

WHOLE CITY IN RUINS

St. Pierre and Forty Thousand Inhabitants Destroyed by Volcano.

ONLY TWENTY OF THE RESIDENTS SURVIVE

Appalling Disaster Said to Be Without a Parallel Except Pompeii.

EIGHTEEN VESSELS DEVoured BY FLAMES

All Persons Who Are on Board the Fated Ships Are Buried in the Sea.

UNITED STATES CONSUL AND FAMILY DEAD

Eruption Is Described as Storm of Steam, Mud and Fire, Which Was First Apparent Last Saturday.

ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 9.—It is now estimated that 40,000 persons perished as a result of the volcanic eruption in the island of Martinique.

SAINT-JEAN, P. R., May 9.—The cable officials here have received advice from the island of Dominica that a schooner which has arrived there from the island of Martinique reports that over 40,000 people are supposed to have perished during the volcanic disturbance in Martinique.

Reports at Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—A cablegram has just been received at the State department, as follows:

POINT-A-PITRE, May 9.—To Secretary of State, Washington: At 9 o'clock a. m. on the 8th inst., a storm of steam, mud and fire enveloped the city of Point-a-Pitre, more than twenty persons escaped with their lives.

The consul at Martinique is Thomas T. Prentice. He was born in Michigan and was appointed from Massachusetts as consul at Rochelle Island in 1871 and later served as consul at Port Louis, Mauritius, Rouen, France, and Batavia. He was appointed consul at Martinique in 1900.

The vice consul at Martinique is Amareo Testari, who was appointed from Louisiana in 1898.

The latest available figures show the total population of the island of Martinique is 150,000 people, of whom 35,000 lived in St. Pierre.

Saves Thirty Inhabitants.

PARIS, May 9.—The commander of the French cruiser Suchet recently telegraphed to the minister of marine from Fort de France, island of Martinique, under date of Thursday, May 8, at 10 p. m., as follows: Have just returned from St. Pierre, which has been completely destroyed by an immense mass of fire, which fell on the town at about 10 o'clock a. m. The fire burned for about 20 hours, in a way supposed to have been caused by a volcano. I took the few survivors, about thirty. All the shipping in the harbor has been destroyed by fire.

M. Biuguonot, a sugar planter of the island of Martinique, received a cable dispatch this morning from Fort de France, sent by the manager of the Francais factory, announcing that he had "tried to reach St. Pierre, but the volcano covered it with ashes and the town enveloped in dust and could not land.

The commander of the French cruiser Suchet, now at Fort de France, has been ordered to return to St. Pierre, Martinique, with all the speed possible and to forward details of the disaster to the French government. He cannot, however, be heard from for twenty-four hours, as Suchet has gone to the island of Guadeloupe in order to obtain provisions.

It is feared that M. L. Mouttel, the governor of Martinique, has perished. He telegraphed to the minister of marine from St. Pierre, Martinique, on the 8th inst., as supposed to have been at St. Pierre.

The State department has been receiving dispatches from commercial houses in New York asking that a warship be sent at once to Martinique to afford relief. The matter is under consideration.

Little Excitement in Paris.

The Parisians do not seem to realize the seriousness of the disaster which has lately caused more than a ripple of excitement. This was mainly due to the meagerness of the dispatches received here and to the total absence of details. The only sign of grief yet visible is the half-masted flag of the ministry at 10 p. m., as follows:

The Matin says it is one of the most frightful catastrophes recorded and that we must go back to Pompeii to find a parallel for such a calamity.

News is Confirmed in London.

LONDON, May 9.—The colonial office here has received a dispatch from Sir Robert Llewellyn, governor of the Windward Islands in the Caribbean, dated from Kingston, St. Vincent, yesterday, in which the governor says that the Soufriere volcano in the northwestern part of the island of St. Vincent continued in activity. Earth shocks had recurred for a week past, but not actually in Kingston. On Wednesday a big cloud of steam hung over the Soufriere and the inhabitants, who were greatly alarmed, were flocking to Chateau Belair. There were already 300 refugees there who were being fed by the authorities.

With the exception of a dispatch repeating the news brought to the island of St. Lucia yesterday afternoon by the British steamer Roddam, which announced the total destruction of the town of St. Pierre, island of Martinique, by a volcanic eruption, the English merchants and shippers here having trade relations with Martinique have received no direct news of the catastrophe.

