

ARE BURIED IN THE MINE.

Over a Hundred Men in the Shaft When Explosion Takes Place.

Cause of the Explosion Believed To Be the Work of Some Care- less Miner.

Vancouver, B. C., May 27.—One of the most terrible mine disasters in the history of the frequent accidents in British Columbia occurred in the Crow's Nest Coal company's mines at Fernie, B. C. Over 100 men are either dead or imprisoned in the mine and little hope is entertained of rescuing any who may yet be alive.

Fernie is 300 miles up country and the limited telegraph facilities have not yet enabled complete details of the disaster to be sent out.

A dispatch from Fernie says that the explosion occurred at 7:30 p. m. The management has a list of 123 men who are known to have been in the mine, and there probably are others. Of these only twenty-four are known to be safe. It is feared that few, if any, of the remaining 109 are now alive.

What caused the explosion has not yet been definitely ascertained. Many of the miners were ignorant foreigners and the main shafts were always more or less gaseous. It is expressed in Fernie that the explosion resulted from the use by a careless Italian of an open or naked lamp. Another theory is that a miner struck a match, exploding the gas which was almost always present in No. 2 shaft.

EXPLOSION IS REPEATED.
Though the first explosion was in No. 2 shaft of the mine, it was repeated in a few seconds in No. 3, at which it was connected.

The two shafts are situated on Coal creek, about six miles from Fernie. No. 2 has always been considered the more dangerous, being dry, dusty and gaseous, but recently new fans were installed in that shaft, furnishing an excess of air, with 40 per cent reserve.

From all available sources assistance is being rushed to the scene, but there is little hope for the rescue of any of the entombed men. Already the work of liberation has begun, and eighteen bodies have been taken from the mine. The presence of coal damp makes the work of rescue very dangerous and is seriously hindering the efforts of the workers.

The scene in the neighborhood of the mouth of the tunnel is distressing in the extreme and all the more so as it is utterly impossible at this time to hold out any hope to the women, whose cries are for entombed husbands and fathers and brothers.

In No. 2 tunnel from 100 to 120 men and boys are usually employed and in No. 3 tunnel about eighty men generally work. The main road of No. 2 tunnel is nine by five and one-half feet and would be sufficient for ventilation were it not that there was a motor working on the road which almost stopped the current of the intake. When the men were at work the liberation of gas heavily charged the atmosphere and made it dangerous to employ lights which were not absolutely protected.

The explosion was distinctly heard in the village, six miles away. Quickly the whole population was on the streets and hurrying towards the scene of disaster. All the available men were at once organized for the work of getting at the entombed miners. Great difficulty was experienced in keeping back the women whose husbands, most of them foreigners, were known to have been employed in the tunnels.

PRESIDENT OF CUBA OCCUPIES PALACE.

Havana.—(Special.)—President Palma and his family moved into the palace from General Gomez's house. The president has received many telegrams of congratulations from the United States, Spain, France and the Latin-American republics.

Among them was this one from United States Secretary of War Root:

"Believe in my heartfelt congratulations upon the inauguration of the republic which the people of Cuba and the people of the United States have fought and labored together to establish. With confidence in your unselfish patriotism and courage and in the substantial civic virtues of your people, I bid you Godspeed and on this happy day wish for Cuba for all time liberty and order, peace and prosperity."

President Palma replied:
"I am deeply moved by your heartfelt message of congratulations on the inauguration of the republic of Cuba, to the birth of which the people and the government of the United States have contributed with their blood and treasure. Rest assured that the Cuban people can never forget the debt of gratitude they owe to the great republic, with which we will cultivate the closest relations of friendship and for the prosperity of which we pray to the Almighty."

Rates Probably Will Stand.

Chicago, Ill., May 27.—Unless the executive officials of western lines force the matter there will be few if any withdrawals of reduced tariffs which have been put in force since the issuance of the injunctions of the United States circuit court. This fact developed at a meeting of the officials of the western lines. After an all-day session practically nothing in the line of discarding low rates was accomplished and there is little prospect that anything can be done.

