

THOUSANDS FACE FAMINE IN NORTHERN SWEDEN.

Starving Thousands Live on Pine Bark and Iceland Moss.

London, Jan. 20.—Telegrams from Stockholm, Sweden, confirm the distressing accounts of the famine in Northern Sweden. About 70,000 persons are affected by the famine, which extends from the 61st to the 67th degree north latitude, and from the Gulf of Bothnia and the Russian border far into the interior.

The starving people are eating pine bark, which is dried, ground to powder, mixed with stewed Iceland moss and made into a kind of famine bread.

Coincident with the failure of the crops is the extreme scarcity of fish. The fishermen return from their expeditions empty-handed. Even Ptarmigan grouse of the northern regions—usually found in great numbers in the stricken district, have almost completely disappeared.

It is estimated that the expenditure of about \$6,000,000 will be necessary to save the population from decimation. Thus far \$200,000 has been subscribed, of which sum over \$12,500 was sent by Swedes in the United States. This

amount does not include the money necessary to save the cattle or supply seed for the spring sowings.

The peasants are making pathetic sacrifices to avert the extermination of the hardy, northern cattle. In previous years of scarcity good feed was obtainable by mixing reindeer moss and aspen bark. Now this is not available and finely chopped tree-bark, willow and ash are substituted. The mixture is boiled and fed to the cattle warm, but it is found that milk of cattle that have been fed this is subject to typhoid fever, and disease is certain to spread unless relief is obtained.

The situation threatens a return of the famine of 1878.

A special commissioner of the Swedish Government, who has just returned from the scene of distress, urges the necessity for the adoption of plans to abate the distress. His report has caused a most painful impression, and will, it is hoped, enhance the nation's efforts to provide remedial measures.

Up to the present, 1,600 carloads valued at over \$100,000, represent the total quantity of provisions and fodder shipped to the famine-stricken area.

RESTRICTION ON MINING COAL.

Testimony of Men Who Complain Against the Rules.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 20.—Testimony regarding the practical working of the mines, the dockage system and the union rules restricting the miner's labor was given before the strike commission yesterday.

George Maxey, a member of the union at Forest City, testified to the general good health of miners, and then touched upon the car restriction rule. He said he had talked with the head of his local union about the restriction, and complained that he had to lose much time to let men behind him to work catch up to him. The leader had replied that the same thing had been done to him, and he had to put up with it. He did not think it right.

John Mitchell asked: "Isn't this restriction for the purpose of making an even distribution of the cars?" "I don't know. Possibly it is."

"If you have given more than another man, wouldn't you injure him?" "Not if he was not as capable man as I."

"Could the mine each day hoist more coal than it does?" "I think it could."

In answer to further questions by Mitchell, Maxey said such a system restricted the output of the mines and also made good workmen lose time to let poor workers catch up with them.

Patrick Mitchell said that for thirteen years he has been a miner with the Pennsylvania company. He had

been a member of the union until fined \$5 for working one night out of breaker time. He testified that before 1900 he could mine ten or eleven cars; from then until the recent strike he had been restricted to four or seven. Practically, he said, he could work only half a day because he could not get the laborers to load more than the restricted number.

The witness further testified that he was criticized by a member of the grievance committee because he got out too many cars and he had replied that he had a family to support and naturally wanted to earn all he could. He said that the restriction rule was probably made to have an even distribution of cars, but that some miners either did not or could not work their full quota.

He said he got all the cars he wants now and one day last week his shift mined and loaded twelve cars instead of the six to which they had been restricted.

Chairman Gray, who had been absent from the hearings of the commission for about a week, account of illness, was present at to-day's session. Counsel for the Erie Company, which controls the Hinsdale Coal and Iron Company and the Pennsylvania Coal Company, introduced as evidence certain extracts from reports of State mine inspectors, tending to show that most mine accidents are due to the negligence of the workmen themselves.

DISBROW ON TRIAL FOR FOSTER'S MURDER.

Sketch of the Now Celebrated "Dimple" Lawrence Case.

Riverside, L. I., report: The jury in the trial of Louis A. Disbrow, charged with killing Clarence Foster at Tiana Bay on the night of June 9th, was completed yesterday and the trial progressed rapidly.

Clarence Foster and Sarah Lawrence, whose friends called her "Dimple," met violent deaths on the night of June 9th last, in Tiana Bay, near Good Ground, L. I. Their bodies were found five days later in the shallow waters of the bay. They were both young, strong and expert swimmers. The theory of accidental drowning seemed untenable. Louis A. Disbrow, who was known to have spent the evening of June 9th with Foster and Miss Lawrence, was mysteriously missing. He remained missing for 20 days, while detectives searched for him.

Sarah Lawrence was 17 years old, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Lawrence, of Hempstead, L. I.

