

MOVEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF MINING DISASTERS

The United States to Build an Experiment Station For the Testing of Apparatus and Methods

THE disasters which have occurred recently in coal mines in the United States have resulted in an appalling loss of human life. The record was especially dreadful during the month of December, as if to give emphasis to the recommendations of the president's message to congress respecting this subject. Mr. Roosevelt thinks it would be well to establish in the interior department a bureau of mines, one function of which should be the minimizing of the dangers incident to this occupation. It is in the coal mining regions that the accidents so destructive of life have most often occurred, and the cause of such catastrophes is very apt to be explosions of fire damp. It would seem that science ought to be able to find a way to lessen the dangers from this cause and that closer supervision by state and national governments would result in the adoption of greater safeguards against disasters than at present exist. The experience of Europe points in this direction. There as well as in the United States the production of coal has greatly increased in the past decade. But in spite of the increase in production there has been in Europe a marked decrease in the number of explosions of fire damp. In America, however, the number of deaths from such accidents is now almost twice what it was ten years ago.

An Appalling Showing.
A brief review of the worst happenings of this kind in the past few weeks will suffice to show how serious the problem of the peril of the coal miner has now become. On Dec. 1 an explosion occurred in the Naomine mine of the United Coal company near Fayette City, Pa., which resulted in the death of forty-seven men and left alive in the little mining village less than twenty able-bodied males. It was less than a week later that one of the worst disasters recorded in the history of mining took place in the Fairmont mines at Monongah, in the coal region of West Virginia. A shot blew open a pocket of gas, which exploded, filled the mines with poisonous fumes and wrecked the fan used to drive foul air out of the mines. This caused the fatal after damp to accumulate in the galleries. The men working within were killed by the hundred, and until a new fan had been constructed it was death to enter the mines to rescue any who might have survived. To build a new fan necessarily involved delay. Even when it was set up fire drove back the courageous rescuers. It is estimated that 550 men lost their lives, which meant the practical depopulation of the village, so far as the male element was concerned, its breadwinning portion. The explosion made about 1,000 children fatherless, and the president of the company owning the mines will erect an orphan asylum for them.

A death list of sixty-five was the result of an explosion in mine 1 of the Yolande Coal and Coke company near Birmingham, Ala., about a week after the disaster at the Monongah mines. On Dec. 19 there was a terrific explosion in the Darr mines of the Pittsburgh Coal company, eighteen miles west of Connellsville, Pa. About 300 of the 400 men employed perished. On

Dec. 23 a fire broke out in the mine at Baird Station, near Pittsburgh, and a hundred men narrowly escaped cremation. Thus the record for one month was nearly 1,000 lives. January added more fatalities to the list. It was this record which caused President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers of America to say in comment on the recommendations of the president's message that the disasters

"There is an introduction by Joseph A. Holmes of the United States geological survey. Mr. Holmes says:

"The figures given in this report indicate that during the year 1906 nearly 7,000 men were killed or injured in the coal mines of this country and that the number of these accidents caused directly or indirectly by explosions has been steadily increasing. It is also indicated that this increase has been due

ventilation is more difficult and the dangerous accumulations of explosive gases are more frequent."

Mr. Holmes adds that increase in the number and seriousness of such accidents may be expected in the United States unless a different policy is adopted, and he says, "Experience in the deeper and more dangerous coal mines of Belgium and other countries not only indicates that these mine ac-

tion tons of coal produced. In Great Britain, Belgium, Germany and France the use of excessive charges of explosives is prohibited by law, and these countries have for some years past maintained stations where every question relating to the testing of explosives, safety lamps, rescue devices and, all similar matters may be submitted to experimental studies. It is reassuring to learn that those who

company in an address delivered on the closing day of the last year are indicative of what employers might do on their own motion toward minimizing the perils of coal mining. He said: "If working gaseous coal mines in the future it will be necessary in minimizing danger that a three and four entry system be adopted as well as a retreating system, which will mean that the miner will not be required to work in impure air which has passed around through a number of chambers in the mines, but will give each set of fifty or sixty men a fresh supply of air from the outside. All impure air will be returned to the outside through a special air course in such a way that the miners will not come in contact with it. It will be possible in this way to keep old workings of a mine clear, and it will be impossible for a large accumulation of gas to stand in the old falls, something which increases the danger of disastrous explosions. As it is the earnest desire of every employer to protect the lives of his miners I think we should get together on this."

