

# YELLOWSTONE MONITOR



Volume 4—No. 40

GLEN DIVE, MONTANA, THURSDAY, NOV. 26, 1908

Twelve Pages

OUR AIM: TO PUBLISH A NEWSPAPER.

## MINE DISASTER AT RED LODGE

Fire Breaks Out and Causes Horror Similar to That Which Occurred in Year 1906.

Red Lodge, Nov. 20.—After checking up all of the men who were known to have been at work in the mine at the time that fire was discovered there at 10 o'clock today, the officers of the Northwestern Improvement company late tonight announced that there were three known dead and that six men were missing. The latter have been given up as dead.

It was at first feared that the death list would go far beyond that, but prompt work on the part of the men who were not caught by the flames effected the rescue of many of their imprisoned comrades.

At a late hour tonight the fire is still raging in the mine, and it is impossible for the rescuers to enter the shaft.

The missing miners attempted to escape by the No. 2 entry. In that portion of the mine the fire is raging fiercest.

The fire was started by the lights on the caps of the miners, and tonight it was still unchecked. The damage will be very heavy. The fire itself is said to be confined to a small area, but the gases and smoke have spread to various workings.

The company operating the Red Lodge mines is one of the largest concerns of the kind in the West. The officers of the Northern Pacific control the company, which supplies that road with fuel. Most of the miners employed are of foreign birth.

A similar disaster at this property in 1906 cost the lives of eight miners. Many of the rescued men were overcome by smoke and gases when brought to the surface, but it is said that all of them will probably recover. The names of the missing are not known.

The bodies recovered have been identified. They are: Samuel Gaspers, John H. Madison, Andrew G. Gorkila.

For three hours after the accident men worked with might and main to rescue their comrades and at 1 o'clock seven men were taken out, some of them unconscious. The work continued in the face of the greatest difficulty and at midnight there was every reason to believe that the fatalities would not exceed nine.

After being walled up for 19 hours supposedly in such a manner that it would never break through into the east side mine, flames forced their way into what is known as slope No. 2 this morning at 10 o'clock and entombed 70 men. By heroic efforts it is believed that all but nine of this number were rescued. Three were brought out after life had become extinct and six are known to be still in the mine. Their fate has not been determined. The mine is now in flames, although streams of water have been playing on the burning coal for hours. All night and tomorrow and the next day if need be the work will go on, until the men are rescued alive or dead.

The general opinion is that the men still entombed are dead. The company is spending every effort to reach the spot where they were last seen. Led by Foreman William Haggerty, who was one of the first men to reach the surface, scores of miners and citizens from all walks of life rushed into the gas and smoke which filled the tunnel, not stopping to consider the danger which threatened them in case they were overcome by the deadly fumes.

Against the statements of the officers of the company that their were

only six missing, many of the rescued men insisted that there were more than that number still entombed.

There was little hope that the men would be found alive, but that did not halt the work in the slightest. There was the fighting chance that they might have survived in a manner that no one dared to predict. The bare possibility threw all hesitation to the winds.

Through the town during the day and far into the night there raged intense excitement. The panic-stricken women and children were with difficulty controlled even by the strong force of deputy sheriffs that was quickly called out and who formed a cordon around the shaft of the blazing mine.

Against the line of officers half-crazed women, some with children dragging at their skirts, hurled themselves again and again, demanding to know if the one man in each case had been found. Some times there would be a shriek of joy when it was learned that he had escaped. For others there was no comfort.

When the word went forth that 70 men were entombed alive and the mine on fire the scene which followed can hardly be described, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, rushed to the tunnel and would have plunged in to try and save their dear ones but for the presence of Sheriff Bachelor and several deputies, who held them back. The first impression was that white damp had overcome the men, and few, if any, would escape with their lives. The first reports coming from the bottom of the mine were most sensational.

At a late hour tonight at least 16 men are unconscious yet, and some of the miners declared that there are more than this number still entombed in the mine. Until the fire has again been safely walled up the men will not return to work.

In all there were about 20 men who were brought out in a critical condition from inhaling the gases. Among them were Mine Foreman Haggerty and John T. Flaherty, a head tracklayer, and while badly overcome they have practically recovered. Ed. Dean was brought out in the most critical condition of any of the miners rescued, but the physicians are confident that he will recover.

It is estimated that at least 130 men were employed in this entry. That it was not one of the most appalling disasters in loss of life in the mines of Eastern Montana was due to the prompt action of mine officials and the effective work of a large number of miners who promptly went to the rescue of their fellow men when the fire was discovered.

## STATE LAND OFFICE TURNS OVER RECEIPTS

Helena, Nov. 17.—The register of the state land office has just turned over to the state treasurer \$16,385.46, receipts of his department for the first half of November. Mr. Schmit stated to the correspondent of The Monitor that on account of the recent action of the state board of land commissioners in connection with the sale of state lands, the amount of unfinished business in his office at present is the smallest for years.

Old papers for sale at the Monitor Office.