Foster was a stalwart fellow, 22 years old. He was married, but he was noted among the young men about Good Ground for his popularity among women. Disbrow came of a good family, but was estranged from them on account of a marriage contracted five years ago. He was known as rather wild, but was popular with his set.

Disbrow had been attentive to "Dimple" Lawrence for more than a year. She seemed to lose interest in him somewhat after she met Foster. Nevertheless, Disbrow continued to go with her as often as she would let him. On the night of the tragedy, Disbrow, Foster and "Dimple" Lawrence drove to the Hampton Pines Club and dined there. Then they drove to Tunnel's hotel, where Disbrow stayed, which is one mile across Tiana Bay from the Ocean View House, where the Lawrence's were staying.

The theory of the defense is that Foster undertook to row the girl home, but they had some sort of disagreement or accident in the boat and so fell overboard and were drowned. Against this are the facts that both were expert swimmers and that the water of the bay is nowhere more than four or four feet deep.

Disbrow next morning left Good Ground early and went to Eastport. There he met a friend to whom he made mention of having had a fight with Foster the night before. Then Disbrow disappeared, and was not apprehended for nearly three weeks. Subsequently, it was learned that he tried to get passage on a schooner to Hayti; also that on the day after the tragedy he called on his wife whom he had not seen for several years, bade her good-bye and said he was going away for a long time.

In his opening address, District Attorney Smith said that he would show there was a wound over Foster's eye when the body was found, and that death was due to concussion of the brain, caused by a blow. The theory, however, was not borne out by the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution, several of whom testified that there was hardly any perceptible wound on the head.

On the District Attorney's attempt to bring in testimony relative to the death of "Dimple" Lawrence, Justice Haddox ruled that it was not admissible, the prisoner being only under indictment for the killing of Foster.

Riverside, L. I., later: Nothing more remains to be told against Louis A. Disbrow. Deputy sheriffs were unable to serve a subpoena on Miss Pearall, where she is staying in Atlantic City, and her evidence, taken at the preliminary hearing last July, was admitted and read to the jury. Nothing that was produced in the trial has made so great an impression on the twelve men. That

was easily seen by their close attention.

The District Attorney swore a deputy sheriff who had been to Atlantic City and failed to serve Miss Pearall, and Judge Maddox ruled that the deposition was admissible, and ordered it read.

Disbrow's face turned pale when this decision was given, and, as the testimony proceeded, everyone connected with the defense showed evidence of grave concern.

Quarrel with Foster.

Miss Pearall overheard the quarrel between Disbrow and Foster in Disbrow's room, at the Terminal House, where she and her father were boarding. In graphic language she described to the Magistrate at Good Ground the occurrence of the fatal night.

"I was awakened at three o'clock in the morning," she said, "by voices saying 'Good-by, good-by, and say good-bye to the Kid.' Then I heard steps go down stairs. It was Foster. Then I heard him come up again and say to Disbrow, 'I can't stand like this.' Disbrow's voice said, 'Can you look me in the face and say that?' Then there were angry words and sounds of someone jumping on the floor. There were mutterings and angry words, and I heard Disbrow say loudly, 'By God, I'll settle this in the morning.'

"Next I heard Foster say, 'If I get the boat will you go with us?' Disbrow said Yes. Foster said, 'Will you meet us at the wharf?' Disbrow said, 'Yes.' Then I heard the voice of Miss Lawrence out on the lawn say, 'What did Louis say? Will he come with us, if we get the boat?'

Thus the story was read. It was the testimony of a refined young woman as they all knew, and it was the only testimony they had heard which seemed to connect Disbrow with the death of the two young people.

Charles Shirley, a Quebec hotel proprietor, was shot four times by an English waiter named Jim Guard. He may recover.

Hector Delorme, of Montreal, has been appointed assistant shipping inspector of live stock, in place of the late E. B. Morgan.

Settlers have located a large portion of the territory embraced in the concession to the Blanche River Pulp & Paper Co.

Cartage companies have issued a circular to merchants, partially blaming the latter for the recent congestion of freight traffic.

The by-laws respecting Toronto billiard and pool-rooms will be amended to provide that such resorts shall close hereafter at 11 p.m. instead of midnight.

A writ has been issued for \$15,000 against the Grand Trunk on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cootie, injured in the Wanstead wreck.

The Canadian General Freight Agents Association opens its quarterly meeting in Montreal to-day, where the Grand Trunk Railway has placed rooms at its disposal in their new offices.

The society of the University of Toronto has made changes in the curriculum for 1903-4, in modern languages and sciences, and has altered the work for the M. A. degree. Several examiners have been appointed.

The Chinamen in Ottawa have decided to do away with the queues and the very picturesquely "painted" will be seen no more, a week hence.

