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VICTIMS OF THE MINE DISASTER.

Twenty-Nine Men Known to Have Met a Horrible Death

In the Smuggler Union Mine Accident in Colorado.

Twenty-Three Bodies Have Already Been Recovered

And Others Are Still in the Mine—The Rescue Work is Slow and Tedious.

Telluride, Colo., Nov. 21.—The number of victims of the terrible disaster in the Smuggler Union mine yesterday is now known to be at least twenty-nine, with a considerable portion of the mine yet unexplored. Besides the twenty-three bodies already taken out and identified, six were located this afternoon in the north end of the ninth level, but the gas is still too strong to permit the rescuers to reach them, and their identity is unknown. Several members of the searching parties were overcome in their efforts to bring out the bodies this evening. It will probably be several hours before they can be reached or any further explorations made.

Nearly a Hundred Probably Suffocated.

Telluride, Colo., Nov. 21.—Nearly a hundred men were probably suffocated in the Smuggler Union mine in Marshall basin as a result of the fire which consumed the buildings at the mouth of the Bullion tunnel. Twenty-two miners are known to be dead, and scores of others are in the mine workings, either suffocated or seeking safety in remote parts of the mine, where they are cut off from all food and fresh air. Fire broke out in the iron wagon way bunk house at the mouth of the Bullion tunnel, the principal opening, from which the property is worked, and spread rapidly to the boiler and engine-house, blacksmith shop, the tramway terminal, with its great ore bins, and several smaller buildings, were all soon wrapped in flames.

A strong draft drew the smoke from the burning buildings directly into the tunnel, and the mines of drifts, up-raises and stopes within the mine, it began to fill apace with the smoke.

In the excitement in trying to control the fire in the outside buildings the mine was forgotten, and before the situation was realized the workings were fast filling with dense smoke. By this time the buildings about the mouth of the tunnel were all ablaze, and nothing could be done to stop the smoke from going in. As soon as it was possible great bodies of rock were blown down into the tunnel mouth and the opening stopped, but not until the workings were filled and the smoke working its way through the shafts to the surface a mile above the mountain from the tunnel-house. The day shift, and some of the night men had gone into the mine and reached their stations before the fire started. It is known that some of the men escaped through the old Sheridan tunnel and also through the old Union workings, but they are thought to have been a small part of the force in the mine. The Smuggler Union is the largest mine in the Telluride district, the output being about two-thirds of the total from the camp. It is owned by New York and Boston capitalists.

Persons who have come into town this forenoon from the Smuggler Union mine, which is four miles distant, between Marshall Gulch and Marshall basin, say the people have almost abandoned hope of finding any of the imprisoned men alive. Every entrance to the property is the scene of active work, and the willing hands are only stayed by fear of certain death if they enter the smoke-filled levels.

Every few minutes men come a-rush inside, only to crawl back helpless and strangling as they meet the foul smoke which fills the tunnels and levels.

The officers refuse to talk, either in giving information or in expressing opinions as to the likelihood of any survivors. The work goes on night and day. They will only say that the work will be continued until everybody has been recovered, and will be hastened in the hope that many may be found alive.

The telegraph and telephone wires were destroyed by fire, and the only means of communication is by messenger.

Meager Details of the Disaster.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 21.—Only a meager report concerning the disastrous fire at the Smuggler Union mine, near Telluride, Colo., has been received at the local office of the company. It is not known here this morning whether the loss of life will reach 100, as feared, or whether any bodies have been found in addition to the twenty-two which were recovered and identified yesterday. The damage caused by the fire in the loss of the buildings is estimated at $18,000, but the mine will have to be closed for at least a month.

The mouth of Bullion tunnel, through which the Smuggler Union mines are worked is located not over 50 or 60 feet from the burned buildings. The smoke from the start seemed to be drawn to the mouth of the tunnel, and it encircled that point, as if there were no other place of escape. This was due to suction, as the air in the mine was warmer than that outside. On account of the opposite movement the majority of mine and tunnel entrances have iron doors ready to lower in place on a minute's notice to stop smoke or fire. Unfortunately, the Bullion tunnel did not possess one of these safeguards, and it appears that much of the stupefying effect of the fire was due to the flames in the carpenter house, which were saturated with oil and which emitted the darkest smoke imaginable. The tunnel is situated about midway between the top or apex of the mine and the ninth level. It is an intermediate working tunnel. The seventh level is 200 feet below the surface and the ninth level, where men were working when the fire occurred, is 2,000 feet below the surface. At last accounts all attempts to remove this level had been frustrated by the smoke. Seventeen of the twenty-two bodies recovered were found in the seventh level. The fire did not penetrate the mine workings, and the frightful loss of life was due entirely to smoke.

