

IT RAINED FIRE

How City of St. Pierre Was Destroyed.

ISLAND A MASS OF FLAMES

All Life in the Vicinity of the Volcano Perished.

THE SEA FRONT IS ABLAZE

Scorching Heat Burned the Town and the Shipping—The Streets Are a Mass of Charred Remains.

Later particulars from the scene of the West Indian catastrophe do not lessen the estimate of the loss of life, and it is still believed that 40,000 persons perished on Martinique.

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, British West Indies, May 10.—Mount Pelee, a volcanic mountain some 10 miles north of St. Pierre, the commercial capital of Martinique, is the mountain which made a faint show of eruption 50 years ago.

Flow of Lava Begun. At noon, May 5, a stream of burning lava rushed 400 feet down the mountain side, following the dry bed of a torrent and reaching the sea, five miles from the mountain, in three minutes.

Terror Seized the Inhabitants. Terrible detonations, heard hundreds of miles northward, followed at short, irregular intervals and continued at night. In the intense darkness the electric lights failed, but the town was lit up by lurid flashes of flame from the mountain.

A Rain of Fire. Captain Whittier reported that, having just cast anchor off St. Pierre at 5 P. M., in fine weather succeeding an awful thunder storm during the night, he was talking to the ship's agent, Joseph Pissone, who was in a boat alongside, when he saw a tremendous cloud of smoke and glowing cinders rushing with terrific rapidity over the town and port, completely and in an instant enveloping the former in a sheet of flame and raining fire on board.

One Survivor of Forty Thousand. M. Pissone is believed here to be the one survivor of the 40,000 inhabitants of the town, and all the shipping of the port has been utterly destroyed.

Streets Strewed With Charred Bodies. All attempts to get to St. Pierre are barred by fire. The closest possible observation showed houses still blazing and streets strewn with charred bodies. It is certain that the whole town and neighboring country for miles is utterly destroyed, and it is feared here that few, if any, of the inhabitants escaped.

AS SEEN FROM SHIPBOARD. Ship Officer Describes the Destruction of St. Pierre. POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe, May 10. (Continued on Second Page.)

House in which the Empress Josephine was born, Martinique.

Kingstown, St. Vincent.

Statue of the Empress Josephine, Fort-De-France, Martinique.

ders which covered the ship's decks to a depth of six inches. Two more of the crew have since died.

Two of the survivors of the crew were loud in their praise of the heroic conduct of the captain in steering their vessel away from destruction with his own hands, which were badly burned by the rain of fire which kept falling on the ship for miles after she got under way.

The British Royal Mail steamer Esk, which called off Martinique at 10 o'clock last night, reported standing off shore five miles, sounding her whistle and sending up rockets. She received no answer.

The whole sea front was blazing for miles. The Esk sent a boat ashore, but it could not land on account of the terrific fire, which was accompanied by loud explosions. Not a living soul appeared ashore after the boat had waited for two hours.

In the afternoon a French coasting steamer arrived here from Fort de France seeking assistance, as all the country was burned up, the stock was dying, all the plantations were charred, the country people were flocking into the towns, and famine was feared.

The Cincinnati has just arrived at Santo Domingo City, and the Secretary of the Navy found, after consultation with Assistant Secretary Hill, that it would be safe to take her away from there.

It is possible that the Potomac has already left San Juan for Martinique, but there is doubt on this point, because the Navy Department has not yet been able to secure a response to an inquiry on this point sent by cable this morning to the Commandant of the naval station at San Juan.

Order Dixie to prepare for sea as soon as practicable. Report when she can be made ready.

The Dixie is a ship of considerable carrying capacity, and would be better fitted than any of the regular naval ships to hasten to Martinique with relief supplies, which can probably be obtained more readily at New York than at any of the West Indian Islands.