## MONTANA WOOL IS SELLING WELL EAST

Montana wool is selling well in the East. Fleeces which were scorned a few months ago are in good demand and the price is advancing rapidly, with the prospect in view that better prices than have been received at any time during the past year will be obtained during the next few months. There is an awakened demand everywhere for the Montana product, which is recognized among manufacturers as being one of the best in the world, having a better staple and being cleaner and more uniform than almost any other wool offered from the range lands.

There is a strong demand for a higher protective tariff everywhere in evidence among the sheepmen. The Utah flockmasters have recently gone on record as being in favor of a higher tariff, and just the other day William Lindsay, one of the best-known residents of Montana and sheep owner known all over the West—at one time being republican candidate for governor of Montana—followed along similar lines. He maintained that the cost of raising wool in Montana is constantly increasing, owing to changed conditions by which the settlers coming in have usurped the rights which the sheepmen used to believe belonged to them because they were won from the cowmen who were once monarchs of all they surveyed because of the killing off of the buffaloes and the confining of the Indians to reservations. A recent Boston dispatch to the New York Commercial has the following resume upon the wool situation, as far as Montana is concerned:

"It is understood that negotiations which have been in progress for some time have been closed, by which the American Woolen company becomes the owner of practically all the graded Montana wools, which have been carried by some of the most extensive dealers in this market. Good judges place the amount of wool taken over at five millions pounds. The prices paid are not disclosed but they are believed to be somewhere between the present asking price of similar wools and the price at which they could have been bought some weeks ago. The deal hung fire for some time because some of the dealers were unwilling to sell at the prices offered by the company. It is understood that negotiations are in progress for other large lines which may go to the same purchaser shortly.

"The amount of wool involved in the transaction, when added to the nine million or ten million pounds conservatively estimated to have been transferred earlier in the week, brings the total week's business up to nearly fifteen million pounds and makes it the record week of the year so far in volume of sales.

"This sale will in all probability give impetus to the strong upward tendency of prices, as it reduces the available supply of staple wools and materially strengthens the market statistically.

"It is hard to hold back the wool" said the seller of one large Boston wool house today, and that expresses the feeling of the market. Dealers are satisfied that their holdings are good property and that prices can go only one way, yet they have been bitterly disappointed in the past by overstaying their market and they are now inclined to yield to the importunities of the manufacturers and let their stock go at a fair price and a fair profit. This market, in spite of recent advances, is still cheap. There seems to be no prospect of any more advantageous terms in foreign markets. Local dealers cannot get any replenishment of supplies in Australia without raising their bids.

"It seems certain, therefore, that

the advance in values can be maintained. Dealers have greatly reduced their stocks and while there is a large amount of consigned wool to be taken it will probably be absorbed gradually by dealers to replenish their lofts, to supply the demand of customers and to be held for a profit. Prices are up now an average of 10 per cent at least from the low point in all markets, foreign and domestic, and locally conditions are far more favorable for a maintenance of values of even a further advance than they usually are at this season. Stocks of good wool are low. Fleeces in particular are scarce and the very large sales of clothing wools the past few weeks have relieved the market of its greatest weakness.

"There are reports in the market of very large transactions in scoured wools, much larger than are made public, much of the business consisting of trading between dealers. Some reports place the aggregate at between one million five hundred thousand and two million pounds. There is a feeling that these wools will sell much higher before spring and that they are a safe speculation. Much of the stock can be used for worsted purposes by means of the French combs. It is evident that the week has been the most active one of the year in these descriptions and the coming week promises to be equally active, as it is said that only a difference of a cent or so a pound in price prevents the consummation of several large trades."—Standard.

## Contagion Stops Shipments

New York, Nov. 20.—Quarantine against interstate shipments of cattle in New York and Pennsylvania was ordered by the Department of Agriculture and simultaneously came word that Great Britain has extended its ban to arrivals from New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The orders are the result of the spread of the foot and mouth disease among the arrivals and will continue until the contagion is under control.

Shipments to foreign ports from New York and Philadelphia were brought to an abrupt close today by the quarantine. The quarantine does not affect ports outside of New York and Philadelphia, except as to cattle from the two states affected by the ruling. Western cattle may still be shipped abroad from either Boston or Baltimore.

While there is not likely to be any local scarcity of beef or rise in prices as a result of the cattle quarantine, the foreign trade undoubtedly will be hampered seriously for a time. Even Canadian cattle received at these ports in bond cannot be reshipped to England, and dealers with such consignments on hand will be forced to send them back, because the duty on Canadian cattle makes their local use prohibitive.

Philadelphia, Nov. 20.—With a cargo of 480 head of cattle the steamer Eastpoint cleared this port for London, England, this afternoon. Captain Beavis, commander of the Eastpoint, was in a quandary after the cattle had been placed aboard his ship, as he did not know whether or not the cattle would be accepted on the other side of the Atlantic. In order to avoid risk he cabled to the board of agriculture at London this morning. The answer came back promptly. "Sail with cattle if you can leave before 12:30 to night. Otherwise discharge cargo."

Washington, Nov. 20.—Alarming results following the outbreak of a contagious foot and mouth disease in New York and Pennsylvania, causing those states to be quarantined against interstate shipments of cattle, etc., were shown today in advices which reached Secretary of Agriculture Wilson stating that four children in Dan-

## EXPLOSION KILLS MANY

Brooklyn Residents Hurlled into Eternity by the Ignition of an Accumulation of Gas.

