THE LAST DAYS OF ST. PIERRE

THERE'S NO DANGER, THE LOCAL PAPER KEPT REPEATING.

On the Day Before the Blotting Out of the Town, "Les Colonies" Printed What Was to Be the Full Record of the Eruption—Advertised an Excursion to the Crater Six Days Before the End Came—Warnings on April 25.

FORT DE FRANCE, May 22, via St. Lucia.—Although the people of St. Pierre were blotted out of existence in less time than it would take the second hand of a watch to complete its circuit, it cannot be said that they did not have ample warning of the catastrophe. La Pelée gave evidence of disquiet as early as April 25, and her murmurings continually increased in intensity. Three days before the final disaster, an outflow of hot mud wiped out the Guerin sugar works and their people, within sight of the city. Though the people were disquieted to some extent, the authorities made the most strenuous efforts to make them believe there was no danger whatever. The people for the most part went about their usual avocations and amusements. Three days before the city and every human being in it were destroyed, an excursion party went up the mountain to make a holiday of the eruption.

On Friday, April 25, a guide, Julien Romain, who lived on Morne Pavillot, noticed thin wreaths of smoke arising, as he thought, from the crater. Morne Pavillot, on which Romain had his home, formed the northeast wall of the crater. Morne La Croix, the highest summit of Mont Pelée, formed the western wall, Piton Marcil bounded it on the south, and the three peaks of Tibelhommes made the eastern wall.

Almost in the centre of this great kettle was L'etang sec (the dry lake), while L'etang plang (the full lake) was on the eastern side. The crater, which opened to the southward of L'etang sec, was rectangular in shape, about thirty inches long by twenty wide.

EARLY WARNING FROM A GUIDE.

The guide, Romain, went up to the crater to investigate the wreaths of smoke. Peering over he saw bubbling and boiling "a remarkable black mixture of bituminous appearance." According to the story which he told a few days later to an excursionist from St. Pierre, M. Portel, and which was printed in St. Pierre's chief newspaper, *Les Colonies* on the very day before the catastrophe, this black mass "rose and puffed, allowing to escape from time to time jets of white vapor and boiling water, then fell back brusquely like 'Mattée crée,' only to come up again at once." L'etang sec, the account added, was receiving the waters which spurted out of the crater.

Terrified by what he had seen the guide fled, but his story soon reached St. Pierre.

The newspaper *Les Colonies*, which was published every afternoon, except Sunday and feast days, at 177 Rue Victor Hugo, St. Pierre, furnishes the sole surviving record of the last days of the lost city. Stray copies for the days immediately preceding the catastrophe were procured with much trouble at Fort de France by Father MacGrail, chaplain of the United States cruiser Dixie. The copy which he obtained of the day before the disaster, May 7, he found used as wrapping paper in an obscure little shop kept by a Chinaman. The paper was printed, of course, in French, and a mere recital of its contents is more interesting and valuable than the most artfully woven tale of imagination could be.

On April 29 rumblings of the mountain were distinctly heard at St. Pierre, and a "whitish smoke" arising from the top of the mountain was visible most of the time. That day fine dust and dirt began to sprinkle over the city, increasing steadily until on Monday, May 5, breathing was distinctly uncomfortable. Eyes smarted and throats became sore. Parents were advised to keep children indoors on account of the danger to their larynxes and lungs. Big rocks came tumbling down the swollen waters of the Rivière Blanche. The little streams of the Rivière des Peres and the Roxelane running through the city became raging torrents, carrying bits of débris and dead fishes on their waters. On that morning a stream of thick, black mud began to flow down the valley of the Rivière Blanche, and a little later came the destruction of the Guerin sulphur works.

HOLIDAY-MAKING AT THE CRATER.

"*Les Colonies*" of May 2, six days before the destruction of the city, contained the following notice under the heading "Echo":

"Toward Mont Pelée—We call to mind that next Sunday, May 4, will take place the grand excursion to Mont Pelée, organized by the members of La Société de Gymnastique et de Tire. Those who have never been to enjoy the magnificent panorama which is offered to the eye of the astonished spectator at a height of 1,300 metres, those who desire to see close at hand the hole still yawning by which escaped these last few days the thick clouds of smoke, which have not failed to throw terror into the hearts of the inhabitants of the heights of Precheur and of Ste. Philomène, ought to profit by this fine opportunity, and come to have their names inscribed at the headquarters of the Society, Rue Longchamps this evening at the latest.

