

MANY MINERS KILLED BY TERRIFIC GAS EXPLOSION

Caught in Their Foul Underground Trap, Several Hundred of the Unfortunates Perish.

JOHNSTOWN GRIEF STRICKEN

Bodies Brought to Surface All Badly Burned.

SCENES MOST PATHETIC

Mothers, Wives, Daughters, Sons, and Relatives Almost Frantic—Greatest Catastrophe in Pennsylvania Since Flood—Rescue Work Now On.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., July 10.—Perhaps 150 men were at work in the main south heading of the Cambria Mill Mine today when an explosion of gas occurred. The miners at work in other headings heard but a slight shock, but they were a mile away.

The enormity of the explosion and its casualties were only realized when the drivers of the main south heading notified the employes of other parts of the mine that all or nearly all of the miners in the heading had been killed. It was the greatest catastrophe in many years in this section, barring the Johnstown flood. The men were steadily working when the gas that had accumulated along the mine roofs suddenly exploded.

How it happened will probably never be known, for none survives to tell the tale. At least 100 men were at work in the heading when the explosion occurred. None of them is living, so far as can be learned.

The bodies thus far brought to the surface have been badly burned, and those who did not meet instant death from the explosion and burns succumbed to the fatal black damp that followed.

News Spread Quickly.

The news quickly spread, and in a short time a crowd of people were gathered at each of the entrances of the mine. One is near the stone bridge, the blockading structure of the Johnstown flood in the wild rush of waters. The second is at Mill Creek, five miles southwest of Johnstown, where has been constructed a new fan and air compressor.

At several points on Kernville Hill, opposite the central part of the city, air-shafts and drainage-ways have long been in use. The hill, for five or six miles each way, has practically been honeycombed by the operations of the miners, and they were gradually working farther and farther to the southwest. The mine has furnished practically four-fifths of all the coal used in the Cambria mills in the last fifty years.

One of the men who left the mine immediately after the explosion said it is not known what caused it. Another volunteered the information that he knew it was caused by a miner carelessly handling matches.

Only a few days ago the officials issued an order to the employes instructing them not to experiment with the gas, and he says that the next day a young Hungarian was seen pushing his lamp along a mine roof in search of it. He was immediately called down, but seemed to regard the matter as a joke.

Spread Like Wildfire.

It was 12:20 o'clock this afternoon when the explosion took place in the mine under Westmont Hill, and it was nearly an hour after the explosion before any general knowledge of what had happened got abroad. Men who came from the mines, escaping with their lives, told the terrible news, and it spread like wildfire all over the city. In hundreds of homes there was the most pathetic scenes. Mothers, wives, daughters, sons, and relatives were frantic with grief. Hundreds rushed to the point, not to experiment with the gas, but to see what assistance could be rendered, but the frightful damp drove them back, and they fell prostrate as they reached the outside.

Dr. W. B. Lowman and Dr. George W. Wagner also hastened there, but only a few came from the mines, and these did not need assistance.

Rescue Abandoned.

It was nearly 4 o'clock when all hope of sending rescue parties from the Westmont opening was abandoned. Two men who had escaped unharmed from the mine, Richard Bennett and John Meyers, went back two miles, to see what assistance could be rendered, but the frightful damp drove them back, and they fell prostrate as they reached the outside.

Dr. W. B. Lowman and Dr. George W. Wagner immediately gave the men assistance, and after working with them half an hour restored them to normal condition.

Their story of the situation in the mine made it clear that rescue work could not proceed from the Westmont opening, and then hasty preparations were made to begin work at the Mill Creek entrance.

Soon after the news of the explosion reached the Cambria officials, Mining Engineer Marshall G. Moore and one of his assistants, A. C. Prosser, made an attempt to enter the mine. They were soon followed by Mine Superintendent

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BOLOGNA ASKS FOR OUR INTERVENTION

Minister Don Guachalla Calls at State Department—American Syndicate Has Concessions in Territory.

BIGGEST SAILING VESSEL.

Schooner Thomas W. Lawson Launched at Boston.

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MONT PELLEE AGAIN IN VIOLENT ERUPTION

Inhabitants of Fort de France Panic Stricken.

FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES

Incessant Rumbling Accompanied by Strange Phenomenon—Heavy Rains Follow—Telegraphic Communication Closed.

