

GAS EXPLOSION KILLS 21 MEN.

Horrer in West Virginia Mine at
Noon Yesterday.

ONE BODY FOUND.

Men Missing Either Killed Out-
right or Asphyxiated. Nothing
Known of Explosion's Cause.

Bluefield, W. Va., Jan. 4.—Twenty-one miners were killed in an explosion of mine gas in the shaft of the Copper Mine company at Coaldale, West Virginia, at noon today. Up to midnight only one body had been recovered. Immediately following the explosion, which was heard for several miles, rescue parties set to work to explore the wrecked shaft.

Coaldale is a mining town situated on the line of the Norfolk and Western railway and is 15 miles west of Bluefield. The mining cars and most of the property used in the mines are supposed to have been blown to pieces. At 5.30 p.m. the body of one of the miners was discovered about a hundred feet away from the mine entry so mutilated that it is unrecognizable. All hope of recovering alive the miners entombed by the explosion was shattered by the pouring forth of gases from the different entries. If the twenty-one men were not all killed instantly by the explosion it is believed that they must have succumbed to the great accumulation of gas following the explosion.

Great crowds were attracted by the disaster and a large rescuing party soon began work. They were helpless to accomplish anything until new fans were put into position to force the gases ahead so that the rescuers might enter the shaft. This will require some 12 or 15 hours.

The Coaldale operation is owned and operated by the Cooper Brothers who are also owners of the Mill Creek and McDowell Coal and Coke company. The Coaldale plant is considered one of the best operations in the field. Ed. Cooper is on the ground supervising the rescue work.

Roanoke, W. Va., Jan. 4.—A special tonight to the Roanoke Times from Bluefield says:

"At noon, while the Coaldale coal mines were crowded with men, there was a sudden and heavy rumbling. A mile or more in the depths of the mountains and through the miles of passages and air shafts of that immense mine the shock was felt. Before the detonations had died out Bank Boss Thos Williams, who was a long 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 a terrific explosion of mine gas and asked for help. Preparations immediately were made for the rescue of the entombed men 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 hanging in shreds. Up to a late hour tonight no other bodies had been recovered. There was considerable smoke and gas in the entries and notwithstanding the fact that the big fans were in good order and were working at full capacity the gas and smoke were not being driven out fast.

The dead: J. W. Larne, W. Larne, J. Sloss, H. C. Conrad, Laraz Aladar (Hungarian), Anthony Bruce (Pole), Silas White, John Patterson, Gus Harris, W. T. Sullivan, William Price, W. Ward, Walter G. Winn, Siph Gray, Sterline Williams, Albert Barnum, Na-

than Hairston, William Curry, Silas Harris, June Kelly and Lee Price.

SENT ADDRESS TO KING.

Toronto Junction Free Masons Thanked
By His Majesty for Their
Thoughtfulness.

Toronto, Jan. 4.—At the inaugural meeting of the recently organized lodge of Free Masons at Toronto Junction, a loyal address to His Majesty was passed and an illuminated copy was ordered to be sent to the King. This reached its destination through the good offices of Lord Strathcona and Sir Edward Leitchworth, grand secretary of the Grand Masonic lodge of England. Lord Knollys, private secretary to the King, wrote to Sir Edward, saying: "I am commanded by His Majesty to request you to thank the Victoria Lodge of Free Masons of Toronto Junction for the address, which they have sent him on the inauguration of their lodge."

KINGSTON CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Mr. Hanna and J. P. Downey, M.L.A., Speak in Mr.
McIntyre's Interest.

Kingston, Jan. 4.—The Conservatives held a meeting in the city hall this evening in the interest of D. M. McIntyre, the candidate in the provincial bye-election. H. W. Richardson, president of the Conservative association, presided. Hon. W. J. Hanna, provincial secretary, and J. P. Downey, member for South Wellington, were the chief speakers. Mr. Hanna dealt with the record of the Whitney government for the past year and claimed that it was such that the electors of Kingston should express their approval by electing Mr. McIntyre. Kingston, he said, had had its good name besmirched by political corruption, exposed in the courts. Now its electors had a chance to redeem its good name. It was very important to the government at Toronto, he said that it should be endorsed by the election of the Conservative candidate.

Mr. Downey, in dealing with the so-called spoils system, claimed it was in the interests of the province that license inspectors should be changed. He claimed that the Liberal government at Ottawa had dismissed 638 officials in a short time without investigation.

COMPTON ELECTION.

Hunt, Liberal, Elected Over Pope
Conservative. Government's
Efforts Successful.

Montreal, Jan. 4.—(Special)—The bye-election for the house of commons in Compton county, which was held today, resulted in the election of A. H. Hunt, Liberal, over R. H. Pope, Conservative, by a majority of over 300.

Considering the efforts put forth by the government to encompass Mr. Pope's defeat, the result is not surprising. For weeks a whole army of Liberal workers has been poured into the county and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Fisher and other ministers appeared on the scene to rally the Liberal forces. Every known cry and influence was used to defeat the Conservative candidate.

INTERNATIONAL SKATING RACES.

Toronto, Jan. 4.—Morris Wood, of Verona Lake, N.J., amateur champion skater of America, has accepted the challenge issued by Fred Robson of this city, who holds the Canadian record for 220 yards. The challenge left the choice of place to Wood among New York, Montreal and Toronto, and the New Yorker chose Toronto. The races will be at 220 yards, half mile and mile, and will take place here towards the end of this month, with a suitable trophy as the prize.