

# 1,100 DEAD IN MINE

## AWFUL CATASTROPHE IN A FRENCH COAL PIT.

**Eighteen Hundred Men Were at Work, About Six Hundred Rescued, Many of Them Badly Hurt—Rest Probably Dead of Asphyxiation.**

Paris, March 12.—The worst fears as to the enormity of the mine disaster in the Courrieres district of the Pas de Calais have been realized. The death list numbers 1,100 and the whole of the region stands appalled at the terrible tragedy which has brought sorrow to 6,000 fathers, mothers, wives and children. The last great mine disaster in France occurred in 1885, when 293 persons were killed and eighty injured, but that and all others sink into insignificance before Courrieres. Four hundred soldiers have arrived at the mine to assist in holding in check the crowds of distracted mourners. For a time hope had been held out to the people that tappings on pipes by the imprisoned men had been heard, but gradually this hope vanished, and the people demanded admission to see the bodies, and even threatened to break through the cordon of troops, who had the greatest difficulty in keeping the crowds from the pit. One man named Sylvestra succeeded in entering the mine, but he never returned. It is believed he groped about inside until he was overcome by the gasses and perished. It is reported that a rescue party, numbering forty, has been cut off by the caving in of one of the galleries.

Ministers Gauthier and Dubief have received complete details of the catastrophe from M. Bavants, the director of the mine. "Of 1,800 miners who were down in the pits when the explosion occurred," he said, "673 were working in pit No. 4, 482 were in pit No. 3, 571 in pit No. 2, and the remainder in pit No. 10. Those rescued were taken out as follows: From pit No. 4, 190; from pit No. 3, 15 escaped through pit No. 11; 490 came up from pit No. 2, and 74 from pit No. 10. A number of these were injured and some of them have died since. At the present moment 1,100 men remain imprisoned."

For the time being the mine building has been transformed into a mortuary chamber and all about it lie the carbonized and almost unrecognizable bodies of miners which were taken there as they were brought up from the mine.

Several miners have come up from pit No. 11, which is connected with pit No. 3. They effected their escape by means of a ladder, and as they came from the mouth of the pit they appeared to be bordering on madness. All of them were more or less injured. When asked about their comrades, one of them said: "It is horrible. All of them are dead."

A young miner who escaped from pit No. 4, where about 560 men remain, said: "I was working about fifty feet from the shaft. Suddenly I felt a puff of hot gas, and started towards the shaft. I succeeded in reaching the cage and came up in it. After the blast I neither heard nor saw more of my companions and I believe that all in that gallery in which I was working are dead."

Another miner said: "It is indescribable. Everything was demolished or has fallen in. I saw bodies lying in piles."

Replying to an inquiry as to whether hope remained for the finding of more men alive in the mine, an engineer who had been down the shaft said: "It is scarcely possible. The state of the galleries is such that clearing them will be a difficult task, while the flames were so fierce that many of the victims must have been reduced to ashes."

The recovery of bodies is proceeding very slowly. Only sixty were brought up, but the rescuers reported that 100 more had been found.

An attempt is being made to reach the miners entombed in pit No. 3, via pit No. 2, which communicate with each other, but there is faint hope of success in this direction. The mining company is arranging to take a census of the surrounding mining villages in order to ascertain who is missing from them, as several communes have been almost denuded of able-bodied men. The funerals of the victims will begin tomorrow, when services will be held in all the village churches in the vicinity of the mines.

**Agitation Against Russian Jews.**  
St. Petersburg, March 12.—Some of the reactionary organizations are pushing the agitation against the radical elements to a dangerous point. A "League of the Russian People" held a service in the Alexandrovsky monastery to celebrate the manifesto of March 8 as a victory for the old regime. Later at the Horse Guard menage the fighting society of the same organization held a public meeting and listened to inflammatory speeches by Dr. Doubrovnik and Professor Nickelsky, two extremist lead-

ers, at which the orators openly summoned their followers, the Black Hundreds, to kill the Jews and hang Count Witte.

**Confesses to Killing Uncle.**  
Pagosa Springs, Colo., March 12.—An armed guard has been placed around the jail here to prevent the lynching of Oral Weir, who has confessed to having murdered his uncle, Joseph Weir. Weir's money and drafts were found in the young man's possession.

### FAIL TO CAP GAS GUSHER.

**Immense Hood Thurst Aside by Mighty Rush of Flame.**  
Caney, Kan., March 12.—Another attempt to harness the huge burning gas well six miles from here with a great iron hood, upon which a week of preparation had been spent, failed. The hood, with its attached pipes and weights, weighing more than thirty-five tons, was thrust aside, bent and broken by the mighty rush of gas and flame. The cap was placed partially over the stream of fire only after strenuous efforts and at great hardship to the men, who suffered intensely from the heat. Following the effort the gas spouted from the well with renewed force, expelling rocks and shooting a flame over 150 feet into the air. Several thousand spectators, drawn by the unusual spectacle, came to Caney from all directions, the railways running in excursion trains. The well has now been burning for fifteen days, and millions of feet of gas have been burned.