Even the owners of the Roddam, which was forced to slip her anchor at St. Pierre in order to escape and which was badly damaged, seventeen of its crew being killed, have not heard from the vessel's captain.

Two Other Versions.

A former resident of St. Pierre, now in this city, says there were about 1,000 white people among the inhabitants of the destroyed town.

GAS OFFICIALS KNOW LITTLE

Their Testimony in Tax Case Throws No Light on Valuation.

DESIRED BOOKS ARE IN PHILADELPHIA

Lawyer McIntosh's Questions Fail to Bring Any Satisfactory Information Before the Board of Equalization.

Four men interested in the Omaha Gas company, either as officers or stockholders, or both, have thus far testified before the Board of Equalization and the examination has occupied a day and a half, yet the entire volume of the information they gave could be printed on a Columbian postage stamp.

The message adds: In the island of St. Vincent the Soufriere (volcano) is active and eruptions frequent. But so far no damage has been done.

In response to the request of Governor Llewellyn of the Windward Islands, the British second class cruiser Indefatigable has been dispatched from the island of Trinidad to the island of St. Vincent.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pointe-a-Pitre, island of Guadeloupe, French West Indies, says: The Monte Pelee (St. Pierre) crater ejected yesterday molten rocks and ashes three minutes and completely destroyed St. Pierre and the districts within a four-mile radius. All the inhabitants were burned.

Paralleled Only by Pompeii.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Jamaica says: The first intimation of a disaster at Martinique was the breaking of the cables on Tuesday. The French cable to Martinique from Pointe-a-Pitre broke on Wednesday.

The survivors of the British steamer Roddam describe the scene at St. Pierre as being "glimpses of hell." Roddam's men were killed chiefly by molten lava.

At the time the disaster occurred the utmost horror of the disaster, which they say for its suddenness and magnitude is only comparable with that of Pompeii, and they extend deep sympathy to the French nation.

BRIDGETOWN, island of Barbados, British West Indies, May 9.—Volcanic ashes from the island of St. Vincent are still falling here. The roads and houses are covered an inch thick.

The island of Barbados is over 100 miles from the island of St. Vincent.

Town is Entirely Destroyed.

ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 9, 9:30 a. m.—The French cruiser Suchet arrived at Point-a-Pitre, island of Guadeloupe, French West Indies, from Fort de France, this morning, bringing survivors, refugees, and confirmed the report that the town of St. Pierre, Martinique, was entirely destroyed at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning by a volcanic eruption.

It is supposed that most of the inhabitants of St. Pierre were killed, but the attorney despatched his boat, seeking for survivors, but was unable to penetrate the town. They saw heaps of bodies upon the wharves, and it is believed that not a single person residing in St. Pierre at the moment of the catastrophe escaped.

The British royal mail steamer, Esk, which arrived at St. Lucia this morning, reports having passed St. Pierre at night. The vessel was cleared by the post, although it was five miles distant from the town, which was in impenetrable darkness. A boat was sent in as near as possible to the shore, but not a living soul was seen ashore, only flames.

The manager of the Francais company's steamer Porlains was seen to explode and disappear.

Town Wrapped in Flames.

The commander of Suchet reports that at 1 o'clock on Thursday the entire town of St. Pierre was wrapped in flames. He endeavored to save about thirty persons, more or less burned, from the vessels in the harbor. His officers went ashore in small boats, seeking for survivors, but were unable to penetrate the town. They saw heaps of bodies upon the wharves, and it is believed that not a single person residing in St. Pierre at the moment of the catastrophe escaped.

The governor of the colony and his staff colonel had wife were in St. Pierre and probably perished. The extent of the catastrophe cannot be imagined.

The captain of the British steamer Roddam was very seriously injured and is now in the hospital at Lucia. All of his officers and crew were dead or dying. Nearly every member of the crew is dead. Supercargo Campbell and the fireman on the Roddam jumped overboard and were lost.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 9.—All the islands in the neighborhood of Martinique are being apparently being carried by cable communication with Vincent, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara and St. Lucia is interrupted. Fears are entertained for the safety of the cable repair steamer Grappler, which was at Martinique prior to the disaster.

