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# The Daily Courier

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CONNELLSVILLE, PA., MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2, 1907

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## MANY MINERS ENTOMBED BY FIRE DAMP EXPLOSION IN THE NAOMI COAL MINE.

### Up to Noon Today Rescuing Parties Had Recovered Body of Only One Man—Fierce Fire Raging.

#### FAINT HOPE FOR THE MINERS.

Black Damp Has Likely Ended Their Lives if They Were Not Killed outright by the Explosion Last Night Some Doubt as to Exact Number Entombed But It is Between 50 and 60

Special to the Courier

FAYETTE CITY, Dec 2.—In an explosion of gas in the Naomi mine of the United Coal Company two miles back of Belle Vernon at 5 o'clock last evening between 50 and 60 miners were entombed. At 1 o'clock this afternoon there was only the very faintest hope that any of the entombed men could survive the fierce flames that are raging and the dense bodies of black damp that prevent rescuing parties from making any progress in the mine. The mine went up with a roar that shook the whole countryside. The engine house and boiler house adjoining the mouth of the slope were wrecked by the force of the fire. Immediately following the explosion and the workings leading from the bottom of the slope are today burning fiercely. Many of them were timbered and heavy timbers also served to feed the flames. Open lamps were used in the mine and the supposition is that a miner walked into a nod of gas that had come by a cut through from an abandoned working and which had accumulated in such force that a fearful explosion followed.

With a few minutes hundreds of people surrounded the pit mouth. The screams were indistinguishable. Wives, children and friends of the men entombed wrung their hands and begged pitifully for rescuing parties to enter the mines and bring out their loved ones. All night they refused to leave the pit mouth. Today the scene is heartrending. Smoke rolls from the entrance to the slope in a steady volume. Officials and mine inspectors from all over western Pennsylvania are at the mine. It is the opinion of all that over one of the entombed miners have perished.

The officials are not certain how many men were in the mine. Some are sure not more than 50 men were in the pit while at the mine it is stated between 50 and 60 men were at work on a night shift. The mine or directly employs between 250 and 300 men. The body of a foreigner who was employed as a pumpman is the only one recovered so far. He was found on the slope about 700 feet from the entrance to the slope. He had been overcome by blackdamp trying to make his escape. A majority of the men on the night shift were employed in working a considerable distance from the pit mouth.

W. S. Kuhn of Pittsburg, is one of the heavy stockholders in the United Coal Company.

Deputy coroner William Correll of Fayette county was on the scene within a few hours after the explosion and a few feet up the basement of the power house as a temporary morgue for the reception of the bodies of the miners. Doctors were hurried to the scene from Fayette City, Belle Vernon and Charleroi.

Superintendent D. J. Calligan of the street car line running from Charleroi to the mine put six cars in service soon after the accident occurred to haul men to the mine to assist in the rescue work.

Superintendent Henderson was the first man to enter the mine after the explosion. He only penetrated the mine for about 100 yards when he was overcome by gas and was rescued by companions with difficulty. He was taken out and soon revived in the open air. He then directed his attention to the rescue work.

The Naomi mine is a slope mine and one of the oldest operated by the United Coal Company which has its principal offices in Pittsburg. It is one of the biggest mines in the soft coal region and gave work to from 200 to 300 men all the year round. The property loss will be enormous. The mine was equipped at a cost of thousands of dollars with all the up to date mine apparatuses such as electric lights, electric coal cars and air ventilating system.

The explosion completely wrecked the air system, and that in itself means that no human being can live very long in the mine as it now is. What seems an almost insurmountable mountain of debris is between

#### the struggling workmen and the imprisoned men. Some rescuers are trying to tunnel this while strenuous efforts to reach the imprisoned men by other means are being made.

Five rescuing parties were quickly formed last night but they were unable to accomplish but little. They worked off alternately but the farthest they were able to get into the mine was 800 yards. They were gradually working their way in by inch. Each party could only stay in the mine a few minutes. This necessarily makes the work of rescue slow.

The rescue parties are working under the direction of Deputy State Mine Inspector Henry Loutit, John McKelvey, superintendent of the mines for the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal & Coke company and Thomas White pit boss.

Mine Inspector Loutit says "It is impossible to say just what caused the explosion. The mine was remarkably free of gas but you can never tell about such things. Gas is likely to be found in the most unexpected places. The force of the explosion was terrific and I cannot think that any man in the Naomi mine escaped with his life."

The mine was practically shattered and I believe we will eventually find thousands of tons of earth blocking the way to the entombed miners. We have been unable to get into the mine to any great distance, 700 yards has been about the limit."

The Naomi mine was considered one of the safest in this section. For more than three months the company has been making improvements and had just completed the installation of 250 tons of modern machinery. At 130 o'clock this afternoon it is known that 46 men are entombed. Rescuers are working but there is little hope of success in rescuing any of the men alive.

#### SLIM SESSION.

Only Three Prisoners Sentenced by Acting Burgess Porter Yesterday Morning

But three prisoners appeared before Acting Burgess George Porter in police court yesterday morning. The sum total of Saturday night's business William Knox of Johnstown smashed some plates he found in his cell and taken trouble in general. Although denying the allegations, he was sentenced to 7 hours.

