

A MINE HORROR IN WEST VIRGINIA

FEW SHOWS THIS MONTH

There have been fewer first class theatrical attractions south this season than for a number of years, and it has been among the worst years that the profession has experienced. There have been only two or three New York successes, and the south has been almost entirely cut off on account of the yellow fever.

With the exception of "The Crystal Slipper," which is a home talent show, there will be no attractions at the Academy of Music all next week, but the week of the 15th there will be the Fremont Stock Company for a week and after that there are no more shows billed until the 25th, when "The Isle of Spice" comes.

Roanoke has fared no worse than some of the other cities, and no nearly so bad as some of them. Bluefield, that has been playing from two to three shows per week, has been forced to close down until the 23rd of February, on account of the inability of the management to get attractions.

Manager Bernstein announces that they will have plenty of good shows, however, after this month. Among those that have already been booked is "Little Johnny Jones," John Drew in his new play, Chauncey Olcott, and many other favorites.

Captain and Mrs. H. W. Adams have returned from Newport News, where they were called on account of the death of Mrs. Adams' brother, R. E. Mason, which occurred December 31.

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scribed absolute rest and freedom from excitement for the next few days. Dr. Morris, her husband, has been summoned from Ohio. When he arrives it is likely some steps looking to account for her ill treatment will be taken.

NEGRO DELEGATES NOT RECEIVED

Washington, January 5.—President Roosevelt Wednesday refused to receive a delegation of negro brethren, comprising the Rev. J. S. Corrothers, pastor of a local Methodist church; the Rev. J. C. Scott, pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist church, and Prof. W. H. H. Hart, of the law department of Howard University. They called at the White House to invite the president to deliver an address before a convention of negroes from all sections of the country, to be held here January 24 for the purpose of considering the question

ENJOYABLE OYSTER FEAST

A very enjoyable oyster supper was given last evening by Miss Florence Deyerle, 919 Second Avenue, n. w., in honor of her cousin, Miss Iola Barnett, of Vinton. Games of various kinds were indulged in during the evening, after which a delightful supper, consisting of oysters, salads, fruits, etc., was served in the most exquisite manner.

Those present were: Miss Grace Jennings, of Allen's Creek, Va.; Miss Algie McCray, of Salem, Va.; Miss Iola Barnett, of Vinton, Va., and Misses Gish, Deyerle, Eva and Mary Ragland, Lottie and Gertie Word, Luna and Mae Saunders, of Roanoke; Messrs. C. E. Merricks, of Missouri; F. J. Kirkwood, of Crewe, Va.; Thomas Heslop, of Lafayette, Va.; Hampton Barnett, of Salem, Va.; E. D. McCray, of Taylor's, Va.; J. H. Barnett, of Alleghany Springs, Va., and Messrs. Huddleston, Deyerle, Mason, Wade, Lewis and Davis, of Roanoke.

At a late hour the guests departed, congratulating Miss Deyerle on her success as hostess.

SECOND DAY OF RUFFNER TRIAL

Luray, Va., Jan. 5.—The second day of the trial of Lester Ruffner, charged with the murder of his uncle, Isaac Ruffner, in this county, on November 26, brought an immense crowd to Luray.

The commonwealth rested its case about 7 o'clock Wednesday night, when the prisoner went upon the stand and gave the particulars of the tragedy. Ruffner made a straightforward statement of the affair, and, it is said, made a good witness for himself. He was on the witness stand for about three hours and, with a Winchester rifle, gave a rehearsal of the tragedy.

His grandfather, Philip Ruffner, aged about 76 years, also made a good witness for the defense. He said he had heard the dead man say he would kill the prisoner, Ruffner's wife, and also said he had heard her husband's uncle say he intended to kill him. The case is being vigorously prosecuted and defended.

BOY KILLED BY A LIVE WIRE

Hagerstown, Md., Jan. 5.—By coming in contact with a live wire of the city electric lighting plant, which had broken and fallen into the street, Milford Koons, aged 12 years, son of John Koons, manager of the Hagerstown Wagon and Carriage Works, was killed yesterday. A cold chisel and hammer were found nearby, and it is not known whether the boy was trying to cut a piece off the wire or had gotten tangled up in the ends when he was killed.