"The meeting of the excursionists will take place at 3½ in the morning at the Marché du Fort, and the departure will be at 3½ sharp. The excursionists will go to Rivière blanche and to Istard, where guides will be found. Those who do not care to trouble themselves with food ought to pay in an assessment of three francs. They will not regret not being troubled with the care of procuring food. According to the lists that we have been able to get the company will be very numerous. If, therefore, the weather is fine, the excursionists will spend a day of which they will keep for a long time a pleasant remembrance. It is well understood that on that day there will be no target practice at the Balata Garden."

On the nights of Sunday, May, 4, and Monday, May 5, the electric lights of St. Pierre were out. The plant was operated by water power and it is probable that some ordinary derangement was the cause of the trouble. A story sprang up that the spring which had supplied the reservoir had given out. *Les Colonies* contradicted it grandiloquently by explaining that the failure of the electric lights was due to "atmospheric conditions."

In the issue of Monday, May 5, the day of the Guerin disaster, and three days before the final catastrophe, *Les Colonies* says:

"On Saturday evening toward 6.30 the excursionists from Fort de France on board the Tolpaz tried to approach Précheur to see as near as possible the phenomenon. The fall of cinders was so thick that the coast disappeared and the steamer was obliged to go out to sea. On land communication was not easy. Some on foot and some on horseback were obliged to return on their track. From 3 in the afternoon there was no communication between the customs service of Precheur and St. Pierre. Toward 7 in the evening the rain of cinders began again."

SIDE THE MOUNTAIN WAS CALMING DOWN.

In the same day's issue under the time mark of "5 A. M., *Les Colonies* said: "The eruption of Mont Pelée seems to have entered into a calmer state. Cinders continue to fall on Precheur and in the other places to the leeward of the crater. There fell in this city last night three-tenths of a millimetre of cinders, which gives a total of four millimetres for the city.

The quantity of cinders which has fallen on Précheur is about five centimetres in depth, and that on the middle mountain about a foot. The country places are abandoned by the population because of the complete lack of water and food. Cattle are dying. The branches of trees are breaking under the weight of cinders. Last night there was an increase in the fall of cinders, with considerable lightning, thunder and tongues of fire in the heavens. The people of Fonds Coré are abandoning their homes. Last night cinders fell in abundance on Macouba.

Following this, *Les Colonies* says: "In our latest despatch it is announced that La Riviere Blanche is overflowing in an extraordinary way, and threatening the Guerin factory. M. Guerin is loading his furniture and going to the city with all his family.

"LATEST—At 12.55 P. M. the sea withdrew about 100 metres from the bank, and then rushed on to the beach back to its own level. The people are in a state of madness. Thousands of them are rushing toward the coast. Children are crying, and women lamenting, and shops are hastily closing. There is a strong wind from the southwest and general consternation.

THE GUERIN FACTORY DESTROYED.

"The Guerin factory has been swept over by the sea. It is evidently the result of volcanic action.

"Two P. M.—The Guerin Usine (factory) has been destroyed and its people killed."

The above evidently was a communication from Précheur. In its next issue, that of Tuesday, May 6, *Les Colonies*, in pursuance of its policy of reassuring the people of St. Pierre said:

"We published yesterday morning news of the terrible catastrophe at the Usine Guerin. We make haste to say that the action of the sea was not caused by any volcanic movement, as we had been led to believe, but was produced by the downfall of a terrific plunge of earth into the water.

"For many days the waters of the Riviere Blanche had been of a darker hue than usual. On Sunday this became more marked. Toward 2 A. M. of Sunday (May 4) this usually tranquil river had become a torrent. On Monday morning the situation had become somewhat anxious, but far from allowing the Guerin people to foresee their terrible misfortune. M. Eugène Guerin was said, and a little nervous. He was begged to leave the place, but he refused. Yesterday morning he and his wife and father quietly took breakfast, but gave orders to the fireman of their yacht to prepare for any unexpected happening. It was agreed that at the first sign of immediate danger they should take the yacht and flee to Fort de France. Work had been suspended at the Usine since Friday, May 2, on account of the rain of cinders.

"THE CATASTROPHE—A little after noon on May 5 a great mass of boiling water precipitated itself from the mountain. Passing all obstacles at gigantic bounds it engulfed in a group at the shore Eugène Guerin, Mme. Guerin, M. Du Quesne, and the servants of the party, foundering the yacht 'Le Carbet' and another yacht, 'Le Précheur,' which was at anchor 150 metres from the shore. After this terrible prologue, the rush of water, bearing down a mass of rocks and earth, swept down and levelled to a muddy plain the region from Isnard (on the Riviere Blanche) to the sea. This plane of mud is now many hundred metres broad, and of a height calculated to be at certain points fifty metres (164 feet). M. Guerin, pere, escaped. He had waited at the house to give an order. As time was pressing, his son at the quay sent the engineer to tell his father to hurry. It is to this circumstance that the engineer owes his life. The elder Guerin and the engineer left the factory by the highway and miraculously escaped the onrushing flow.