A bill has been introduced in congress by Representative John G. McHenry of Pennsylvania which provides for the establishment of a bureau of mines and mining such as the president recommended in his message. It is entitled "A bill for the purpose of supplying relief and alleviating suffering incident to accidents in coal mines." Its head is to be a commissioner receiving a salary of \$5,000 per annum. The bill empowers the bureau to investigate as to the causes and effects of all accidents in coal mines and to afford such relief as the exigencies demand. One feature of the proposed law is a tax of 1 cent a ton on all coal mined in the United States, to be collected from the owners of the coal and devoted to the accumulation of a fund for the relief of the victims of mine accidents or their families.

A Step in the Right Direction.

The report on coal mine accidents in this country and abroad, to which attention has been called already, was prepared by Clarence Hall and Walter O. Snelling of the technologic branch of the geological survey. Mr. Hall, who is an expert on explosives and who will have charge of the United States experiment station to be started soon, has made it a point to visit mines where accidents have occurred as soon as possible after they have happened, and he was at the Darr mine as soon as he could reach it after learning of the disaster there and penetrated farther into the gas filled galleries than any of the gallant rescuers dared to go. This he was enabled to do because he was equipped with an apparatus excluding the fire damp and at the same time generating oxygen. Such devices have been found very useful abroad, and in case of the establishment of a governmental experiment or testing station in this country, for which plans are already under way, it is proposed to give such apparatus trial here. It is interesting to learn in this connection that considerable work has already been done toward educating the public, especially mine owners and their employees, on the value of such devices by the American Museum of Safety Devices and Industrial Hygiene at 221 West Thirty-ninth street, New York. The institution is seeking to perform a work in America similar to that of the museums in Europe which have done so much to effect the installment of safeguards against loss of life in the so called dangerous industries. The museum is under the direction of a committee of management, including the editors of a large number of journals representing the scientific and technical world. At its head as president is the noted author and sociologist, Josiah Strong, while the director is William H. Tolman, director of the League For Social Service and well known for his work for social

It Is the Firm Purpose of the Government to Put a Stop to the Appalling Loss of Life In Mining

betterment and his writings on the subject. The exhibits in the museum cover all varieties of devices and methods for lessening the dangers to workers in the various industries, but especially interesting in connection with the subject of disasters in coal mines is the series of photographs illustrating German methods of safeguarding miners. One such picture portrays the miner equipped with air tight mask and respiratory apparatus. Another depicts the rescue of a victim of a coal mine explosion in a narrow chamber filled with poisonous fumes. The rescuer, equipped with oxygen producing apparatus and safety lamp, is represented in the attempt to drag the miner's unconscious form to a place where restoratives may be applied and his life saved. Devices similar to those in use in Germany are employed in other European countries, and Belgium has perhaps made the most progress in the direction of reducing the perils of coal mining to the minimum. As one of the greatest industries of the United States is that of mining coal, wonder is often expressed that this country should lag behind others in the matter of protection to those employed in it.

EDWARD HALE BRUSH.

LUCKY JOURNALISTS.

When the late N. Villemessant, the proprietor of the Paris Figaro, died he left the paper to the three men who had done the most to aid him. But there were many old contributors to the paper, men with well known names, who made an outcry at this division of property, and they threatened to found an opposition paper to Figaro.

