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CITY OF DEATH

Appearance of St. Pierre After the Eruption.

GHAZTLY STREET SCENES

Thirty Thousand Corpses Are Strewn About.

CHARRED AND UNRECOGNIZABLE

Only Heaps of Ashes and Blocks of Stone Show Where the Buildings of the City Once Stood.

Careful inspection showed that the few streets which completely destroyed St. Pierre must have been composed of poisonous gases, which instantly suffocated every one who inhaled them, and of other gases burning furiously, for nearly all the victims had their hands covering their mouths, or were in some attitude showing that they had sought relief from suffocation. All the bodies were carbonized or roasted.

Piles of dead in the vicinity of the site of the cathedral tell a story of the attempt to find sanctuary and refuge in the great structures of worship. Men and women, panic-stricken at the cataclysm, turned in the moment of their despair to the cathedral, and were apparently overcome before they could reach its doors.

PORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, May 12.—It now seems to be generally admitted that about 30,000 persons lost their lives as a result of the outbreak of the Mount Pelee volcano at St. Pierre Thursday last. Careful investigation by competent government officials shows that the earlier reports of the Associated Press were accurate. Briefly put, last Thursday morning the city of St. Pierre disappeared within 30 minutes. In a whirling fire vomit from Mount Pelee 30,000 persons were instantly and horribly killed and the volcano, whose ancient crater for more than 50 years had been occupied by a quiet lake in which picnic parties bathed, suddenly discharged a torrent of fiery mud, which rolled toward the sea engulfing everything before it. The last cabled communication was broken and the doomed city was isolated from the world.

The American Consul at Guadeloupe, Louis H. Ayme, has reached the desolate spot where St. Pierre stood and confirms the awful story in all its essential details. From an interview with Colonel Ayme, who is a trained American newspaper man, a correspondent of the Associated Press, learned the following facts: Thursday morning the inhabitants of the city awoke to find heavy clouds shrouding the Mount Pelee crater. All day Wednesday horrible detonations had been heard. These were echoed from St. Thomas on the north to Barbadoes on the south. The cannonading ceased Wednesday night and fire ashes fell like rain on St. Pierre. The inhabitants were alarmed, but Governor Mouttet, who had arrived at St. Pierre the evening before, did everything possible to allay the panic. The British steamer Roraima reached St. Pierre Thursday with 30 passengers, among whom were Mrs. Stokes and her children and Mrs. H. J. Ince. They were watching the rain of the ashes, when a frightful roar and terrific electric discharge, a tornado of fire, mud and steam swept down from the crater over the town and bay, sweeping all before it and destroying the fleet of vessels at anchor off the shore. There the account of the catastrophe, so far as obtainable, ceases.

Thirty Thousand Corpses. Thirty thousand corpses are strewn about, buried in the ruins of St. Pierre, or else floating, gnawed by sharks, in the surrounding seas. Twenty-eight charred, half dead, human beings were brought here. Sixteen of them are already dead and only four of the number are expected to recover. The Associated Press steamer chartered in Guadeloupe near Martinique at 6:30 in the morning. The island, with its low hills, was hidden behind a huge veil of violet colored haze. Enormous quantities of the wreckage of large and small ships and houses strewn the surface of the sea. Huge trees and too often bodies with flocks of sea gulls soaring above, and hideous sharks fighting about them, were floating here and there. From behind the volcanic veil came blasts of hot wind, mingled with others less cold.

At Le Precheur, five miles north of St. Pierre, canoes with men and women, frantic to get away, begged for a passage on the steamer. The whole north end of the island was covered with a silver coating of ashes resembling dirty snow. Furious blasts of fire, ashes and mud swept over the steamer, but finally St. Pierre was reached. The City of St. Pierre stretched nearly two miles along the water front and half a mile back to a cliff at the base of the volcano. The houses of the richer French families were built of stone. The still-smoking volcano towered above the ash-covered hills. The ruins were burning in many places, and frightful odors of burned flesh filled the air.

Streets Were Obliterated. With great difficulty a landing was effected. Not one house was left intact. Vicious heaps of mud, of brighter ashes or

piles of volcanic stones were seen on every side. The streets could hardly be traced. Here and there amid the ruins were heaps of corpses. Almost all the faces were downward.

In one corner 23 bodies of men, women and children were mingled in one awful mass, arms and legs protruding as the bodies were being pulled in the last struggles of death's agony. Through the middle of the old Place Benoit ran a tiny stream, the remains of the river. Great trees with roots upward and scorched by fire were strewn in every direction. Huge blocks and still hot stones were scattered about. From under one large stone the arm of a white woman protruded. Most notable was the utter silence and the awful, overpowering stench from the thousands of dead.