"The factory and all the surrounding buildings have disappeared in a terrible avalanche of mud. Four lighters were turned upside down."

CHILDREN WARNED TO STAY INDOORS.

In the issue of Monday, May 5, *Les Colonies* refers to the fall of ash and says: "Children ought to be kept in the house as much as possible on account of the danger that the dust brings to their bronchial tubes and the inflammation of the eyes.

"Shall we have an earthquake?" the paper asks, and says: "An excursionist went part way up the mountain yesterday and found fifteen centimetres of cinders in the bed of a small stream. The ash and dust give one the illusion of advancing delightfully in the gray flour of America, but unfortunately the dust arises in clouds and fills the throat and eyes. The roofs of the houses are covered with it.

"In the country places desolation, aridity and great silence prevail. Little asphyxiated birds lie beneath the bushes. In the fields the cattle are restless and snort and roar."

On May 6, two days before the cataclysm, *Les Colonies* says:

"Everybody was at the window last night inquiring what was going on. Some said the Roxelane was overflowing, others that there was an earthquake. The streets of Morne Rouge were invaded by a crowd of homeless people.

"ONCE FOR ALL," THERE'S NO DANGER.

"Once for all, there is no cause for such alarm. We heard toward 5 o'clock this morning some one say from a window: 'We are prevented from sleeping by foolish persons, while the volcano sleeps so happily that he snores.' That was a man who took a philosophical view of things."

On May 7, the day before the blotting out of St. Pierre and every soul in it, including the man who wrote this and the printer who set it up, *Les Colonies* said:

"The state of mind of the unfortunate population of Precheur is deplorable. The people are in a sad state of mind, and the Mayor, M. Grelet, is not able to allay their fears in spite of all his efforts. Yesterday, by order of the Governor, a new convoy of supplies was carried to Prechotins. These supplies consisted of 6,000 kilograms of cod, salt meat and beans. The lighter had scarcely arrived when it was invaded by a crowd of people.

THE RUSH FROM THE CITY.

"The departure of frightened ones from St. Pierre continues unabated. From morning to night and even all night you see everywhere people in a hurry, carrying trunks, packages and children to St. Denis, Morne d'Orange, Le Carbet and other places. As to the steamers of the Company Girard, they are never empty.

"To give an idea of his mad and foolish movement let us quote figures. The average number of travellers on the line to Fort de France which was 80 a day, has risen in the last three days to 300 a day.

"We confess that we cannot understand this panic. Where can one be better off than at St. Pierre? To those who contemplate invading Fort de France, we say that this is a foolish mistake, against which it is necessary to put the population on their guard. We hope that the opinion expressed by M. Landes in the interview which we publish to-day will be convincing even to those who are most afraid."

This interview was given as follows: "M. Landes, the distinguished professor of the Lyceum, kindly consented to be interviewed by us yesterday with regard to the volcanic eruption, and the phenomena which preceded the catastrophe to the Guerin factory. We give you here the result: At 5 A. M. M. Landes saw torrents of water escaping from the upper part of the mountain at a place called Terre Fundere. He remarked that La Riviere Blanche periodically swelled, and furnished a volume of water five times greater than the normal volume of its greatest risings. It was carrying down blocks of rocks which might weigh as much as fifty tons.

"M. Landes was in the village of Perrinelle, and went at 12.50 o'clock to find L'Etang sec. While he was there he saw a whitish mass descend the slope of the mountain with the rapidity of an express train, and enter into the valley of the river marking its passage by dense white smoke. It is this mass of mud, and not lava, that has submerged the factory Guerin. Later, at the bottom of Morne Lenard it appeared to M. Landes that there existed a new branch, which perhaps furnished the flow. M. Landes thinks that the phenomenon of Monday is unique in the history of volcanoes. It is true, he says, that muddy lavas develop with very great rapidity, but the catastrophe has been caused by an avalanche, rather than by a flow of lava. The valley has received what was contained in L'Etang Plang, of which the dike was broken, letting fall its muddy waters from a height of 700 metres. If it is surprising to say that there was no shaking of the earth under the influence of this enormous fall, it was because the sea acted as a buffer.

VIEWS OF A SCIENTIST.

"The result of the observation of M. Landes yesterday morning is this, that the central mouth of the volcano at its highest opening vomited forth more than ever, but intermittently yellow and black matter easily crumbling into dust. It is necessary to flee from the depths of the valley and live at a certain height, to avoid being submerged by the muddy lava, as were Pompeii and Herculaneum. Vesuvius has had only rare victims. Pompeii was evacuated in time, as few bodies were found in the buried city.

