HUNDREDS DIE IN MINE FIRE

Terrible Explosion in a Colliery Near Calais France, Entraps 1,200

Paris, March 10.—A mining catastrophe of incalculable horror and magnitude has stricken the great coal centre of northern France. An explosion of fire damp at 7 o'clock this morning carried death and destruction throughout the network of coal mines centred at Courrieres, and fire followed the explosion, making rescues difficult and almost impossible. The intense excitement and confusion in the vicinity prevented early estimates of the exact loss of life, but a despatch received here at 4.35 p. m., gave 1,401 miners entombed, and probably lost. At 8.45 o'clock this evening a brief despatch from Lille announced the awful total of 1,193 dead.

All France has been profoundly shocked by the magnitude of the disaster, which is said to be the greatest in the history of continental mining.

IMPOSSIBLE TO RENDER AID.

Gas is pouring into pit No. 2, preventing an entrance, and is is impossible to succor the men imprisoned there. In pit No. 3 the cages will not work, having been damaged by the violence of the explosion. The rescue work, therefore, is proceeding mainily in pit No. 4.

The rescuers are made up of engineers and the personnel of the surrounding mining towns.

Ten miners from pit No. 11 were removed alive, but none of the 858 miners who entered pit No. 4 has yet been brought out. Of the 500 miners who descended there this morning, according to a despatch from Lens, 388 have been brought out, but the rescue of the others is impossible. In pit No. 3 only 13 men out of 443 have been rescued, and as the ladders are broken and the cages jammed the rescuers despair of helping the others. The Prefect of Pas de Calais, M. Arras, is directing the work of rescue at pit No. 11, near the scene of the main catastrophe. It is possible that the rescuers may be able to approach the lateral galleries, and fifty miners, headed by Engineer Bar, have been formed into a relief gang, and will make an attempt to reach them.

Foreman Lecomte came up from the mine this afternoon and reported a terrifying scene below.

FAMILIES CROWDED THE SHAFTS.

The families of the entombed miners crowded about the shaft seeking husbands or fathers and threatening in their efforts to obtain details to force back the gendarmes who kept them from the mouth of the pit. The populace of the district is appalled by the disaster, which affects every household. Those persons who were rescued were terribly burned. The latest estimates place those taken out at 591.

Throughout the afternoon the heroic efforts at rescue were continued, but nightfall brought the conviction that the entombed men had been suffocated, and the despatch from Lille at 8.45 p.m. announcing the number of dead at 1,193 appears to remove the last hope that others may be brought to the surface alive.

A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.

The catastrohe took place shortly after 1,795 men had descended into the mine this morning. There was a deafening explosion, which was followed by the cages and mining apparatus being hurled from the mouth of the Courrieres mine. Men and horse nearby outside the mine were either stunned or killed. The roof of the mine office was torn off. Immediately following the explosion flames burst from the mouth of the pit, driving back those without who sought to enter and dooming those within. The work of attempting to rescue the imprisoned miners was hastily begun by officials, engineers and miners from the surrounding mines, who formed parties and made heroic efforts to penetrate the smoke and foul gases and bring out the imprisoned.

A THOUSAND FOR ONTARIO.

Church Army Party Secured for the Province.

A Toronto despatch says: The Minister of Agriculture has received a cable from Mr. J. O'Byrne, colonization agent at Liverpool, stating that the whole party of 1,000 men arranged for by the Church Army had been secured for Ontario. A large number of the party will sail on April 19. The grants made by Canon Carlile's organization are in the shape of loans, and each emigrant signs a contract to repay the passage-money in six quarlely instalments. They are carefully selected and tested at the Church Army's farm colonies as far as possible. Each is recommended by responsible parties. A large number of the men, it is said, will be accompanied by their families. The sum of £10,000 has been raised by the Church Army for the purpose, and a further appeal for £100,000 to send out 10,000 men is being made. The men are expected to take up the free grants of 160 acres after a year or so of experience in the Province.

CONSUMPTION OF LUMBER.

Statistics for Manitoba and Saskatchewan—Quantity Imported.

A Winnipeg despatch says: The Crown timber office here has issued interesting statistics showing the amount of lumber consumed in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, based on reliable information, which assures that the figures are approximately correct. The total aggregates 379,901,189 feet, of which 37,015,821 feet were imported from the United States, 116,000,000 feet brought from British Columbia, and 82,000,000 feet from new Ontario. There was an increase of nearly 38,000,000 feet over the preceding year.