As a further precautionary measure Secretary Moody sent the following telegram to the Commandant of the Brooklyn navy-yard:

Earthquakes Have Ceased. FORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, May 10 (1:45 P. M.).—The earthquakes have ceased, but the volcanic eruptions continue.

WILL SEND RELIEF

Government Dispatches Boats to Martinique.

ARE ORDERED TO INVESTIGATE

Cincinnati, Potomac and Dixie Pressed Into Service—Consul at Guadeloupe Called On for a Report.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—The United States Government is willing and anxious to do anything within its power to aid the survivors of the terrible calamity on the island of Martinique.

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Guadeloupe for the wrecked island, and it is assumed that he was willing and even anxious to go along.

FRENCH RELIEF PROMPT.

Colonial Office Sends an Agent With Half a Million Francs.

PARIS, May 10.—At a meeting of the French Cabinet this morning the Minister of Finance, M. Caillaux, was authorized to expend all the money necessary to succor the sufferers of the Martinique disaster.

NEW YORK, May 10.—St. Pierre, Martinique, just destroyed by a volcanic eruption, had a large commercial trade with this city.

St. Pierre's Trade. NEW YORK, May 10.—W. P. Lough, a member of the New York Produce Exchange and E. F. Darrell & Co., about

whom great anxiety was felt, and who was supposed to be on the steamship Roddam, has been heard from. His firm received the following message from him this afternoon, dated Martinique:

"Fire has consumed everything on the Roddam. Think it advisable to duplicate orders."

Mr. Darrell said he did not regard it as unlikely that this message was sent from

VICTIMS OF PELEE

Some of the People Who Lost Lives in the Eruption.

MANY ARE KNOWN AT NEW YORK

Business Houses With Connections in Martinique—Vessels Supposed to Have Perished in the General Destruction.

St. Lucia, by boat to Dominica, and from there forwarded to this city.

Another firm which was greatly concerned about the real condition of things in St. Pierre was the American Trading Company, Henry G. Demedull, who manages the French West Indies business of this firm, has a sister and a brother in the city, and he made vigorous efforts to get news from them and from the business houses of St. Pierre, in whose welfare he was especially interested.

"Successive cables announce that several families that took refuge at Morne Rouge are safe. They announce also the deaths of Caminades and Louis Hayot."

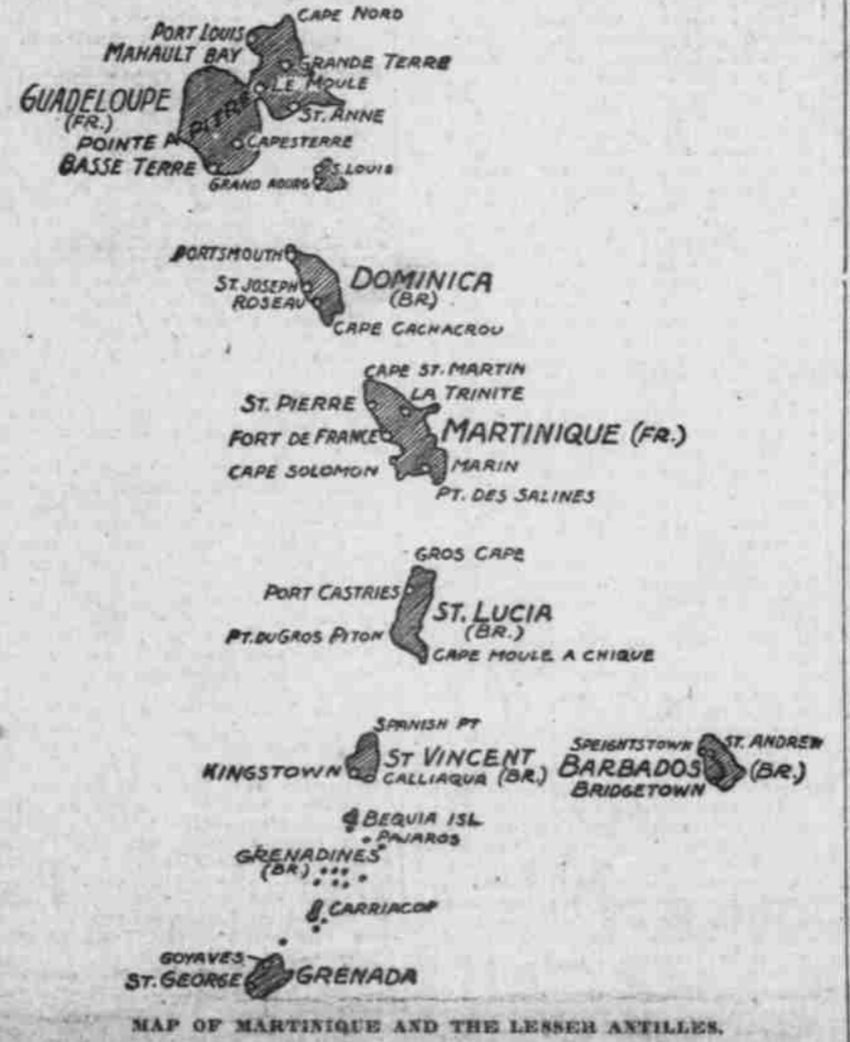
The Caminade brothers were members of one of the oldest and most important families in Martinique. Their names were Gaston and Rappael. They owned large stores in St. Pierre, a bakery, several distilleries and sugar plantations.

