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## 1100 MEN KILLED IN COAL MINE EXPLOSION

### Europe's Greatest Mining Disaster Depopulates French Village--Six Thousand Frantic Mourners at Pit's Mouth--Few Rescued Terri- bly Burned--No Hope For En- tombbed Hundreds--Rescue Party Perished.

PARIS, March 10.—A mining catastrophe of incalculable horror and magnitude has stricken the great coal centre of northern France. An explosion of fire damp at 7 o'clock this morning carried death and destruction through out the work of coal mine centres at Courrières, and fire followed the explosion, making rescue difficult and almost impossible. The intense excitement and confusion in the vicinity prevented early estimates of the exact loss of life, but a despatch received here at 4:35 p. m. gave 1,046 miners entombed and probably lost. At 8:45 o'clock this evening a brief despatch from Lille announced the awful total of 1,132 dead. All France has been profoundly shocked by the magnitude of the disaster, which is said to be the greatest in the history of continental mining.

#### SCENE OF CATASTROPHE.

The scene of the catastrophe is the mountainous mining region near Lens in the department of Pas de Calais. Here are huddled small hamlets of the miners, who operate the most productive coal mines in France. The subterranean chambers form a series of tunnels. Six of the outlets are near Lens, and others are at Courrières, Verdun and many other points. The output of these mines is practically combustible and is largely used in the manufacture of gas and smelting. About 2,000 miners work the group of mines, and with their families make a population of from 8,000 to 8,000 souls. The catastrophe took place shortly after 1:30 p. m. Men and horses nearby outside the mine were either stunned or killed. The roof of the mine office was blown off.

Immediately following the explosion flames burst from the mouth of the pit, driving back those without who sought to enter and dooming those within.

PARIS, March 11.—The worst fears as to the enormity of the mine disaster in the Courrières district of the Pas de Calais Saturday morning have been realized. The death list stands at 1,132, and the whole of the region stands appalled at the terrible tragedy which has brought sorrow to six thousand fathers, mothers, wives and children.

The last great mine disaster in France occurred in 1888, when 282 persons were killed and eighty injured; but that and all others sink into insignificance before Courrières.

## Standard Cypher's Incubators

These machines are non-moisture, self-regulating, self-ventilating. Easy to operate. Automatic in operation, except trimming the wick, filling the lamp and turning the eggs. They will hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs in good healthy chicks and ducklings than any other make.

- No. 0. - 66 Eggs Capacity
- No. 1. - 140 Eggs Capacity
- No. 2. - 240 Eggs Capacity
- No. 3. - 390 Eggs Capacity
- Boys' Choice, 50 Eggs Capacity
- Farm Economy, 110 Eggs Capacity.

Ask or write for our complete Catalogue with description and prices.

W. H. THORNE & CO., Limited MARKET SQUARE, ST. JOHN, N. B.

PARIS, March 10.—During the evening a despatch was received from Lille which seemed to give some clue to the origin of the explosion. It was stated that a smouldering fire broke out last night in the Cecil pit near Héricourt, at a depth of 250 metres, where masonry works were proceeding. M. Baruit, the chief engineer of the mines, descended to the place which remained intact and several rescues were made. The first cages came up at 10 o'clock with about a dozen half suffocated men who were taken to the nearest hospital.

#### RESCUE PARTY SHUT OFF.

It is reported that a rescue party numbering forty, has been cut off by the caving in of one of the galleries. Minister of Public Works Gauthier, Minister of the Interior Dubief, and the secretary of President Fallieres remained on the ground endeavoring to comfort the distressed families of the miners. President Fallieres has given \$2,000 to aid in relief measures. The ministry will add a further sum to this and the chamber of deputies will be asked to vote \$100,000 for the purpose of alleviating distress.

#### SCENES HEARTRENDING.

PARIS, March 10.—At 8 o'clock tonight a rescue party at Courrières brought out several engineers, two of whom were unconscious, but were revived under medical assistance.

#### A MINER'S STORY.

A young miner who escaped from pit No. 4, where about 800 men remain, said: "I was working about fifty feet from the shaft. Suddenly I felt a puff of hot gas and started toward the shaft. I was half suffocated and was unable to advance further because of the fumes. Finally, however, I succeeded in reaching the cage and came up in it."

#### SIXTEEN BODIES WERE FASTENED WITH WIRE.

WARSAW, March 10.—Fishermen in the Vistula recently discovered sixteen mutilated bodies fastened together with a rope. Several of the bodies had their hands or feet, and the faces of all them had been covered with pitch so that identification was impossible. The police, who were notified forbade the fishermen to tell any one of their discoveries until after severe penalties, and it is supposed that the bodies were those of revolutionaries who were secretly executed in the Warsaw citadel.