The mine was originally owned by a company of which John Pierce, of this city, was president, and A. H. Fowler, secretary and treasurer. About two years ago the mine, with a number of others in the same locality, were absorbed by the New England Exploration company, of which H. J. Lawrence is now the head, and one of the principal stockholders. The New England company is controlled by Boston capitalists. Mr. Lawrence went to New York about a week ago. Arthur Collins, manager of the mine, is also absent on a trip to Mexico. Jacob Filius, attorney for the company, left for Telluride last night to make an investigation.

The executive board of the Western Federation of Miners is now in session in this city, discussing the disaster at thirty-second and Curtis streets to-day. The members averred that agitation would commence in labor circles to procure legislation which would remedy the evils which caused the fire at the Smuggler mine.

In 1879 a snow slide occurred just above Bullion tunnel, in which twenty-seven people lost their lives, and it was here on July 3 last that the fighting consequent upon the strike of Smuggler miners occurred.

A special to the Post from Telluride, Colo., says:

The work of rescuing bodies of miners who were suffocated to death in the Smuggler-Union yesterday was resumed to-day. It is not expected that all of the bodies will be recovered before midnight to-night, and it may take longer. How many bodies remain in the mine is simply a matter of conjecture. There may be fifty more bodies in the mine, or it certain that every gallery and level opened in the mine is dead, no living being could enter on account of sulphur fumes for more than a few minutes.

The work of bringing down the bodies of the victims was slow and laborious, the steep trail making it very difficult to carry the bodies. The bodies were placed upon improvised stretchers, and then raised upon the shoulders of twelve miners and brought to the coroner's office. From 150 to 200 men were engaged in the work.

The coroner will hold an inquest on but one body, the verdict in this case being considered sufficient to cover all the casualties.

A large crowd began gathering at the mine early to-day, every man volunteering to join rescue parties. Only the most experienced miners have been allowed to do dangerous work, and up to 3 o'clock those selected were busy making preparations to protect themselves in case large bodies of smoke and sulphur gas should be encountered in the workings as the search for the dead progressed. At that hour the first rescue party entered the workings. Their progress is slow, and it will be several hours, it is thought, before any more bodies are encountered. Many of the victims were married men, and left families.

"La Traviata" and "La Navarraise" at the French Opera House.

Rodolphe	MM. Pax
D'Orbel	Villiers
Emile	Quesle
Le Baron	Talazac
Le Marquis	Allard
Le Domestique	Duquesne
Violetta	Mmes. Chamberlan
Clara	
Annette	Du Tot
Alaccia	Foury

There was a double bill presented at the French Opera House last night by the Roberval company of excellent artists and a large audience was entertained until the midnight hour. "La Traviata" and "La Navarraise," hyphened by a delightful ballet, constituted the evening's performance. There was tragedy galore—the sad, despairing end of Violetta's life, which fades away like the perfume of a flower, and the violent, bloody horror of "La Navarraise." The two operas were excellent in their different styles and performed in a manner which went far to show the good material composing the troupe. "La Traviata" was first on the programme and Mlle. Chamberlan, as Violetta, only strengthened the favorable impression she had made on the opening night. She is a chanteuse legere really worthy of the name, and as artiste of great merit. It is a delight to listen to an artiste sing the way she does, with absolute ease, with perfect control of her voice, and the most difficult passages are given with the greatest facility, and in listening to her one never feels the least anxiety. There is not a harsh tone in her voice, which is evenly sweet throughout and admirably cultivated. The grand air of the first act was given with the greatest feeling and pathos, and with a sublimity of tones. The death scene was heart-rending in its pathos. M. Pax, the tenor lugre, made his debut in the role of Rodolph and came at once into popular favor. He possesses a wealth of voice, which he uses generously. He is young and handsome, has a pleasing presence and acted the role of divided honors with Mlle. Chamberlan and received many recalls. Mr. Villette, the barytone, who had scored so much success as Nevers, on the occasion of his debut, was an excellent D'Orbel. He gave a strictly and elegantly impersonation of the role. His voice is rich and sympathetic and he sings it with consummate art. The minor roles in "La Traviata" were all in excellent hands, and all the ensembles were well sung. The finale of the third act was so admirably rendered that the principals and company were called before the curtain several times.