TO VISIT NEW YORK.

Governor-General to be Entertained at a Banquet by the Pilgrims.

A New York despatch says: Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, has accepted the invitation of the Pilgrims to a dinner in his honor at the Waldorf-Astoria, on March 31, and will come down from Ottawa for the occasion with several of his Cabinet Ministers. Secretary Root and other members of the Administration, as well as Sir Mortimer Durand, the British Ambassador, have also promised to attend, while the President may be present. The dinner will be eventful as the first occasion of any public entertainment of the Governor-General of the Dominion, either in New York or anywhere else in the United States. In the absence of Bishop Potter, Moris K. Jesup, one of the vice-presidents of the Pilgrims, will take the chair.

FELL ONE MILE TO EARTH

Military Balloon Containing Nine Soldiers Collapsed Near Rome.

A Rome despatch says: The envelope of a military balloon, which was making an ascent at Civita Lavignia, 18 miles south-east of this city on Thursday, burst at a height of over a mile, and a captain and eight soldiers, who were in the car, were dashed to the ground.

BRITAIN OWNS FIFTH OF WORLD.

First Census of the Empire Shows 400,000,000 Population.

A despatch from London says: The result of the first organized census of the British Empire is isued in a blue book. It shows that the Empire consists of an approximate area of 11,908,378 square miles, or more than one-fifth of the entire land area of the world. The population is about 400,000,000, of whom 54,000,000 are whites. The population is roughly distributed as follows:—

In Asia	300,000,000
In Africa	43,000,000
In Europe	42,000,000
In America	7,500,000
In Australasia	5,000,000

The most populous city after London is Calcutta. The highest proportion of married persons is in India, Natal, Cyprus and Canada. The lowest is in the West Indies. Depression in the birth rate is general almost everywhere, but is most remarkable in Australasia. The proportion of insane persons in the colonies is much below that in the United Kingdom. Insanity is markedly decreasing in India, despite consanguineous marriages. Indeed, the theory that such marriages produce mental unsoundness is little supported by these statistics.

DARING FORGER ARRESTED.

He Passed $18,000 Worth of Bogus Pay Checks.

A despatch from Chicago says: The principal in the $18,000 forgery of Illinois Steel Company pay checks in South Chicago has been discovered. According to his own confession, Louis Longpre is the man. He was arrested on Tuesday in the office of the Western Bank Note Company, where he has been employed as an engraver. Longpre confessed that he made the plate from which the checks were printed and that he assisted in cashing them among the South Chicago merchants. Marie, Longpre's wife, was arrested Monday and was identified by several merchants as having cashed some of the pay checks. There are several others under arrest, but the police refuse to tell their identity. Longpre in previous years has been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in other big forgeries.

CARNEGIE ON WEALTH.

Millionaires Who Laugh Are Rare, Says Carnegie.

A despatch from London says: Andrew Carnegie has written to a newspaper here declaring that the advantages of wealth are trifling. He says, "Beyond a competence for old age, which need not be great, and may be very small, wealth lessens rather than increases human happiness. Millionaires who laugh are rare."

SALARY FOR BRITISH MEMBERS.

Bill Carried to Pay Each of Them One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars.

A despatch from London says: The House of Commons, after a discussion occupying the whole of the Wednesday evening session, carried by a majority of 238 the motion introduced by the capitalist Liberal, Wm. Hesketh Lever, representing the Wirral division of Chesire, in favor of payment to members of Parliament of $1,500 yearly.

EXPERIMENTS WITH FARM CROPS.

Many New Varieties of Seeds Being Distributed Free of Charge.

The members of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union are pleased to state that for 1906 they are prepared to distribute into every township of Ontario material for experiments with fodder crops, roots, grains, grasses, clovers, and fertilizers. Upwards of 1,600 varieties of farm crops have been tested in the Experimental Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, for at least five years in succession. These consist of nearly all the Canadian sorts and several hundred new varieties, some of which have done exceedingly well in the carefully conducted experiments at the College and are now being distributed free of charge for co-operative experiments throughout Ontario. The following is the list of co-operative experiments in agriculture for 1906:

