

# THE DISASTER AT BRASENELL MINE

## At Least Twenty-Seven Men Are Dead.

### LIKE THE CRACK OF DOOM.

#### THRILLING STORY OF ONE FROM THE DEAD.

#### THE ATMOSPHERE ALL ONE VIVID BLAZE

#### Twelve Dead Bodies Recovered. Many Believed to be Under the Debris. A Story of Criminal Carelessness With Naked Lights.

Pittsburg, Dec. 24.—A special to The Post from Brownsville says:

The horror of the Brasenell mine grows in intensity with every hour. The number of dead is now estimated at forty, and may pass that figure. At the same time, there is a strong presumption that the laws regarding mining were carelessly and probably criminally disregarded.

Today the first bodies of the victims were brought out of the mine, and never in the history of mine disasters were human beings so horribly mangled. It was nearly 11 o'clock before the first of the bodies was taken out, forty-eight hours after the explosion. At 5:30 three were brought to the surface and at 6:30 three more came up in the cage of the main shaft.

At least twelve other bodies are in sight, but cannot be reached on account of the debris.

The estimates of the number of dead are conflicting. A. B. Brasenell, president of the Stockdale Coal Company, this afternoon said he believed that but twenty or twenty-five men had been killed. Men who were working around the mine yesterday morning give different figures. They say thirty-five to forty men were down the main shaft in the cages, while about twenty climbed down the steps in the elevator shaft. From fifty-five to sixty men were in the mine, and out of this number but twelve have been recovered alive. All the rest, whatever the number, are dead.

John, or, as he is popularly known, "Jonah," Meese, is one of the thirteen men who escaped from the mine alive. He is fearfully burned and is lying at his home with his head swathed in bandages. He told his story today: "It was in the stable," Meese said, "ferrying my mule when the explosion occurred. My brother Sam was by my side, and his boy Albert was standing in front of him. Then came the crack of the explosion. Never in my life have I heard such a terrific report. I thought my head had been blown off. In about two seconds the mine was filled with dazzling light, as the fine coal dust in the air was consumed. My brother Sam dropped to the ground as if shot through the heart. He must have been killed instantly. His boy Albert swayed and fell over upon his father. I began to back out of the stable; that is why my face is so terribly burned. I was afraid to turn my back upon the mules, for fear they would stampede and run me down. I did not know then that they had all been killed by the explosion, for our lamps were blown out and we were in total darkness.

"After I got out of the stable I heard Albert crying for help. I went back and found him and Henry Atwood, a driver. I proceeded, half leading and half carrying them, to the foot of the main shaft. They were both delirious, and I believe I was, too. Both of them persisted in standing up, and began to walk around. I immediately forced them to lie down, to get them out of the path of the fatal after-damp, which hovered about four feet above the ground. Then I felt myself going to sleep, but I did not care, although I realized that it was sleep of death. I laid down upon something which could feel, although I could not see, as was a corpse, and fell asleep as calmly as ever I did in my life. When I awoke somebody was forcing me to swallow brandy and coffee, and I was trying to explain that it would be needless for me to drive a wagon, as there had been an accident in the mine.

"The force of the explosion was terrific; my face and scalp is literally filled with coal dust blown into it just as if it had been shot out of a gun held within a few inches."

Another evidence of the force of the explosion was discovered today. On the hillside, 50 feet back from the main shaft, was discovered an arm and a foot. They were portions of a victim killed 108 feet below the surface and blown out of the shaft like a bullet from a rifle.

From statements obtained today it seems clear that the presence of gas in quantities in the mine was perfectly well known and that naked lights were used for several days before the explosion. According to credible authority, not a single safety lamp was used in the mine by the working crews since Tuesday morning, four days before the explosion. Mine Inspector James Black, who has been in the mine almost constantly since last night, came out tonight and gave a graphic account of its condition. Inspector Black said:

"At the bottom of the two shafts the mine is a complete wreck. Only enough debris has been removed to allow of the bodies being brought out. There are more bodies in the mine, but how many cannot be determined. There are undoubtedly a number of corpses under the wreckage. The lower parts of the mine are flooded, and the water is rising as the pumps are disabled. The pumps will not run for a day or two, as the six-inch pipes draining the mine have been twisted and broken like reeds. I penetrated to the face of the mine today and saw two bodies there, but the after-damp was thick and I had to return quickly. Nothing further will be done to remove the debris until the water has been pumped out. None of the men can possibly be alive. It will require several days to clear the mine. The bottom of it

is wrecked, but the roof and sides are intact. There is no fire in the mine." Rough but reverent hands carried the bodies of the victims, when they reached the top of the shaft, to the temporary morgue on the hillside, a hundred feet away.

