiability of these treacherous peaks is, however, regarded as ominous by many of the natives.

Mount Nevis and Mount Misery, the latter in the island of St. Kitts, are intimately related each to the other. The sulphur spring at the base of Nevis, where the old baths are situated, always hot before, is said to have run cold since the eruptions in St. Vincent and Martinique, but the sulphur lake in the crater, always cold before, has been hot enough to boil eggs. Mount Misery is and always has been a source of uneasiness to St. Kitts. It is very high, and the sulphur lake in its crater is always hot. There has been greater heat since the eruptions further south. The volcano in St. Eustatius is believed to be also connected with those of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Saba, the northernmost volcano of the chain, is better entitled, perhaps, to be called extinct than any of its brothers. On this island there are no lowlands worthy of consideration. The whole island is simply a high mountain rising out of the sea. The old crater on the west slope is simply a depression in the mountain side, and is the site of the Dutch village. The island sometimes feels the tremors of earthquake shocks in the other islands, but within the memory of man has not been the centre of any seismic convulsion. The scientists of the Dixie expedition, however, seemed to agree that Saba may sometime furnish a spectacle worth seeing and a catastrophe memorable in the annals of volcanic activity.

Barring Antigua, Anquilla and St. Martin's islands, at the northeast extremity of the chain; Barbados, to the eastward, and St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, to the northwest, there is not a populous island among the Caribbees which may not some day become the scene of a volcanic eruption, limited in its disastrous consequences only by the distance and favorable situation of the more populous cities. The islands excepted are of a different formation, but of possible volcanic origin. Even they are subject to earthquake shocks and possible fatal tidal waves.

The volcanoes vary in altitude from 2,000 to 4,500 feet, the highest being situated near the centre of the chain. Pelée was 4,428 feet high and La Souffrière de St. Vincent over 4,000 feet. Mont Misery, at St. Kitts, is nearly as high, and Morne Diablo, in Dominica, over 5,000 feet.

Should Mont Pelée and La Souffrière de St. Vincent collapse and pass out of existence before the end of the present disturbances the islands of which they are a part may not be immune from volcanic catastrophes. Piton Carbet, in Martinique, is as tall, as hoary and as threatening in appearance as was Pelée, and the high mountain near the centre of St. Vincent is not less a monster than Souffrière.

That before the memory of man a greater cataclysm than that of the present occurred in St. Vincent is apparent in the formation near the Argyle River, in the centre of the east coast. A deep valley slopes gently upward for many miles from this point. It is one vast mud flow, from which weather erosion has washed out in the centuries since it was formed millions of bowlders. The beach for miles is lined with these stones, and the high walls between which the military road passes in many places are of baked mud, including such bowlders, like the cliffs abutting the sea at the mouth of the Rivier Blanche, in Martinique, and of Richmond River, at the western foot of St. Vincent. The volcano which must have thrown up this mass has utterly disappeared, swallowed up, perhaps, in the cavity from which all this matter came, as Pelée and Souffrière may yet be swallowed by the enormous caverns within them.

WHAT THE SCIENTISTS SAID.

The scientists who accompanied the Dixie were very cautious in their statements. With one or two exceptions, they were commissioned to write their opinions for publication in various newspapers and magazines, and naturally avoided interviewers. Professor Jaggers, of Harvard University, said that, from the superficial examination of Pelée possible during his two brief visits before the Dixie proceeded to St. Vincent, he could say only that the energy of the volcano and the widespread destruction it had caused were at least the equal of any previous similar disturbance in the history of volcanic eruptions.

"From what I have seen thus far," said he, "I should not be surprised if Pelée went on exploding and tearing out its substance until, like Krakatoa, it collapses and entirely disappears. I cannot, of course, more than say this is one of the possibilities. There are other ends as probable, but that is the worst that may be expected. It is equally probable that the volcano may in the course of a few months or years again become quiescent, and so remain for an indefinite time. If the present eruption does not destroy the mountain, it may in future be overthrown in a more violent explosion than was that which destroyed St. Pierre.

