

## EXPLOSION IN MINE

### TWENTY-ONE MEN MET A TERRIBLE DEATH.

#### Nine More Terribly Burned—Explosion Caused by Coal Dust in the Air Being Ignited by a "Blown Blast"—Fire Shot Out From the Mouth of the Tunnel 300 Feet High—Mine is Badly Damaged.

Dayton, Tenn., May 29.—At the Richland mine of the Dayton Coal & Iron Company, two miles from here, at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon, a terrific explosion of coal dust resulted in the death of 21 men, all white, and most of them married and with families.

The explosion was caused by what is known among miners as a "blown blast." It is the custom of the miners to place blasts and fire them off at quitting time, leaving the coal thus thrown down to be loaded and hauled out of the mine the next morning. The Richland mine is destitute of water, and a great volume of fine particles of coal dust, invisible to the naked eye, accumulated at the roof of the mine. This afternoon at 4:30 o'clock a dynamite cartridge was placed in position in one of the rooms for a blast, and the miners started for the mouth of the mine. The blast did not explode, as intended, but instead a long flame shot out of the blast hole and ignited the accumulation of dust. Instantly a terrific explosion occurred, and a seething mass of flames shot to the mouth of the mine and extended 300 feet into the air, searing the leaves from the nearby trees.

There were 34 men in the mine at the time. Four of them escaped with slight injuries. Twenty one were killed, and nine terribly burned, most of them fatally. The force of the explosion caused great masses of coal and slate to cave in from the roof of the mine, and many of the miners were completely buried.

Word quickly reached Dayton and rescue forces were at once organized and proceeded to the mine. One by one the blackened and horribly disfigured bodies were taken from the debris and carried to the mouth of the mine, where they were put on a locomotive and taken to Dayton. Scores of relatives and friends gathered at the mouth of the mine, and the shrieks of anguish as the bodies were removed were heart rending. The two undertaking establishments at Dayton were turned into morgues, where the mangled bodies were dressed and prepared for delivery to their families. All the men employed in this mine were residents of Dayton.

The Richland mine is the property of the Dayton Coal & Iron Company, composed of Glasgow capitalists. The company operates an iron furnace at Dayton.

### RAPIDLY NEARING HOME.

#### Presidential Train Will Reach Washington Thursday.

Sidney, Neb., May 28.—The presidential train made the third day run on the homeward journey without incident. The trip across Wyoming was at an average elevation of over 4,000 feet, and at Sherman, just before the train began to descend the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains the elevation exceeded 7,500.

The president has made no remarks at any of the stops, but he has appeared on the platform and shook hands with some of those nearest the car. There were crowds at every station along the route and every cattle ranch had its little group of cowboys sitting bolt upright on their horses waving the sombreros as the train went by. Mrs. McKinley is standing the trip well. The weather has been pleasant and that means much for her comfort.

The Presidential train will reach Washington Thursday morning at 7:30.

### Demands of Strikers Met.

Dunkirk, N. Y., May 29.—The strike of the machinists employed by the Brooks Locomotive Works has been settled. All who struck are to be taken back without discrimination. Fifty five hours will constitute a week's work; a straight increase of 10 per cent in wages is granted. These are substantially the demands made by the machinists.

### Date Fixed for Cup Races

New York, May 29.—The Royal Ulster Yacht Club has called the New York Yacht Club an approval of September 21 as the day for the opening contest in the cup races.

### New Submarine Cable

New York, May 29.—A new submarine cable between England and Germany has just been put down. The cable is owned by a British company, but the German government contributed to its cost, and a German firm was employed to carry out the work.

### Postal Orders

Washington, May 29.—The post-office at Susanville, Grant county, Or., has been moved three quarters of a mile to the northeast without change of postmaster. A postoffice has been established at Midford, King county, Washington, to be supplied with special service from North Bend. Daily mail messenger service has been authorized between Seattle and West Seattle.

