

DEATH HORROR!

Eleven Men Killed by a Gas Explosion.

Terrible Disaster at Pratt Mines on Yesterday.

Gas From an Abandoned Chamber Was Ignited.

Nobody Knows How or Who Did It.

Ten of the Dead Men Were Convict Miners.

NARROW ESCAPE OF RESCUERS.

AT 10:30 O'CLOCK yesterday morning there was a gas explosion at Pratt Mines.

When you say a mine is on fire it strikes terror into the average man, but among the old miners there is not so much of a stir as one would imagine.

The news reached the city, and the first expression from many was some remark about mining inspection.

An Associated Press representative went out to the mines last evening to visit the scene of the disaster. All along the line on the dummies and at the stations the people were talking about the explosion at Pratt Mines. Some had one statement and some others had another.

On arrival at Pratt Mines about 7:30 o'clock Assistant Superintendent J. G. Moore was found and interviewed. He was just eating a lunch and had been through a big afternoon's work.

Said he: "I am just about tired out. I have been working rescuing the men and also rescuing the rescuers. The men have not been brought out yet. There are ten, I think, dead."

"The explosion occurred about 10:30 o'clock at shaft No. 1, in Rock slope. The shaft is about 225 feet deep, and from the front of the shaft down the slope to where the explosion took place measures about 600 feet. About 50 feet from the main entry there is an old room in which gas was discovered and planked up."

"I hastened to the shaft on learning of the explosion and in company with Mine Engineer Erskine Ramsey, A. J. Riley, assistant engineer, J. C. Lacey, an employee, and two life convicts, John Gray and Thomas Tillman, went down to rescue the men."

"We got to where the men were very soon, but the after-damp and gas were so heavy that we were forced to retreat without being able to get the men out. I was overpowered and was quite unconscious before they got me to the fresh air. After recovering I returned, but was not able to reach them. We went to work repairing the brattices that had been knocked down, in order to put the air in circulation through the mine."

"Have the men been brought out yet?"

"They were not a short time ago. Several have been rescued, and among them some of the rescuers, but none had been brought out when I left the shaft."

"Can you tell how the explosion occurred?"

"That I do not know. All who were there were killed, and we have not been able to find out how it did occur. It has been impossible to get at the facts."

"In talking with Assistant General Manager G. B. McCormick, he said: 'As best we can find out, the point where the bodies were found, which was at a cross heading of the main shaft, there was an old abandoned room. That is, it was abandoned and planked up on Wednesday and 'gas and fire' marked on it, the usual danger sign. It seems one of the men, who, no one knows, knocked off a plank and the gas came out and was ignited.'

"After the explosion, the deadly after-damp played its part, and this it was that caused their deaths."

THE DEAD BROUGHT OUT.

Having Mr. Moore again later he said that the bodies had just been brought out. The rescuers were also all out and revived.

It was discovered that there were six negroes and five whites among the dead. All were convicts except one, Mr. Thomas Moore, a white free laborer.

The whites were: Thomas Moore, Ed Conley, W. D. Mayfield, A. M. Hayes and J. G. Davis.

The negroes were: Phil Page, Bob Clayton, Thomas Ware, Joe Hall, Thomas Hamilton and Charles H. Robinson.

They were placed in the hospital shaft.

No. 1. Governor Jones was notified that the above persons had been killed.

There was a rumor in circulation yesterday afternoon that one W. D. Mayfield, who had just been sent there for life imprisonment caused the explosion. It was said that he went up to this place with a lamp in his hand during the gas to ignite.

There were fourteen others who had been partially choked. They were soon revived. There were of those who were rescued not less than six who were placed in the hospital where their small bruises and burns might be remedied.

Said Mr. McCormick, "It is not known who did the work and it has been impossible to find out."

Last night Mr. Mark Moore of Alexan-

dria arrived to take the body of his brother.

There were in the mine at that place not less than 450 men. There were about 300 in the Rock slope, but all escaped without any hurt. The officials were all kept busy for the day, working to arrange the air in the mine.

Mr. Haskell, the assistant mining inspector, went through the mine Thursday, accompanied by Mr. A. J. Riley, the assistant mining engineer.

At the count of the convicts as they entered the prison last night the count of dead at ten was verified.

Mining Inspector Hooper was seen last night and stated that he had visited several of the mines already and had placed Pratt mines on the list for Monday morning. He will visit the mines today and make an examination of the premises and make his report. The state board of convict inspectors will also make their examination and report.