"Mont Pelée offers no more danger to the inhabitants of St. Pierre than Vesuvius offers to those of Naples."

Then the editor had a second thought and adds: "However this morning the mountain was uncovered, and Morne La Croix appeared having at its base an opening 100 metres long and 40 metres high, making it possible for a partial fall from the height which might bring on a slight trembling of the earth."

WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN A FULL ACCOUNT.

In another part of the same issue was the following announcement: "Note—to serve as the history of the eruption of 1902. On Sunday, April 27, 1902, Messrs. Bouillin, Waddy, Dacord, Bouttenil, Ange, and Eugene Berté went to Mont Pélee in order to examine, if possible, the opening from which escaped the columns of smoke which appeared on Friday, April 25. They made a thorough examination, and concluded that there was nothing of danger.

"On Wednesday, April 30, occurred three tremblings of the earth, at 3.40 A. M., 5.05 and 6.10. These earthquakes were not perceived by anybody because they took place horizontally.

"Since Saturday morning Messrs. Buillin and Berté have continued to notice that the column of cinders and flame which is rising in the mountain is produced at the exact point where the new crater is found."

After all its labored reassurances to the public, *Les Colonies* concludes an editorial announcement as follows:

"What has to-morrow in store for us? A flow of lava, a rain of stones, jets of asphyxiating gas? What submerging cataclysm? Or shall we have simply an inundation of mud?"

THE FINAL LOSS OF HOPE.

"There is a secret, and when it is known many will not be able to keep it."

In one corner of the issue of May 7 is printed this announcement in large type: "To-morrow being the feast of the Ascension, this paper will not be published."

The next day St. Pierre and all in it were buried.

NEW MOVE IN STRIKERS' AID.

An Attempt Being Made to Get New York Firemen to Refuse to Use Soft Coal.

The unions of Stationary Firemen and Engineers in this city decided yesterday to call mass meetings of their members for next Saturday night to take united action in regard to the handling of soft coal. The engineers will meet in Brevoort Hall, in Fifty-fourth street, and the firemen in Military Hall on the Bowery. The real object of the meetings is to see if the unions cannot help the striking anthracite miners by refusing to handle soft coal on the ground that to do so would be to violate a city ordinance. It is not believed that the engineers and firemen will take any such action.

Only two wholesale coal firms have put in bids for supplying the public schools of Brooklyn and Queens with coal for the year ending May, 1903, and these bids averaged about $1.25 per ton higher than the last bids for these same contracts, which were opened three weeks ago and were thrown out because the dealers inserted a "strike clause" in them. No awards will be made until the end of the month.

The *Coal Trade Journal* in its issue of to-day will say among other things concerning the local supply of anthracite:

"The large dealers in Manhattan and The Bronx generally have the smallest stocks on hand and the small dealers are the ones who are supplied with the largest proportionate quantity as regards the needs of their trade. Two weeks appears to be the average limit of stocks on hand.

"In Brooklyn from three to five dealers have particularly large stocks on hand and the others have enough, based on the moderate requirements of the season, to last about a month. The best supplied have coal enough for two or three months' business. All demands of family trade have so far been met."

CONSPIRACY ARRESTS MADE.

Peace Justice, Constable and Others Charged With Closing a Mine.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., June 3.—Charged with conspiracy, Justice of the Peace Robert Crammer, constable George Derk, Daniel Long and Daniel Feese of Mahanoy were arraigned before Justice Schwartz of this place this afternoon on information preferred by William H. Llewellyn, proprietor of the Maus Colliery in Mahanoy. He charges that when the miners' strike was declared he was allowed to continue working, but recently the accused and several other men ordered him to shut down the operation.

Further than that, he alleges they went to the homes of his employees and warned them to stay away from work. Several men started for work, and it is charged they were stopped by the defendants' threats. They went back home fearful of trouble and since that time the colliery has been idle.

The operation, when working employs twelve men and boys and was the last to be tied up. While working during the strike coal was mined for local consumption.

Coal Strike Closes Blast Furnaces.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, June 3.—The latest information from the Mahoning and Shenango valleys indicates that thirteen iron furnaces have gone out of blast owing to the strike in the coal region. These are all outside of the United States Steel Corporation and are comparatively small stacks. This leaves in blast in the valleys thirteen stacks, with an average capacity of 500 tons a day. The majority of the stacks affected were producing Bessemer and basic iron.

HOMESICK, BUT FEARED THE SEA

So Mrs. Mayer's Hungarian Servant Killed Herself With Carbolic Acid.

