FOUR HUNDRED ENTOMBED

Unparalleled Disaster in West Virginia Coal Mine.

A despatch from Fairmont, West Virginia, says: The most terrible mine disaster in the coal history of West Virginia, and probably the greatest mining disaster in the history of the United States, occurred in mines numbers six and eight, of the Fairmont Coal Company, opposite Monongah, on the West Fork River on Thursday. It is thought that at least 350 men have lost their lives.

Six charred and blackened bodies lying in the improvised morgue prepared near the entrance to the mine, four men hovering between life and death from the awful bruises sustained and the deadly gases inhaled, in a temporary hospital into which one of the company's buildings has been transformed, and 369 men imprisoned by tons of coal and mine debris in the depths of the hills surrounding this mining town, with the chances all against a single one of them being alive, is the most accurate summary obtainable on Thursday night of the results of the explosion.

The explosion occurred shortly after 10 o'clock, after the full force of 380 men had gone to work in the two mines affected. These mines are Nos. 6 and 8 of the Consolidated Coal Co., located on opposite sides of the West Fork River, but merged in their underground workings by a heading and on the surface by a great steel tipple and bridge.

CAUSED BY BLACK DAMP.

There is much speculation as to the cause of the explosion, but the most generally accepted theory is that it resulted from black damp, scientifically known as methane. It is believed that a miner attempted to set off a blast, which blew out and ignited the highly inflammable substance found in greater or less quantities in all West Virginia mines. However, all explanations of the cause up to this time are necessarily speculative. Only a thorough investigation after the mine is reopened will disclose the cause, if it is ever ascertained.

The explosion affected both mines, and so far as is now known appears to have done about as much damage in one as in the other. It has not been established in which mine it originated. Evidencing the terrific force of the concussion, props in the entry of No. 6 mine, supporting the roof, were not only shattered and torn from their positions, but were blown out of the entry, and to the opposite side of the river. Other evidence of the awful force is shown in every section of the mines that has been reached by the rescuers. Huge quantities of coal and rock have been loosened and hurled into every opening, and all of the underground structure is wrecked beyond semblance of the original shape.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

The entry of No. 6 mine 300 feet from the mouth is piled high with the wreckage of two strings of cars and two electric motors. Some of the rescuers have climbed over this and found dead bodies beyond, but have made no attempt to remove these to the surface, partly because it would be almost impossible to carry the bodies over the debris, but more because they do not want to lose any time in reaching other sections of the mine where it is possible men still living may be imprisoned. The cars are being righted as fast as possible and removed from the entry together with all other obstructions.

PATHETIC SCENES.

The scenes round about the entries to the mines and throughout the town are pathetic and heartrending. Wives, mothers and sweethearts, together with children and members of the stronger sex, move from place to place, vainly seeking information and making no attempt to conceal their grief. But little news can be given them, and such as they do get is bad. None is encouraged to hope that anyone in the mine has survived the explosion and the suffocating gas that immediately after filled the mine. From time to time there comes word from the searchers in the mine that bodies have been found at one place or another, and in nearly every instance it is also stated that the bodies are either terribly torn and mangled or burned and blackened.

EBB-TIDE OF EMIGRATION.

Undesirable Hordes are Pouring in on Germany.

A despatch from London says: According to a Berlin despatch, Germany is tremendously alarmed over the economic consequences of the emigrant rush from America. A correspondent says: "It is feared that the tens of thousands of Russian Poles, Lithuanians, Hungarians, Greeks, and Italians, landing at Hamburg and Bremen, after having spent their last coins on passage money back, may become stranded in Germany, and put the already overcrowded domestic labor market in a critical position." The Imperial Government is being urged to consider "whether Germany should not immediately resort to the vigorous prohibitive measures enforced by the American immigration authorities and arbitrarily put up bars against the torrent of homeless undesirables."

RUSSIA HAS GUNPOWDER PLOT.

Scheme to Blow Up Emperor, Imperial Palace and Duma.

A despatch from Paris says: A Geneva despatch received here states that the police have discovered a Russian terrorist plot to assassinate the Emperor, blow up the Imperial Palace and the Duma, and pillage the Imperial Bank of Russia. One arrest has been made in connection with the alleged plot.

HANGED AT KAMLOOPS.

Sam Lock, a Chinaman, Killed Man Who Stole His Money.

A despatch from Vancouver says: Sam Lock, Chinaman, was executed on Wednesday morning in the jail yard at Kamloops. Groaning and very nervous, the aged Chinaman walked to the gallows. Sam Lock, who was for years cook for J. E. Hobson in Cariboo, last April killed a countryman who had stolen his savings. The murderer had been forty years in the country, and up to that time had borne a good reputation.

STRUCK WOLF WITH GUN.

The Piece Was Discharged, and Unknown German Was Killed.

