

STUART MINE HORROR GROWS

As Mangled Bodies Are Recovered

NONE ESCAPED DEATH

Of the Eighty-Three Entombed Miners —All the Bodies Recovered From Bottom of Shaft—Explosion is said to Have been Caused by Dust—Work Still Continues of Recovering Bodies.

THE LATEST.

A telegram to The Herald Wednesday morning states that all the 83 bodies have been recovered, of which 76 have been identified. An investigation will be held this week. The number of white Americans in the mine was 29; Englishmen 10, colored, 22; and the rest foreigners of various nationalities. It will be 3 months before the mine will be ready for operation. Loss to mine \$25,000.

As the work of the rescue of the bodies of the miners entombed in the Stuart shaft progresses, additional horror is added to the already terrible details of the worst mine disaster in the annals of the state.

When the rescuing party reached the bottom of the shaft, the sight that met their eyes was sickening. Mangled bodies of the men covered the bottom of the shaft and the gases following the explosion and the odor of the decaying flesh compelled the rescuers to go to the surface at short intervals and hindered the work of bringing the bodies to the surface. Not one of the 83 men known to have been in the ill-fated Stuart shaft escaped. As their bodies are recovered they are turned over to the undertakers, who dress them before relatives are allowed to see the mangled forms of their loved ones. All of these unfortunate men have been recovered.

Norman and Cecil Crouse, two trapper boys killed, were sons of Mrs. William Crouse and they had many relatives here, who first heard of their death through The Herald.

The explosion is yet a mystery, it is supposed to have been caused by dust. Chief Mine Inspector Paul has been on the scene and has been conducting an investigation. The mine is fitted with a 16-foot fan which supplies plenty of air and no difficulty has ever been experienced on account of bad air or gas. The deputy state mine inspector in his last report stated that the mining laws were being complied with in all respects.

As is usually the case after a mine explosion, exaggerated reports of the horror were spread broadcast. Upon investigation, The Herald reporter finds that the report that the men were trying to get out of the mine to escape the impending explosion is absolutely untrue.

The fact is that about all the men had quit work shortly after the noon hour, and as is the custom, assembled at the bottom of the pit to eat their noonday lunches. At this point there plenty of room, and the men wishing to be together, naturally assembled there, which fully accounts for the large number of bodies found at that point. As they finished their lunches those intending to leave the mine for the afternoon did so, the last trip of the cage took to the surface nine men; the trip previous took eight. The cage is capable of accommodating ten men.

One of the reports that is being circulated is to the effect that the mine boss refused to let the men board the cage on the last trip, and that the car of coal was forcibly held back by some of the men in order to let them escape. It stands to reason if this were true that the capacity of the cage would have been tested for passengers on the last trip. It was also untrue that the mine was "as hot as a bake oven." The contrary is attested by a dozen of the men last to come out. The fan was working in proper order up to the moment of the explosion. The fan is one of the largest in the state and has a capacity at this time to meet the requirements of this mine for twenty years. It cost \$10,000 and was strongly increased in a foundation of

brick and cement two and a half feet thick. The force of the explosion cracked the walls in some places as much as six inches. It took two hours to repair the fan and start it to operating again. The breaking of the fan did not cause a single life however. It is very certain that every life was lost by the shock of the explosion. The other report with regard to the capacity of the fan to ventilate the mine, is that it was found necessary to reduce the revolutions, the full capacity affording too strong a current of air. The loss to the New River Fuel Co., in damage to the mine will possibly go beyond the \$30,000 mark.

TOWN OFFICIALS, NOTICE

The Herald would call the attention of the officials of all incorporated towns in the county to the fact that the law requires the financial statement of the town to be published in two county papers of opposite political views for one issue at the close of the official year. Severe penalties can be imposed for failure to comply with the law.

The people pay the taxes, and the law requires the town officials to show how the moneys were used.

The Beckley statement appears in this issue. All should read it.

CAN'T QUENCH LOVE

By Many Waters, Said Solomon, and Wayne Marriage Demonstrates His Wisdom.

With the blustering January winds carrying the words of the vividly impressive ceremony across Twelve Pole river, Harden Workman and Miss Bessie Morrison were united in marriage last week. Wind and weather struggled and striven, but in vain, for they had found a way.

The ceremony, which united two of Wayne county's wealthiest young persons, was one of, if not the most sensational, ever performed in southern West Virginia, and Rev. W. S. Napier, Jr., who read the service, has given it a "red letter" position in his journal of daily events.

The wedding was to have taken place at the home of the bride's parents, Hon. and Mrs. Herickson M. Morrison, which overlooks the Twelve Pole river. The guests had assembled and all was in readiness, awaiting the arrival of the officiating clergyman.

The hour for the ceremony arrived, and still no preacher. Just when patience had ceased to be a virtue a wild "Halloo!" was wafted across the raging river. The preacher "had arrived, but he hadn't."