#### ORIGIN OF EXPLOSION.

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#### RESCUED MAN'S STORY.

One of the rescued miners, Pierre Dasso, said: "I was 230 metres from the shaft when I heard a deafening explosion. The air immediately became heated and filled with poisonous vapors. Instinctively I groped my way towards the bottom of the shaft of pit number 2, near which I found a number of suffocated comrades who had fallen helpless in the galleries and were crying for assistance. I assisted them to mount the trolley, and thus they were enabled to reach the shaft."

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#### THE WORK OF RESCUE.

The work of attempting to rescue the imprisoned miners was hastily begun by officials, engineers and miners from the surrounding mines, who formed parties and made heroic efforts to

#### POPE RECEIVES AMERICAN VISITORS.

Pierpont Morgan and Others Were Presented His Holiness Blessed a Number of Religious Objects Belonging to Mrs. Hollins.

ROME, March 12.—The pope received today in private audience J. Pierpont Morgan, M. E. Hollins, Mrs. Hollins and Miss Hollins, all of New York.

#### AGAINST SEWERAGE AND PURE WATER

Startling Results of Fredericton Civic Contest.

Only Three Aldermen of the Old Board Returned—Mayor McNally's Close Call.

(Special to the Sun.)  
FREDERICTON, March 12.—In the civic elections today last year's board of aldermen were routed foot, horse and artillery. In no uncertain way the ratepayers expressed their disapproval of the council's past acts. Of the candidates who voted in favor of the new sewerage system and the installation of a filtration plant, all went down in the sweep with one single exception, and the latter probably owes his escape to the weakness of the candidate opposing him. It has a most thorough beating. Mayor McNally himself crept back with a majority of only fifty-nine. To the deluge some of the best men who ever sat at the board go down and out—men who have given up much of their time and labor to the city's interests. As the result became known much excitement prevailed.

#### WANTED NO NONSENSE ABOUT TAINTED MONEY

Former Bank Teller Admitted Theft to Brother—Wife Knew About It

TORONTO, March 12.—Edwin St. G. Banwell and Mrs. Banwell had their preliminary hearing in the police court this morning.

#### ESTIMATES WERE BROUGHT DOWN

Amounts Voted For Intercolonial, St. John Harbor Dredging and Other Important Works

(Special to the Sun.)  
OTTAWA, March 12.—The estimates were brought down for nine months from July 1st next, amounting to \$51,584,532 consolidated and \$18,342,015 capital, a total amount of \$69,926,547.

#### MONCTON CURLERS WIN

HAMPSON, N. B., March 12.—Two rinks of Moncton junior curlers played on Hampton ice tonight against two following score by skips:  
Moncton, McClellan, skip...15  
Appley, skip...17  
Strong, skip...9  
Sproule, skip...15

#### JEALOUS MAN STABS RIVAL

Latter Died Almost Instantly—Disastrous Fires—News of Canada.

WINNIPEG, March 12.—During a quarrel over the affections of a Gaitian girl, Miss Sophie Koyk, Fred K. Kyrk stabbed Tom Kakechinski three times in the heart on Saturday night, the latter dying almost instantly. Kyrk was arrested, together with four other men and women, who are held as witnesses.

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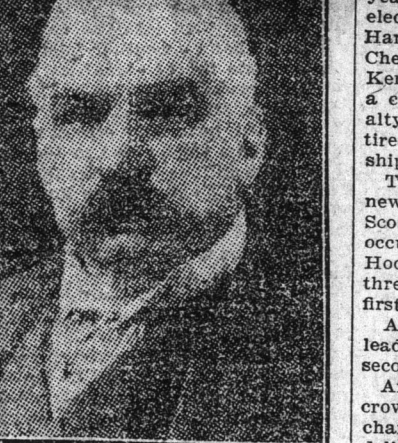
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POPE PIUS X.

The audience occurred in the pope's library and merely consisted of an exchange of compliments, the pontiff ex-



J. PIERPONT MORGAN.

pressing his appreciation of the kindness of Mr. Morgan in visiting him and recalling his visit of last May. The pope blessed some religious objects handed to him by Mrs. and Miss Hollins.

#### LITTLE STRANGER WELCOMED

LONDON, March 12.—Former Premier Balfour returned to the house of commons today and assumed the leadership of the opposition. He was heartily welcomed on all sides. The Irish members saluted Mr. Balfour with a cry of "Welcome little stranger."