Land Is Changing. A. H. Austen, manager of the Colonial Bank of Barbadoes, landed at St. Pierre with a party from the British Royal Mail steamer Solent. He found the bank clock stopped at some minutes before 8 o'clock. A horse and buggy and a policeman were in a dead group at the door.

Nearly 400 of the refugees from the vicinity of the village of Le Precheur, a suburban village north of St. Pierre, were rescued by the French cruiser Suchet and the cable repair ship Pouyer-Quertier and were brought here. As a result of his inspection, the commander of the Suchet reports that crevices and valleys are constantly forming in the northern portion of the island, where the land is in a state of perpetual change. Fortunately that part of the country was evacuated in good time by the inhabitants, who fled to Fort de France.

The dearth of provisions is beginning to be felt throughout the island. Numerous families are completely ruined and even shelterless, while the means at the disposal of the authorities are much too inadequate to cope with the distress.

Communication is practically cut off from all the surrounding islands, except by stray vessels, which are seized upon by the inhabitants to flee from Martinique. Refugees Are Dying. The refugees had as a rule assembled at Le Carbet and Case Pilote, not far from St. Pierre, and it is reported over 100 of them have died since the fearful stream of lava poured down Mount Pelee.

Several steamers, including the vessel Roraima, started from here yesterday for St. Pierre. They had on board a government delegate, a number of gendarmes, a detachment of regular infantry and several priests. The vessel also carried a quantity of firewood, petroleum and quicklime for use in the cremation of the bodies of the victims of the terrible volcanic outbreak of Thursday last. Large quantities of disinfectants and stocks of clothing for the refugees also were shipped to St. Pierre.

At the request of S. A. McAllister, United States Consul at Barbadoes, Captain Davis and the Solent were placed at his disposal by the Barbadoes Government. The Solent arrived at about the same time as the Associated Press steamer and brought to St. Pierre the Colonial Secretary, two civil doctors, two military officers, and Dr. W. E. Aughtinbaugh, of Washington, as well as a Corporal and four hospital orderlies, three trained nurses, and a full field hospital outfit. The Barbadoes Government also sent 70 barrels of provisions, one ton of ice and a full supply of medicine. These were useful, but the dead needed only quick burial.

Death on the Roraima. The stories of the survivors added to the awful details of the particularly harrowing account of the loss of the British steamer Roraima.

C. C. Evans, of Montreal, and John G. Morris, of New York, who are now at the military hospital of Fort de France, say the vessel arrived at 6 o'clock. As eight bells was struck, a frightful explosion was heard up the mountain. The cloud of fire, toppling and roaring, swept with lightning speed down the mountain and over the town and bay. The Roraima was nearly sunk and caught fire at once.

"I never can forget the horrid, fiery, choking whirlwind which enveloped us," said Mr. Evans. "Mr. Morris and I rushed below. We are not very badly burned, not so bad as most of them. When the fire came we were going to our posts (we are engineers) to weigh anchor and get out. When we came up we found the ship afloat and fought it forward until 1 o'clock, when the Suchet came to our rescue. We were then building a raft."

Ben Benson, the carpenter of the Roraima, said:

"I was on deck amidships when I heard the explosion. The Captain ordered me to take up the anchor. I got to the windlass, but when the fire came I went into the forecastle and got my duty. When I came out I talked with Captain Muggah, Mr. Scott, the first officer, and others. They had been on the bridge. The captain was horribly burned. He had inhaled flames and wanted to jump into the sea. I tried to make him take a life-preserver. The captain, who was undressed, jumped overboard and hung onto a line for awhile, then he disappeared."

Gus Linder, the quartermaster of the steamer, who is horribly burned, and can hardly talk, confirmed this.

Francisco Angelo, who speaks poor English, vividly described the onrush of the fire. He says the captain was a very brave man, too brave to be burned to death. Angelo further asserted that the storm of fire lasted not more than five minutes.

Joseph Breckels, a seaman, 15 years old, is so frightfully burned that he cannot live, having inhaled flames. Other men of the Roraima who were rescued are Salvador Acollio and Joseph Susino.

Described the Fire Cyclone. From the Italian ship Teresa Lovico several men were saved, but they are in a frightful state, except Jean Louis Prudent, of St. Pierre. Although on deck and unprotected, he was little burned. Prudent says there was first an awful noise of explosion and then, right away, a cyclone of smoke and fire, but such was the poisonous, choking nature of the smoke, that it burned worse than the fire. When it struck the people they fell dead. The cyclone of gas tore the masts out of ships, blew others up and sunk some of them. Soon afterward

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TELL OF '05 FAIR

Portland Men Address Meeting at Baker City.

GREAT ENTHUSIASM PREVAILS

Mayor Authorized to Name a Committee to Solicit Subscriptions to Stock-Miners Will Prepare Big Exhibit.