No.	Experiments.	Plots.
1	Three varieties of Oats	3
2	(a) Three varieties of Six-rowed Barley	3
	(b) Two varieties of Two-rowed Barley	2
3	Two varieties of Hulless Barley	2
4	Two varieties of Spring Wheat	2
5	Two varieties of Buckwheat	2
6	Two varieties of Field Peas	2
7	Emmer and Spelt	2
8	Two varieties of Soy, Soja, or Japanese Beans	2
9	Three varieties of Husking Corn	3
10	Three varieties of Mangolds	3
11	Two varieties of Sugar Beets for feeding purposes	2
12	Three varieties of Swedish Turnips	3
13	Kohn Rabi and two varieties of Fall Turnips	3
14	Parsnips and two varieties of Carrots	3
15	Three varieties of Fodder or Silage Corn	3
16	Three varieties of Millet	3
17	Three varieties of Sorghum	3
18	Grass Peas and two varieties of Vetches	3
19	Two varieties of Rape	2
20	Three varieties of Clover	3
21	Sainfoin, Lucerne, and Burnet	3
22	Seven varieties of Grasses	7
23	Three varieties of Field Beans	3
24	Three varieties of Sweet Corn	3
25	Fetrtilizers with Corn	6
26	Fertilizers with Swedish Turnips	6
27	Sowing Mangels on the level and in drills	2
28	Two varieties of early, medium, or late Potatoes	2
29	Three Grain Mixtures for grain production	3
30	Three mixtures of Grasses and Clover for hay	3

The size of each plot in each of the first twenty-seven experiments and in Nos. 29 and 30 is to be two rods long by one rod wide; and in No. 28, one rod square.

Each person in Ontario who wishes to join in the work may choose any ONE of the experiments for 1906, and apply for the same. The material will be furnished in the order in which the applications are received until the supply is exhausted. It might be well for each applicant to make a second choice, for fear the first could not be granted. All material will be furnished entirely free of charge to each applicant, and the produce of the plots will, of course, become the property of the person who conducts the experiment.

J. BUCHANAN,
Director.

Ontario Agricultural College,
Guelph, March 5th, 1906.

CANCER CURES WITH RAYS.

Prof. Schiff Successfully Uses Rontgen and Radium.

A despatch from Berlin says: Prof. Edward Schiff, of Vienna, who was one of the first physicians to study the healing effect of the Rontgen rays, describes in a Munich medical journal three cases in which he has succeeded in healing cutaneous cancer with the aid of Rontgen or radium rays.

In opposition to the practice of other physicians, who assist the healing process with slight operation and the application of certain chemical materials, Prof. Schiff used only the rays. One case was that of a lady of 75 years of age, who had cancer in the right temple. The other two, who were also between 70 and 75 years of age, had cancer on the nose. From ten to fourteen sittings sufficed to heal the cancer, the radium and Rontgen rays being applied alternately for the space of one hour with the former and ten minutes with the latter treatment.

Prof. Schiff considers that he has proved that the statement that cancer on the skin can be removed only with the knife is erroneous.

DOUKHOBORS TAKE CONTRACT.

Will Help Build the National Transcontinental Railway.

A Winnipeg despatch says: Representatives of the Doukhobor community, Peter Verigin and two men with him, were very busily engaged during the last week purchasing supplies for railway work to be done by the Doukhobors during the season of 1906. Large quantities of ploughs, scrapers, carts, dump carts, etc., have been secured, in addition to much other material, and food and clothing supplies. The contract which the community have with the Grand Trunk Pacific involves the moving of about one million cubic yards of earth. A thousand Doukhobor workmen wil be employed on the contract.

FRENCH CABINET RESIGNED.

Was Defeated on the Question of Church Inventories.

A despatch from Paris says: Prime Minister Rouvier and the members of his Cabinet resigned on Wednesday, following a debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the Government's application of the law regarding the taking of inventories of church property. M. Rouvier demanded a vote of confidence, which was defeated by 273 to 234.

The Cabinet crisis comes at a most dramatic moment, when the Franco-German contest has reached a decisive stage, and may exert an important adverse influence on the Algeciras conference and European affairs.

The Government succeeded in holding only 234 votes, while the various elements in opposition, Clericals, Socialists, and Nationalists, united and polled 27 votes, thus placing the Ministry in a minority of 33.

Premier Rouvier, with all his colleagues, immediately proceeded to the Foreign Office, where a joint letter of resignation was prepared. Later M. Rouvier presented this letter to President Fallieres, who accepted the resignations. Having returned from presenting to President Fallieres the resignation of the Ministry, M. Rouvier was surrounded in the lobbies of the Chamber of Deputies by groups of members, who expressed their regret at his abandonment of office. M. Rouvier displayed not the slightest emotion.

DEATH OF HALIFAX PRELATE.

