

## MINE DISASTER.

Twenty-eight Men Suffocated  
by a Cave In.

### THE MICHIGAMME RIVER

Flooded the Level in Which  
They Worked.

### UNDER THE DARK RIVER

The Pillars Gave Way, Trapping the  
Fated Men.

Eight Were Heads of Families—  
Twenty the Support of Parents  
—Loss, \$600,000.

CRYSTAL FALL, Mich., Sept. 28.—With a roar and a rush the waters of the Michigan river broke through the Mansfield mine, drowning 28 of the employees at work directly under the stream. The 28 men who escaped were employed in the lower levels. The accident occurred last night between 9 and 10 o'clock, but did not become known until later. None of the bodies have been recovered, and it is believed it will be necessary to divert the channel of the river before they can be secured. The Mansfield mine is situated on the banks of the Michigan river, about six miles east of Crystal Falls, the county seat of Iron county. It has been working between three and four years and has shipped about 60,000 tons of limestone ore. The ore ledges dipped rapidly beneath the stream, and for more than two years the shaft workings have been directly under the bed of the river. There has been much trouble with water, and precautions have not been wanting that the river would some day break through the roof of the mine. The mine varied in from the top to the bottom, entailing a loss of \$600,000.

#### THE DEAD.

Following is a somewhat list of the dead: JAMES PETERSON, married; OLA CARLSON, married; JAMES THOMPSON, married; JOSE ROLA, married; HENRIED; JOHN HILANDSON, married; W. H. FINCH, married; ROSE FOSTMANN, married; JOHN JOHNSON, married; MERR HARRINGTON, married; JOHN HANDEL, married; OLAN LINDQUIST, married; AL THORNTON, married; PAUL JOHNSON, married; SAM JOHNSON, married; NELLIE ZARBA, married; PETER TILLY, married; NUNO FONTANA, married; CHARLES POUL, married; JOHN BACALL.

THE MANSFIELD SHAFTS are located on the west bank of the Michigan river and the working levels of the mine run directly under the stream and parallel with it for a distance of several hundred feet. The first level was 25 feet below the bottom of the river and the lower levels, 80 in number, ran parallel to the first, the bottom being 425 feet below the surface of the water. The five upper levels have been "blown" out in the progress of the work, leaving only timbers and pillars of ore to bear the mighty weight of the floors of ore above. The accident is supposed to have been caused by the giving way of the timbers on the fifth level, allowing those above to follow, and at last the river to pour in upon the fated men. After the cave the river bed below the mine was dry for an hour and 40 minutes.

The depression in the iron track has closed practically all the mines in the Crystal Falls district and the Mansfield was almost the only one from which any ore was being raised, the loss, owing to its production, causing it to keep on working. The night shift had gone down, and though some ore reached the mine no special alarm was felt, as the pumps were used to keep the drifts free. Habituated to danger, the miners went to their work as usual, intent only upon the accomplishment of the daily task that brought food and shelter for themselves and families. So the work went on in its usual course until after 9 o'clock. Then there was a BOOM AND A RUSH OF WATER.

So fast came the flood that it is doubtful if the men in the upper levels were able to reach the shaft at all. The scenes of horror and death in the upper levels can only be imagined, for no one escaped to tell the tale. But the men from below to reach the shaft death would still have been certain, for the old, No. 1 shaft, the only direct means of reaching the upper levels, collapsed and caved in about 9:30, cutting off all escape that way. Had there been time the men might have descended by some means to the lower levels and crawled over to No. 2 shaft, but the rushing flood came too fast. There were REAKTENDING SCENES

about the mine and a wild cry of alarm throughout the little hamlet about the mine. Men, women and children gathered with horror faces to see 15 men come forth from the balance depths and to behold the Michigan river plunging with a sudden roar into the chasm in its bed. The men who escaped were almost all from the two lowest levels. Alarmed by the roar of the water, they fled wildly toward the shaft and managed to escape from the pit of death. There was no lack of volunteers to descend the only available shaft, but self-sacrificing courage of the lucky miners was all in vain. The dark and angry waters eagerly and rapidly running in the shaft proved even to the courage of danger that human aid was without avail. The 28 men still in the pit were strangled corpses now. Not until after daylight did the river empties its work and resume its normal course. The mine workings had been filled to the river level and the stream began to roll down its dry bed once more. The death of 28 men marked the end of the Mansfield mine, for unless the river be turned to seek another channel this rich deposit of iron ore can never be worked again.

ABOUT THE VICTIMS leave families of children fatherless, and about half of the remaining 20 men were the support of parents. The news was slow in reaching the outside world. The nearest telegraph office is at Crystal Falls, six miles away, and though a railroad runs into the mine, it was only used to haul out ore and haul supplies. A carrier carried the news to Crystal Falls last night, but not until this morning was the news flashed abroad. In the course of time his life is believed to have been the worst disaster that ever occurred in the Lake Superior iron region. What remains, if any can be taken, to rescue the bodies of the dead are yet undetermined. A careful survey of the ground by competent engineers will have to be made before the first step towards getting into the flooded workings can be to divert temporarily or permanently the course of the Michigan river and then pump out the mine.

When the 28 miners were made their escape in the shaft, a perfect torrent was rushing down. The men had come through this torrent and they did it by holding their breath, climbing up from one platform to another. This escape was marvelous. The whole river rushed into the cavern made by the cave-in and for two hours the bed of the river below the opening was perfectly dry.

