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By the use of perfect baking powder the housewife can derive as much economy as from any other article used in baking and cooking. In selecting a baking powder, therefore, care should be exercised to purchase one that retains its original strength and always remains the same, thus making the food sweet and wholesome and producing sufficient leavening gas to make the baking light.

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TRAGIC STORY OF LONG WEEK OF SUFFERING



HE shaft of the St. Paul coal mine at Cherry, Ill., was sealed on Thanksgiving day. When they laid the last plank over the mouth of the shaft they wrote "Finis" to the most hideous mine tragedy of years, a tragedy costing the lives of more than 300

So the story of that explosion of November 13 and the events which followed in heartrending variety until Thanksgiving day is done. It has passed into history, to be referred to only for comparison with the next big mine disaster. It is a good thing to forget the details of these horrors

as soon as may be. But though much has been written in the press about the Cherry mine and the terrible accident, one chapter in the story has not been completely told, says a writer in the New York World. It is the story of the most dramatic, thrilling scene which it is possible for the mind to conceive. A fight among a score of maddened, desperate miners, 500 feet down in the bowels of the earth, in the pitch darkness of their prison. No doubt it was not the only fight of the sort which ever took place. There have been many mine horrors, thousands and thousands of men have been caught under the ground, and nobody knows what frightful things have gone on while they have waited for death. Mad shock the reader beyond expression. But never before have men who came back from the tomb as these did

brought an account of such a scene. Among the Fortunate.

When the explosion came on that fateful Saturday afternoon there were 400 men down in the mine. Some miners found themselves grouped to gether, struggling to escape from the flames, at the end of a long tunnel some five hundred feet from the bottom of the shaft. They pushed on, climbing over over the bodies of other miners who had fallen overcome by the black damp; the stronger helping the weak, who would have succumbed but for assistance. There was scarcely five feet of head room, and the black damp hung heavy in the dark chamber. They fell in pairs, with moans of despair, but still there were survivors who got to the end of the picks and dig into the ground as deep tunnel and flung themselves on the ground against the impenetrable wall of coal.

After a while, when their eyes enand they found that there was a considerable number of them together, a miner named George Eddy took it on himself to find out just who was

"Boys," said he, "we're in a pretty fix, but we musn't give up. We're at the end of the tunnel, and between us and the shaft there's probably all kinds of obstructions. But if we can hold out a while they'll try to get to us, and they may do it. First of all, though, we've got to have some scheme for living down here."

"What's the good of planning any scheme?" interrupted another man. "We've got a little food, but the black damp is sure to fill this place, and that will be the end of us."

Hard Crowd to Govern

"Not a bit of it," said Eddy. "We're going to wall ourselves up." And then, It was on the second day of their conunder his leadership, these men, finement that the first real trouble ocwith picks and shovels, proceeded to perform what must have been one of him to give them their food. His the most unusual tasks that ever fell hand would select a quantity from to mortal's lot; this was to seal the door of their tomb! It had to be done, of course, else the black damp would miner's hand reaching out to receive have relled in with its death-giving it he would give the man his rations fumes, and their end would have been He could not tell if a man "repeated." quick and certain.

While the men were busy building the wall George Eddy and two or three of his friends found time to discuss the situation.

"There's a hard crowd there," said Walter Waite, a sturdy young fellow of 26. "All kinds-Slavs, Poles, Italians and French. We're going to have trouble with them when they begin to want water."

"That's what is bothering me," said Eddy. "The only way is to take mat-ters right in hand now. Who can we count on?"

It was decided that an Italian named Que Antoniese could be counted on to stand by Eddy and Waite in case of trouble, and he was told to watch his countrymen and see that they were kept in some sort of order. It was discovered that there were some sick men in the crowd too, and Waite groped around until he found the two who were in the worst condition—an old Pole named Walowczak and an Italian, Zannarini, Already these two were moaning for water, and the leaders foresaw the trouble that would surely come when it should be discovered that there was no water there.

He maintained an air of perfect composure, however, and when the men had finished walling the chamber he began to talk to them.

"Boys," said he, "we're going to be all right now. The first thing to do is to see how we stand for food. How with hunger, fear and thirst, men in many of you have lunch pails?" Nearhundreds of instances must have fig- ly all the men answered in the afured in scenes the telling of which, if firmative. "Now, hand them over to The Italian and Waite both lay him to the air. there could be any telling would me. We're going to pool their conspraying on the ground, nearly be fare and fare alike. Anybody got any objections?"