## MINERAL OIL EXPORTS.

### New Oil Discoveries Will Keep It Ahead of Russia in Amount Produced.

Washington, May 29.—The recent oil discoveries in Texas and on the Pacific coast lend especial interest to some facts just presented by the treasury bureau of statistics regarding the exports of mineral oils from the United States. These show that the exportation of the fiscal year about to end will probably be the largest in the history of this remarkable industry, which has increased its exports from 204,000,000 gallons of illuminating oil in 1875, to 721,000,000 gallons in 1900. In the quarter century from 1876 to 1900 the value of mineral oils exported from the United States was about \$1,200,000,000, an average of about \$48,000,000 a year. During recent years it has averaged about \$90,000,000 per annum or \$5,000,000 per month.

In the mere question of gallons of oil produced, Russia has been for years a close competitor of the United States, though it is probable that the recent discoveries in the United States will enable it to continue to lead in the number of gallons produced; while the fact that American oil produces nearly twice as much refined illuminating oil from a given quantity of crude as from the Russian oil, adds greatly to its value as a commercial product.

One especially interesting feature of the development of the oil industry is, that there has been a remarkable decrease in the price to the consumer during the period in which the actual exportations and the net value of the exports have been increasing. The average value of the illuminating oil exported in 1876 was about 15 cents per gallon, and in 1877, an exceptional year, 20 cents per gallon. By 1881 the price had fallen to about 10 cents per gallon, the figures for that year being 332,000,000 gallons, valued at \$34,000,000. By 1891 the average price was about 7 cents per gallon. By 1898 the average export price had dropped to 5 cents per gallon, the quantity exported having been 824,000,000 gallons, and the value reported to the bureau of statistics by exporters through the customs collectors, \$42,922,682.

### BLOWN UP BY DYNAMITE.

#### Car Loaded With Explosives Run Into by Freight Train.

Everett, Wash., May 29.—An accident occurred yesterday afternoon on the Great Northern Railroad four miles east of Skykomish which resulted in the serious injury of Engineer John McGrouty and considerable loss of property.

A push car loaded with 48 boxes of dynamite was being run to a siding when the west bound freight train, No. 15, came along. Before the men in charge of the push car could reach the siding, the freight struck the car. A terrible explosion followed. The engine was hurled some distance up the mountain side. Three freight cars were demolished and about 500 feet of track was torn up. A steam shovel standing near was reduced to scrap iron. McGrouty was the only one seriously hurt. He received a scalp wound, his tongue was bitten through, and he also sustained injuries to his spine. A watchman's shack, 75 yards from the explosion, was blown to atoms and the watchman himself stunned. The injured men were taken to the Everett hospital.

### STRIKERS LESS BANGUINE.

#### Eighteen Hundred Men Still Out Around Newark, N. J.

New York, May 29.—The close of the first week of the machinists' strike at Newark, N. J., finds about 1,800 idle men in Newark and its suburbs. The strikers have ceased to be as sanguine as at first regarding the outcome of their efforts to compel their employers to grant a nine hour day without decreased pay. A half dozen of the smaller shops in this section have met the demands of the men but none of the larger ones has shown any disposition to yield. Representatives of the larger firms say they are prepared for just as long a fight as the machinists are to maintain.

It is probable that the machinists employed in the American Engine works, at Plainfield will go out. This company agreed to the nine hour clause, but cut 15 cents from the 10 hour pay.

### Homecoming of Volunteers.

Manila, May 29.—It is reasonably certain that the remaining volunteers will sail for home before July. The Forty seventh regiment and battalions of the Forty ninth and Thirty eighth have sailed on the transport Thomas. The Ohio sails today with the Forty second regiment and the Kilpatrick and Logan June 1 with the Forty third and Forty ninth regiments and two battalions of the Sixth. The Grant sails from Aparri June 1 with the Forty eighth regiment and two battalions of the Forty ninth.