Archbishop O'Brien Expires After Few Hours' Illness.

A despatch from Halifax, N.S., says: Cornelius O'Brien, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Halifax, died suddenly at 11 o'clock on Friday night. For four or five years his Grace had been in somewhat poor health, suffering from an affection of the kidneys, but it was apoplexy that proved the immediate cause of death. Friday morning the Archbishop rose feeling about as usual, but in the afternoon he complained of indigestion, from an acute form of which he was a sufferer. He went to bed and sent for his physician, who came and prescribed. The doctor was called for again at 10 o'clock at night, but saw no reason for thinking it more than indigestion. At 11 o'clock his Grace asked his niece, who was in the room, to get him a glass of water. She went after it, and returning in a minute, found the prelate dead on his bed. He had expired in a moment, and without a pang.

A MONSTER ENGINE.

Will Haul C.P.R. Transcontinental Train in One Section.

A despatch from Montreal says: The C. P. R. is experimenting with what is said to be the largest locomotive ever built. This locomotive was designed by Mr. Vaughan, assistant to President Van Horne. It left the shops on Tuesday night under its own steam for the North Bay division, on which it will be tried out.

The C.P.R. is trying to get an engine that will take the Transcontinental across to Vancouver in one section. Hitherto when traffic has been at all heavy it has been found necesary to break the Transcontinental into two sections. This new engine, if it fulfils expectations, will take a train of twenty passenger cars across the continent.

Though the C.P.R. authorities admit that they have built the largest engine ever constructed in America, they will not give out any particulars as to its weight or manner of construction.

ENA IS NOW A CATHOLIC.

Impressive Ceremony at the Conversion of the Princess.

A despatch from San Sebastien, Spain, says: The impressive ceremony of the conversion of the Princess Ena of Battenberg to the Roman Catholic faith prior to her marrying King Alphonso occurred on Wednesday in the chapel of the Palace of Miramar. The members of the royal family were deeply moved, the Princess Beatrice, Princess Henry of Battenberg, mother of the Princess Ena, and Princess Ena were in tears. An artillery salute announced the termination of the ceremony, after which the royal party lunched together. The town enjoyed a holiday in honor of the event, processions headed by bands of music passing constantly through the streets.

MURDER AT WINNIPEG.

A Drunken Quarrel Followed by a Stabbing.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: A Galician named Thomas Korchzynski was murdered in a row in a tenement house in the foreign quarter on Saturday night. Another Galician named Fred Huyk has been arrested charged with the crime. About 25 foreigners in the house had been drinking and celebrating before the altercation, which terminated in a fight between Korchzynski and Huyk. They went outside to settle the difference and Huyk stabbed deceased four times, inflicting wounds which caused death shortly afterwards. The police have arrested all the parties implicated. Huyk has a bad record, having served eighteen years in prison in Austria for killing a police officer. He has a wife and family in his native country. His victim was a young man, 27 years of age.

Toronto's assessment this year is expected to be increased by $10,000,000.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, March 13. — Wheat — Ontario —No. 2 white, 78c asked f.o.b., 73 per cent. freight points; red, 76c bid, 77½c asked, mixed 77c asked.

Wheat — Manitoba — No. 2 Northern, 81c asked, f.o.b. lake ports for May.

Oats — No. 2 white, 34c bid, f.o.b. 78 per cent. freigfiht points.

Barley — 50c asked for No. 2, outside, 47c bid for No. 3 extra and 45c for No. 3.

Peas — No quotation

Corn — No. 3 yellow, American, 47c bid, at Toronto.

Flour — Exporters are bidding $3.65 for Ontario 90 per cent. patents for export, in buyers' bags, at outside points. Manitoba—first patents $4.30 to $4.50, $4 for second patents.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter — Receipts are generally less heavy, and the market has a firmer tone for all lines.

Creamery	25c to 26c
do solids	23c to 24c
Dairy lb. rolls, good to choice	18c to 19c
do largs rolls	17c to 18c
do medium	16c to 17c

Cheese—13½c for large and 14c for twins.

Eggs — Deliveries are again heavy, and the market is taking a downward turn, and quotations are lower, at 17c for new laid and 14c for storage.

Poultry — Fat chickens, 11c to 12c, thin 7c to 8c; fat hens, 8c to 9c, thin 6c to 7c; ducks, 12c to 13c, thin 6c to 7c; geese, 10c to 11c; turkeys, 14c to 15c, for choice small lots.