QUIET PREVAILS IN STRIKE REGION.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., May 27.—All of the district leaders having gone to their homes the headquarters of the United Mine Workers will be the quietest place that could be found in the coal regions today.

The only persons here directly connected with the miners' strike were National President Mitchell and District President Nichols, Fahey and Duffy. Reports from the outlying districts are to the effect that a dead calm prevails everywhere.

In commenting upon a dispatch from Reading Pa., in which it is stated that the movement of soft coal through that city from the bituminous regions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania is unprecedented, President Mitchell said he felt that if such was the case he would know it. Mr. Mitchell would not say what action he would take if the movement of the soft coal to the anthracite territory became heavy. But it is believed an effort would be made to prevent the shipments. He has received no communication, he says, from anyone regarding negotiations for a settlement.

President Mitchell will leave for the west and will be gone about four days. Instead of going to his home at Spring Valley, Ill., he will meet his relatives at Chicago and return immediately, stopping for a day at national headquarters in Indianapolis.

WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE STATUTE.

Washington, D. C., May 27.—Representative Stephens of Texas has introduced a resolution that is directly aimed at the tender of a monument of Frederick the Great to the United States.

It sets forth that the United States should not accept from any foreign nation or erect in any public place, any statue of any king, emperor, prince or potentate, who has ruled or is now ruling any nation by the supposed divine right of kings. The resolution further sets forth that the acceptance of such statue by this government would be a repudiation of its basic principles as enunciated in the bill of rights and constitution, and an insult to the memory of our revolutionary fathers, and an admission that one man may govern a nation without the consent of the governed and after his death have his statue erected in our republic and the blessings of the divine right of kings to rule thereby approved.

MR. HILL APPROVES EXPENDITURES.

Chicago, Ill., May 27.—James J. Hill has given his approval to extensive betterments for the Burlington property, which were partially planned before the change in ownership of the system. It was partially with a view of determining whether these improvements were warranted by existing conditions that Mr. Hill undertook the present trip of inspection. The main work which has received Mr. Hill's sanction is the double tracking, grading, straightening, retracking and reballasting of the main line from Red Oak to the Missouri river. This work will cost several million dollars and will make the Burlington a double-track system between Chicago and the river. After seeing the country through the main line of the Burlington passes Mr. Hill became enthusiastic. He told the officials who were with him that the immense amount of money that he had expended in the last few years was wholly justified by the country tributary to the road. He not only approved of the plans presented by the management, but went further and authorized the additional expenditure.

PROGRESS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Manila, May 27.—A civil government will be inaugurated in Batangas province July 4. The step could be immediately taken, so far as pacification of that part of the island is concerned, but some details of the system need perfecting and the United States commission thinks it best at present to leave Batangas under military control, which is operating most satisfactorily.

The industrial conditions are improving. Crops have been planted throughout Batangas and will mature in August. Other provinces report a marked diminution of ladreronism, especially in Leyte and Cavite provinces, where the ladrones had chiefly flourished heretofore.

CEREAL AMOUNTS AND VALUES.

Washington, D. C., May 27.—The statistician of the Department of Agriculture has completed his estimates of the acreage, production and farm value of the cereal crops of the United States in 1901, the grand totals being as follows:

	Acres	Bushels	Value
Corn	81,249,928	1,529,519,891	\$921,556,738
Wheat	49,895,064	748,769,318	457,380,154
Oats	28,541,476	736,808,724	298,568,777
Barley	4,295,744	109,923,492	49,706,183
Rye	1,817,506	30,344,830	16,509,742
Bkwh	811,864	15,135,941	8,523,318

In the preparation of this report all proper weight has been given to the recently published census report of crops of 1899.

Attack Boston Meat Shops.