BAKER CITY, Or., May 12.—A meeting in the interest of the Lewis and Clark Exposition was held in the opera-house in this city this evening. Mayor R. D.

ers were besieged all of Sunday by customers, and they say that they have more orders than they can fill in a month, even with the mines running. Besides the Reading main line coal train crews, the strike will affect many of the shifting crews all along the line.

STEEL CASTING COMBINE.

Will Control One-Fourth of the Production of the Country.

CHESTER, Pa., May 12.—Additional particulars concerning the new combination of steel-casting plants, which is to be formed with the American Steel Casting Company, whose principal plant and offices are in this city, as a nucleus, have developed today. The new corporation will be known as the American Steel Foundries, and has as its principal underwriters, J. G. Gary, Charles M. Schwab, of the United States Steel Corporation; J. W. Gates and General Charles G. Miller, of Franklin, Pa. The new company will control about one-fourth of the production of steel castings in the country. The companies to be included are the American Steel Casting Company, the Shackel-Harrel & Howard and American Steel Foundry, St. Louis; Sargent & Co., Chi-

NAPHTHA ON FIRE

Terrible Explosion Near Pittsburg.

SCORE OF LIVES WERE LOST

Two Hundred Persons Injured and Many Will Die.

THE VICTIMS WERE ON-LOOKERS

Torrent of Flames Burst Upon a Great Crowd of People Watching a Burning Train of Cars.

A series of naphtha explosions in a railroad yard at a Pittsburg suburb cost a score of lives and injured about 200 persons, 75 per cent. of whom, according to physicians, will die. Spectators at a fire pressed too close, and when three cars of the stuff exploded there was no escape for them. Men, women and children were wrapped in flames and fatally burned. Before the explosion many were rendered unconscious by the extreme heat and gaseous fumes, and were being carried away when the torrent of fire burst upon them.

A stream of the escaping naphtha caused an explosion at a point a mile and a half away, wrecking three houses and injuring many persons.

PITTSBURG, Pa., May 12.—The Sheridan yard of the Pan Handle Railroad was the scene this evening of the most disastrous explosion and fire known in this section for many years. A score of lives were lost and about 200 persons were so badly burned that, according to the judgment of physicians in attendance, 75 per cent. of them will die from the effects of their injuries.

The Dead.

The dead are: ALBERT M'KEAN, brakeman, Sheridan; JOHN SWAIN, brakeman, Sheridan. Unknown boy, died on way to Allegheny General Hospital. H. F. SMITHLEY, Urichville, O. — FINNERTY, Sistersville, Va. CHARLES HERTIG, Chestnut Mines. W. W. TAYLOR, Millers Station. G. E. HUNTER, 28 years old, leaves widow and five children, Sheridan. W. E. WRIGHT, 28 years old, Sheridan. DALLAS BORT, 28 years old, Sheridan (all died at Mercy Hospital). Unknown white man, about 40 years old. — DOUBS, died at Mercy Hospital. DAVID SMITH, aged nine years, Sheridan, died at Allegheny General Hospital. JAMES KEENAN, aged 20, Carnegie. PASCOE MAZZA, 20, Carnegie. Italian section hand. Unknown boy, aged 10. W. E. RESE, Dorencetown, Luzerne County. TONY LEE, laborer, aged 20. LAWRENCE KEENAN, yardmaster's clerk, Carnegie.

The Injured.

Partial list of the seriously injured: Albert Haertig, aged 12; Carl Eatings, Tipton, Tenn.; Henry Densine, Allegheny; Sadie Seymour, 23; Fick Condit, Crozer, Cecil, Pa.; Clyde Strimling, 21; Roy Guthridge, 5; Clyde Fair, 2; Charles Keenan, 14; W. H. Enoch, Pittsburg, fractured skull, will die; Frank Doers, William Henderson, 2; Elliott Borough; Hugh Henderson, 25; J. E. Hannan, Bridgewater; J. J. Wallace, Trevascan; James Callahan, Elliott Borough; Albert Verry, 13, Sheridan, burned about body, inhaled fumes, will die; Mrs. Julia Ansell, 25, Sheridan; Frank Culture, 20, Carnegie; Matthew Morland, 25, badly burned, will probably die.

The many others who were injured live in all parts of Allegheny County, and their names cannot be secured tonight.

Cause of the Explosion.

The accident happened in the railroad yards at Sheridan, where the Panhandle Railroad makes a turn near Cork Run. Banked in by two high hills, hundreds of people were caught. In the shifting necessary to make up a train, five tank cars, two of them filled with refined petroleum and two with naphtha, were switched with too much force, and one of the cars of naphtha was broken. The dripping inflammable oil-product poured out in a stream. The trainmen, seeing that one of the cars was damaged, started to pull them out of the way. As the damaged car passed a switch light the dripping naphtha caught on the light flame, and almost instantly an explosion followed.

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THEY HAVE AN EYE ON OREGON. PHILIPPINES OR SCUTTLE?

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