Robert Nickle evidently a bad coin was given 30 minutes to leave town. His physical condition was such that it threatened to enter City Hall. Mr. Porter had him chained out to prevent an epidemic. It is said Andy Stillhatch was given 48 hours for drunkenness.

There were no prisoners for trial in the bastille this morning.

Engagement Announced.

Announcement has been made in the Pittsburg papers of the engagement of Miss Edith Pearl Green daughter of Mrs. M. J. Green of Belle Vernon and Claude Harvey, a well known young man of this place. The engagement will terminate in a January wedding. Mr. Harvey is B. & O. timekeeper.

## Robbers Hide in Store When Proprietor Is There.

Plying their trade of robbing local stores, burglars were at work early yesterday morning in the store of M. H. Feldstein on North Pittsburg street when the proprietor entered to see if things were all right. They were not, but he did not become suspicious. After he left the store the intruders proceeded to take out a quantity of stuff through a rear cellar window. This burglar hid in the cellar during Feldstein's presence. It was shortly after 1 o'clock that Mr. Feldstein on his way home for the night decided to drop in and look over the establishment. In the rear of the store where the altering department is located he noticed a pile of garments. This was unusual and Feldstein thought some of his clerks had been negligent. He examined the rear windows and found them locked. The trap door leading to the cellar was also open nor was this customary. The proprietor closed the

## Duquesne Limited Is Wrecked; Three Passengers Instantly Killed.

United Press Telegram  
BALTIMORE, Dec 2.—It is stated at the general office of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad here that train No. 12, known as the Duquesne Limited was derailed at Sheppard Junction W. V. at an early hour this morning. Three persons were killed and 12 slightly injured.

The Duquesne Limited is the truck carhound passenger train of the Baltimore & Ohio. It runs between Philadelphia and New York. The train is due here at 7:15 P. M. It was this train that was wrecked at Laurel Run four days ago this month in which over 100 passengers lost their lives. The accident this morning happened on the Connettsville Division and off duty men got no official report of the accident. It was said that the report says the train developed a trouble while going at a high rate of speed. Among the killed was W. L. Hochman of Cumberland and his wife. It was for nearly three miles of the Cumberland division and is well known in town.

## ELKS' MEMORIAL LARGELY ATTENDED.

### General Eulogy of T. C. White of McKeesport Was Fine.

### MUSICAL PROGRAM PLEASSED

Dr. L. C. Thomas of Latrobe Delivered the Eulogy, a Clever One—Opening and Closing Lodge Services Conducted by Members

Nearly 200 guests in the Colonial Theatre were assembled yesterday afternoon when Elks Lodge No. 503 of Connettsville held their annual Memorial service. The theme was quietly but handsomely decorated and the stage was appropriately draped for the occasion. The program commanded the attention of the large audience present from start to finish. The address of T. C. White of McKeesport who delivered the general eulogy and the eulogy of Dr. L. C. Thomas of Latrobe were attentively listened to throughout. The musical end of the program was one of the features. The soloists were Miss Est. Keiser, C. S. Noonan and Arthur J. O'Keefe. Kifle or orchestra was directed by Byron Pettit. The opening ceremonies were conducted by Past Exalted Ruler James H. Doyle following the entrance of the members of Lodge No. 503 about 80 in number who marched from the Club House on East Main street to the theatre. Others who acted as officers of the Lodge in the opening and closing services were A. W. Bishop, P. H. Fendleton, J. D. Proton, Fred Harmon, D. H. Kinard, R. J. S. Alorton and James B. Miller.

The eulogy of Dr. Thomas followed the opening exercises a slight change being made in the program. Dr. Thomas is a clever out speaker. His delivery is deliberate and his words come fluently and gracefully. He dwelt on the duty we owe not only to the memory of the dead but to those who are left behind. Dr. White of McKeesport was so careful and so the point. Do not waste time in words and attitudes. Do things as they are in any way possible. The widow and orphans of departed business men.

Miss Korne sang. The Dixie Land and a hymn of the evening. The house for the evening was one of its conclusion. Many had come especially to hear her sing and they did not go away disappointed. C. Bud Noonan sang a solo solo. "Fire and Peace" and the general eulogy of Mr. White followed.

This address was a masterly one and its conclusion a death bed scene was remarkably striking with an excellent accompaniment. Mr. White set to the objects of the lodge and the beauty of the printed leaf and words. The love of man for fellowship and the good that is accomplished.

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## SIXTIETH CONGRESS CONVENED TODAY.

### President's Message Will Not Be Read in Either House Until Tomorrow.

### VISITORS THROG GALLERIES.

Little of Importance Will Develop Today Except in the House of Representatives Where an Organization is to Be Effected.

Special to The Courier

WASHINGTON, Dec 2.—The first session of the Sixtieth Congress convened today at 12 o'clock. Vice President Fairbanks called the Senate to order while the House was called to order by Clerk McDowell.