Americans Among the Sufferers.

PORTLAND, Me., May 9.—News of the catastrophe at St. Pierre, island of Martinique, was of deep interest to the firm of J. H. Hamlen & Co. of this city, which is said to be the only New England business house with an office at St. Pierre.

Residents dealing in northern lumber, the Hamens are interested in the sugar industry of the island, and hold considerable property. Their loss will be heavy.

J. C. Hamlen, the junior member of the firm, says there were no New England people at the island connected with the business, and he believes that none but Americans were killed. He is of the opinion that no New England or American vessels were in port, as the season for shipping lumber, ice and coal is over.

There were three passengers on the Quebec Steamship company's steamship Porlains, which is supposed to have been lost, all on board in the harbor of St. Pierre. These passengers were: F. INCE, F. H. INCE, MRS. H. J. INCE, MR. STOKES.

All live in the West Indies. At the Quebec Steamship company's office here a note has been received either from Captain Muggah, the commander of the vessel, or from any of the West Indian agents of the line.

At the offices of the Danish and French consuls nothing had been heard directly of the present conditions in the destroyed district.

REBELS KILL INHABITANTS

BILL FOR STATES PASSES

Measures Admitting Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico Gets Through House.

GENERAL STRIKE IS ORDERED

Complete Tie-Up of Anthracite Mines Result of Long Deliberations.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Partly Cloudy, with Possible Showers in North Portion.

DEAF SCHOOL BURNS

State of Iowa Suffers Quarter Million Dollar Loss at Council Bluffs.

MAIN BUILDINGS ENTIRELY CONSUMED

Fire Department is Powerless to Stop the Spread of the Flames.

HIGH WIND AND LACK OF WATER HAMPER

Superintendent Rothert Unable to State How the Fire Starts.

ALL TEACHERS AND INMATES ARE SAVED

Many of Them Render Valuable Assistance in Saving Property From the Burning Building.

The main building of the Iowa School for the Deaf, three miles south of Council Bluffs, was destroyed by fire last evening, entailing a loss estimated at \$250,000.

The fire started in an attic over the chapel in the wing adjoining the main building. This attic had been used as a store room for lumber and other building material. The origin of the fire is a mystery and Superintendent Rothert is unable to advance a theory as to its origin.

The flames spread rapidly and in a few minutes the chapel wing, under which the dining rooms are located, was seething out of control. The blaze spread rapidly to the main structure. At first there seemed hopes of saving the two wings, but the wind, which was blowing from the southwest, veered to the northwest and it was soon apparent that the entire main structure was doomed.

The Council Bluffs fire department, in command of Chief Templeton, responded to the call for assistance and was soon at the scene of the fire. Their efforts, however, were hampered by the want of water pressure. The inmates kept the building of its own with a reservoir on an adjoining hill, from which the water was pumped by means of engines in the engine room adjoining the wing of the building in which the fire first started.

The efforts of the firemen were directed to keep the flames from spreading to the engine room, which was a reservoir on an adjoining hill, from which the water was pumped by means of engines in the engine room adjoining the wing of the building in which the fire first started.

Into East Wing.

About 7 o'clock the flames, which had been gradually, but surely, eating their way into the east wing, despite the work of the firemen and many willing helpers, burst forth in all their fury, lighting up the sky until it could be seen for miles. It was then evident that the east wing, like the west, was doomed and the work of the firemen was directed to prevent it from spreading to the buildings in the rear of the main structure. A few minutes before 8 o'clock the east wall of the east wing fell out with a crash. By this time there was but little of the main structure left but the outside walls, while the interior was a fiery furnace. Standing as the building did on the top of an eminence, the flames could be seen for miles.

The building in the rear of the wing in which the fire started is occupied by a laundry and the kitchen. The latter, with the private dining room for the teachers and officers of the institution on the second floor. This was badly damaged, but escaped complete destruction.

The institute had within its walls at the time the fire started 250 pupils and sixty-three teachers and officers. They lost practically all of their belongings, most of them saving nothing except the clothes they had on. Superintendent Rothert's loss is complete, as when the fire was first discovered by him he made no effort to save any of his effects, but directed his whole attention to getting his charges out of the burning building. Chief Templeton was for a short time directing the fight against the flames. His loss is considerable, as he owned a large library, a valuable collection of silverware and a number of costly oil paintings, the collection of a lifetime.