"The cloud which destroyed the life of everything in St. Pierre probably consisted of carbonic acid gas, steam and volcanic dust. As the heavy gas expanded and mixed with the air it was converted into carbon dioxide, a highly explosive gas, and its explosion was the force which demolished the buildings, destroyed the shipping, uprooted the trees, and tore even the sides of the hills about the city. This, of course, is an inference from the little I have seen at this time (May 22), and I may, after more thorough investigations, alter my opinion.

"There is no lava at this time, but I should not be surprised if subsequent explosions throw out streams of genuine lava. The quantity of rock, mud and dust already thrown up is a very strong indication of a yet possible lava flow.

"Carbonic acid gas is the firedamp of deep wells and caverns, and renders man and other mammals unconscious almost instantly. It is heavier than air, and this would account for its rapid descent of the mountain side as it overflowed the crater and issued from the deep fissures doubtless caused by the explosion. I shall in my formal report, I hope, after more thorough investigations, be able to speak positively of matters concerning which my present opinions are scarcely more than tentative."

C. E. Borchgrevink, the antarctic explorer, who visited the scene of the disaster as a representative of the American National Geographical Society, said he was writing his impressions for the society, but talked very freely.

"I doubt," said he, "that the explosion was caused by sea water penetrating to subterranean fires. It looks to me more like an indescribably heavy explosion of pent up gases which had been accumulating for many years, and may have been expanded suddenly by the heat generated by a slipping of the mass composing the mountain. I should not be surprised if the generation of such heat should continue until the volcano is blown to pieces and collapses. My last view of the volcano, however (May 27, from the Madiana), leads me to hope that the worst has happened for the present. Pelée is so torn and has so many vents that it seems inconceivable that another explosion should occur until after the settling of the earth and the cooling of the mud and lava which probably partly fill up and choke the avenues of escape for the constantly forming gases.

"I very much fear that the volcanoes of the West Indian Islands are connected in such a way that, when the activity of Pelée and Souffrière ceases there will be outbreaks elsewhere. There are many volcanoes in these islands which, although considered extinct for centuries, are liable to explode at almost any time. Those in Martinique and St. Vincent are at present the safety valves of the entire chain."

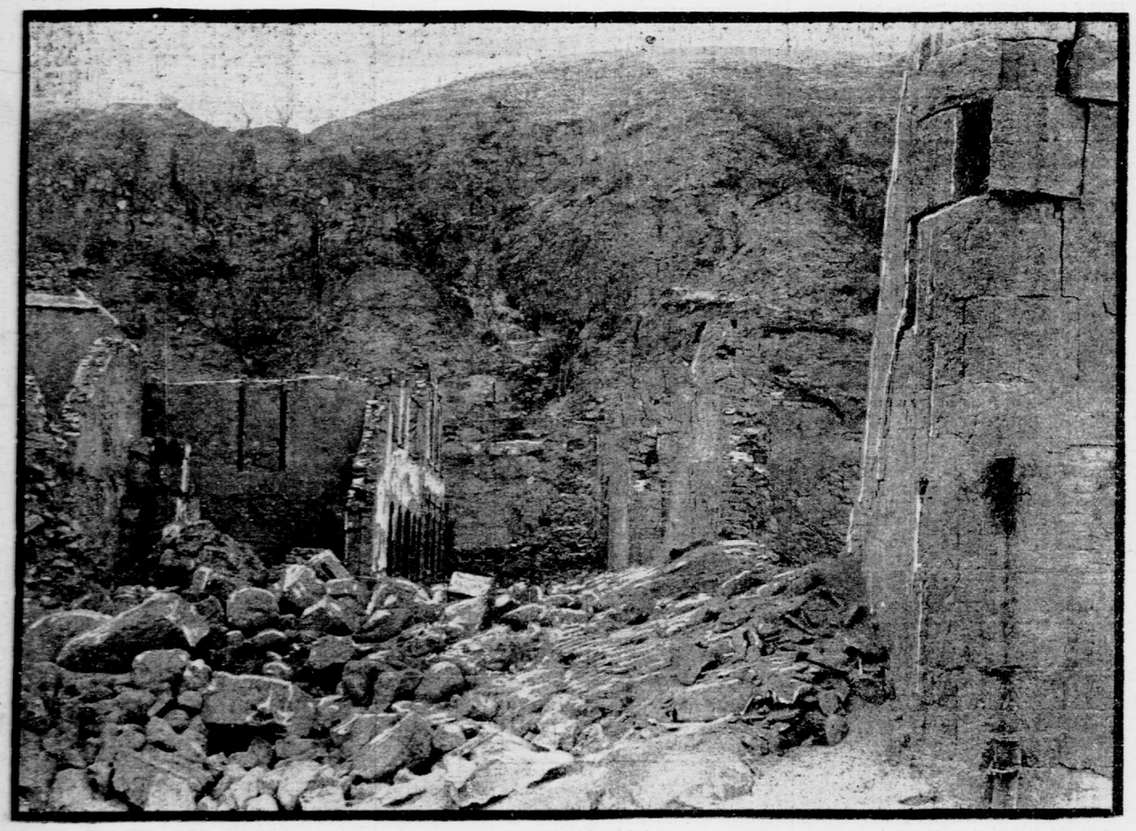
Professor Russell of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, expressed a doubt of the correctness of the general belief that the interior of the earth is a molten mass, and that volcanic eruptions are due to the infiltration of sea water through crevices and fissures in the solid crust of the earth. In a lecture on board the Dixie, before the arrival of the ship at Martinique, he said the earth was probably solid, but its interior was so hot that it became a molten mass on being relieved of pressure. He said the new theory of volcanic eruptions was that mountain masses slipped and by friction caused enormous heat. The movement also caused cracks and fissures through which water reached the heated interior and acted like water suddenly admitted to a red-hot boiler. Inconceivably heavy explosions resulted from this contact, and earthquakes, showers of stones and mud, streams of lava and clouds of dust and cinders were the consequence.