Boston, May 27.—"Kosher r-a-t" disturbances broke out in the west end section of this city. About 300 Hebrews, men, women and children, attacked three meat stores. The windows were smashed and the stocks of meat ruined. The police interfered and arrested two women and one man, who were ringleaders. A customer who was leaving a store with a piece of meat, was assaulted and a woman was injured during the stampede of the crowd.

IRRIGATION GETS A SHOW.

House Committee on Rules Consents to Let Senate Bill Be Voted On.

Friends of the Measure Hopeful of Its Passage in Spite of Opposition from House Leaders

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—The 100-day continued contest for irrigation which the arid and semi-arid states have been making almost ever since they have been a part of the union seems about to terminate. The committee on rules of the house has decided to permit the irrigation bill, which passed the senate weeks ago, to be considered, and accordingly a rule will be brought in allowing two days for general debate and one for debate under the five-minute rule. Two months ago this action would have been absolutely impossible, but the friends of the measure never lost heart and when the conditions seemed dark they redoubled their work for consideration and the committee on rules finally capitulated.

But consideration does not mean passage by any means, although conditions now seem overwhelmingly in favor of the bill. The leaders on the republican side, with one or two exceptions, are against the bill. The republican members on the committee of rules are against the bill, but it is confidently believed that the house will be in favor of the measure when the vote is reported. A close and systematic canvass of the members shows a majority for the bill, but there is a very large noncommittal vote which the advocates of the bill hope to reach through debate, and it was for that reason they asked that three days be allotted to general discussion. The committee on rules, however, decided that all should be said that need be said in two days and they will so report, allowing a day, however, for debate on the amendments.

An analysis of the returns made by the committee appointed to canvass the house shows many interesting phases. Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and the rest of the arid and semi-arid states are a unit for the bill. In Iowa three of the delegation are counted for the measure—Hull, Smith and Haugen—while Thomas is expected to vote for the bill, but has not committed himself. Kansas and Michigan are reported as solidly in favor of the bill. More than half of the Ohio delegation will be found in the bill's favor, while Illinois will come up with a good vote in its favor, the democratic members from that state being solidly for it. Maine is for the bill and Representative Littlefield will probably make a speech in its favor. Massachusetts believes in its provisions and the majority of the members from the Old Bay state will vote for it. Indiana will vote even, although there is hope that the irrigators will get a vote or two from those who are at present noncommittal. Most of the Minnesota delegation are for the measure, but there are some who are loud in their denunciation of making the arid lands of the west capable of raising crops.

It was suggested early in the consideration of the bill that the farmers of the east were against it, but it is now thought that a change has been effected and that they are for some reasonable irrigation that will be the means of giving places and homes for their sons. Representative Mondell of Wyoming, who has made the subject of irrigation a study for years, will in all probability open the debate for the bill, and it is expected the discussion will attract wide attention, in view of the enormous possibilities which are presented.

WILL FIGHT THE NATIONAL BISCUIT CO.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—The Inter Ocean says that the independent biscuit companies throughout the country will soon be combined in a giant rival to the National Biscuit company, probably under the name of the Union Biscuit company.

Several of the largest independent concerns have already entered into an agreement to unite and steps now being taken by the officers of the Union Biscuit company of St. Louis are designed to amalgamate most of the 150 independent companies into one corporation. A buying and selling agreement has already been entered into, it is said.

According to the present plans of the independent people, Jacob L. Boese, formerly president of the American Biscuit company, which was absorbed by the National Biscuit company, is said to be at the head of the new concern.

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special.)—The National Biscuit company has closed a deal for the purchase of the Mount Cracker and Candy company of Kansas City, one of the biggest firms of the kind here. This is the second local concern to be bought up by the cracker trust, so-called.

The purchase of 25,000 head of cattle at one time was the transaction of a Texas man recently. It is said that twenty-five trains were required to transport them.

Dover's municipal electric tramways made a clear profit of \$5,500 and carried over 3,000,000 passengers during the working year just completed.