Mr. Koons was knocked down and badly shocked while trying to drag the body from the wire.

Twenty-One Men Meet Death by An Explosion of Deadly Gas in a Mine at Coaldale, W. Va.—List of the Dead.

Bluefield, W. Va., Jan. 5.—Special.—The rescue party working in the Coaldale mine worked all night, and up to noon today had recovered eighteen bodies. There are still three more in the mine.

One of the worst mine disasters in the history of the Pocahontas coal fields, occurred yesterday at Coaldale, Mercer county, W. Va., when twenty-one miners were killed in the Cooper mines.

News of the horror reached Roanoke during the afternoon but full details of the accident are still lacking, owing to inadequate wire facilities at the scene of the explosion.

Coaldale is a mining town on the line of the Norfolk & Western railway, and is located about fifteen miles west of Bluefield.

Beyond the fact that there was an explosion of gas and that twenty-one men met their death, and that up to last midnight only one body had been recovered, little is known.

Immediately after the explosion, which was heard for a distance of several miles, rescuing parties were organized and set about to explore the wrecked mine and bring out the bodies. That these efforts met with little success is shown in a despatch received after midnight from Bluefield, and which follows:

"Bluefield, W. Va., Jan. 4.—Special.—Again the earth has trembled and that substance in which there is more energy and destruction to the atom than is in dynamite to the pound, fire damp, or mine gas, let go its awful engines of disaster today, and in an instant twenty-one tolling miners had crossed from time to eternity.

"Never before in the history of this field has there been such a fearful disaster, save one, and of that the victims sleep in the cemetery at Pocahontas.

"Today about half an hour before noon while the Cooper mines at Coaldale were crowded with those who delve in the earth, there was a heavy rumbling, a mile and more, in the bowels of the mountain and through the miles of passages and air courses of that immense mine, the awful shock was felt and ere its detonations had died out Bank Boss Thomas Williams, himself some distance from the explosion staggered to his feet and feeling his way to a mine telephone called to those on the outside that there had been an explosion and asked for help. He was a long ways from the scene of greatest disaster and those on the surface had felt the earth as it

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trembled and a great dread fell upon the inhabitants, but from the main entrance of the mine, far in the mountain depths husband, father, brother and sweetheart at work had been buried under millions of tons of earth and stone that lay between the workings and the mountain's crown.

"The forest trembled and shook from the mighty force of the titanic concussion, a signal that death and destruction were wrought within.

"Gathering about the entrance, hastening crowds, urged by cool heads and anxious hearts, hurried to prepare for the rescue of the missing ones and an exploration of the wrecked workings.

"At four o'clock one man was brought out. He was H. C. Conrad, and his body was literally torn to pieces. The clothing was hanging in shreds.

"Up to midnight no other bodies had been recovered.

"There was considerable smoke and gas in the entries and notwithstanding the fact the big fans were in good order and were working with full capacity the gas and smoke were not being driven out very rapidly.

The following are the dead and their bodies, with exception of Conrad lie buried in the mine:

J. W. LARNE.
W. LARNE.
JIM SLUSS.
LARAZ ALADAR, Hungarian.
ANTHONY BRUCE, Pole.
H. C. CONRAD.
SILAS WHITE.
JOHN PATTERSON.
GUS HARRIS.
W. T. SULLIVAN.
WILLIAM PRICE.
WILLIAM WARD.
WALTER GWINN.
SIPH GRAY.
STERLING WILLIAMS.
ALBERT BARNUM.
NATHAN HAIRSTON.
WILLIAM CURRY.
SILAS HARRIS.
JUNE KELLY.
LEE PRICE.

"The mine is owned and operated by the Cooper Brothers. The Coaldale plant is considered one of the best operations in the field. Ed. Cooper is on the ground supervising the work of rescue.