The fire, which had evidently by that time made considerable headway under the roof of the wing in the rear of the main building, was discovered by a small boy, one of the pupils, who rushed frantically up and down the hall in the center building opposite Superintendent Rothert's office. The noise made by the boy attracted the attention of Mr. Rothert, who on going into the hall noticed the smell of smoke. It took him but a few seconds to realize that the building was on fire and he at once directed his efforts to getting the pupils and the attendant out of the building. The fire bell was rung, the whistle blown and active preparations begun to fight the flames with the means at hand until assistance should arrive from the city.

The building was soon emptied of the pupils and teachers and then Superintendent Rothert, with a number of the men employed about the institute commenced the work of saving the building and such effects of the pupils as possible from the dormitories in the two wings.

Chief Templeton, with the hook and ladder company from No. 1 hose house, responded to the call and were soon at the scene of the fire. At first their efforts to save the two wings of the main building seemed likely to meet with success, but the wind changed and at 8 o'clock the flames burst from the center building into the west wing and in a few minutes it was a blazing furnace. Chief Templeton, Captain Taylor and Fireman Stevens were caught on the third floor of the west wing, their escape by the stairway being cut off and they had to make their descent by the fire-escape. All were more or less scorched and Chief Templeton was for a short time overcome by inhaling smoke. He was able, however, in a short time to resume the direction of the firemen.

Teachers Control Children.

Fortunately the teachers were able to exercise complete control over the children and none of them suffered any injury. At 8 o'clock they were gathered into the large brick two-story school building east of the main building, where they were given supper. Temporary sleeping rooms were established in the school building for the girls and in the industrial school for the boys.

Officers from St. Bernard's and the Women's Christian association hospitals were made to take care of a certain number of the children, but for last night Superintendent Rothert decided to keep both are Italian.

MEMEN WILL QUIT WORK NEXT MONDAY

Order is Qualified So as to Make Permanency of Strike Inconvenient on Action of Committee Wednesday.

REPORTS ARE EXAGGERATED

Damage by Earthquake in Guatemala Not So Bad as First Indicated.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9.—Additional news of the recent earthquake in Guatemala has been brought here by the steamer Newport, which left San Jose de Guatemala on April 23. These advices show that while the first reports of the seismic disturbances were much exaggerated, still there was a heavy loss of life and property.

At Quetzaltenango 500 people were reported to have been killed or injured out of a population of possibly 40,000. Of this number there was but one white person, Mrs. Clara Kildare, the wife of a photographer.

Death and damage to property also is reported to have resulted in the cities of San Marcos, San Pedro, San Juan, Ostuncalco, Tacana, Mazatenango and Cutuyango. These cities have from 2,000 to 5,000 inhabitants each. Much damage was done on the coffee plantations and at the ports of Ocos and Champerico, on the Pacific.

Newport was at La Libertad when the earthquake which wrecked Quetzaltenango occurred. Though the ship was anchored in the harbor, those on board felt the shock. The vessel was at Ocos on April 19, when a second shock occurred. A number of houses were thrown down and several persons were killed. Yawing crevices made the streets impassable. A small stream which emptied into the sea near Ocos disappeared and the iron railroad bridge which spanned it was teleseped. All houses in Ocos are deserted and the inhabitants are living in the open fields in tents.

Esalco, the burning mountain in Salvador, has been extinct for ten months and during that time there has been frequent earthquakes and tidal waves along the coast.

ONE FUNERAL FOR THE FORDS

Brothers Will Be Buried at the Same Time at Irvington-on-Hudson.

NEW YORK, May 9.—There was a meeting of relatives of Paul Leicester Ford and Malcolm W. Ford today, at which E. H. Kidder, Mrs. Paul Ford's father; Roswell Steele, Worthington Ford and a sister were present.

Later Worthington Ford said there would be but one funeral and that the service would be conducted by Bishop Burgess of Long Island, formerly rector of Grace church, New York. Immediately after the service the bodies will be taken to Irvington-on-Hudson for interment.

Dr. Munroe, the Ford family doctor, and Dr. Baruch, who was called in immediately after the tragedy yesterday, said Mrs. Paul Ford had rallied entirely today from the shock. She is still weak, but is out of danger.