Potatoes — Ontario, 65c to 75c per bag on track here, 75c to 85c out of store; eastern, 70c to 80c on track, and 80c to 90c out of store.

Baled Hay—Quiet at $8 per ton for No. 1 timothy and $5.50 to $6 for No. 2 in car lots on track here.

Baled Straw—Unchanged at $6 per ton for car lots on track here.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, March 13.—Grain — Bids were out of line in Manitoba wheat, and business was quiet. The oat market continues easy in tone; prices unchanged. Barley firm. No change in flour. Rolled oats firm in tone, and millers have advanced prices to $1.90 per bag in car lots, and $2 to $2.05 in jobbing way.

Oats — No. 3, 39c to 39½c; No. 3, 38c to 38½c; No. 4, 37c to 37½c.

Peas — 79c f.o.b. per bushel.

Barley — Manitoba, No. 3, 49c to 49½c; No. 4, 48c to 48½c; Ontario, 46c f.o.b 78 per cent. points.

Corn — American mixed, 50½c; No. 2 yellow, 51½c ex-track.

Flour — Manitoba spring wheat patents, $4.50 to $4.60; strong bakers', $4 to $4.10; winter wheat patents, $4.25 to $4.50; straight rollers, $4 to $4.10; do in bags, $1.75 to $1.85; extras, $1.65 to $1.75.

Millfeed — Manitoba bran in bags, $19; shorts, $20 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, $14.50 to $15; shorts, $20; milled mouille 21 to 24, straight grain mouille $25 to $27 per ton.

Rolled Oats — Per bag, $1.90 to $1.95; cornmeal, $1.30 to $1.40 per bag.

Hay—No. 1, $8 to $8.50; No. 2, $7 to $7.50; clover mixed, $6 to $6.50.

Cheese—No change; fair trade is passing in small lots, dealers quoting 13c to 13½c.

Butter — Steady, choice selling at 22c to 22½c, and 23c to 23½c in small lots. Second quality is unchanged at 21½c to 22c.

Eggs — Fresh selling at 19½c to 20c, fall stock at 14c to 15c, and limed at 13c to 14c.

Provisions — Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $21; light short cut, $20; American short cut $20; American cut clear fat back, $19 to $20; compound lard, 6¾c to 7¼c; Canadian pure lard, 11½c to 12c; kettle rendered, 12½c to 13c; hams, 12c to 13½c, according to size; bacon, 14½c; fresh killed abattoir dressed hogs, $10 to $10.25; country dressed, $8.75 to $9.50; alive, $7.50 for selects.

BUFFALO MARKETS.

Buffalo, March 13. — Flour — Quiet and steady. Wheat — Spring unsettled; No. 1 Northern, 82⅝c, carloads; Winter quiet; No. 2 red, 82¼c. Corn — Easier; No. 2 yellow, 46½c; No. 2 corn, 46c. Oats — Quiet, and only steady; No. 2 white, 34½c. Barley — Only steady; Western, in store, offered at 46 to 52c. Rye — Nominal.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, Mar. 13.—The run of cattle offering at the Western Market this morning was heavier than for some time, but the demand continues fairly active for all lines and prices were well maintained.

Export Cattle—Choice are quoted at $4.16 to $5.15, good to medium at $4 to $4.50, others at $3.75 to $4, bulls at $3.50 to $4, and cows at $2.75 to $3.50.

Butcher Cattle—Picked lots, $4.50 to $4.75; good to choice, $4.10 to $4.40; fair to good, $3.50 to $4; common, $2.50 to $3; ; cows, $3 to $3.60; bulls, $3 to $4; canners, $1.50 to $2.

Stockers and Feeders — Short-keep feeders are quoted at $4 to $4.50; heavy feeders at $3.85 to $4.15, medium at $2.50 to $3.50, bulls at $2 to $2.75, good stockers run at $3 to $3.65, light at $2.75 to $3, rough to common at $2 to $2.75, and bulls at $1.75 to $2.50.

Milch Cows—Trade is steady and the range of prices offering is unchanged at $30 to $60 each.

Calves—Prices were generally maintained and are quoted unchanged at 3½c to 6¾c per lb.

Sheep and Lambs—They are quoted at $4.75 to $5 per cwt., and bucks at $3.75 to $4.50. Lambs are steady at $6.75 to $7.10 for grain-fed and $5.50 to $6.50 for mixed.

Hogs—Selects are quoted at $6.85 per cwt. and lights and fats at $6.60.