Anna Zahn, a servant in the employ of Mrs. Fannie Mayer of 308 West 122d street, was found dying in the cellar there yesterday morning by Mrs. Mayer's daughter. The woman was dead before an ambulance could be called. The ambulance surgeon said she had taken carbolic acid. She came here from Hungary three years ago, and was homesick, but was afraid to go back over the sea.

U. S. Grant Post Invited to Alabama.

Former Governor Thomas G. Jones of Alabama, who is now a United States District Judge, Mrs. Jones and their son and daughter spent a pleasant day in Brooklyn on Monday as the guests of U. S. Grant Post No. 327, G. A. R. Before leaving Judge Jones invited the post to visit Montgomery, Ala., promising a handsome reception by the residents of the city and the Confederate camp.

Promotion for Capt. Todd.

Capt. Charles Griswold Todd of Company K, Twenty-third Regiment, in Brooklyn, has been elected Major of the Second Battalion as the successor of Major William Arthur Stokes, who has been promoted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy. Major Stokes has been connected with the regiment since June, 1880.

Westchester County Property to Let or for Sale.

Surprising results are often realized in departing from well-beaten paths. Bear this in mind when placing your advertising. If your properties are really desirable, among THE SUN'S readers may be found a purchaser or tenant by your making known through the advertising columns your locality and its advantages. See Sunday SUN.—Adv.

MINE OPERATORS DETERMINED

WILL PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY AT ALL HAZARDS.

Coal Strikers Have Succeeded in Flooding the Reading's Mines—Men Will Be Brought at Once to Pump Them Out—Violence Feared—Mean Attacks on Women and Children of Those Men Who Are at Work—Mitchell's Great Concern Over the Coal and Iron Police—Petty Violence in Many Places.

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., June 3.—The general situation in the great anthracite coal strike remains practically as it was twenty-four hours ago. All the pumps that remained manned and running at the end of the first day of the strike of the engineers, firemen and pumpmen, who were at work yesterday, were at work to-day. Mr. Mitchell, President of the United Mine Workers' Union, says that a considerable percentage of the old men who failed to go out yesterday were out to-day. The operators say that many of their old men were at work at the end of the second day of the strike than were at work on Monday evening, the end of the first day.

In the upper region of the coal fields, including the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre districts, practically all the pumps are going, much as though there were no such things known as strikes. In the middle or Hazleton region there is here and there a mine where the strike has stopped the pumping and the mines are beginning to fill with water. In the lower, or Schuylkill region, the United Mine Workers seem, for the time being at least, to have really made some progress in preventing the mine owners from protecting their property from destruction by flood.

The Reading Company in this region has something like forty mines, in practically all of which pumping has ceased. In and around Shenandoah hardly a pump is going. It is estimated that it will take something like a thousand men to man the engines, boilers and pumps of the Reading Company alone.

Not for a moment is it to be supposed that the Reading company is going to sit complacently by and see thousands of dollars worth of property lost without an effort to save it. Mr. Luther, the manager of that company, declines to say what is going to be done, but that something will be done is inevitable, and what can be done? Import men who are not members of Mr. Mitchell's union who will do the work which the men who are members of Mr. Mitchell's union refuse to do. There will be no trouble in getting all the men that are wanted. The wages are good and the labor is not arduous.

The jobs which the engineers, firemen and pumpmen threw up at the command of the union are jobs which in times of industrial peace are eagerly sought for. In the present circumstances they will be especially attractive. In addition to good wages, free board and free lodging will be thrown in. There will not be the slightest difficulty in getting plenty of willing hands to man all the idle pumps and pumping machinery. Any day now may see a sudden advent of outsiders for this purpose and then the pumps will be set going again and the danger of the mines being flooded will be averted.

BURDEN TO BE LIFTED FROM MITCHELL.

This, of course will be very gratifying to Mr. Mitchell. He said with much energy of emphasis yesterday that he did not want to see the mines flooded. He conveyed the impression that it would be a source of real distress to him should such a thing occur. Therefore he will rejoice to see the places of his strikers filled by outsiders and the pumps set merrily at it again. He does not want to see the mines flooded and it was quite a problem how he would order the men who were keeping them from being flooded to quit work and at the same time prevent the mines from being flooded. And here, in the importation of a thousand or so non-union men, is a way straight out of the dilemma. It will quite lift a burden from Mr. Mitchell's mind when these outsiders arrive and go to work.

Of course, the idea of molesting these new arrivals will never for a moment enter into the Mine Workers' Union's calculations. Mr. Mitchell says all the reason the engineers, pumpmen and firemen were called out was to line them up with the rest of the union. It was unfortunate that their employment was in preventing property from being destroyed, but there was no alternative. They had to come out. It was an integral part of the strategy of the strike. That was all. The move in no manner meant an attempt to destroy property. But, of course, it would be quite another thing, now that with more or less success the strategic move is accomplished if an attempt were made to molest or threaten or interfere with those who are called on to take up the responsible task of protecting property which Mr. Mitchell's strikers threw down.