At daylight this morning nothing out a loose lot of timber in the river from the shaft house and a pool of red water marked the spot where the shaft had been sunk. It will be impossible to ever recover the bodies of the men who died like rats in a trap. The Mansfield mine was flooded in the lower level by water last spring, and while in this condition the ore pillars in the upper level were removed, it is alleged, by order of the superintendent. This, so doubt, hastened the collapse and prevented many of the unfortunate miners from escaping. Already talk of suits for damages against the operators by relatives of the dead men is being heard.

#### Mr. Longyear's Theory.

MANSFIELD, Mich., Sept. 28.—John M. Longyear, of this city, is one of the chief owners of the fee of the Mansfield mine property. He said this afternoon that the mine had been leased to Calhoun & Tenney, of Chicago, and that they had formed the Mansfield Mining company. Mr. Longyear's belief is that the disaster was caused by "robbing" the mine, that is, by working in a reckless manner and tearing down pillars of ore in the upper levels that should have been left to support the roof. Mr. Longyear would not affirm that such was the case, but believed it probable.

#### Don't Own It.

CRYSTAL FALL, O., Sept. 28.—Corrigan & Iron, of this city, are indignant because of the report sent out regarding their connection with the Mansfield mine. They assert that they do not own it and never had any interest in it. The mine is owned by a Chicago company, of which C. Calhoun is president. Corrigan & Iron merely acted as agents in selling the ore. The mine is not a Schlessenger property.

## PEACEMAKER.

Washington Government Using Its Moral Force in the Brazil Affair.

LONDON, Sept. 28.—A private dispatch received here from Rio de Janeiro by a prominent firm engaged heavily in Brazilian trade, gives the following important information.

The American minister yesterday instructed the commander of United States Steamship Charleston to protest American goods in large in the bay from seizure by the revolting squadron. He also telegraphed the government at Washington advising that the United States vigorously protest against the further bombardment of Rio de Janeiro; that many non-combatants had been killed and much property destroyed by the repeated firing on the city. The United States government has instructed Minister Thompson to make every possible effort to protect American persons and property and that all the moral force of the government had been exerted to prevent further destruction and bloodshed.

#### GEN. ESPINA'S PENALTY.

Buenos Aires—National Guards No Longer Needed.

Buenos Aires, Sept. 28.—Latest reports received here from government sources are that Buenos will soon likely surrender or already has surrendered.

Gen. Espina, who incited the attack made by the rebel torpedo boats upon the government war vessel in the outer roads, will be shot tomorrow.

The national guards of Buenos Ayres proper and the surrounding districts have been disbanded, their services being no longer desired.

#### Germany's Attitude.

BRASIL, Sept. 28.—The *Vossische Zeitung* says of the revolution in Brazil: England probably will propose that the United States and the powers intervene jointly in Brazil. It is thought Germany will decline to co-operate in any such plan.

#### Fort Sao Paulo Surrendered.

LONDON, Sept. 28.—A Lisbon dispatch to the Times says that Fort San Gabriel, in Para, Brazil, has surrendered to Gen. Saravia.

#### The Rebelion Suppressed.

Buenos Aires, Sept. 28.—Latest. The sentence of Col. Espina has been commuted to 20 years' imprisonment. The rebellion is now regarded essentially suppressed.

#### PALLAS WILL DIE.

The Spanish Courts Will Lose No Time in Disposing of His Case.

BARCELONA, Sept. 28.—The court martial of Pallas, who attempted to assassinate Gen. Canovas, was commenced today. The court is composed of a colonel and five captains. As the hearing proceeded, it became so insolent that the president ordered that he be removed from the room. Later he was brought in to hear the address of the prosecutor, who demanded, in the name of an outraged society, that the prisoner be shot. Pallas thereupon jumped to his feet and shouted that he agreed with the prosecutor. Pallas was then removed from the court, twisting his mouth as he walked out and wearing an air of unconscious nonchalance. It is expected that he will be sentenced to suicide.

#### Paid Head Tax on His Wife.

KROONSTADT, Oct. 1, Sept. 28.—The ingestion of a pill tax on Mrs. McKay, the Chinese wife of Rev. Dr. McKay, the eminent missionary, has caused quite a stir in religious circles. Because of her marriage, Mrs. McKay is now a British subject. Churchmen do not blame the customs officials at Vancouver, where the tax was levied. They, it is said, had no discretion in the matter.

#### Kaiser Welcomes to Windsor.

GOETTERDAEMERUNG, Sept. 28.—Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany arrived at the park today in the yacht *Hohenzollern*. He was welcomed aboard by the British crown prince, who proceeded with his family to Haulburg. The emperor spent the day in a hunt. The emperor was in fine spirits and received the crown prince with great cordiality.

#### Jesus Wanted to Leave.

BOSTON, Sept. 28.—Three days ago it was discovered by an officer of the state prison that Long Forester, the key prisoner of 20 years ago, who is serving a life sentence in solitary confinement, had been digging out the mortar in which the stones of his cell are laid.

#### Jack McVitt's Remedy.

BROOKLYN, Sept. 28.—About 3,000 spectators attended the benefit to Jack McVitt, the lightning champion of the world, tonight at the Coney Island arena. The program was first class and the outcome was of a splendid nature.