New York, Nov. 20.—Twenty-five persons are believed to have lost their lives in an explosion of gas which tore up a great section of Gold street, Brooklyn, today. It is definitely known that 15 persons were buried under the hundreds of tons of earth and timber thrown into the air and 10 more are reported as missing. The exact number of dead cannot be determined until tomorrow, for those working to recover the entombed bodies must dig through 50 feet of dirt, rock and a tangle of pipes and timbers.

The explosion occurred in a 50-foot deep excavation that had been made in Gold street between York and Front streets, where a water main was being laid. The gas main recently sprang a leak and in a manner unknown a spark came in contact with the escaping gas. Immediately there was a terrific explosion, which lifted the surface for half a block in both directions and shot dirt, paving stones and debris into the air.

Gold street was crowded with school children when the explosion occurred and that scores were not killed or injured was remarkable. A woman and three children were almost over the excavation when the earth crumbled under their feet and they were swept down into the hole under tons of wreckage. Two other children were on the opposite of the street when the sidewalk caved in and they lost their lives.

When the smoke and dust cleared away it was seen the street had been opened from doorstep to doorstep over an area for nearly a block. The loosened earth and debris had fallen into the excavation, burying the score of laborers who were at work when the accident happened. Great tongues of flames shot from crevices and, besides, geysers of water leaped into the air from a water main that had been shattered by the explosion. Two bodies were sticking out of the wreckage.

Samuel Trout, foreman of the gang of laborers, was near the woman and three children who lost their lives. He rushed forward in an endeavor to save them, but he too was thrown into the hole. His body was the first recovered. It had been roasted almost to a cinder.

Only four of the men working in the excavation escaped and their escape was remarkable. They were Arthur Strand, Frank Schwold, John

ville, Pa., had contracted the disease. A rigid investigation is in progress in Danville and elsewhere to determine whether others have become similarly affected. The officials believe that the spread of the contagion will be checked, although admitting that the situation is grave and will require energetic action by the state and federal authorities.

London, Nov. 20.—The board of agriculture late today was informed officially of the extension of the foot and mouth disease among cattle into the state of New York, and it this evening issued an order prohibiting the importation of cattle, hay or straw from either New York or New Jersey. The prohibition of the importation of these products from Pennsylvania was announced yesterday.

Visiting cards of all sizes neatly printed at the Monitor Office. Phone 120.

Crane and an Italian laborer known as "John." These men were digging near the opening of a four-foot sewer and the force of the explosion blew them to the entrance of it. Strand was hurled farthest and he pulled the other three men after him.

Water from the broken main began to pour into the sewer and the four men, in danger of being drowned, started to run toward the river, where there was an outlet from the sewer. Strand tells of their experience as follows:

"Our only chance was in reaching the outlet of the sewer and we ran toward the river. It was all dark and we stumbled and fell over things that had been left behind by the workmen. The river was three blocks away. By the time we reached the river the water was up to our waists. We found a bulwark there that had been built to keep the water from coming in while the sewer was being built. We climbed to the top of this and from the top reached the pier. The water had reached our chins before we got out."

The gas and water supply was turned off shortly after the explosion. A force of workmen was then put to work digging for bodies, but the task was necessarily slow, because of the nature of the wreckage which had to be removed. The police arrested several men who were attached to the city department in charge of the work.

The explosion was followed by scenes of intense excitement. Every building for blocks around had been severely shaken. A large Roman Catholic church and parochial school received nearly the full force of the shocks.

The excavation was to be nearly 40 feet deep, and as the laborers removed the earth the walls had been shored up by large timbers. With Charles Schiffmeyer, a city inspector of sewers, overseeing the work, the men were working at the bottom of the trench when an accumulation of gas from a main which had been accidentally broken during the course of the work exploded with tremendous force. The supporting timbers were ripped away and the high walls toppled over on Schiffmeyer and his men.

Firemen and workmen from the city water department and from the gas company worked desperately together in an effort to check the flow of gas and water and to relieve the men who had been imprisoned.

## DELEGATES NAMED

Helena, Nov. 18.—Gov. Norris today named the following delegates to represent Montana at the fifth convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress at Washington on December 9-11:

William Scanlon, Butte; D. G. Browne, F. E. Stranahan, Fort Benton; H. J. Haskell, T. F. Hagan, Glendive; W. M. Bole, C. M. Webster, Great Falls; H. E. Campbell, Harlem; E. T. Broadwater, Simon Pepin, Havre; J. Z. Bruegger, Culbertson; E. B. Coleman, J. M. Lewis, C. S. Hurd, T. M. Patten, Glasgow.

## MONTANA PATENTS

Granted this week. Reported by C. A. Snow & Co., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C.—F. Laist, Butte, Copper-leaching process.—C. Suiter, Billings, Measuring-hopper. For copy of any of the above patents send ten cents in postage stamps with date of this paper to C. A. Snow & Co., Washington, D. C.