Charles Testart, of St. New street, this city, is a son of the United States Vice-Consul at St. Pierre, Amedee Testart. Young Mr. Testart also has a sister in that city, Madame De Mesnil.

A report reached this city today, purporting to have come by cable from Fort de France, that General Manager Jellard, of the French Cable Company, at St. Pierre, had been burned to death.

At the office of Poullé & Co., the owners of the barkentine L. W. Norton, which is supposed to have gone down in the harbor of St. Pierre, it was said today that not one word of the ship had been heard.

Members of the firm of L. W. & P. Armstrong said they had heard nothing of the ship, the Tallman. They were still under the belief, however, that the vessel was at Barbadoes and that she had escaped the fury of Mount Pelee.



TOP BLOWN OFF

Cause of Explosion of Mount Pelee.

WATER IN THE CRATER

Entire Cap of the Mountain Was Lifted Off.

TERRIBLE CONVULSION AT SEA

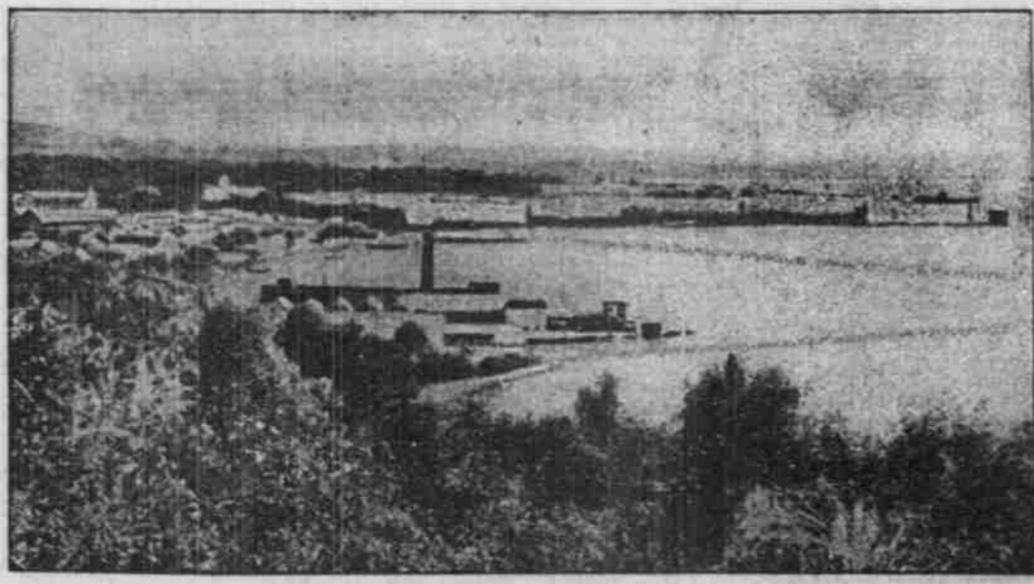
Waters Rose in a Huge Threatening Mass, Then Fire Descended on the Doomed City of St. Pierre.

ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 10.—As fuller reports of the Martinique disaster arrive, the catastrophe grows in horror. It now appears that the immediate cause of the terrific explosion that blew off the top of the Mount Pelee crater and overthrew the town of St. Pierre in fiery ruin was the presence of a large lake in the heart of the old crater.

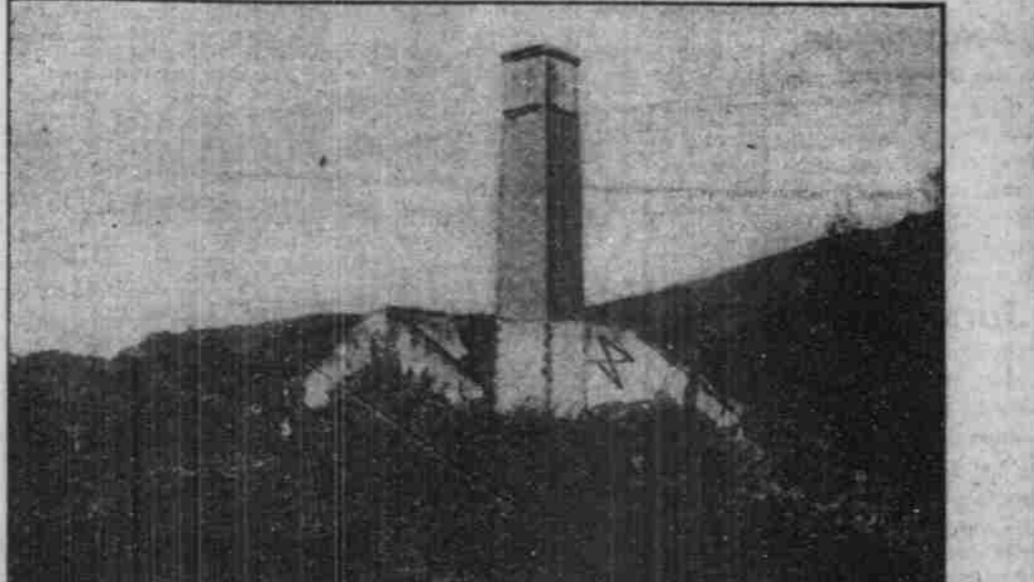
The eruption still continues. Cable communication is broken, and it is feared the relief sent to the survivors may not be able to reach them.

Fears for Massachusetts Schooner. WAKEFIELD, Mass., May 10.—It is feared that Captain Parks, of the schooner T. W. Norton, whose home is in this city, and his son lost their lives at St. Pierre.

SCENES ON THE ISLANDS OF MARTINIQUE AND ST. VINCENT IN THE VOLCANO DISTRICT



Fort-De-France, Martinique.



House in which the Empress Josephine was born, Martinique.



Statue of the Empress Josephine, Fort-De-France, Martinique.



Kingstown, St. Vincent.

LIVES LOST BY EARTHQUAKES AND ERUPTIONS.

Since the beginning of the world it has been estimated that over 13,000,000 people have been killed by earthquakes. An elaborate catalogue of earthquakes from 1096 B. C. to A. D. 1842, by R. and J. W. Mallet, was published by the British Association in 1858.

Table with columns for Location, Year, and No. people killed. Lists various locations and the number of people killed by earthquakes and eruptions.