He could not get across the stream, and consternation reigned among the members of the wedding party and the assembled guests. No other minister was available, so it was decided to make the best of the situation and let a long distance ceremony suffice.

On one bank the wedding party assembled, just as had been arranged, while on the other bank, armed with the marriage ritual and a strong pair of lungs, stood the minister. Fortunately the wind was blowing in the right direction, and the solemn words of the wedding service were caught up and hurled across the river to the wedding party, and soon the ceremony was over. Time, tide nor the winds of heaven had prevailed against them, but the wedding feast that followed was marked by the silence of the newly married couple they were too hoarse to talk.

NEW SUPER

For Cranberry Shafts and Several Other Official Changes in New River Co.

Superintendent Vent Miller has resigned his position with the Cranberry Fuel company and accepted a position with the Macdonald Colliery Co. at Macdonald. Mr. Miller was succeeded on Feb. 1 by Mr. H. N. Humphreys, Jr., formerly of Pittsburg, Pa. Mr. Humphreys has a large and varied line of experience in his chosen line of work. He is a son of Mr. H. N. Humphreys, general superintendent of the Raleigh field for the New River Fuel Co.

Superintendent Floyd Walker resigned Feb. 1, and Superintendent William J. Elgin of the Beckley Coal Co. will also have charge of Mabscott, Sprague, another mine that Mr. Walker managed, will be with Skelton in charge of Superintendent A. D. Callahan.

2-CENT FARE.

Both the house and senate have passed a 2-cent fare bill, but they differ greatly. It is probable that the senate bill will become a law. It provides that 2-cent fare will be enforced on all roads and their branches, if the main line is 50 miles or over in length. Roads less than 50 miles may charge 3 cents and less than 25 miles at various rates provided for in the bill.

CHARGED WITH WIFE MURDER

Is James Kidwell, a Royal Miner

WIFE'S THROAT IS CUT

And Coroner's Jury Places Blame on Kidwell—Both Had Been Drinking and Kidwell Said to Have Been Delirious—Kidwell Denies Killing His Wife Emphatically.

Crazed by excessive drink, James Kidwell is alleged to have cut his wife's throat from ear to ear with a razor Friday, at their home at Royal. The two had been drinking for several days past and when Kidwell told that someone had murdered his wife, his story was not believed until an investigation was had.

Coroner L. H. Davis held an inquest Saturday and the jury placed the blame of Mrs. Kidwell's death upon her husband. Kidwell was brought to the Beckley jail.

Kidwell's trousers, some chewing tobacco, a bloody corset cover and other articles of clothing were found in the fireplace, some of which were partly burnt. The bloody razor was found in Kidwell's pocket, which he says he found on the floor. Finger prints of blood were on the door knob. All of these evidences of the bloody deed are in possession of Circuit Clerk Jackson Smith.

While a United States volunteer in the war with Spain, Kidwell met his wife, who owned a saloon and restaurant at Old Point Comfort. They were married, but owing to the fact that Kidwell drank heavily, it is said, the business was sold out and couple moved to Raleigh county, Kidwell's native home. They were always regarded as quiet, law-abiding people and lived together peacefully.

When seen by a Herald reporter, Kidwell denies the accusation that he killed his wife emphatically. He would make no statement other than that he did not kill her.

CHUNK OF HIS LIVER

Shot Away, but Fred O'Neal Got Well Anyway and Has Come Home.

Fred O'Neal, the young man who was mysteriously shot some time ago, has returned from the Hinton hospital to his home near Lester. O'Neal is minus a good sized chunk of his liver, but seems to be enjoying the best of health. Soon after the shooting his recovery was very doubtful, but young O'Neal, who is a splendid specimen of physical manhood, rallied, and his recovery was rapid.

Although O'Neal was shot some time ago, no arrests have been made, and it seems that the young man is not anxious to have anyone arrested. The whole affair is a mystery, and just how O'Neal was shot may never be brought to light.

SUPREME COURT.

The case of the state vs. J. L. Marks, from this county is now before the Supreme court. Marks is a traveling salesman for a wholesale liquor house and solicited orders in this county. The license contends that the wholesale license gave them that privilege, but Judge Miller didn't think so and gave Marks a fine and jail sentence. He appealed.

Other Raleigh cases in the Supreme court:

H. H. Hatper vs Jeremiah Combs, from Raleigh county; to be argued.

Hamilton Richmond et als vs Alfred B. Richmond, from Raleigh county; to be argued.

Pauline M. Tolley vs. L. E. Poteet et als, from Raleigh county. to be argued.

FIRST SERMON.

D. W. Scott, formerly of Beckley, but who is now attending college at Louisville, Ky., preached his first sermon in the Beckley Christian church Sunday. Mr. Scott is eloquent and his deep sincerity is so apparent that it gives additional weight to his remarks. Mr. Scott will be in the county for several days.