A despatch from Sheho, Saskatchewan, says: Details have just been received of a distressing fatality in the neighborhood of Ebenezer, about thirty miles southeast. A German, name unknown, had come to the district for the purpose of hunting, and went out on horseback, accompanied by his hounds. Having run down a wolf, he alighted and struck it on the head with the barrel of his gun. This broke the barrels, and again he struck the wolf with the stock of the gun, when the gun exploded and the full charge entered the man's body in the neighborhood of the heart, killing him instantly.

FIGHT WITH BANK BURGLARS

Messenger Surprised Two Burglars at Work in Montreal Bank.

A despatch from Montreal says: A desperate gang of burglars is infesting Montreal, and their latest exploit was a particularly bold one. At a late hour on Wednesday night Mr. Alarie, the messenger at the central branch of the Banque d'Hochelaga, on St. Catherine Street, was alarmed to hear the buzzer in his room go off. He knew that some one must have entered the bank, and hastily dressing himself, he rushed out from his house, which is at the end of a lane behind the bank, and entered by the door at St. Catherine Street.

He saw a light burning near the outer door of the principal safe, where there is as a rule, no light. At once he entered the manager's office, and taking his revolver from a drawer, crawled cautiously near the light. Two men were trying the combination of the outer door of the vault. Walking on tip toe to surprise them, he himself was surprised. The robbers had detected his presence, and a revolver shot was fired. The messenger's escape was marvellous, for the burglar's bullet passed through his hat, and then, crashing through the glass of a window, flattened itself against a brick wall in the lane. Alarie fired back, and immediately one of the burglars switched off the light. Before the messenger could cut off their retreat they had found their way out by the open door. The messenger quickly followed, but there was no trace of the robbers.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Dec. 10.—Manitoba Wheat—No. 1 hard, nominal; No. 1 northern, $1.15; No. 2, $1.10½; No. 3 northern, $1.06.

Ontario Wheat—No. 2 white or red, about 96c; No. 2 mixed, 95c, outside; goose, 88c.

Barley—No. 2, 67c, outside; No. 3 extra, 64c to 65c; prices are nominal.

Flour—Ontario winter wheat, $3.75 bid; Manitoba patents, special brand, $5.80; seconds, $5.20; strong bakers, $5.10.

Oats—No. 2 white, 46c to 47c, outside; mixed, 45c to 46c, outside.

Rye—79c, outside.

Peas—86c, outside.

Corn—No. 3 yellow American, 70½c to 71c, Toronto freights; new corn, 65c to 65½c. December delivery.

Buckwheat—62c, outside.

Bran—$19 to $20, in bulk outside; shorts, $21 to $22.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—Market holds steady at unchanged quotations.

Creamery, prints	29c to 30c
do solids	26c to 27c
Dairy prints	25c to 27c
do solids	23c to 24c
Inferior	20c to 22c

Cheese—Very steady at 13½c for large and 13¾c for twins.

Eggs—Storage easy at 22c to 23c per dozen in case lots, selects, 26c; strictly new-laid nominal at about 30c to 35c.

Poultry—Market is easy owing to the heavy supply.

Chickens, choice	7c to 8c
Old fowl	5c to 8c
Inferior	4c to 5c
Young geese	7c to 8c
Ducks, choice	8c to 9c
Young turkeys	10c to 12c
Thin turkeys	6c to 8c

Potatoes—Steady at 85c to 90c per bag in car lots on track here.

Beans—$1.75 to $1.85 for primes and $1.85 to $1.95 for hand-picked.

Honey—Strained steady at 11c to 12c per pound for 60-pound pails, and 12c to 13c for 5 to 10-pound pails. Combs at $1.75 to $2.50 per dozen.

Venison—Hindquarters, 11½c to 13c; front quarters, 5c; carcases, 8½c to 9c.

Baled Hay—Timothy is quoted at $17.50 to $18.50 in car lots on track here.

Baled Straw—Market is quiet at $9.50 to $10.50 per ton on track here.

PROVISIONS.

Smoked and Dry Salted Meats—Long clear bacon, 10¾c to 11c for tons and cases; hams, medium and light, 15c to 15½c; heavy, 13½c to 14c; backs, 16½c to 17c; shoulders, 10c to 10½c; rolls, 10½c to 11c; breakfast bacon, 15c to 15½c; green meats out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

Pork—Short cut, $22.75 to $23 for barrels; mess, $19 to $20.

Lard—Easier; firm; tierces, 11¾c; tubs, 12¼c; pails, 12½c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 10.—There is no new feature in the local flour market. Choice spring patents, $6.10; seconds, $5.50; winter wheat patents, $5.75; straight rollers, $5.50; do., in bags, $2.60 to $2.65; extra, $2.05 to $2.10. Manitoba bran at $23; shorts, at $25; Ontario bran, at $23.50 to $24; middlings, at $27 to $29 per ton, including bags; milled mouille, at $28 to $32, and pure grain mouille, at $35 to $37 per ton.