The sun's flames spring at times to a distance of 350,000 miles from its surface.

ISLAND OF CUBA AT LAST A REPUBLIC

Havana.—(Special.)—The natal day of the republic of Cuba found Havana arrayed like a queen to await the coming of her lord. She seemed reinvigorated for the occasion with the dignity of the prosperous days of her power and wealth.

The decorations were universal. In some cases men had worked all night by the light of torches to complete elaborate designs. There was not a residence, pretentious or humble, that did not beam upon its quaint facade some emblem in honor of the event. The many arches erected at the entrances of plazas had an air of real grandeur.

The decorations along the water front were exceedingly lavish and all the shipping in the harbor was dressed in gala attire. The majority of the ships flew the American ensign at the main and the Cuban colors at the fore or mizzen.

Much curiosity was aroused by a statue of freedom which had been raised during the night in Central park, upon the pedestal where, for centuries, a statue of Queen Isabella had stood. During the morning a bountiful breakfast was given to several thousand poor children by Mr. Payne of Boston, who has passed the winter in Havana for many years.

Owing to the limited space, the people had no sight of the ceremony enacted within the palace, which was to constitute them a nation before the world, but outside they witnessed a spectacle that stirred their pulses, for they saw the beloved five-barred and single-starred flag which Céspedes first threw to the breeze in 1868, at the opening of the Ten Years war, raised by the act of the United States above the palace.

Soon all the side streets running into the plaza were choked into a solid mass of humanity and every door and window fronting the square was walled with faces, white and black, old and young, male and female. Then crowds sought the roofs, overflowing every building that commanded a view of the flagstaff on the palace. As far as the eye could see the roof lines were fringed with human freight. It was a sight to live forever in memory.

WILL TRY TO SETTLE ON COMPROMISE.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—An amicable understanding is about to be effected between the government at Washington and the Northern Securities company, according to the Daily News.

It says that for some time friends of J. P. Morgan and J. J. Hill have been importuning President Roosevelt to have the suit against the company called off. From one of the stockholders of the Northern Securities company it has been learned that assurances have been given by the federal officials that if certain modifications in the company's financial construction be made the attorney general would consider withdrawing the government's suit against the company.

"The chief charges consider the traffic arrangements," says the News, "and it may be stated on the best authority that the alterations will be complied with." One of the largest stockholders in the Northern Securities company stated that the association would be so reorganized as to make practically nothing more of the concern than a mere holding company. There would be an administrative head of a financial character, but for the rest the Burlington, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern would be absolutely independent.

"They are to fix their rates individually, make separate arrangements with shippers, enter the traffic compacts with other roads, and do as they please generally without consulting each other."

"Various officials are to be chosen by the various boards of directors, who in turn will be elected by stockholders, regardless of the possible wishes of the men who have had the direction of affairs since last May."

HOISTS THE CUBAN FLAG.

Santiago de Cuba.—(Special.)—There was an immense crowd here to witness the formal transfer of the government. At noon Lieutenant Whiteside lowered the stars and stripes, the band playing the "Star Spangled Banner." The Cuban flag was then raised, the band playing a Cuban air.

General Whiteside was presented with a cane and Cuban and American flags and tendered a banquet by Mayor Bayard. When the troops embarked the Ward line steamer Seagrave was escorted as far as Morro castle by a steamer hired by the mayor on which 1,000 people collected.

All flags were placed at half mast in honor of General Marti and the Cuban patriots, while the graves of the dead soldiers were decorated.

Fastened together with a pin, four bills for articles bought at Belfast in 1884 have just been discovered in the crop of a fowl purchased at Leeds.

Wagner's "Gottterdammerung" will shortly be performed for the first time in France at the Chateau d'Eau theater, Paris.

Brooklyn Life: "So she flitted the son and married the father." "Yes, she thought an income better than an allowance."

PEACE SAID TO BE ASSURED.

Amity Between Boers and Britains No Longer Doubtful in England.