To do this would be as much an attempt to destroy property as it would be to attack, interfere with or threaten men who are working to put out a house that is on fire. Mr. Mitchell, of course, feels keenly the hopeless plight in which his union would appear before the bar of public opinion should its members share or sympathize with outrages of that kind.

There is no doubt Mr. Mitchell is fully alive to this. He is sensitive even at the base thought that the possibility of such a course could cross the minds of his strikers.

He seems to think that the presence of the Coal and Iron Police are an insinuation of some such suspicion against his men. That, of course, is the reason why he chafes so at their presence, although in reality they are very inoffensive. Certain large plants are deserted by the men who worked in them. The companies have hired men to protect them, not against Mr. Mitchell's strikers, of course, for he says they are law-abiding, but against persons who are lawless and given to wanton destruction.

MITCHELL IMITATED.

Yet the presence of these guards seems singularly to annoy Mr. Mitchell. He attacked them in his formal statement of yesterday and he attacked them still more bitterly in an interview to-day. In the interview to-day he said:

"It is queer to see a lot of men, the majority of whom are absolutely irresponsible persons, garbed in the blue and brass of Coal and Iron police, stalking about the mines with guns on their arms, while the strikers without have no thought of damaging the property of their employers. The power vested in the Coal and Iron police is not generally known. They are as much the private standing army of the operators as were the serfs of feudal barons. A ridiculous State law, which has been taken advantage of by the anthracite operators has made it possible for them, at such time as this, to arm a mob of disreputable men who will incite more trouble than they will prevent.

"In the strike two years ago these men actually visited the homes of strikers and compelled the poor ignorant fellows, by a show of authority and brass buttons to report to work at collieries against their will. The State fosters this system, that might well shame the most tyrannical Russian laws.

"A Coal and Iron policeman has the power of a Philadelphia policeman and he is responsible to the operator who pays him. If ever there was a law on the books of a free country that should be wiped out, it is the statute that created the Coal and Iron police. I have looked into this matter the past week and have had advice upon it I propose to look into it further."

Notwithstanding Mr. Mitchell's sensitiveness on the subject of coal and Iron Police there are many here to-night who are gloomily apprehensive that the day is not far distant when the police will be called upon to act in defence of the property which they are employed to protect. The situation in the Schuylkill region is one that is clearly pregnant of grave possibilities. Everybody does not share Mr. Mitchell's abiding faith in the self-restraint of his strikers. They believe that just as soon as the Reading people begin to man their pumps with outsiders, there will be trouble, and, in all human possibility, bloodshed.

This crisis is liable to be precipitated at any day and any hour. The company has made no movement yet, but no one believes that it is idle. When it acts the expectation is that it will act quickly and with decisive vigor. Then it will be seen whether Mr. Mitchell's strikers are sincere or not in the desire to protect property and to prevent the mines from being flooded which Mr. Mitchell, as their leader, expresses. It is the expectation that if they have had a chance to do so, they will attack non-union men, who come to man the pumps at sight. If they do this and the inevitable clash and probable bloodshed ensues, then Mr. Mitchell will be reaping the logical consequences of the sad tactical blunder he made in calling out from their work men whose occupation was merely to protect property from destruction, an occupation that in no manner touches the merits of Mr. Mitchell's contention with the coal operators.

To attack the operators, by even a strike, when they are making no attempt to mine coal, but only trying to protect their property, was an error grave and far reaching. To carry this attack to the point of interfering by threat or deed with those whom the operators may bring on to protect their property, when the men of the union would not protect it, will be little less than sheer madness. Those who wish Mr. Mitchell's strike to be a failure could not imagine a step on his part that they would more prefer him to take than precisely the step he did take when he ordered off the men who were protecting mining property. If to this error is added the insanity of attacking those who may endeavor to take the places of those thus ordered off, then the ground from under Mr. Mitchell's feet will be crumbling indeed, and it is almost beyond a peradventure that this week will decide whether that fatal step on the part of the strikers is to be taken or avoided.

NO STOCKADES FOR READING MINES.

The mines of the Reading company are more open to attack than are those of most of the other coal concerns. The high stockades, capped with three or four feet of barbed wire, which other companies put around their properties, the Reading people for some reason have omitted. It is true that there has been some division of opinion among mining property managers as to the value of stockades. For one thing employees must enter and leave at certain fixed points. It is possible for the hostile element to concentrate and make trouble at the points.