Rolled oats, at $3.17½ per bag; corn meal, at $1.75 to $1.85 per bag.

Provisions—Barrels, short cut mess, $22.50 to $23; half barrels, $11.75 to $12.25; clear fat backs, $23.50 to $24.50; long cut heavy mess, $21 to $23; half barrels do., $10.50 to $11.25; dry salt long clear bacon, 10¾c to 11½c; barrels plate beef, $13.50 to $15; half barrels do., $7.25 to $7.75; barrels heavy mess beef, $10 to $11; half barrels do., $5.50 to $6; compound lard, 10c to 11c; pure lard, 12½c to 13c; kettle rendered, 13½c to 14c; hams, 12½c to 13½c, according to size; breakfast bacon, 14c to 15c; Windsor bacon, 14½c to 15½c; fresh killed abattoir dressed hogs, $8.50 to $8.75; alive, $5.50 to $5.75.

There is a strong undertone to the local cheese market. October tail ends, 12c to 12¼c; September, 13c.

A moderate and steady inquiry prevails for butter. Grass goods, 28c to 28½c; current receipts, stall fed, 26c to 27½c.

There is no new feature in the local egg market. Newly laid, 32c; selects, 24½c to 25c; No. 1, 21½c to 22½c per dozen.

BUFFALO MARKETS.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 10.—Wheat — Spring, lower; No. 1 northern, $1.11; No. 2 red, $1.01; Winter, steady. Corn—Stronger; No. 2 white, 65¼c; No. 2 yellow, 69¾c. Oats—Firmer; No. 2 mixed, 47½c; No. 2 white, 55½c. Barley—95c to $1.15. Rye—No. 1, 89 to 90c.

NEW YORK WHEAT MARKET.

New York, Dec. 10.—Wheat — Spot easy; No. 2 red, $1.00⅝ in elevator and $1.01⅛ f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 northern Duluth, $1.15⅛ f.o.b. afloat; No. 2 hard winter, $1.10⅝ f.o.b. afloat.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Dec. 10.—Trade in nearly all classes of cattle was active at the Western market to-day. Light rough stockers were about the only class which did not sell well. A few loads of cattle were of fairly good quality, and these brought pretty fair prices. The greater number, however, were light, and not well finished. Some might be described as having no finish at all. Hogs were unchanged. The deliveries were 174 cars, containing 2,622 cattle, 3,789 sheep and lambs, 500 hogs, and 142 calves.

Of these 35 cars were en route from Chicago to the seaboard.

About the only business transacted in exporters' cattle was the sale of one load, 1,150 pounds, for $4.80 per cwt.

Butchers' cattle, best, $4.50 to $4.75; fair to good, loads of, $4 to $4.25; medium, $3.25 to $3.50; export cows, $3.50 to $3.75; good butchers' cows, $3 to $3.25; medium cows, $2.50 to $2.75; common, $2 to $2.25; canners, 75c to 90c per cwt.

Buyers from the country were enquiring for feeders and stockers. Light rough animals sold at $1.50 to $2.40 per cwt., and good steers were more in demand at $2.50 to $3.60 per cwt.

Milch cows were firm at $40 to $70 each for choice, and $25 to $40 each for medium ones.

Calves were steady in price at 3 to 6c per pound.

Sheep and lambs were brought forward liberally. Prices were unchanged at $3.75 to $4 per cwt. for export ewes, $2.50 to $3 for bucks and culls, and $4 to $5 for sheep and lambs.

Hogs—Selects and fats continued to sell at $4.75 to $5 per cwt., and sows were worth $3.50 per cwt.

ONTARIO SWEPT THE BOARD

Won Honors in Sheep at Live Stock Show at Chicago.

A despatch from Chicago says: The judging of the sheep classes at the International Live Stock Show was finished on Thursday, the exhibits from the Province of Ontario sweeping the field. The total entries in this department are 1,199, as against 891 in 1906.

Representatives of the Japanese Government attended the show on Thursday making arrangements for the purchase of Clydesdale and Hackney horses. It is said that $400,000 has been appropriated for expenditure in this country and Canada on horses of heavy bone and muscle.

The Ontario-bred grand champion steer of the International Live Stock Show, the most honored animal of all the thousands that are being exhibited at the stock yards this week, sold at auction on Thursday for 24 cents a pound on the hoof. This price is much lower than those of former shows. Roan King is the premier beef-bearing beast who was knocked down at this price. The Shorthorn calf that swept the field went to a packing company of Buffalo. The total sum paid for him was $259.20, his weight being 1,080.