After his visit to St. Pierre, Professor Russell was reticent ,saying his observations had not been sufficiently extensive to justify any definite conclusion.

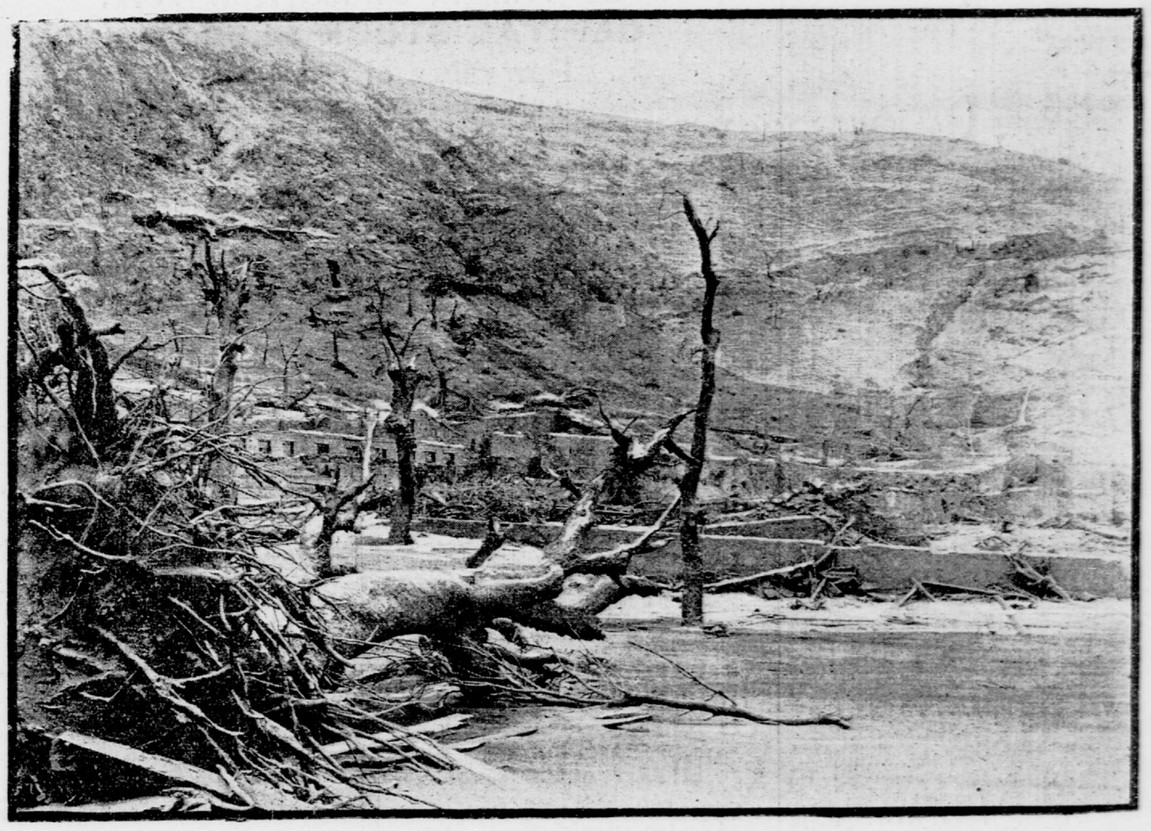
Professor Hovey, who represented the American Museum of Natural History of this city, said he was writing his views for publication, and preferred at the time not to talk for publication.