### Rioting in South Russia.

London, May 29.—Rioting has spread to South Russia, says a dispatch from St. Petersburg, as the result of the production of the anti-Semitic play, "The Smugglers." At Kutais thousands of people congregated about the theater and stoned the police. A detachment of Cossacks charged and dispersed the crowd. Thirteen policemen, 15 Cossacks and two officers were severely injured.

## A GRAVE PROBLEM

### REGARDING DUTIES ON GOODS FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

#### Such Duties Are Held to Be Illegal, and May Have to Be Refunded—President and His Cabinet, on Their Journey Through Iowa, Considering Question of Extra Session of Congress.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., May 29.—During their journey across Iowa, President McKinley and the members of his cabinet spent much time reading and discussing the published reports on the opinion of the supreme court in the insular case. They were much interested in the way the court divided in the two cases.

The decision in the Delima case, if followed in the Philippines, as it is also assumed that it will be, might result in the calling of an extra session of congress. In the Delima case the court decided that the duties collected on Porto Rican goods before congress enacted the Foraker law was illegal and must be refunded.

It is presumed that the court, following the same lines of reasoning, will decide that duties collected on goods from the Philippines were also illegal, and that goods from the Philippines are subject to free entry into the United States until congress acts, as it has already done in the case of Porto Rico.

Such a decision would mean not only the refunding of duties heretofore collected, but would open the ports of the United States to merchandise and goods of every description from the Philippines until congress meets in December. It is plain that importers might take advantage of this to ship goods into the United States through the Philippines, and thus defraud the government of its revenues.

Whether the danger from this source is great enough to warrant the calling of congress in extra session is one which will be decided only after full deliberation.

It is possible, however, that this danger may be already obviated in the enactment of the Spooner resolution, delegating temporarily to the president the power to govern the Philippines. This may be considered an act of congress within the meaning of the Downes case, affirming the constitutionality of the Foraker law. But it is a delicate question and one which the president and his advisers will consider in all its bearings before coming to a conclusion.

### SETTLEMENT BY PERU.

#### Agrees to Pay the Claim of An American Consular Agent.

Washington, May 30.—The state department has succeeded in settling satisfactorily another claim of an American citizen against the government of Peru. Minister Dudley, of Lima, has cabled the department that the claimant in the case is willing to accept the sum of 8,000 silver soles tendered by that government. The department has authorized the acceptance of the tender and the case is closed. The settled claim was that of a United States consular agent in Peru in 1885, and his claim was based on the destruction of his horses and the pillaging of his property by armed and uniformed men of the party of General Caceres in July of that year.

### Coal for Army Transports.

Seattle, May 30.—Quartermaster Ruhlman was today authorized by the quartermaster general to award the contract to supply coal for all army transports loading on Puget Sound for the Philippines and for Alaskan ports during the fiscal year beginning July 1 next and ending June 30, 1902. The contract will amount to nearly \$100,000, figuring on the basis of the quartermaster's business at this port and Tacoma during the past year. It is believed that at least 30,000 tons will be required. The quartermaster general authorized Mr. Ruhlman to award the contracts for the purchase of coal according to his recommendations at the time the bids were opened several weeks ago.

### Fined for Cheating the Government.

Chicago, May 29.—Albert Dow, proprietor of the Fertile Valley Creamery Company, was today fined \$10,000 and sentenced to six months in the county jail. Dow is said to have cheated the government out of \$40,000 in revenue payment, which he evaded. This is the heaviest fine ever imposed in a federal court.

### Will Visit Windsor.

London, May 30.—The visiting members of the New York chamber of commerce will visit Windsor castle June 1, and will be received by the king. A conference between the New York chamber of commerce and the London chamber of commerce has been arranged for June 3.

### Withdrawal of Germans.

Berlin, May 30.—A dispatch to the Cologne Gazette says the withdrawal of the German marines to Sing Tau has begun and that the German quarter of Peking has been handed over to the Chinese authorities experimentally for a fortnight.