Efforts to conquer the flames are again under way. It has been decided to stick to the hood plan. The hood blown asunder Saturday night is being rebuilt, with two tons of steel added to its weight, strengthening every point where possible weakness is suspected. A fire brigade is being organized and an additional pump installed, and arrangements will be made to turn twelve large streams of water upon the hood when the next effort is made to cap the fountain of fire.

### KILL UNITED STATES MARSHALS.

**Pitched Battle With Indian Outlaws Results Fatally to Officers.**

Vinita, I. T., March 13.—One hundred armed men have gone into the Cherokee country in pursuit of the Wickliffe band of Indian outlaws, who on Sunday afternoon, thirty-one miles southeast of Vinita, ambushed a United States marshal's posse of six men, killing one and wounding another. The dead man is Deputy Sheriff I. L. Gilstrap, the wounded man Dick Terry, posseman, shot through the body, not fatally. Reports of the fight, which took place in the settlement of the Nighthawk band of Cherokee Indians, fullbloods who refuse allotments, live by hunting and speak little English—are conflicting. The first report brought in by a surviving posseman, was that three of his comrades were killed and that only the three Wickliffe brothers were engaged on the other side. A later report is that eleven Indians resisted the posse. The Wickliffes killed Deputy Marshal Vier about a year and a half ago and the officers have been on their trail ever since. A posse of six men, who were pursuing the outlaws, overtook them and a hot fight ensued.

### OLD MURDER IS REVEALED.

**Body of Englishman Unearthed by Coyotes in South Dakota.**

Sioux Falls, S. D., March 12.—A mystery which the authorities are endeavoring to solve is as to who was responsible for the death of Hy Young, an Englishman with high connections in England, whose remains were found near the ranch established by him in Butte county.

Young several years ago arrived in Butte county with a small herd of horses, which he ranged along Grand river and in the "breaks" back from that stream. As a motive for his assassination it is said that he became possessed of information which would cause trouble to parties in that region if divulged to the authorities. It has been learned that shortly before the disappearance of Young from the neighborhood some of these parties formed a posse with the intention of proceeding to Young's home and killing him.

The crime would never have been revealed had not coyotes been drawn to the spot and partially uncovered the skeleton, thus assisting justice in the effort to avenge what was one of the most cold-blooded murders in the history of South Dakota.

### Susan B. Anthony is Dead.

Rochester, N. Y., March 13.—The long and eventful life of Susan B. Anthony closed at 12:40 o'clock this morning. The end came peacefully. Miss Anthony had been unconscious practically for twenty-four hours, and her death had been momentarily expected since Sunday night. Only her wonderful constitution kept her alive. Dr. M. S. Ricker, her attending physician, said Miss Anthony died of heart failure, induced by double pneumonia. She had had serious valvular heart trouble for the last six or seven

years. Her lungs were practically clear, and the pneumonia had yielded to treatment, but the weakness of her heart prevented her recovery.

### Gag Well Again Burning.

Caney, Kan., March 14.—The great gas well six miles from here, which was capped with a huge iron hood after it had burned without restraint for seventeen days, consuming millions of feet of gas, has burst forth again. After having confined the fire for twelve hours, the hood was perforated by the tremendous force of sand and flame beneath it, and soon became a heap of scrap iron.

### Some Stock Lost in Wyoming Storm.

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 14.—The weather is moderating and the big storm of the past few days is disappearing. Reports from the ranges tell of some losses of sheep and cattle. The Campstool company, east of Cheyenne, is reported to have lost 600 sheep, and trainmen coming in from the west report seeing a band of about 6,000 dead sheep near Wamsutter.

### VICTORY FOR CHICAGO.

**Supreme Court Hands Down Decision in Street Car Franchise Case.**

Chicago, March 13.—By the decision of the United States supreme court just handed down the city of Chicago obtains almost complete control of the local traction situation. The decision sustains the acts of the state legislature extending the life of the charters of the street railway companies to ninety-nine years, but does not sustain the contention of the companies that contract rights which are limited to fewer years than remain to the charter life of the companies are also extended. Contracts or ordinances of the city limiting the use of the streets by the companies are upheld, and the rights of the companies in the streets are held to expire according to the expressed terms of the ordinances. In its effect the decision leaves the Union Traction company without any right whatever, other than by sufferance, in the streets of the north division of the city.

It leaves the Union Traction company in the west division without rights excepting where the ordinances contain a purchase clause.

It leaves the Chicago City Railway company, which operates all the street car lines on the south side of the city, without right excepting where their ordinances contain a purchase clause.