One Dispatch Says British Have Sub- mitted Ultimatum, the Boers' Ac- ceptance Will Settle War.

London.—(Special.)—The consensus of opinion here is that all signs are propitious, but the British offices have given no indications of the course of the negotiations between Lord Kitchener and Lord Milner and the Boer delegates at Pretoria.

That conferences are occurring regarding the basis upon which peace shall be declared is the sum total of the information which the war office has vouchsafed up to the present, although it is intimated that a definite announcement of the result, peaceful or otherwise, may speedily be expected.

The expression that peace is close at hand has obviously taken a strong hold of operators on the stock exchange. The buying of consols and gilt edged South African shares continues, it is believed, in behalf of well informed interests.

The Daily Chronicle claims authority to say that peace in South Africa is practically assured. This is also the general impression with the other newspapers and the public, although the former do not go so far as the assertion published by the Chronicle.

The government departments decline to give any information on the matter. It is understood that important dispatches have been received from Lord Milner, the British high commissioner in South Africa, and from Lord Kitchener, but nothing can be ascertained as to the nature of the contents of these dispatches. The fact that the cabinet was summoned so quickly after the arrival of the delegates at Pretoria is regarded as a good augury, as the discussion at Pretoria could only have commenced Monday.

A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Pretoria says that the Boers are seeking permission to retain their horses.

Coming from Pretoria, under date of Wednesday, the correspondent of the Times says the Boer meeting there is not necessarily final and it is believed the Boer delegates, after obtaining information on certain points, will return to Vereeniging.

The Daily Mail says it understands that owing to the protracted haggling of the Boer leaders at Pretoria Great Britain has presented them with what is practically an ultimatum, their reply to which is awaited and which it is expected they will accept.

Dispatches from Pretoria, continues the Daily Mail, say that during the stay of the Boer delegates there the conference will continue at Vereeniging and that a majority of those present at the conference are trying to persuade the recalcitrant minority into an unanimous vote. In the meantime the British columns have been resting and refitting and are ready for immediate action. The Daily Mail says it believes the delegates at Pretoria will dispatch the ultimatum to the conference at Vereeniging for its consideration.

DESPERADOES RULE IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

Yankton, S. D.—(Special.)—Charles Mix and Hutchinson counties are up in arms over the depredations of a gang of robbers, who, during the past two weeks have successfully robbed the banks at Ethan, Scotland and Harrison.

They have operated in the style adopted by the James brothers. One of the robbers has made it the rule to stand in the street in front of the bank whose safe is being blown open, and hold the citizens at bay. They have openly driven through towns where their identity was known, and when their horses have become jaded, have robbed farmers whom they have met on the road, of their teams and buggies.

A gang, supposed to be the same one that has committed the bank robberies, entered the barn of George Holton in the center of the residence district here, and stole a fine team and buggy.

A TERMINAL FOR THE ORIENT LINE.

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special.)—If the project involved in maps filed today in three counties, Jackson and Clay in Missouri and Wyandotte in Kansas, is carried out, the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway company will have a complete terminal system in Kansas City. The plan is to have a four-track terminal, two for steam railroads and two for electric railroads. With six miles of terminal tracks the Orient will enter the union station by one of the three routes, and will establish connection with every railroad entering Kansas City except the Chicago & Alton, and including the Kansas City Belt, the Union Terminal and the Suburban Belt systems. The new terminals, including two bridges, will cost \$2,000,000.

Baltimore American: "Your new office boy may be all right, but he stammers so." "That's the beauty of it. If a client calls when I've stepped out for a moment I have time to get back before the boy gets through explaining where I've gone and when I'm expected to return."

Detroit Free Press: "Miss Oldgirl (worth a million)—No, sir, I will never marry you. Now, I trust I've made myself plain. Cutting hints—it's entirely unnecessary, I assure you."