This alarmed the three principals, and they made a proposition to the effect that they themselves should take each about \$25,000 out of the concern yearly and that the other men should each have a salary of \$7,500 for the work they were to do and at the end of the year draw a like sum out of the profits, thus insuring them \$15,000 a year each. Yet these men did not write an average of more than half a column a day each—if, indeed, that much—so that they had a very easy time of it.

It was one of the conditions that when any one of them dies his share goes to the others, so that the last survivor will have an enormous income.

THE CHEESE MICROBE.

Cheese is largely made in factories both in Britain and America, but our best products do not equal in flavor those of Switzerland, which in the matter of cheese making stands paramount.

Investigation has proved that the flavor of any particular kind of cheese is due to harmless microbes which live in it, and we say that a cheese gets riper as these microbes increase in number. Efforts are now being made to isolate the various types of microbes and introduce them into milk before it is coagulated. If the experiments are successful, the finest cheeses of Europe will be initiated in our own factories and will cost about half what they do now.

Even such a cheese as Roquefort, which is produced by a combination of ewes' and goats' milk, will be sold at the same price as common Cheddar.



CLARENCE HALL, TO BE HEAD OF EXPERIMENT STATION TO INVESTIGATE MINE DISASTERS

seemed to be timed to show that something ought to be done.

An Investigation Progressing.

An investigation into the subject of conditions in the coal mining regions and the causes of explosions was started at the instance of Secretary James R. Garfield of the interior department about six months ago. A preliminary report of this investigation has just been published, entitled "Coal Mine Accidents: Their Causes and Preven-

tion." There is an introduction by Joseph A. Holmes of the United States geological survey. Mr. Holmes says: "The figures given in this report indicate that during the year 1906 nearly 7,000 men were killed or injured in the coal mines of this country and that the number of these accidents caused directly or indirectly by explosions has been steadily increasing. It is also indicated that this increase has been due

in part to the lack of proper and enforceable mine regulations, in part to the lack of reliable information concerning the explosives used in mining and the conditions under which they can be used safely in the presence of gas and dust encountered in the mines, and in part to the fact that in the development of coal mining not only is the number of miners increasing, but many areas from which coal is being taken are either deeper or farther from the entrance, where good

climates may be reduced to less than one-third their present number in the United States, but also gives promise of results which in the future may approximate complete prevention."

Time to Act.

It appears that since 1889 over 22,000 men have been killed in coal mines in the United States. During the past six years the number of fatalities per year has practically doubled. About six men are killed a year for each mil-

lion tons of coal produced. In Great Britain, Belgium, Germany and France the use of excessive charges of explosives is prohibited by law, and these countries have for some years past maintained stations where every question relating to the testing of explosives, safety lamps, rescue devices and, all similar matters may be submitted to experimental studies. It is reassuring to learn that those who

have conducted the investigations in this country and abroad are satisfied that natural conditions in the United States are fully as favorable to the minimizing of the dangers of the coal miner's occupation as in Europe and that proper governmental supervision is all that is needed to attain the results in this direction which have been attained in the foreign countries mentioned.

The remarks of President John H. Jones of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo Coal

NORTHERN PACIFIC KEYMEN MAY REJECT WAGE SCALE.

St. Paul, Feb. 27.—Returns coming in from the telegraphers on the Northern Pacific who were asked to vote on the company's proposition concerning the new scale of wages and re-arrangement of working rules necessary because of the federal nine-hour law indicate that the schedule will be rejected by the men. Over 600 votes has been recorded, with 200 more to come. According to the statements of the telegraphers' committee here, 80 per cent of

the votes have been in favor of refusing the company's proposition. The attitude of the men in the matter is apparently so clear that the representatives of the telegraphers' organization will hold a conference this afternoon with Vice President Levy, head of the operating department of the road. It will then be determined just what course both parties to the issue will take.

LA GRIPPE AND PNEUMONIA.

Foley's Honey and Tar cures la grippe coughs and prevents pneumonia. Refuse any but the genuine in the yellow package. F. J. Hill Drug Co., "The Never Substitutes."