The grand champion was followed at the auction block by the blue ribbon car-lot of steers, exhibited by Claus Krambeck. They went at 8 cents a pound, the average per animal being $122.16, and the total for the load being $1,832.40. A year ago the grand champion car-lot went at 17 cents a pound, netting $3,660.90.

DEATH OF KING OSCAR.

The End Came Peacefully on Sunday Afternoon.

A despatch from Stockholm, Sweden, says: King Oscar died at 9.15 o'clock on Sunday morning. He was unconscious since 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, at which time he spoke his last words, thanking his surgeon for relieving his pain. He also, for a brief time, recognized Queen Sophia and Princess Ingeborg, one of his daughters-in-law, to whom he said "Thanks," and then relapsed into coma. After this his strength steadily lessened. The members of his family and court officials assembled at 8 o'clock in the room in which his Majesty lay dying and remained until the end. Queen Sophia sat by the bedside and held her dying husband's hand. Shortly before he died the aged Queen, who for more than half a century had been King Oscar's companion and helpmeet, knelt by the bedside and offered a short, touching prayer.

DOMINION FINANCES.

Revenue for Eight Months Over Sixty-six Millions.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The financial statement of the Dominion giving the total revenue and expenditure for the present fiscal year, according to returns furnished the Finance Department up to November 30, shows a total revenue for the first eight months, April to November inclusive, of $66,662,427, and a total expenditure of $58,198,943. Total revenue increased by $9,148,875, the increase for last month being $764,992. Of the aggregate increase in revenue for the eight months $7,216,810 was in customs receipts, $749,881 from excise, $437,310 from postoffice, and $582,047 from public works, including railways. The total net debt of the Dominion on November 30th stood at $254,096,874, an increase of $2,590,141 during the month.

FELL INTO SCALDING PULP.

Man Had to Wade Ten Feet Before He Could Escape.

A despatch from Montreal says: Boiled in a vat of pulp and scalding water was the terrible experience of Leslie Williams, 29 years of age, of Tupper Lake, N. Y. The vat was six feet deep and the young man had to wade ten feet before he could get out of the stuff. By this time his flesh was parboiled from head to foot, and by the time he dragged himself out of the hole he was in a wretched state and soon collapsed and fell back into the boiling water. Williams was finally rescued by some of his comrades and after a medical consultation it was decided to bring him to Montreal. After emergency treatment of cold cream and sweet oil to prevent the skin from peeling off, he was brought to the city and taken to the General Hospital where he died on Saturday.

PLANS FOR NAVAL BASE.

Work Will Soon Commence at Rosyth, Scotland.

A despatch from Glasgow, says: The plans for the great new naval base at Rosyth, Scotland, have been completed, and the work will commence early in 1908. The basin will cover an area of fifty-six acres, with a depth of thirty-six feet at all tides. Access will be obtained through a lock 850 feet long. The basin is to be practically square, with quay accommodation for twenty-two warships, although this may be doubled. The plans provide for the construction of a graving dock to accommodate the largest of this amount of ships

TRAFFIC THROUGH CANALS

St. Lawrence Waterways Made Record for the Season.

A despatch from Montreal says: With the departure of the steam barge Nicaragua on Tuesday of last week the business of the canals here may be said to have closed for the season, after the most successful year in the history of the St. Lawrence system.

In the number of vessels passing through, in the amount of general merchandise carried, in the number of passengers travelling on river steamers, and most particularly in the amount of grain transferred from the West to the harbor of Montreal, his season marks a tremendous increase over the figures of any previous year. Last year showed a great increase over the summer of 1905, but, large as the margin was, it was not at all equal to the difference between the seasons of 1906 and 1907.

The transportation of wheat, of premier importance in the records of the St. Lawrence canal revenue returns, reached a total of almost double the number of bushels carried down last year, while the total for corn, though not so great, was almost triple last year's figures. Under the grain heading the only decreases in totals were in barley, flaxseed, and flour, and these were very small in proportion to the whole amount of each carried.

The returns for passenger traffic are somewhat surprising, in view of the late coming of the summer weather and the general inclemency which prevailed, two reasons, which were expected to cause a decrease. Instead of that, however, the figures of last summer are bettered by upwards of fifteen thousand.

In total tonnage the increase amounts to almost two hundred thousand tons.

The principal shipments of the season are as follows:

	1907.	1906.
Wheat, bushels	16,441,938	8,411,165
Corn, bushels	3,770,869	1,466,846
Peas, bushels	3,689	6,875
Oats, bushels	3,219,565	2,109,833
Barley, bushels	423,519	770,126
Rye, bushels	81,000	25,000
Flaxseed, bushels	1,757,898	2,694,452
Flour, barrels	46,227	76,171
Eggs, cases	11,471	6,937
Butter, cases	4,484	3,558
Cheese, cases	242,381	223,558