Of one man, Peter Crozy, but a portion of the trunk and the back of the skull remained, and that was virtually but a cinder. He was identified by a shred of his shirt that had been blown into his flesh. Of the 12 dead there was but one that was not a hideous spectacle.

Among the men at the Brasenell mine there were many who had been at other explosions, but never had they seen such mangled, burned and distorted bodies. Dr. N. H. Taylor, coroner of Fayette county, arrived early in the morning from Uniontown. He empaneled a jury who viewed the bodies as they were brought to the surface. The inquest will be held at Uniontown as soon as all of the bodies are recovered.

A pathetic story is told of little Albert Meese, who died after being rescued. He lived only a few steps from the shaft. He went to his window Saturday morning and looked out, saying to his father: "Papa, I guess there is no use of me going to work this morning, as there is no loading."

The father said he had better go and help him feed the mules. They both started out together and never returned to their home alive.

Christmas day was a sad one to many a family about Brasenell. In fact the excitement caused by the terrible accident drove all thought of holiday festivities from the homes of those who live in the neighborhood, even those who had no friends killed.

The revised list of the recovered dead, number fifteen, and there are twelve men missing and almost absolutely certain of being in the ruins.

### FOUR MORE BODIES FOUND.

#### The Order to Dispense With Safety Lamps.

Brownsville, Pa., Dec. 25.—Search for bodies of the dead in the Brasenell Mine still goes on. Four more bodies have been recovered but not identified. The mine officials admit that two or more bodies are still in the mine, but representatives of the Slavonic Society have made a house to house canvass and report that eight of their number alone are in the wreck and how many others they do not know.

That naked lights and unlocked safety lamps were used in a dangerous mine was officially confirmed today by Pitt Boss Thomas Jones, who made a statement which forms the most sensational chapter of the management of the mine which has yet developed. Mr. Jones was asked if it was true that on last Tuesday morning he issued a general order that the miners could dispense with safety lamps. "Yes, sir," was the reply. "Why did you issue the order?" "I considered that the mine was safe, as the 'break through' had been fixed up."

"Safety lamps were used before Tuesday?" "Yes."

"Is it true that some safety lamps in use in the mine were not locked?" "Yes, it is true that some were not locked because I thought the men who used them were competent to carry them unlocked."

"Was that not contrary to the regulations?" "Oh, there may be a regulation, but men sometimes carry unlocked lamps where it is known that they are experienced miners."

Mine Superintendent Boyer, when informed of the statement made by Pitt Boss Jones, said:

"I know nothing of the order issued on Tuesday, but consider Jones a capable man, who knows his business, and I suppose he used his judgment."

A. S. Brasenell, manager of the mine, said:

"I know nothing of such an order. I have no part in the direct management of the mine, as our pit officials are the responsible parties. The company has no statement to make."

### RELIEF WORK IN PORTO RICO.

#### Until February Demand For Aid Will Increase.

Washington, Dec. 25.—The War Department made public today a statement showing the progress made in relief work in the Island of Porto Rico between September 25th and November 30th, 1899. The population of the island is estimated at 918,426. The average daily sickness was 221,087 persons, average weekly 1,547,272, and the average weekly deaths 632 persons. The annual death rate was 35 per 1,000 inhabitants, while the normal rate of deaths was 26 per 1,000 inhabitants. The increased mortality was confined to the mountain districts, where in some localities the death rate increased 300 per cent.

The amount of cash received for the relief of the suffering people of the island up to November 30th, was \$18,224. The amount of money disbursed up to the date mentioned was \$7,417. Up to November 30th, the total amount of food received to relieve the sufferers was 17,162,788 pounds, of this amount 16,348,510 pounds had been issued up to November 30th. The amount of unused food on hand at San Juan November 30th was 614,272 pounds.