Waite, who had been feeling his way about the cave, whispered to Eddy that a big Slav, nicknamed "The Eddy called to him:

The First Sign of Trouble.

"I don't find 'The Bull's' pail among these," he said. "Come, hand it over." With a grumble the man did as ordered, accompanying the act with an oath that did not escape Eddy.

"There isn't much here, boys," said the leader, trying to be cheerful about it, "but I guess it'll do. Now, as to water, I suppose you fellers you're going to die of thirst, eh? Well, don't worry. Some of you take your as you can. I think you'll find some thing to drink, all right."

The men did as he ordered, and in a little while the cry came that the abled them to see a litttle in the dark, earth was getting damp. Later, water began to seep through the earth, and the men, already thirsty, fell on their stomachs and pressed their faces down into the black ooze that was there and how the men were situated. forming in the little wells. Eddy ordered them to drink sparingly, there was no telling how long this scanty supply would hold out. some of the men rebelled against these orders, notably "The Bull," Eddy set Walter Waite and Que Antoniese as guards over the two principal wells, and moved the sick Walowczak and Zannarini near the wells, so that they could get the water, as they needed it badly.

Subduing "The Bull."

Eddy portioned out the food according as his judgment directed, and most of the men stood by him, except a little group headed by "The Bull." curred. Eddy had called the men to the pile which he had made in one corner of the cave, and as he felt a He had to take their words in the

dark, for not a glimmer of light was

there in that strange chamber. It was "The Bull" whom Eddy discovered repeating. Something, an in-tuition, told him that the fellow was doing this, and when he found him out he attended to him promptly.

"Who is this?" demanded Eddy, as the man whom he took for "The Bull" held out a hand for his rations. "The Bull" mumbled the name of the sick Pole, who Eddy knew was lying on the ground by the well unable to move across the cave.

"You're a liar!" shouted Eddy. "You are "The Bull." He tried to catch the man by his arm, but he pulled away. Eddy, however, reached for him and caught him by the shoulder. Then, in the dark, his fist struck out and the other men could hear it land deadly earnest. As one man met an-on "The Bull's" jaw. There would other there was a shout, and then the have been more of a conflict-Eddy expected it-but somebody pulled "The Bull" away, and for the time being

peace again reigned. The third day came. They knew it a watch, from which he removed the crystal, picking out the time by feeling the hands with his rough fingers. Some of the men took no thought of the flight of the hours, however, and spent their time crying for the loved ones up on the earth, whom they had given up all hope of seeing again. They were getting light-headed, the poor fellows, all of them, and it was a huge task for Eddy, himself sick now, to keep their spirits up.

Waite and Antoniese were the only two who gave him any real assistance. Waite, by his sturdy good nature, "jolthe other men, and Antoniese rendered splendid service in caring for the men who were the sickest. He argued with the well men that they must give up some of their share of the water to these sick unfortunates, and though they did not all accept the suggestion gracefully he let them understand that he would stand no fooling on their part, and backed it up a long knife which they knew that he carried.

On the third day, however, toniese made a discovery. It was that 'The Bull' was stealing water from old Walowczak. He caught him at it himself, and his first impulse was to thrust that long knife between ribs of the thief, but he resisted that impulse and crept across the cave to Eddy, to whom he told of his discovery. Eddy said:

"We must make sure. We must watch. Say nothing, but keep as near Wolawczak as you can and if 'The Bull' goes near him grab him and holler for me."

Conflict in the Dark.

A little while later it happened. Antoniese let out a yell, and Eddy, calling Waite to follow him, leaped to his assistance. He had "The Bull," and they were engaged in a deadly strug-The other men were screaming and shricking to know what the matter was. In their unnatural condition of mind this conflict drove them fairly crazy, and they turned on each other and fought savagely for no reason but that each man took the other for an enemy. When Eddy dragged himself through the struggling masses they caught at him and pulled him to the ground. He had to fight back, and felled with his fist half a dozen poor fellows who would have kept him from getting to "The Bull."

In fact, when he reached the spot from which Antoniese had called him, the fight for the moment was over. tents, and I'm going to give the food knocked out by the big Pole's heavy out in regular rations, so that it will fists. Eddy demanded to know where 'The Bull" was.