On the other hand in a case like the present, where a long strike seems inevitable, the situation, in its general features, is something like a siege. Men to insure the best results must be boarded and lodged within the stockade where they work. On the part of men with families in the neighborhood this is hard, but in such cases the life of the family of a man who chooses to work against the wishes of the union is so wretched already that it is all but unendurable. If a man of family resolutely sticks to his job until this war is over, it can hardly be otherwise than that his family will have to move away.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN THREATENED.

Already the cowardly work of threatening women and children who are husbands and fathers who are at work has begun. There are instances where officials of the union, whose identity is fully established, have gone repeatedly to women and told them that if the husband did not stop work he would be murdered. It is quite possible to inaugurate a silent but none the less effective reign of terror of this sort, and there are certain signs in the air that this time-honored strike method is being inaugurated. To men within a stockade who either have no families or whose families are at a distance, this weapon would be powerless.

In view of all this the preponderance of opinion among the men in the upper and middle anthracite region has been in favor of stockades, and everywhere stockades are in evidence. In fact, to the visitors arriving here from New York over the Lehigh Valley, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western or the Jersey Central, their presence on every hand is about the only external evidence that what promises to be the bitterest industrial warfare in the history of the anthracite region is actually on.

In discussing the situation in the Schuylkill region to-day the opinion has been expressed here that the Reading company would build stockades about their mines before they attempted to man the pumps. In that event the crisis in that region would be postponed for a few days. There are those, too, who believe that with that precaution the results would be less serious than they would be were an attempt made to pump mines that were open and unscreened.

Thus far the demonstrations on the part of the strikers have been either trivial or underhanded such as the threatening of women whose husbands are employed. There was some stoning of men here in the limits of Wilkes-Barre last night, but it is understood that the attention of the Mayor has been called to that and that he will hereafter afford police protection in places where such episodes are liable to occur.

The representatives of the coal companies here are resolutely silent as to their movements, but there is reason to believe that they have left no step untaken by way of notices to the proper officials which will relieve the authorities from any of the responsibilities which will properly fall upon them in case there are outbreaks of violence.

Mr. Mitchell this evening issued this statement:

Detailed reports from all quarters of the anthracite field indicate that the number of engineers, firemen and pumpmen who ceased work yesterday were considerably increased to-day, and the probabilities that it will be further augmented to-morrow. There have been no violations of law on the part of the strikers and our previous claim that last week, that the mine workers would be law-abiding, have been more than verified by the events of yesterday and to-day.

The coal strike is remarkable in many respects. Were it not for the fact that the coal companies have a veritable army of private guards and Coal and Iron Police employed, there would be no exterior evidences that a great industrial contest was being waged. We are sure that the splendid conduct of the men and boys who are engaged in this great, silent and passive struggle for at least a small share of our country's prosperity must commend itself to all well disposed persons. JOHN MITCHELL.

Mr. Mitchell went to Scranton to-night where a determined effort is to be made to get the men who still persist in manning the pumping machinery in that region to quit. His visit was the result of a conference this afternoon with President Nichols of the United Mine Workers, District No. 1.

The first gunshot of the war was fired in the suburbs of Wilkes-Barre about dusk this evening. Michael Toole has a younger brother, Patrick, who works in No. 5 Colliery of the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company. Michael was afraid Patrick might be hurt in returning from work this evening and went out to the colliery to escort him home. Both of them were hooted and stoned by strikers. A stone hit Michael on the head, whereupon he drew a revolver and fired. He did not hit any one, but was arrested and locked up.

GIRLS GET MIXED UP IN THE ROW.

The Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley Traction Company has now been drawn into the trouble. Factory girls did it. When a number of the girls who work in the lace mills here in town went to get on the trolley car at Miners' Mills to come to work this morning they were shocked to observe that a number of non-striking men from the night shift of a neighboring colliery were passengers.

They haughtily refused to ride with "scabs." They waited for another car and were half an hour late at work. At noon they waited on Supt. Wright of the traction company and demanded that no "scabs" be permitted to ride on the cars of the company, under pain of loss of their patronage. Supt. Wright told the girls that he would take the matter under consideration.

Miners Mills is a hotbed of strike enthusiasm and latent devilry. It was announced yesterday that the strikers there would go on a "March" this evening. The march has now been postponed until to-morrow night. A fife and drum corps has been engaged and it is said that something like 1,000 men and boys with very likely a sprinkling of women will be in line. The route mapped out is about four miles long and the programme includes hooting at "scabs" and Coal and Iron Police.

But the trouble with these marches is that the programme generally has impromptu enlargement as it goes on. From such marches has grown in the past violence and bloodshed.