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

U. C. Elkins to Pearl Trump. Edward P. Ewers to Fannie Maynor.

CANNOT HAVE TWO ASSESSORS

Bill Conflicts With the New Tax Law.

KILLED BY COMMITTEE

And Two Assessment Districts Cannot Be Created, Which is Regrettable—Sutphin Worked Hard for Passage of Measure, Which Was Approved by Republicans and Democrats Alike.

Dr. Sutphin's bill dividing Raleigh county into two assessment districts is dead. It died in a house committee room, and the relief it would bring Raleigh citizens is necessarily postponed. The whole trouble was in the fact that the measure came in conflict with the new tax laws, and the Raleigh assessor's job will still be one of hardship, and it seems that the county court will continue for awhile to be inconvenienced by delayed assessments.

Everybody was in favor of the bill. Even the Register, which invariably is opposed to anything coming from republican sources, broke over for once and favored the bill. This action on the part of our contemporary astounded local politicians.

Dr. Sutphin worked hard to amend the measure in such a way that it would not conflict with the law, but it was useless, although the committee was friendly.

The Raleigh representative is doing all in his power to aid the public schools of the state, and already has accomplished much that is of a very beneficial character.

ROSEVILLE.

A. A. Ellison, who has been quite ill for some time, is slowly improving.

Born to J. W. Dotson, Jan. 21, a fine boy. Mother and child are progressing nicely.

Born to O. E. Lively and wife, Jan. 23, a bouncing baby girl. Mother and child are doing well.

Charles Laing is rushing work on a large barn he is having built.

Owing to bad weather, work on S. C. Lively's new dwelling house had to be suspended for a few days.

Dock Lively will soon start work on a residence here.

Mrs. J. S. Allen has left for Summers county, where she was called by the illness of her mother.

J. R. Wood has resigned his position with Lively & Tyree and accepted a position working with a diamond drill at Harper. His many friends regret to see him leave.

Kidd and Kirby have begun hauling lumber to the new C. & O. siding.

John Kirby has returned from a visit to his father, who is sick.

N. F. Thompson has accepted a position working on the Beckley and Fayetteville telephone line.

ANOTHER MINE EXPLOSION

Occurred at Thomas & Works of Davis Coal & Coke Company Fatalities Unknown.

Elkins, Feb. 4.—Three miners are known to be dead and four terribly burned as the result of an explosion today in mine No. 25 of the Davis Coal & Coke company at Thomas, near here. The list of casualties may grow up on further investigation. The explosion occurred before all the men had entered the mine. A number of the miners who were standing at the entrance to the shaft, were hurled in every direction by the force of the explosion and were seriously injured.

SMALLPOX AT RALEIGH.

Smallpox in a mild form has broken out in the families of Mrs. Josie Rogers and Mrs. Buckland of Raleigh. All necessary precautions have been made and no spread of the disease is anticipated.

GIVE PEOPLE THE POWER.

Delegate Dillard of Mercer has introduced a bill making the tax commissioner elective instead of being appointed by the governor as at present.

WELL AGAIN.

Thomas Barrett, who recently underwent a surgical operation at Hinton, has returned to his home at Dry Creek.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

John L. Wiley et al, to J. J. Duffy trustee, surface lot, Sylvia, and surface lot at East Wickham.

Beaver Coal Company to Deepwater Ry. Co., 2 surface tracts on either side of Surveyor creek.

I. J. Wriston to C. H. Thompson, tract Clear Fork land just below White Oak creek.

Henry Stover to M. E. Harper, timber on Clear Fork land.

James H. McGinnis to J. D. McGinnis, 2 lots Beckley.

T. J. Fortner to J. G. Starr, surface land on north side of Soak road, Beckley.

John Ball to Nannie Epling, Hotchkiss lots.

J. W. McCreery, trustee, to B. D. Cole surface and timber on Winding Gulf.

Milton Curtis to M. T. Toney, land on Clear Fork.

G. C. Ellison to H. H. Akers, land on Little Beaver creek.

Isaac Williams to Wm McKeever, surface lot, Williams addition, Beckley.

John Beckley to H. A. Griffith surface lots, Wildwood, Beckley.

J. H. McGinnis to J. D. McGinnis, 20 acres on Clear Fork.

PREACHER HITS EDITOR

Lively Encounter Between Preacher-Legislator and Socialist Editor.

Charleston, Feb. 2.—The Senate held no session today, and the House had the center of the stage. Even with this advantage, however, that body hardly would have proved interesting, but for a personal encounter just before the afternoon session between Rev. G. H. Devo, member from Wood county, and Fritz Merrick, editor of the Social Rebel, a paper published at Parkersburg.