## MAY GO SCOT FREE.

### Chance for all Condemned Murderers in Washington.

Seattle, May 30.—There is serious danger that every condemned murderer in the state of Washington will soon be released from custody. According to Prosecuting Attorney Walter S. Fulton, of King county, the last legislature, in passing a law providing that hereafter condemned murderers shall be executed in the penitentiary, instead of in the county jails, committed a serious blunder in not including a clause providing for the punishment of those condemned at the time the law goes into effect. That the consequences will be the most serious to the administration of justice is Mr. Fulton's fear. Briefly stated the construction placed upon the law by Mr. Fulton is as follows:

The new law provides that, upon the sentencing of the prisoner, he shall be delivered forthwith to the warden of the penitentiary and kept by him in "solitary confinement" until the day of his execution. It is said that the "solitary confinement" clause constitutes an additional punishment than that provided for at the time of the commission of the crimes of the men now in jail. Therefore, it is an ex post facto law, and can not be made applicable to the prisoners now confined. Moreover, the new law, which is valid, insofar as it relates to criminals to be condemned in the future, contain a clause repealing by implication the old law, under which criminals have been hanged, and leaves apparently no avenue of escape, from the fact that criminals now condemned must be given their liberty.

Mr. Fulton will try to induce Governor Rogers to call a special session of the legislature to remedy the alleged radical defect in the law. He says that a law can be drafted which will cover the points desired by the framers of the one passed at the last session, and at the same time make provision for the legal execution of the criminals, who, under existing conditions, must, perforce, be released.

### MACHINISTS ARE CONFIDENT.

#### San Francisco Strikers Expect to Resume Work Soon.

San Francisco, May 30.—The striking machinists report that 22 shops in this city have signed the union agreement. Several of the strikers have purchased small shops and begun business on their own account. The machinists generally express themselves as confident that an adjustment of the differences with their former employers will soon be effected.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers has declared its sympathy with the strike of the machinists, and levied an assessment on its members for the strikers' benefit.

More than 1,000 employes of the Risdon Iron Works, who are now out on strike, were paid off yesterday after returning their tools. The men who worked at the Union Iron Works will receive their pay today. The metal polishers say there are five union shops in the city. The marine painters, who went out on strike last Saturday, are all at work, their demand for \$3 a day having been granted.

In response to a demand that only union sailors be shipped on vessels belonging to the Ship Owners' Association, the latter organization has demanded that members of the Sailors' Union go to sea only on association ships.

### May Be Ramagnoli's Body.

Berlin, May 30.—The Lokal Anzeiger reports on the authority of the Buda Pest correspondent that there has just been taken from the river Danube, near that city, a dead body, heavily loaded with chains, which the Hungarian police firmly believe to be that of Ramagnoli, the anarchist reported to have been sent from America to murder the German emperor. The police of every country in Europe and America have been notified of the discovery.

### Bear May Have to Give Up Trip.

Seattle, May 30.—It is possible that on account of the machinists strike the repairs on the revenue cutter Bear will not be completed in time to permit her to proceed on her journey north. This will necessitate the abandonment of the voyage to Siberia, and the distribution of the herd of 300 reindeer now awaiting the arrival of the Bear. In this event Lieutenant Berthold will be compelled to spend the winter on the Siberian coast.

### Amendment Accepted.

Havana, May 30.—The Platt amendment has been accepted by the Cuban constitutional convention by a vote of 15 to 14. The actual report was on accepting the majority report of the committee on relations with explanations or certain clauses. The Radicals made a hard fight at the last moment, and on several occasions personal encounters seemed imminent.

## FARMS AND FARMERS

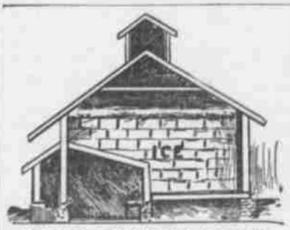


Size of Seed Potatoes.