PORTUGUESE IN AMERICA HONOR MEMORY OF CARLOS

Boston, Feb. 27.—Portuguese from many places in New England unite today in services in memory of the late King Carlos and Crown Prince Luiz of Portugal. The Portuguese church of St. John the Baptist was thronged with mourners. The throne was occupied by Archbishop O'Connell. Gov. Guild and his staff, Mayor Hibbard, with representatives of the city government and several federal officials were present. Viscount Devalle De Costa, the Portuguese consul in Boston,

was chief mourner. The other consulates were represented at the service. The service took the form of a solemn requiem mass.

OFFER FOR ALICE NEILSEN.

Chicago, Feb. 27.—Alice Neilsen, it is announced today, has received an offer to sing the role of Zerlina in "Don Giovanni" at the opening of the New Colon theater in Buenos Ayres in May.

If Henry Russell, who has Miss Neilsen under contract for three more years, will release her, she will be the only American singer to appear at that inauguration. Madame Tetrazzini and

Madame Melba will be among the singers who will take part in the opening.

MUTES CAUGHT IN FIRE.

Policemen Rescued Unfortunates, Who Knew Nothing of Blaze.

Chicago, Feb. 27.—Fire early today partially destroyed a three story stone apartment building at 550-570 Forty-seventh street and caused a panic among the tenants, several of whom were rescued by policemen. Among those who were assisted out of the building were the members of two families of deaf mutes who

were sleeping in their rooms, unaware of any danger.

The total damage was about \$60,000.

DISCOUNT IN LONDON.

London, Feb. 27.—The rate of discount of the Bank of England remained unchanged today at 4 per cent.

HAMBURG-AMERICAN EARNINGS.

Hamburg, Feb. 27.—The annual report of the Hamburg-American Steam Packet company shows net earnings amounting to 25,000,000 marks, approximately \$6,250,000, as against 32,000,000 marks last year.

I. N. PEARSON DEAD.

Macomb, Ill., Feb. 27.—Hon. I. N. Pearson, this city secretary of state during the administration of Gov. Fisher, died today of apoplexy.

PARK CITY & RETURN \$1.50

Via D & R G Sunday March 1. Leave Salt Lake 8:15 a. m., returning leave Park City 10 p. m. Knights of Columbus excursion. Everybody invited.

Salt Lake Photo and Supply Co. Kodaks, finishing, framing. 142 S. Main street.

The Greatest Sale of HOSIERY Ever Advertised in Salt Lake

Five Thousand Pairs of Hosiery for Women Misses' and Children Less Than Half.

"The Paris."

\$1.25 Hosiery 35c
75c Hosiery 23c
50c Hosiery 19c

We have procured the Eastern Sample Line of Hosiery from the well known Firm of Arnold Constable, All High Grade Goods and offer them Friday and Saturday at these Sensational Prices, and we urgently advise your Early Attendance before the big crush begins as this is an Event that always draws a big crowd.

The \$1.25 Lot at 35c.

Represents Women's and Children's fine Hosiery such as lace lisle, gauze lisle, in the well known Hermsdorf fast black and fancy colors.

The 75c Lot at 23c.

Represents mostly solid colors in black and tans, all High Grade Hosiery, a few plain black with white feet, all sizes.

The 50c Lot at 19c.

Represents the Infants' and Children's only in all colors such as pink, blue, red, tan and brown, in lace and plain.

SALE SAMPLE LINE UNDERWEAR.

Ladies' Knit Vests and Drawers and Corset Covers in fine Swiss ribbed, values up to 75c, special at 23c

Ladies' very fine lisle vest and drawers, a fine line of sizes, all new fresh spring goods. Sell regularly for \$1. Sale price 35c

\$1.50 SHIRT WAIST AT 98c.

One Thousand Samples to select from, in the fine lawn, mercerized and fancy figured material, all sizes.