Mr. Hill, representing the United States Geological Survey, said he was writing for a magazine and declined to be quoted.

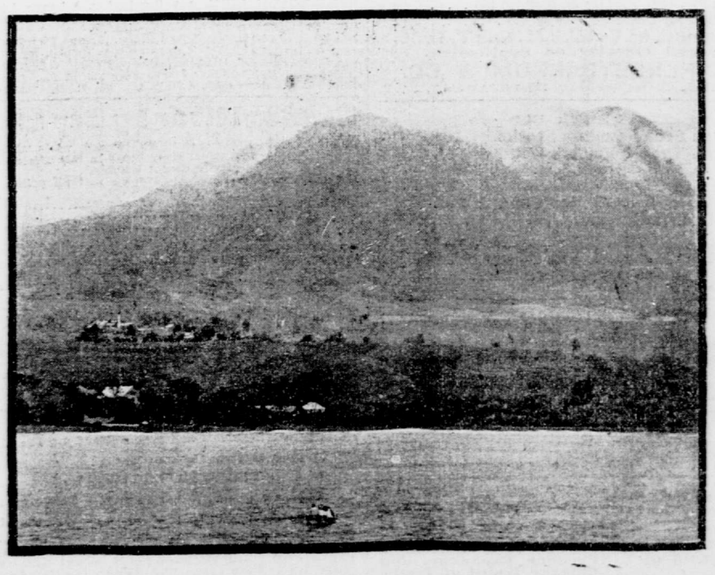
Captain Borchgrevink said shortly before the Madiana reached New-York that he had secured valuable data from the commander of the Suchet, who had made scientific observations and soundings before the arrival of the Dixie at Fort de France. He said that great changes had occurred in the bed of the ocean near the volcano, and that the bottom of the sea off St. Pierre had subsided to an enormous depth. He declined to make public before reporting to the society he represents the details of this subsidence, but said it was startling.



PART OF RUE LUCIE, ST. PIERRE.
First eruption left many walls standing which are now down.



RUINS OF HOTEL DE VILLE AND HOSPITAL, ST. PIERRE.
Almost the last standing vestige of the ruin was overthrown a week after the first eruption.



MOUNT MISERY, ST. KITTS.
One of the largest volcanoes in the Windward Islands. Its crater is always hot.

NOT TOO HOT TO SIT ON.

Perhaps no man was more popular in the fine army which fought through the Indian Mutiny than General Sir William Olpherts, V. C., and the death of "Hell Fire Jack," as he was popularly known, will be a sad blow to many an old Mutiny veteran, says "M. A. P." Was it not Lord Napier of Magdala who declared that Olpherts earned the Victoria Cross every time he went into action? And did not Colonel Malleson, the grave historian of the Mutiny, assert that Olpherts ought to have been recommended for the Cross on at least thirty occasions? He was the beau ideal of a dashing soldier, and a great contrast to the sober Staff College trained officers of a later day. On one occasion, at a critical point in a battle, his artillerymen declared that they could not serve a gun because the metal with repeated discharges had grown too hot to touch. Olpherts leaped astride the gun. "Serve it now, ye devils!" he shouted, and the gun was served.

DAY AND NIGHT.

From The Philadelphia Record.

"Night falls, but it doesn't break," observed the Simple Mug.

"What of it?" queried the Wise Guy.

"Oh, nothing," chuckled the Simple Mug, "except that day breaks but it doesn't fall."