TERRIFIED PARIS.

SHE WAS THE PLAYGROUND OF A FEARFUL STORM.

PARIS, May 22.—A terrific storm passed over this city yesterday evening, causing considerable damage and creating much alarm.

During the passage of the storm a huge water-pump formed in the Champs Elysees, traversed the Place de la Concorde and burst in the Jardin des Tuileries, uprooting trees, destroying lawns and flower-beds and a way pathway.

In addition, a thunderbolt fell in the Bois de Boulogne, but luckily there was no loss of life. Consternation prevailed in the neighborhood most attacked by the storm.

NO ITATA NEWS AT ALL.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—The fact that the Charleston has not reported her arrival at Panama is now regarded by the navy department as an indication that the vessel did not deviate from her course to go into Panama, but has passed on southward. No news is expected from her until she reaches one of the South American ports, probably Paya or Callao, Peru, which is not expected to happen before Sunday evening. Meanwhile, there is absolutely no news of the Itata.

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

YOUNG LADY TEACHER KEPT A PRISONER AND OUTRAGED.

With Both Legs Broken She Was Chained to the Purpose by Two Scoundrels, Who Were Shot.

LOUISVILLE, May 22.—The story of brutal ravishing, murder and swift vengeance on the murderers coming from Sandy Hook, a mountain town near Ashland, in eastern Kentucky.

Near Sandy Hook Mass Flower died recently from being thrown from her horse and being ravished by John and George Wilcox, brothers, who had been her suitors. She had promised to marry Ann Queen, who had met her while she was teaching school near Sandy Hook, and about three weeks before, started to visit friend near there.

The Wilcozes were passing the road all traveled, saw her coming, and hid in the bushes. They snatched her horse. The horse ran away, and she was thrown and her both legs broken.

The Wilcozes picked her up unconscious, revived her, and drew chains so to white she should be compelled to marry.

They bore her to a cabin, and demanded that she agree to marry John, to whose she refused and hinted. They tried to set her legs and keep her a prisoner in a cabin.

She was found by her brother and affianced she said that Wilcox did it, and died soon afterwards. An examination showed she had been chained to the cabin wall, and she had been outraged.

The Wilcozes were captured and on Wednesday, whereupon they were shot to death by the brother and lover. They explain in the confession that they chained the girl because she had attempted to escape.

Miss Flower was the daughter of a prominent citizen of Richmond, Va., who met Sandy Hook some years ago and died there. She was only 21 years old.

AFTER THE FIGHT.

FOUGHT TILL DAYLIGHT, OR, RATHER WALKED AROUND HALF THE TIME.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22.—The Corbett-Jackson fight last night resulted most satisfactorily.

Referee Cook's decision of "no contest" which was given at the end of the six first round, after the men had been in the ring four hours and five minutes, was generally accepted as equivalent to a "draw" decision.

The men were too weak that it is plain to everyone that they could not be expected to strike an effective blow. It rained in the ring till daylight.

The first half of the fight was the scientific contest seen on the Pacific coast, but the last thirty rounds was a very weak round.

After fighting two hours, the men were about evenly divided, though there was any advantage, it was in Jackson's favor. Then Corbett rallied, two rounds, he pounded Jackson and him greatly distressed, but the San Francisco man played himself out in that effort and with the exception of occasional rain there was nothing done in the next rounds.

In the last four rounds, Jackson improved around the ring and Corbett was out little better condition. Both men heartily cheered at the conclusion of the fight.

In view of Referee Cook's decision in Jackson-Corbett meeting last night, fight was no contest. A meeting of board of directors will probably be held to discuss the matter. All bets on the result of the fight are off.

SUN'S COTTON REVIEW.

NEW YORK, May 22.—Futures slightly lower for this crop, and part on point dealer for the next crop. It today mainly a local "witching" market. Operators were loath to carry for their contracts, and besides selling a number of "exchanges" on the blackie. Other "exchanges" were for a moment moved. Weather reports from the west were generally favorable to crop prospects. A widening of the difference between July and August shows that the market is distinctly "long," and the swift process may go on for several days. Cotton was dull.

GRAND SUCCESS.

THE CONCORDIA FIGHT AT JACKSON LAST THURSDAY.

MONTGOMERY, May 22.—[Special.]—Third annual picnic which was given by the Concordia division of the Order of the Good Templars, was a grand success and the attendance was the largest in the history of the division. The members of division No. 10, which is the largest in the state, were in attendance and their aid rendered the order.