STOCKADE ATTACKED IN WILKES-BARRE.

The most serious disturbance since the strike began occurred about 9 o'clock this evening at the Stanton shaft of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Company within the city limits of Wilkes-Barre. In this case there was a direct attack upon the stockade surrounding the company's property, which was set on fire and a gap several feet long burned through it.

A police alarm was sent in and Chief Jones and a force of policemen responded. Before they got there the crowd had turned their attention to a large watchman's shanty upon a culm bank, which was set on fire and burned to the ground. A fire alarm was turned in and the engines stopped the spread of the flames to the culm bank and the remainder of the stockade. The mob had all scattered before the police got there, and no arrests were made. No shots were fired and no one was hurt.

STATEMENT BY OPERATORS.

The operators this evening authorized the following statement:

There have as yet been no serious disturbances of the peace in this section, though the usual mean tactics have been resorted to of reviling the men as they proceeded to and from their lawful work, and more meanly still of making the helpless wives and children of the men at work the butt of still more unpleasant remarks. Of course, a great deal of stone-throwing has been indulged in at some points, and the perpetrators have taken good care to hide themselves behind fences or stone piles so that their identity might not be discovered. Only one man, however, as yet has been seriously injured, and his case has been placed in the hands of the authorities.

The operators feel that their men need protection going to and from work, and this they will afford them in spite of any abuse that may be heaped on them. They look on the statement of President Mitchell issued this evening as the purest kind of buncombe and as begging the question.

The work of intimidation is known to him. While the men from the Hollenback colliery were stoned and hooted at last night not a sign of trouble appeared to-night. The Mayor of the city has been appealed to and he in turn had spoken to Mr. Mitchell who had sent his men out to warn the strikers that the Hollenback men must not be interfered with.

The meeting at Nanticoke this morning from which so much was expected in getting the men from the Susquehanna Coal Company's mine was attended by just seven persons and these declined to say what decision had been arrived at. Men in this district are more than willing to fire or take charge of pumps if only it can be at a distance from their old works so that their neighbors cannot jeer at them. This jeering is considered one of the nastiest weapons in the hands of the strikers and to some extent the most effective.

From Scranton comes the news that the men are perfectly willing to work, but are being subjected to the old forms of intimidation and coercion which have nearly approached violence on men going to and from work.

The operators are more than ever determined to protect the men who stay by them, and while somewhat troubled by the actions of some officials who are sworn to preserve the peace, are determined that protection shall be afforded at all hazards, and it is probable that some officials who are not disposed to help in preserving the peace may be called by high authority to explain why.

MINERS MARCH NEAR HAZLETON.

HAZLETON, Pa., June 3.—A miners' march occurred to-day from Silver Brook to Audenried by way of McAdoo. It was feared that Audenried No. 4 colliery would be attacked and fifteen special officers were sent to that place by special train. A crowd of women numbering several hundred surrounded the colliery, and the officials, fearing trouble, withdrew the officers. Last night miners marched from Neuremburg to Oneida and made a demonstration.

SCRANTON, Pa., June 3.—President Nichols of the District Miners' Union gave out an interview here to-day in which he claimed a great victory and asserted that a great number of the steam men who remained at work yesterday left their places to-day, and that the Lackawanna, the Delaware and Hudson and the Ontario and Western companies were greatly crippled. All this appeared to be true on the surface, but when inquiry was made at the mines and at the various company offices it was found that while some men who were at work yesterday were not out to-day, many of the men who quit work yesterday turned to their places this morning.

PLENTY OF MEN FOR HERE.

Two More Agencies for Coal Workers Opened Here—President's Satisfied.

Two new agencies were opened here yesterday to hire able-bodied men for work as Coal and Iron police, pumpmen, engineers and firemen in the anthracite mining districts. One of these agencies was in the basement of the Occidental Hotel on the Bowery. There were plenty of applicants, but it was a typical Bowery crowd and though many were called few were chosen.

The hotel proprietor did not like the kind of notoriety the agency was bringing to his place and finally had it closed up. The other agency was at the Crystal Hotel in Greenwich street. There firemen only were engaged.

The biggest business was done at the agency in Ann street. One of the men hired there said that the agent could get probably all the men he wanted.

"In the summer months," said he, "about five thousand engineers and firemen are thrown idle. I myself had a good place in an apartment house in West Fifty-fourth street as an engineer and lost it. I can't afford to remain idle for three months."

George F. Barr, President of the Reading Railroad, was in this city yesterday and had a talk with some of the other Presidents of the coal carrying roads. President Truesdale of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, and President Olyphant of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company said that the mines were properly protected. They were getting all the pumpmen, engineers and firemen they needed, and were satisfied with the situation.

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