NEBRASKAN HOLDS FORMER SENATOR SHOULD NOT BE TOO NOISY NOW—RECALLS CAMPAIGN OF 1896.

Lincoln, Neb., July 10.—Mr. Bryan makes a direct assault upon Mr. Hill in tomorrow's "Commoner." His leading editorial takes as a text a statement made by Hill in a letter to Hamilton Ward Belmont, New York, during the 1896 campaign that he (Hill) was a Democrat "still—very still." Mr. Bryan says:

"The Hon. David B. Hill without whose vociferations no 'harmony' meeting would be complete, has not always been so prodigal with his voice. There was a time, and it was a critical time in the history of the Democratic party, when neither love of country nor party loyalty, nor the recollections of honor received, nor yet, strongest of all, the hope of honors yet to come, could draw from him one dulcet note.

Needed in 1896.

"If Mr. Hill had any influence in 1896, then was the time to exert it. We needed harmony then, and his particular friends were the discordant ones, but he was 'still, very still.'"

"He ought not to be too noisy now. He claims to have voted the ticket in 1896, but if he has so much influence why did he not use his influence for the ticket?"

"A man who is big enough to aspire to the Presidency ought to have some influence; he ought to be able to do more than control his own vote."

"At the Tilden Club banquet he eulogized Mr. Cleveland after the latter had made his impudent and insolent speech calling upon the Democratic party to repent."

"He has endorsed Cleveland's plan of requiring the faithful to wear sackcloth and ashes, but the rank and file do not respond—they are 'still—very still.'"

Secretary Root this morning received a long cable dispatch from Governor Tatt setting forth in detail the reply of the Vatican relative to the friar question in the Philippines. The Secretary refuses to make public at this time the contents of Governor Tatt's dispatch, but it is understood that the proposals of the Pope are not, in every detail, satisfactory to this Government.

The principal objection seems to be that part of the Vatican's reply which states that it will be impossible at this time to recall the friars from the Philippines. The United States intends that these friars shall be brought away from the Philippines, but does not object so seriously to others being put in their places.

Times Newsboys Band Cail

Members of The Times Newsboys Band will report at The Times office Friday, July 11, at 5 p. m. sharp. Uniforms.

G. M. WHITE, Director.

FIVE FIREMEN KILLED.

Crushed to Death Under Falling Wall of Old Stable.

NORFOLK'S CORONER KILLED BY A NEGRO

Dr. J. C. Batts Shot Down as He Entered Man's Home.

HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO ATTEND WIFE OF GRAY, WHO IS CHARGED WITH THE CRIME.

Norfolk, Va., July 10.—One of the most sensational murders that has started Norfolk for many years occurred tonight, when Dr. J. C. Batts, city coroner, was instantly killed by a negro named Gray, at the home of the latter in Brambleton, a suburb.

The physician was called to attend Gray's wife, and from the best information obtainable was shot down by Gray the moment he entered the house.

Police notified. The police were notified and immediately surrounded Gray's house. The desperate negro had not left the place, and when the officers arrived opened fire upon them, barely missing several of the officers.

After endeavoring to get Gray out of the dark room in which he had taken refuge the police squad, with drawn revolvers, charged up the steps, and though Gray fired upon them several times, continued to advance until they had reached the door of Gray's room.

Negro Wounded. The officers fired a volley and Gray was heard to groan. An investigation revealed the fact that he had been mortally wounded, several bullets having taken effect in his head and body. He was removed to St. Vincent's Hospital. He cannot live.

Dr. Batts' death was caused by a wound from a double-barreled shotgun. The charge struck him full in the face, inflicting a horrible wound. The only motive assigned for the murder is that Gray, who had been ill for some time, was delirious.

COVERED WITH ASHES.

Sloop Meets Rough Experience at St. Pierre.

FOUGHT TO THE DEATH

MET DEATH IN FLOOD OF MOLTEN METAL

SAYS SHE WILL CONTEST CLAIMS TO M'KAY ESTATE

WOMAN IN NEW YORK DECLARES THAT SHE IS THE LEGAL WIFE OF DEAD MILLIONAIRE.

SCENES OF VIOLENCE.

BORDER LINES OF COUNTIES FURNISH POLICE MUCH TROUBLE.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., July 10.—Scenes of violence are daily taking place on the border lines of Schuylkill, Carbon, and Luzerne counties, and the civil authorities are unable to furnish protection to the non-union men.