We have always obtained better results from the use of seed potatoes "about the size of a hen's egg" or as near that as we could judge by the shape of the potato, and cut in halves, as from any seed we had and we have tested them against larger ones cut in halves and in quarters, against smaller ones used whole and against pieces cut to two eyes each. Yet the pieces of two eyes were so nearly equal that we would use that method if the seed cost a high price, by which we do not mean the early price of the Early Rose at a dollar a pound, but if they cost \$3 a bushel. But the potato of that size, scarcely marketable, unless there was a season of scarcity, is as well matured as the potato that weighs a pound, and we think throws as strong a shoot and produces as much. We never made a test by comparing the use of pieces of large potatoes against pieces of about equal weight of the smaller ones, and to learn anything from such a test one would need to continue it for a term of years, using the largest from the largest seed each time. It might be well after selecting as we would, for some years, to change to pieces from the large ones for a season, but we are not sure of it.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

### To Keep Milk Cool.

A correspondent of Hord's Dairyman gives a plan for a combined icehouse and cooling chamber. The cooling chamber is partitioned off in such a manner that it has ice on top and



ICEHOUSE AND COOLING CHAMBER.

on three sides. The dimensions are 12 feet wide, 14 feet long and 12 feet high, with a cooling chamber partitioned off 8 feet long by 6 feet wide. The floor of a cooling chamber should be placed about three feet below the surface of the ground so as to take advantage of the coolness of the earth.

### Growing Onions.

The use of good seed for the onion crop is most important, as the labor of preparing the land, weeding the rows and other care necessary is as great for the part of a crop as for a full one, while the cost of fertilizer is not lessened, nor are the onions better or in as good demand if they grow too large. The onion seed deteriorates very rapidly in germinating properties if it is kept until more than one year old, excepting that in very small quantities it may be kept in something practically airtight, as in a tin box with snugly fitting cover. We would not sow onion seed without having it tested, and making sure that not less than 80 per cent would germinate. Those who sow under glass and transplant have at least the advantage of not having to care for any rows that are not silled, and if a part of the seed is too old to sprout the only loss is the price paid for the seed. This practice is growing in favor, and fast taking the place of the old method of setting out the dry sets in the spring to grow the early onions for bunching, as it requires but little more labor to fit the land for one than the other, and the new plants seem to grow as rapidly as the dry sets.—American Cultivator.

### Weed Seeds.

If the farmer desires to know how to select good clover seed he should learn to know weed seed as soon as he looks at it. Then if his eyesight is not good enough to distinguish it when it is among the clover seed, let him spend from fifty cents upward for a good magnifying glass, and let him buy no clover and not much other seed until he has examined it, and found it reasonably clear of the weed seeds. It may be hard to find it perfectly pure, but there is no use in buying such seed as a sample sold in Vermont last year, which had 59,310 weed seeds in a pound. Just think of sowing ten, twenty or more pounds of such seed on an acre. The seeds of plantain, sorrel, pigweed, smartweed, curled dock and the foxtail grass were the most abundant in this lot, and each of them might pass for clover seed at first glance, but can be detected under a magnifying glass. It would be a good lesson for the boys to collect samples of each of these and some other seeds in little vials, and label each, that they might study them until they knew them too well to buy them as clover seed.

### Forghum as Folder.

We plow the ground in the spring after corn planting, says a Kansas correspondent in Prairie Farmer. The latter part of June is soon enough, because if you sow too early it will get ripe and you will have to cut it in the warm weather of August. It is better to plant so you can cut it just before frost. It will keep better and is not liable to sour, as it might do if cut in the warm weather. We sow it broadcast, about two bushels to the acre. Be sure and sow it thick or it will grow big

rank stalks, which will be hard to handle and stock will not eat so well. We aim to feed it out before Christmas or before it freezes too much. Of course, if it is fine, say like millet, it will keep just as good as any hay. We usually cut it with a mowing machine, rake it, put it in big shocks and feed from the shocks just as needed, as it will keep just as well as if stacked, for if it is coarse and rank the stalks will have lots of juice in them and will not keep if stacked. Sorghum fodder is splendid for all kinds of stock. Hogs will eat it with a relish; cattle and horses like it also.