The reason assigned for the discarding of the queues is that the Chinese Ambassador, Wu-Ting-Fong, to the United States, before departing for his native soil, had his once very conspicuous queue cut off, and presented it to the President.

From the Swan River Doukhobor colony the news is of an encouraging nature. Peter Vergila, the Doukhobor leader, is actively engaged in studying the entire situation, and states that as soon as he has completed his tour of all the Doukhobor villages they would hold a big meeting at a central village. At this meeting each community would be represented, and the whole land question would be finally settled one way or the other.

Accused Man's Confession.

William Walton, one of the prosecution's most important witnesses, followed with his recital of Disbrow's partial confession to him, soon after Mr. Lawrence had left the stand. He told how he met Disbrow about tea o'clock in the morning at Elkins' Hotel, in Good Ground, and how, after having a few drinks, Disbrow asked him to go with him to Quogue. This was the morning after Foster and "Dimple" had disappeared.

"What did Disbrow say when he did it during the night?"

"Well," said Walton, "about three in the morning he woke up and said, 'Billy, I'm heartbroken.' Then he told me Foster and the girl had been together the night before and they had had trouble."

"Where did he say they were?"

At the Hampton Pines Club and at Turnell's, he said Foster called him down and told him he and the girl were going away together and intended to say goodbye to him. Foster and the girl said they loved each other and they were going away.

"Anything else?" asked Mr. Smith.

"Yes; Disbrow said after that he and Foster had a fight down on the beach and Foster grabbed him and choked him and threw him down."

"What did he tell you became of Foster and Miss Lawrence?"

Walton simply shook his head.

Attorney Miles, counsel for Louis A. Disbrow, charged with having caused the death of Clarence Foster, opened the case to-day for the defense in an address lasting an hour.

He said he would prove that the marks on the body of Foster and "Dimple" Lawrence were caused by falls and a stake which had been thrown into Tiana Bay, where the bodies were found.

The first witness for the defense was Eugene H. Smith, who gave evidence to the finding of a stake in the bay.

Although Mr. Miles presented witnesses to show that there was a cut on Foster's forehead, yet he introduced one witness to explain it if the jury should believe it were there. Harold Squires, an expressman, testified that on the day before Foster's death, he talked with Foster at the railroad station. He said that Foster insulted him and that he struck Foster a blow on the head, just above the right eye. The boy had struck him against the ticket office and bashed his head.

Dr. W. R. Scott, the Disbrow family physician, declared that in April he was called by Disbrow to attend to a fractured shoulder and that he set the break. He was called again May 7th, he said, and found that Disbrow had injured the shoulder again while it was growing together, and that he had a broken rib. Disbrow was very weak and ran down at that time. His arm was then in such a condition as to be practically useless for three months. Dr. George H. Donahue, after hearing a description of the fracture of the shoulder, said that the young man would not regain the full strength of that arm from four to six months.

This evidence was introduced to show that Disbrow was physically unable to overcome Foster without the use of a weapon.

What Did She Mean?

Mr. Marryat—I see old Roxley has left an estate worth \$2,000,000 at least. Wouldn't you like to be his widow?

Mrs. Marryat (ambiguously)—No dear, I'd rather be yours—Philadelphia Press.

Armed Mountaineers Menaced Them With Threats of Violence.

London, Jan. 20.—Letters received here recently from Fez, Morocco, says the rapidly growing anti-European sentiment necessitated the hurried departure from that city of the U. S. missionary, Mr. Simpson, and his wife and three children.

The Supreme Court has granted leave to appeal in the case of Labelle, the Dawson murderer.

J. W. G. Boyd has been appointed Secretary of the Toronto branch of the British Empire League.

Papermakers held a conference at Montreal, and it is thought an advantage of prices will be made.

Rev. Dr. Gordon, the new Principal of Queen's University, received a very hearty welcome at Kingston.

Several new cases of smallpox are reported from Anderdon Township, Essex County.

The G. T. R. has sent men to Niagara Falls and Buffalo to protect its coal from American railways.

By next summer it is expected that the School of Forestry at Toronto University will be opened.

Arrivals of coal at Toronto were more generous. No coal is procurable at Bay City for the civic fuel.

The Legislation Committee of the Toronto Council favors an immediate application for a special charter for the city.

Prosecution Rests.

"Just a moment, Your Honor," said Mr. Smith, and after a brief consultation with his assistant counsel he turned to the judge and said,

"Your Honor, the people rest."

Even Judge Maddox seemed astonished at the abrupt closing of the prosecution. It caused a great stir in the courtroom. Mr. Miles immediately moved that Disbrow be discharged on the ground that the people had failed to establish the corpus delicti, had not established a case strong enough to hold him, and had failed to show a motive. The motion was denied, and Mr. Miles stated that he will be ready to proceed with the defense in the next witness.

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