

HORRORS OF THE ERUPTION

Awful Reports from Martinique Are Confirmed.

RELIEF PARTIES ON HAND

Molten Lava Swept Everything in Its Path

IN ITS LIGHTNING-LIKE RUSH FROM THE CRATER TO THE SEA—TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE OF THE FEW PEOPLE SAVED—RELIEF FROM AMERICA

FORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, May 10.—It is estimated that 30,000 persons perished at St. Pierre. The roads leading out of the city are choked with dead bodies, according to reports reaching here.

The second relief expedition brought back some of the inhabitants of Corbet. They were crazed with terror and dying from hunger. An expedition succeeded in reaching St. Pierre which is entirely destroyed. Houses seem to have disappeared as though swallowed up in a great pit. Immense iron columns were found twisted and bent over in the direction of the sea.

The Awful Details.

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, British West Indies, May 10.—Mount Pelee on May 3d began to throw out dense clouds of smoke. On May 4th, hot ashes covered St. Pierre an inch thick and made Mt. Pelee invisible. At noon on May 5th, a stream of burning lava rushed 4400 feet down the mountain side, following the dry bed of a torrent and reaching the sea, five miles from the mountain, in three minutes. In its rush the fiery flood swept from its path plantations, buildings, factories, cattle and human beings over a breadth of about one half mile.

As the lava rushed into the sea, the latter receded 300 feet all along the west coast. The terror-stricken inhabitants rushed for the hills, screaming, shouting and wailing, mad with terror.

Thirty-five women and children arrived here on May 6th and furnished the above details.

On May 8th, the British steamer, Bodiam, crawled slowly into Castries harbor. Captain Whittier reported that having just cast anchor off St. Pierre at 8 p. m., he saw tremendous clouds 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. By superhuman efforts the cable was slipped and the steamer, nine hours later, managed to reach Castries.

The mail steamer Esk, which called off Martinique at 10 o'clock last night, reported that 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. 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. The steamer was loaded with food and sent back to Martinique.

All attempts to get to St. Pierre are barred by fire.

The volcano island of St. Vincent has burst out in sympathetic eruption. The steamer which returned from there last night reports the northern third of the island in flames and cut off from assistance by a continuous stream of burning lava.

Kingston, capital of St. Vincent, is safe, but the people are very anxious as to the fate of the rest of that island.

The Cable Breaks.

Point-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, May 10.—On the morning of May 5th Guadeloupe learned that Mount Pelee volcano in Martinique had been in a state of eruption since May 3d, throwing out ashes. The same day violent thunderstorms occurred and loud detonations were heard. At noon there came a rumor that lava was flowing from Mount Pelee and that 300 lives had been lost at St. Pierre. All that day were heard loud noises like the discharge of heavy artillery far off.

In the afternoon the cable connections with Martinique all disappeared. The earth was trembling and volcanic rumblings were heard. The news of the disaster in Martinique reached here Friday morning. Nearly everyone here has relatives in Martinique and intense sorrow prevails.

Eruption Continues.

London, May 10.—A cable company received a message from Martinique today saying the volcanic eruption continues, and that ships are afraid to approach the island.

Americans Give Relief.

Washington, May 10.—The Secretary of the Navy has ordered the cruiser Cincinnati from Santo Domingo to Martinique. Secretary Moody also sent the following telegram to the commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard:

"Order the Dixie to prepare for sea 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 still further measure of help the State Department today cabled

United States Consul Ayme at Guadeloupe, to proceed at once to Martinique, to report upon the conditions there and to inform the Government what help is needed. C

CROWNED SPAIN'S KING

THAT GOVERNMENT IS ENTERTAINING MANY FOREIGN PRINCES AND DIGNITARIES.

NEW YORK, May 12.—The Spanish Government is following English precedent in entertaining a large body of European princes and foreign representatives who will witness the king's inauguration, says the Madrid dispatch to the Tribune. The princes are either the guests of the crown in palaces, or houses with a complete retinue of servants are placed at their disposal. Special Ambassador Curry and General Florentin, as representatives of the United States and France, are provided with houses and all the special Ambassadors are treated with distinction. Each has a royal carriage at his command and a Spanish grandee to wait upon him. Spain may have lost her colonial empire, but she has her old time pride in conducting state functions with dignity and ceremony.

The king has impressed the diplomatic corps here as a remarkably capable and clever sovereign, who is both precocious and resourceful. While only 16, he is tall, graceful, self-possessed, and has a manner of great distinction. He is an accomplished linguist. The diplomats who have met him this week have been astonished by the maturity of his character and the air of dignity and self-possession in a boy who has not yet attained his full stature.

Arrangements for decorating the route of the royal progress are now being made. The streets are lined with Venetian masts, from which banners will be hung over the roadways. There will be few flags, but the sides of the buildings will be decorated in the Spanish style with rugs, carpets and hangings of brilliant colors. The decorations will be simple, but not ineffective.

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TAFT LEAVES FOR MANILA

Will Sail From New York on Next Saturday

GOING DIRECT TO ROME

There To Settle the Trouble About The Friars

ON HIS VISIT TO THE VATICAN HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL OFFICERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES WHO WILL ASSIST HIM IN HIS WORK.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Governor Taft closed his business here today in connection with the affairs in the Philippines. He will leave New York on the 17th on the return to his post at Manila. He will stop at Rome to discuss the question of the Friars in the Philippines with the authorities at the Vatican. He will be accompanied to Rome by Judge Jas. F. Smith, of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, and Major John B. Porter, of the Judge Advocate's office. These gentlemen were selected because of their familiarity with the question at issue.

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ANTHRACITE MINES CLOSE

Strike in the Coal Fields Is Effective Tomorrow

THE ORDER TO SUSPEND

Issued by President John Mitchell Will Be Obeyed

THE HAZELTON CONVENTION OF THE UNITED MINERWORKERS WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE THE STRIKE A PERMANENT ONE.

SCRANTON, Pa., May 10.—Today the order of the Executive Committee of the United Mineworkers, made through President Mitchell to suspend work at all the anthracite mines Monday, and to continue until the Hazelton convention may decide the question finally, is regarded as an actual strike condition, which simply smoothed the way for the delegates to act.

That the order to suspend work Monday will be followed by the Mineworkers is already an assured fact.

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Mr. Eugene Basse, the representative of the Eastern syndicate and company in putting in the flax and carrying on the preliminary work preparatory to establishing a flax-fibre plant in this city, is making good headway in getting in the crop. He stated yesterday that 200 acres had been sown to flax, about eighty acres of which was already up and putting forth a vigorous growth. He is sowing more and expects to have in at least another twenty acre tract by this evening.

Jonathan Whitney, of Woodburn, is in the city on business.