The favorite scheme of the strikers is to capture the non-union men who are at work in Carbon county and bring them over the border to Schuylkill county, from which they are continuing to be driven.

GOVERNOR REFUSES TO CALL OUT TROOPS

Executive Does Not Consider Strike Situation Serious.

REQUEST MADE BY THE SHERIFF

Is Desirous of Preserving Order and Protecting Valuable Property.

MINERS THREATEN TROUBLE

Citizens' Alliance Makes Vigorous Reply to President Mitchell—Form Organizations in Neighborhood of Hazleton—Lines Tightly Drawn.

TAMAQUA, Pa., July 10.—Sheriff Gombert, of Carbon county, has appealed to Governor Stone to send troops to the Panther Creek Valley to restore and preserve order and protect citizens. During the past twenty-four hours the striking miners have been rioting almost continuously.

Last evening Newton Widely, of Lansford, an aged employe of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, was captured by a gang of strikers, who threatened to march him out of the region if he refused to take an oath that he would remain away from work until the end of the strike.

When the old man refused to comply the strikers threw him to the ground, took off his shoes and stockings and started to march him to the upper part of the region.

Heard of Plan. The news was telegraphed to the office of the company and fifty deputies were sent out on the special train to intercept them and compel them to surrender their prisoner. In some manner, the marchers heard of the plan to head them off.

When they reached a lonely point on the mountain road they fell upon Widely, beat him severely, stripped him of all clothing except underwear, and told him to go home. It is feared his injuries and the exposure will result fatally. Today a number of people were held up and beaten in Lansford and Summit Hill.

This afternoon Governor Stone telegraphed to Sheriff Gombert that he did not consider the situation serious enough to send troops.

REPLY TO MITCHELL.

CITIZENS' ALLIANCE GIVES OUT STATEMENT OF ARRANGEMENTS.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., July 10.—The attack of President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers, upon the Citizens' Alliance of this city, has angered that organization, and a statement was issued severely arraigning Mitchell.

Last night a Citizens' Alliance was formed at Hazleton on the same lines as the organizations in this city and Scranton, and will proceed actively for the suppression of boycotts.

About 100 of the most prominent citizens held a secret meeting in the Elks' rooms and were addressed by a member of the Wilkesbarre Alliance.

MINE WORKERS ANNOYED.

The mine workers of Hazleton are today very much annoyed by the action and are threatening to fight against the merchants who have joined the alliance by opening co-operative stores.

Today the first two months of the strike ended and the operators of this city said conditions were favorable.

Today the election of delegates to the national convention was completed throughout the anthracite regions. As there are some 60 per cent of the mine workers in good standing they will be entitled at the rate of one vote for every hundred men to about 1,100 votes at the convention.

CASTRO HAS NOT LEFT VENEZUELA

Dispatch to State Department From Minister Bowen Says He Has Gone to Meet Enemy.

COLOMBIAN TREATY READY TO BE SIGNED

Certain Modifications Agreed Upon.

UNITED STATES GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER CANAL WORK IN HARBORS OF COLON AND PANAMA—FREE ENTRY.

Colombia has agreed to certain modifications in the Panama Canal treaty, suggested by the United States, and the treaty will be signed as soon as it can be engrossed in duplicate, a work of a few days only.

No Change in Price. There has been no change in the price originally promised to Colombia for the concession. This was \$7,000,000 cash, to be regarded as the equivalent of fourteen years rental. At the end of fourteen years other terms will be arranged by mutual agreement.

The main addition to the treaty provides that the authority of the United States shall be extended over the canal work in the harbors of Panama and Colon. The other changes will enable the United States to use any construction material in Colombia, and to secure the free entry of all material imported into Colombia for the work on the canal.

May Be Signed Tomorrow. It would not be surprising if the treaty were signed by tomorrow. Secretary Hay will sign for the United States and Senor Coneja, the Colombian minister, for his government.

TRACY CONTINUES TO ELUDE HIS PURSUERS

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Florida Marshal Kills Man in Terrible Street Duel.

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The Johnson family are so terrorized that they refuse to return home. Tracy now is armed with three revolvers and a Winchester rifle, and with an abundance of ammunition, is in condition to continue terrorizing the whole county.

This makes thirty-one days since Tracy escaped from the Oregon penitentiary, and his band has succeeded in evading the pursuers. Johnson, his last victim, reports him growing wilder and more devilish, capable of committing more and worse murders.

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