"La Navarraise" is a short one act tragic opera that has been put upon the stage, belongs to the modern school and bears the impress of the master hand of Massenet. The opera was given by the following cast:

Araquil	M. Pax
Garrido	M. Karlori
Remiglio	M. Quesle
Anita	Mme. Foury
Rosamonde	M. Talazac
Adela	Mme. Fouder

Mme. Fouder, the talented falcon of the company, who created the role of Adela in this city several years ago, repeated her former success in the same part. Though the opera has been frequently given since its production here, Mme. Fouder still is so thoroughly identified with the gifted artiste. Mme. Fouder presented the part with a dramatic fervor and intensity, vibrant with emotion. Vocally, she was most efficient. Her high notes rang out strong and clear, even above the din of musketry. As Araquil, Mr. Karlori, who made his debut in the role of Remiglio, was most effective. Mr. Karlori was conscientious in the role of Garrido and his rendition of the "Ballade" in the second act was splendidly sung by Mr. Talazac. The orchestra, under the skillful leadership of Mr. Jonkin, did admirably, playing the difficult score with unity and precision of tone and responding at once to the wishes of the conductor. The intermezzo in the end of the opera was given a splendid piece of work. The grand ballet divertissement served to delighten up the audience between the two tragedies performed on the stage. The ballet deserves the highest and most unstinted praise. The dances were all well and gracefully executed, because of the corps de ballet. The dancers are all young, pretty and graceful, and the very of dancers, clad in pink and kicking in unison, made a lovely picture. The premiere danseuse, Mlle. Stella Rossi, danced herself at once into popular favor. Her dances are all graceful and graceful, and she is light and graceful and her posing is superbly. She executed several pas solos which won for her the most hearty applause of all. In addition to her art, Mlle. Rossi is young and remarkably pretty, and those among the habitues who always bemoan the absence of "the old ones" and "the good old days" of the star can well take the place of the old ones. Mlle. Bertoglio, the travesty dancer, is also excellent. Mr. Paulette conducted the orchestra during the ballet and deserved credit for the able manner in which he performed his task. Mr. Bellisel, the ballet master, biedaigne and choreographer, has developed a performance featured upon his corps. Tuesday evening "Rigoro" will be presented for the debuts of Miss. Roletti, Karlori and Berat and Messrs. Duperron and Conte. "Les Huguenots" will be given at the Sunday matinee and "Le Cheur et la Main" on Sunday night.

Tulane Theatre.

At the Tulane Theatre to-night Madame Modjeska and Louis James, with their excellent supporting company, will present their elaborate production of "Henry VIII." The same bill will be given at the Saturday matinee, and for their farewell performance at night "Macbeth" is the announcement.

On Sunday night the New England melodramatic "Way Down East," will be the attraction. This play will run for the week at popular prices for the Tulane Theatre. A first-class organization, with superb scenic effects, is promised. The sale of seats is now in progress.

Grand Opera House.

Crowded houses continue at the Grand Opera House, where the splendid production of "The Octoroon," Boucicault's famous southern play, is being enthusiastically received.

A splendid revival of one of last season's great successes will be the next week's offering by the Baldwin-Melville Stock Company, when Charles Hoyt's laughable and tuneful Chinese dramatic comedy, "Miss Nobody," with its picturesque scenes and incidents during the period of Napoleon, will be presented.

Crescent Theatre.

At the Crescent Theatre that clean farce, "Fury Grandpa," is serving to fill this playhouse to the doors at each performance. It will be given to-night, Saturday matinee and Saturday night.

On Sunday night and throughout the week, at popular prices, the New York Castle Square "The Bells of New York," is the attraction. This play was produced in this city last year, and was one of the successful week's of the season. The company appearing next week at the Crescent is almost identical with that which played at the Tulane last year, and a first-class performance of an unqualified success is promised.

Audubon Theatre.

The Aubrey Stock Company was well received last night in "Aristocracy," the bill at the Audubon Theatre. There will be the usual matinee at 2 o'clock to-day.

"The White Squadron" will be the bill for next week, commencing with the Sunday matinee.

Notes.

Messrs. Victor Huber and G. E. Seybold, both well-known in the musical circles of this city, have combined their talent and experience in entertaining, and will to-night give a concert at the Singers' Hall, No. 814 Marengo street, near Magazine.

Mr. Duperron, the fort tenor of the French Opera Company, was a caller at the Picayune office yesterday. He will make his debut on next Saturday evening in the title role of "Rigoro."

HYMENEAL.

Meissner—Gravitt.

(Special to the Picayune.)

Greenville, Miss., Nov. 22.—At 6 o'clock last night Miss Elizabeth Gravitt was married, at the Methodist church, to William R. Meissner, one of the prominent young businessmen of this city. Rev. Hermann Archer officiated.

1901 Smuggler Union Mine fire NEWS1

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