"I'm here, curse you!" came the answer from a corner of the cave through the darkness. "I'm here, and I'm armed, and if you or anyone comes Bull," was holding out his dinner pail. near me I'll kill him. Boys," he went on, calling two of his countrymen by name, "there's going to be a change here now. We're going to kill this Eddy and his crew and run things our way. Come over here, any of you that stand by me." There were shuffling sounds in the inky blackness of the place, and Eddy heard some of the men going over to the Pole.

"Boys," he called out, "I don't know how many of you have deserted me. but you're wrong. And you can't get away with it. I'm trying to manage things so that we'll all have a fair chance. That's the only way. If you think you can do better, put it to a vote of us all, and if the rest of the crowd likes your method better than mine I'll step down. How about it?" Eddy's heart leaped with encourage-

forms, when his supporters-more than he had believed remainedcrowded to his sides. "Good," he said. "Now, boys, we're going to overcome 'The Bull' and his gang. Are you ready. Are you armed?'

The Mutineers Subdued. Many of the 14 on Eddy's side had knives and clubs, broken from the supports of the cave, from which they had been eating the bark for the last few hours. Each grasped whatever weapon he had. "Then come on,"

said Eddy, quietly but firmly.

His little band dashed forward through the darkness. It was an unprecedented entry into battle, ss though the two foes had been blindfolded. It was indeed a game of blindman's buff, but one played in sound of blows falling, of howls of pain and rage, and cries of agony as a club fell across a head.

Eddy found "The Bull," who had a

club as long as his body, a big knotty was the third day because Waite had stick of cedar. He flung it about his head as he and Eddy came together, and it would have killed the other if he had not fortunately caught the blow on his left arm glancing, so that he was scarcely hurt at all. He closed in on "The Bull," who was a glant in strength, but he would have had no chance to win but for the timely intervention of Antoniese, who wrenched 'The Bull's" club from him and brought it down on the giant's head with a crunch. "The Bull" yelled, his arms, that had been crushing Eddy's body, relaxed, and he fell in a heap on

the ground.

They bound his hands and feet and threw him into a corner. The rest of his crowd had been subdued by Eddy's supporters and were mostly on their knees, promising, through battered, bloody lips, to obey Eddy's orders. The critical moment had been passed.

These men were in that tomb for a week altogether. The last two days of their incarceration found Eddy among the sick himself, but Waite and Antoniese saw that he was well taken care of, even though they themselves had to eat their boots finally to keep themselves alive.

Last Hours of Suspense. Some of the men kept diaries, one of them having found in a pocket some pieces of paper and a stub of a pencil, which they took in turns. It was the water in the well, the

seeping ooze, that kept them from knowing the hideous tortures of thirst. Bull," subdued, sore and wounded, lay in the corner unspoken to by the others. They brought him water, and when it got too low to dip out they carried him to the well, where he could lie down and lick a few drops up from the earth. They would have liked to kill him, this thief, but they were merciful. Anyway, he, like the rest of them, would

not last much longer. Seven days from the day they went into their tomb, and when they were stretched out, weak, on the floor of the place waiting for death, some one heard a sound. At first he paid no attention to it, believing it part of the dream they had all had at one time or another-a dream that rescue had

But then others heard it. Some one raised his tired, emaciated body from the floor and staggered to the wall. He called faintly, "Hello!" There was an answer.

The papers have told the rest, how the rescuers found them and carried them out, all alive but one little Frenchman, who died as they brought The chapter is closed and the mine

is sealed, but there's one part of the story that these fellows will tell over and again-that's the part about the fight in the dark.

Prisoner's Needlework.

Canon Horsley, the new mayor of Southwark, was the last chaplain of the Clerkenwell house of detention and he has many mementoes of his prison days. One is an antimacassar, the work of a once notorious woman drunkard who had been convicted 400 times and spent the larger part of her life in jail. With a bent pin found on the floor of the cell the woman pulled threads from her underclothing and made a really beautiful lace border, four feet long and four inches deep. Next she procured from a warder a needle and thread and a piece of linen a foot square, round which she sewed the lace. With hairs pulled from her head she embroidered an elaborate pattern, the whole of the center being occupied by the words of a hymn. The completed design formed an exquisite ment as he felt the contact of other piece of needlework.-From M. A. P

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