Malcolm Ford, who secured a divorce four years ago, visited Malcolm Ford's late home and saw her 7-year-old boy, who had lived with his father.

DEATH RECORD.

Charles A. Pierce, Tecumseh.

TECUMSEH, Neb., May 9.—(Special Telegram.) Charles A. Pierce, of this place, died at the Presbyterian hospital in Omaha late last night. The deceased was a prominent business man and citizen of Tecumseh, having been cashier of the Tecumseh National bank since 1892. He was born in Havana, Ill., in 1860. He was married to Miss Mary Scott, an widow, with two children, surviving him, also two children by a former marriage. The funeral will be held at Waverly Sunday afternoon. Tecumseh citizens will attend on a special train from here. Mr. Pierce was a Knight Templar, also a member of the Royal High-Land, these orders, together with the Tecumseh military band, will attend in uniform.

John Bentler, Humboldt.

HUMBOLDT, Neb., May 9.—(Special.)—John Bentler, son of one of Richardson county's prominent farmers, died this morning at his home a few miles south of here. The deceased was 23 years of age and had been ill only a few weeks. The funeral service will be held Sunday at the German Reformed church, conducted by Rev. Leher.

J. B. Brady.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., May 9.—J. B. Brady, millionaire, head of the wholesale carpet house of J. B. Brady & Co., died early this morning from paralysis. Mr. Brady had been in business here for over thirty years, was unmarried and leaves an immense estate. He maintained for many years a bachelor residence on a scale of lavish luxury.

L. L. Smith, Plainview.

PLAINVIEW, Neb., May 9.—(Special.)—L. L. Smith, a prominent citizen of this place, died Thursday at the home of his sister, Mrs. Irwin, at Creighton. The funeral will take place here Sunday, under the auspices of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows' lodge of Plainview, of which he was an honorary member.

Mrs. O. W. Eaton, Wood River.

WOOD RIVER, Neb., May 9.—(Special.)—Mrs. Eaton, wife of O. W. Eaton, vice president of the First National bank of this city, died at her home this morning. Mrs. Eaton leaves, besides her husband, a son and daughter.

Mrs. Priscilla Woodruff, Beatrice.

BEATRICE, Neb., May 9.—(Special.)—Mrs. Priscilla Woodruff died on Tuesday afternoon, aged 65 years. She was the wife of Otis Woodruff, an old resident of Beatrice. The funeral was held Wednesday.

Aids in Wife's Elopement.

YORK, Neb., May 9.—(Special.)—The elopement of Mrs. A. A. Hawley, wife of Gresham's popular postmaster, and George Mauer, who was Mr. Hawley's deputy clerk for a number of years, is exciting the people of Gresham. Mrs. Hawley is mother of two children, a girl 13 years old and a boy 14 years of age, and until very recently Mr. Hawley had not suspected that his wife had become infatuated with Mauer. Learning of the infatuation on Tuesday, he gave his wife money and household effects and she departed.

Robber Suspended Released.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., May 9.—(Special.)—John Armstrong, the man who was arrested here the other day at the request of the Iowa authorities on the charge of robbing the home of his brother at Churchillville, Ia., was discharged from the county two last night, as the officers from Des Moines did not come for his prisoner.

STORM SUBSIDES IN SENATE

Carmack and Dolliver Adjust Differences and Debates Are Less Bitter.

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WASHINGTON, May 9.—An effort was made in the senate to fix a time for a vote on the pending Philippine bill, but it was unsuccessful. The minority said many senators still desired to speak on the measure and that it would not be proper to determine at this time upon a vote.

Today's debate on the bill was mild. Mr. Teller, who has been the principal opponent of the bill, apologized to the senate for the language he used yesterday in reference to Mr. Dolliver. He also said that he regretted the use of language he had employed in characterizing Bell, Chaffee and Smith and recognized that epithets were not proper in debate. Mr. Teller said that his personal feelings might be.

Mr. Dolliver said he desired to express regret if he had said anything to wound the sensibilities of the senator from Tennessee.

Mr. Lodge, in charge of the Philippine bill, discharged the committee on privileges and election from further consideration of the constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by the people. Finally the resolution was withdrawn, assurance being given that a report from the committee soon would be made.

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