Editor Merrick, in his last issue, made some very severe comments on Rev. Mr. Devo, connecting his name with the Book Trust. The editor was seated at the reporter's table in front of the Clerk's desk in the house, when Rev. Mr. Devo approached and slapped his face. He objected and resisted, whereupon Rev. Mr. Devo bit him twice in the face with his clenched fist. Merrick gamely sought to fight back, but being a much smaller man than Rev. Mr. Devo, found himself at a great disadvantage, and could do no damage.

Delegate Smith, of Huntington and others got between the belligerents and kept them apart. No damage was done beyond a knot or two on the editorial countenance.

CRIMINAL COURT BILLS.

Some little confusion was had by Raleigh readers of daily newspapers in regard to the passage of the criminal court bill, which seemed to have passed twice. The facts in the case are that the bill was amended by the judiciary committee, giving the criminal judge more power than embraced in the original bill, and passed by the senate. The bill had already passed the house and could not be amended and then the amended senate bill was again passed by the house.

It was too late to recall the bill passed by the house and the amendments tacked on by the senate are of a beneficial character. The bill is yet in the hands of the governor, awaiting his signature.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The first meeting of the new city council was held in Mayor Dunn's office Monday evening, with a good attendance.

John Williams was re-elected town sergeant for the coming year. The board of health consisting of Dr. Campbell and Dr. Saffner and John Williams were elected. E. D. George was re-elected fire inspector.

A walk was ordered laid from the overhead bridge to the P. R. & P. C. Ry. depot, the railway company furnishing all material.

Several other minor matters were attended to and the council adjourned.

Hereafter the council will meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights instead of the 1st and 3rd as heretofore.

OYSTER SUPPER.

The oyster supper given by the Miss Collins, at their home on Oakwood, Saturday evening, was a complete success both socially and financially. The net sum of \$30 was realized, which was given to the building fund of the Catholic church.

PRIMARY LAW.

The direct primary election bill introduced in the legislature is having hard sailing and will probably be defeated.

JUDGE SANDERS A CANDIDATE

For Republican Nomination for Governor.

SATISFACTORY TO ALL

And Not a Candidate of Factions—Was Formerly Circuit Judge of This Circuit and Has Many Admirers Here—Excellent Record as a Judge and Free From Reprach.

For several days last week there were a great number of gentlemen in Charleston representative of all the elements of the republican party of the state, and they have obtained the consent of Judge Joseph M. Sanders, president of the Supreme court of Appeals of West Virginia, to be a candidate for governor of West Virginia. These gentlemen in presenting the candidacy of Judge Sanders claim that he will not only go to the convention with the support of every county south of the Kanawha river, where he is best known, but that already they have assurances of strong support from the upper end of the state.

A significant incident within the memory of all the people in the state is the combination of circumstances under which Judge Sanders was nominated as a candidate for a place on the Supreme bench of this state. In accepting that nomination he simply responded to a general demand emanating from no particular faction or element of his party. No more than ever before the people realize the wisdom of that choice. He has demonstrated great ability as a judge, as well as his exceptional strength as a party candidate. It is not, therefore, surprising that his friends should extend the invitation to come up higher, with the benediction, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," nor that he should express a willingness to do so.

Though Judge Sanders has made an excellent record as a judge of the highest court of the state, and added greatly to the confidence and esteem in which he is held by the people, he feels the restraint and isolation to which the position subjects him.

A peculiarity of his mental constitution is that his enterprise and executive powers are as fully developed as his deliberative faculties. He enjoys the activity of life, and delights as much in the excitement incident to the work of the bar, political campaigns, legislation, and the execution of the law, as in the administration of justice and exposition of the law, if not, indeed, more.

His years of experience at the bar, on the circuit bench and the four years' service which he will have had on the Supreme bench of the state will have given him that intimate knowledge of the people of the state, its resources and the system of law under which it is developing and growing that will make him one of the most brilliant and formidable standard bearers his party has ever had and one of the most progressive and competent men that has ever occupied the gubernatorial chair of the state. His situation is such that all the elements of the party can unite upon him more easily and cheerfully than any other man. This is the claim made by his friends and those who know the political situation of the state thoroughly and intimately, and they say the solidity of this claim will be quickly verified by a little inquiry among the people.

Judge Sanders was formerly circuit judge of this circuit and his admirers are numbered among the thousands of both republicans and democrats, who would be glad to see him achieve the honors he seeks.

WELL KNOWN HERE.

W. C. Colburn, the assistant superintendent of Stuart, formerly was employed by the Beckley Coal & Coke Co., and is well known here. Mr. Colburn had a brother killed in the Stuart mine explosion last week.

FREE TEXT BOOK.

Hon. S. S. Sutphin, chairman of the house committee on education, has reported favorably the bill providing that the state furnish text books for school children in the public schools.