LEFT ENTIRELY TO COAL COMPANIES.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—(Special.)—The three anthracite executive committees of the United Mine Workers of America at their joint meeting decided to permit the engineers, firemen and pumpmen to remain at work, provided the coal companies grant them an eight-hour day at present wages. If these demands are not granted by June 2 the men shall suspend work. Although the instructions issued to the local unions do not specifically say that the men shall cease work on that date, if the demand is not granted, they are so construed by the committee. This action was taken after two sessions had been held, which consumed the entire day.

At present the engineers, firemen and pumpmen work ten hours a day. Some of the firemen work twelve. Under the instructions issued the protectors of the mines, if granted the concessions, can remain at work, no matter how long the strike of the mine workers shall last. Some of the coal carrying railroads, in secret session, have discussed plans to break the strike of the miners in Pennsylvania. Every railroad operating in the anthracite fields was represented.

"No surrender" was the slogan of the mine operators, and when the meeting adjourned it was said the railroads were prepared for a protracted struggle, in which every resource will be brought to bear upon the strikers.

Arbitration has been abandoned, and the mine owners intend now to force the fight against the strikers. The plans of the coal operators will be forwarded to the mine superintendents. It is believed that the companies intend to send non-union men to the mines in sufficient numbers to operate the properties one at a time.

PEOPLE OF MARTINIQUE IN TERROR.

Fort de France, Martinique.—(Special.)—The second eruption of Mount Pelee is said to have been many times more violent than the fatal explosion which effaced the beautiful city of St. Pierre and swept its 30,000 people from the earth. The volcano is described as a seething furnace, whose deadly tongues of flame are expected to lick up life and property at any time. Indeed, the people of this section are in absolute terror over what they resolutely believe to be their impending fate. They are thronging this city by the hundreds and crying, not for food, not for clothing, but to be taken away from this island, which they declare has become the object of God's wrath and that He has determined to sweep its people out of existence.

Streams of people have been pouring into Fore de France from all the surrounding country. The people are not destitute, but they are terrified. They want only one thing, and that is to be taken far away from this island, with which they say the gods are angry and which they will destroy by fire before it sinks under the sea.

The consuls here and the officers of the war vessels in the harbor are waylaid by persons crazed with fear and begging to be carried away.

The weather is now calm and beautiful, but the mountain is veiled in volcanic clouds, which often assume a very threatening aspect, and occasional rumblings are heard. Some heavy and very welcome rains have fallen.

MR. ROOSEVELT UNVAILS THE SHAFT.

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—President Roosevelt unveiled the memorial shaft erected at Arlington by the National Society of Colonial Dames, in memory of the veterans who fell in the recent struggle between Spain and the United States.

Around the platform an immense crowd gathered, among whom were many men who saw service in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. The ceremonies were in charge of Major General John R. Brooks, commander of the Department of the East, the military establishment being represented by a battalion of engineers, a battalion of marines, a light battery of the Fourth artillery, two squadrons of the Second cavalry and over 500 veterans of the Spanish-American war.

The services began with the playing of "The Dead March from Saul," followed by a surpliced choir singing "Onward, Christian Soldier." Prayer was said by Bishop Satterlee, and the entire audience joined in singing the national hymn. Lieutenant General John M. Schofield, U. S. A., retired, then read the address of the president of the national society, Mrs. Justine W. R. Townsend, at the conclusion of which the shaft was unveiled amid the cheers of the thousands who had surrounded the stand.

As the shaft was unveiled the artillery fired the national salute, after which President Roosevelt delivered his address.

Chicago Tribune: A committee on the revision of a church creed can do more work and less revising than any similar body of which we have any knowledge.

Boston Transcript: With the vivid description of the cloud of fire descending on the Lesser Antilles fresh in mind, it requires no great amount of imagination to encompass the horrors of the old-fashioned orthodox judgment day.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Where in the world did she ever get that ugly, little, lopsided husband of hers?" "That's one of her finds." "One of her finds?" "Why, yes. Didn't you know she was a bargain find?"