### Fowing Clover Seed.

The Department of Agriculture says there are 17,856,000 clover seed in a bushel, which would be 297,000 in a pound. There are 43,500 square feet in an acre, so that one pound would furnish about 6 2/3 seeds to the square foot. And yet we are afraid to advise a farmer to use less than eight or ten pounds per acre, giving fifty-four seed to the square foot, and yet if every seed grew, the small number would place the plants close enough together to produce a good crop. The extra seed, or seven-eighths of the seed cost, is the price we pay for not having well-cleaned, plump seed, and the land in such condition that each one will have a fair chance to germinate and grow.

### Parsnips for Milch Cows.

The parsnip is probably one of the best roots ever grown for milch cows, and it has a great advantage in that it may remain in the field until spring when other roots are all gone, and then be used until grass has grown. It is as easily grown as the carrot, and like that root it wants a deep, rich and mellow soil. Many object to growing it even in the garden, because the weeds are apt to get such a growth before the parsnips come up that the labor of weeding is greatly increased, but this may be remedied by mixing a few radish seed with the parsnip seed, which will come up so that the rows can be seen and hoed out long before the parsnips are up. They can be pulled when the parsnips are thinned.

### Keeping Country Boys at Home.

The drift of rural population to cities has long been a characteristic of recent times. Every census in recent years both in this country and in Europe has shown the vastly greater growth of cities as compared with rural regions. If there were wider intelligence among farmers in feeding the ambition of the young, if they were to give their children something that they might improve by industry, something that would stimulate ambition and awaken pride, there would in all likelihood be less discontent with country life and less of longing for the untried and unknown life of the city.—Indianapolis News.

### Cut up Asparagus.

The question of the propriety of cutting all or certain asparagus shoots as rapidly as they appear and for a continued time often arises, for it is well known that the continued cutting away of all a plant's growth has a weakening tendency at least. As recently stated, most gardeners cut all growth during the first half of the season. But a correspondent recommends leaving all the very light growth, that it may strengthen the plants for the following season, and only cutting that which is strong.—Meehan's Monthly.

### Time to Sow Tobacco Seed.

There seems to be a general rule for sowing tobacco seed in each State with reference to the frosts which are likely to occur in the spring. Seed beds should be planted from six weeks to two months, according to the variety of the seed, before the latest date at which killing frost has occurred in the locality. This is for domestic seed. Imported Cuban seed should be planted a month later and imported Sumatra six weeks later than acclimated seed.

### Don't Spray Fruit Trees in Bloom.

Professor Beach recently discussed before a beekeepers' convention the spraying of fruit trees when in full bloom. Generally speaking, his conclusion seemed to be that spraying during blooming time was not only wasteful, but decidedly harmful as well, cutting down the supply of fruit to an extent that, if generally practiced, would amount to thousands of dollars to the fruit men all over the state.

### Farm Notes.

The market for American apples is now worldwide.

Interest in farming is undoubtedly reviving in New England.

Don't sow alfalfa seed on unprepared soil as you do clover. If it falls with you, manure the land and try again.

The family horse should be raised and trained on the farm. Then you thoroughly understand his disposition and know how far he can be trusted.

The application of sulphur to soils for the prevention of potato scab regardless of the character of the soil is liable to occasionally cause much injury.

Bordeaux mixture has been found of value in stimulating tomato plants to more rapid growth, increasing their vigor and of particular merit in keeping down the attacks of flea beetles.

Twenty thousand mutton sheep are being fattened at Rocky Ford, Col., on beet pulp, with a little corn added. There is another "waste product" being utilized—turned into mutton.