### TO SIMPLIFY ENGLISH SPELLING.

**Board Contains Thirty Members and Carnegie Will Bear Expense.**

New York, March 12.—Announcement was made that an organization, including prominent men of affairs as well as leading men of letters, has been formed to urge the simplification of English spelling. This new body is called the simplified spelling board. It will appeal to all who for educational or practical reasons wish to make English spelling easier to acquire. Andrew Carnegie has generously undertaken to bear the expense of the organization. Mr. Carnegie has long been convinced that English might be made the world language of the future, and thus one of the influences leading to universal peace, and he believes that the chief obstacle to its speedy adoption is to be found in its contradictory and difficult spelling. The board contains thirty members and the name of Chancellor Andrews of Nebraska heads the list.

### Senate Passes Statehood Bill.

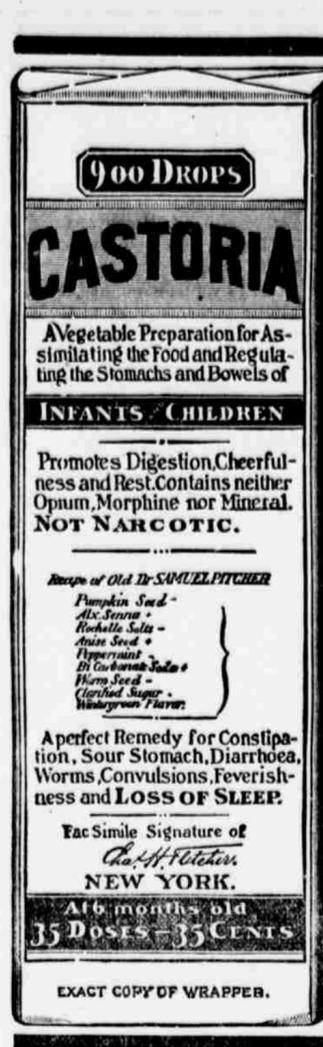
Washington, March 10.—The senate passed a bill for the admission of a new state, to be called Oklahoma and to be composed of the territory of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. It was the house joint statehood bill, with all the provisions relating to Arizona and New Mexico stricken out. The motion to strike out was made by Burrows and it was carried by the close vote of 37 to 35, after having been lost by the still closer vote of 35 to 36.

### Witnesses Must Answer.

Washington, March 13.—In an opinion by Justice McKenna, the supreme court of the United States, decided the cases against witnesses in the paper trust cases against them, holding that they should answer the questions propounded to them in the proceedings against the alleged trust, brought by the government.

### Bishop Potter to Succeed Leonard.

Cleveland, March 12.—Rt. Rev. William A. Leonard, Episcopal bishop of Ohio, who has for some years had charge of the American Episcopal churches of Europe and who recently resigned that charge, was notified that Bishop Potter of New York had been selected to fill his position.



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### BRIDE KILLS HER FRIEND.

**Mrs. Effie Jelly Accidentally Kills Mrs. Jotter at Fort Niobrara.**

Fort Niobrara, Neb., March 13.—Miss Effie Randall and Andrew Jelly were married Saturday and returned Sunday to the post. A few friends went to charivari them, one of the party being Mrs. Jotter. At 9 o'clock Mrs. Jelly took a revolver from under the pillow of the bed of Mr. Randall, her father, and pulled the trigger. The gun snapped three times and on the fourth time the shell exploded, passing into the back and through the heart of Mrs. Jotter and then through the coat of Mr. Randall.

Mrs. Jotter died immediately, exclaiming, "I'm shot!" The women have been close friends. The revolver formerly belonged to Mrs. Jotter's husband, who took carbolic acid by accident in 1903. At the inquest a verdict of accidental shooting was returned. Mrs. Jelly is prostrated.

### BAD BLAZE AT LIBERTY.

**Town Without Fire Protection Visited by Fire Which Destroys Four Stores.**

Beatrice, Neb., March 13.—The most destructive fire in the history of Liberty, this county, wiped out four of the leading business houses of the town, entailing a loss estimated at between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

The fire was discovered in the rear of Goldberg's department store. As the town is without means of fire protection the flames spread rapidly and quickly communicated to Moore's drug store. This place was consumed in a short time and the flames then spread to Bawhay's hardware and furniture store and Corbin's large department store. Before these places caught fire the whole town turned out to fight the flames, but the intense cold made fire fighting extremely difficult. The entire block was destroyed before the flames were subdued and the citizens of the town had the hardest kind of work to prevent the fire from spreading to other parts of the business district. The losses are estimated as follows: Corbin, \$10,000; Moore, \$4,000; Goldberg, \$8,000; Bawhay, \$11,000. About half the loss is covered by insurance.

### Tax Cases Set for Hearing.

Washington, March 13.—Chief Justice Fuller set Oct. 9 as the date when the supreme court will hear the case of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad against F. C. Babcock, county treasurer of Adams county, Nebraska. Last Monday Attorney General Norris Brown appeared before the supreme court and moved that these cases, generally known as the Nebraska tax cases, be advanced on the docket. The result is that the case will come up for argument Oct. 9.

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