The opening day never develops much interest to those who attend the sessions of Congress but no other day seems to possess greater charm for the average citizen. Today was not an exception to the rule as the corridors were not within it. Visitors even before Senators and Representatives had begun to arrive and there was a marked increase in the number of visitors. The members began to arrive early and the galleries were crowded in the corridors and on the floor.

In the House great interest attached to the proceedings because a complete organization was necessary. This included the drawing of lots by the members.

Despite the fact that a number of faces were missing including the veterans Moran and Pettus of Alabama it was a familiar scene when Vice President Fairbanks called the Senate to order with two strikes of the gavel. The hum of voices ceased when the Vice President pointed and Chapman Edward Everett made the answer. In the audience were the families of many Senators and men in public life. There were also several members of the diplomatic corps present. Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Dill Roosevelt were in the President's gallery with a party of friends.

At tomorrow's session the President's message will be received and read in both Houses.

The Senate adjourned at 12:15 o'clock until 1 o'clock tomorrow. I won't devote one single word to the announcement I have already made. I will be glad to be present at the reception of the Nebraska delegation.

Died of Injuries

Antonio Cortinas of the Ship Row died this afternoon at 1 o'clock at the City and State hospital. He had been taken to the hospital by ambulance from the scene of the accident. He was 40 years of age and was a native of Mexico. He was a member of the Ship Row team and was a well known figure in the community. He was a member of the Ship Row team and was a well known figure in the community. He was a member of the Ship Row team and was a well known figure in the community.

## Suspected of Larceny Woman Is Apprehended.

Police Detectives did not take the morning train for Cumberland today primarily because of the intervention of Officer John M. Moore. She was taken to the station and held for a few days. She was a member of the Ship Row team and was a well known figure in the community. She was a member of the Ship Row team and was a well known figure in the community. She was a member of the Ship Row team and was a well known figure in the community.

## BRISK BUSINESS SESSION MARKS OPENING OF COURT.

### December Term Ushered in at Uniontown This Morning With Usual Routine Work.

#### BLACK DIAMOND RESUMES

Pittsburg Steel Plant Again Goes on Full Time  
PITTSBURGH, Dec 2.—(Special)—The Black Diamond plant of the Crucible Steel Company went to work on full time yesterday. When the main emergency began the plant was put on three days a week seven thousand employees are affected.

#### NEW TRIAL REFUSED SMITH

In Damage Suit Brought by His Son in Law, William Wising, but Judge Reppert Suggests a Compromise Usual Charge to Grand Jury.

#### BONAPARTE'S REPORT.

Attorney General Wants a Fair Field and No Favor in Prosecuting Bad Trusts

WASHINGTON, Dec 2.—Attorney General Bonaparte's annual report was introduced in Congress today. It contains from any recommendations of the various commissions and the various departments of the government. The report is a comprehensive one and covers a wide range of subjects. It is a valuable document and one that should be read by all citizens.

Although refusing a new trial Judge Repper said if Wising is willing to take \$75,000 this amount shall be delivered within 30 days otherwise judgment for the full amount will be entered.

The license of the Overholt distillery is in question this morning from H. C. I. Rich and the S. A. Overholt & Company a corporation. There is no change in the control of the plant. Charles A. Lutz and Charles A. Rhoades were admitted to practice in the several courts of Fayette county this morning on motion of George B. Jeffries.

Dune n Sinclair was appointed clerk of Brownsville township to fill a vacancy. A new trial was granted William Coburn convicted of highway robbery. Judge Repper remarked that he is not thoroughly convinced of Coburn's guilt. The man was charged with holding up S. A. Davidson near Dunbar some months ago.

Attorney George Falterson filed a rather peculiar suit this morning on behalf of Mrs. Alice Holmes of Uniontown. Mrs. Kattie Brightly of near Smithfield is the defendant. It is alleged that December 24, 1906, Mrs. Brightly's daughter, Edna, gave birth to a child, which was given into Mrs. Holmes keeping with a promise that she would be paid for her services. Mrs. Holmes kept the child until July 1st, when she alleges it was taken away and later adopted by Thomas Childs. Mrs. Holmes wants \$675 for her services.

Board of Health Meeting  
The Board of Health is scheduled to meet this afternoon at the office of Tax Collector George B. Brown.

Home Company Saturday Drilled in the Greatest Roarer Ever Struck in Greene County.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Dec 2.—(Special)—The Home Gas Company of Wayneburg on the Toga farm near Oak Hill rest on Saturday drilled in what is proved to be the biggest active gas well east of the Mississippi river. Its present flow is estimated at 25,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day. At the present rate of gas in Illinois the well would yield the owners \$750,000 a day or \$2,717,500 a year. It would supply 60,000 dwellings with gas in a single day. In a single day it would supply over 1,500 dwellings for a month. If converted into gas engines it would furnish power enough to drive Admiral Bob Evans' fleet of battleships around the Horn. The pressure is so great that the gas can not be controlled nor is blowing into space. The well means that a new field will be opened up at Oak Hill.

No More Stambaugh.  
Beginning yesterday Stambaugh on the P. & O. line was abandoned as a station by the Baltimore & Ohio road. There has been practically no business there since the wheel cars started. Stambaugh is located between Mt. Braddock and Lomont.

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