It is believed that until February next the demand for assistance is likely to increase in the mountain districts, as the plantains and bananas will not be ripe for two months to come. The greatest distress prevails in a locality where the greatest difficulty is found in getting to the starving.

It is estimated that not less than 2,000 additional tons of food will be required. Four-sevenths of this amount should be of rice; two-sevenths should be of beans, and the remainder of the amount required should be either codfish or bacon. With the food already issued and now on hand with the two thousand tons required in addition to that already issued, the total issue will be 20,162,788 pounds.

### McKinley Commutes His Sentence.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 25.—John S. Hoshall, who was sentenced about eight months ago, in the United States District Court to ten years imprisonment in the city jail for a violation of the Federal laws has been released from jail, his sentence having been commuted by President McKinley. Hoshall was a medical student at one of the colleges here at the time of his arrest.

### YOUNG MILITARY GOVERNOR.

#### He Will Administer Affairs in Northwestern Luzon.

Manila, Dec. 25.—(9 A. M.—Tuesday.)—General Young has been appointed military governor of the provinces of Northwestern Luzon, with headquarters at Vigan. His command includes the Thirty-third infantry, under Colonel Luther R. Hare, and the Third cavalry. He will establish permanent stations at San Fernando and Laoag, with outposts wherever needed.

The Sixteenth infantry will proceed to Apari, garrisoning such towns as may be deemed necessary in the provinces of Cagayan, Isabella and Nuevo Viscaya, of which Colonel Hood has been appointed military governor.

General Wood and Colonel Hood are establishing civil municipal governments, and the ports in Northern Luzon will be opened for trade about January 1st.

### THREE BLOCKS BURNED.

#### Evidently the Work of an Incendiary. Loss About \$200,000.

Hastings, Minn., Dec. 25.—Nearly three blocks of buildings in the business portion of the town were burned early today with a loss of about \$200,000. The fire broke out in R. C. Libby and Company's saw mill, evidently the work of an incendiary, and the entire plant, with storehouses, lumber, office, sheds, etc., were consumed.

### Yuletide at Windsor.

London, Dec. 25.—For the first time in thirteen years Queen Victoria and the royal family passed Christmas Day at Windsor. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and the children of Princess Henry of Battenberg were of the party. Not only was there a baron of beef arranged, but there was also a magnificent Christmas tree, with many colored candles for the children, in which the Queen evinced the greatest interest.

It was in fact her express desire that the grandchildren who assembled about her today should not have their Christmas marred by the events which have saddened her own heart, and the festivities at Windsor Castle, though tinged with sadness, carried no suggestion of sorrow to the children who gladdened the Queen's presence with the solace she is always able to find in the companionship of her youngest descendants.

The keynote of the festivities at Windsor today was the Queen's unaltered devotion and faith in that empire which she believes will ultimately achieve the highest aims and ambition of her unselfish reign.

### Theatrical Company in Trouble.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 25.—The "Mr. Plaster of Paris" Theatrical Company's box receipts and effects were attached here tonight on a writ sworn out by Gilbert Greene, the advance agent of the organization. He claims an arrearage of salary amounting to something less than \$100. The manager of the company says he will contest the claim. It is understood, however, that the company will not fill its remaining dates, but will probably be disbanded here. Julia Morrison was formerly leading lady in this company. Some weeks ago at Chattanooga, she shot and killed the leading man, Frank Leyden, behind the scenes. She will be tried for his murder on January 4th.

### The President of the Globe.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 25.—The attorney for Charles H. Cole, formerly President of the Globe National Bank of Boston and now being detained here on a charge of embezzlement, said today that his client will remain here until that no more is contemplated until the complaint now on the way from Boston has received and the warrant issued and served. The character of the complaint, he says, will determine the action he will take, though it is probable habeas corpus proceedings will be tried. Mr. Cole is living quietly with his wife and son at the Van Nuys.

### Express Employees Remembered.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Every employe of the American Express Company throughout the country today received a check for five dollars as a Christmas gift from the company. A circular accompanying the checks states that the gift is made for faithfulness in the performance of duty.

As the company operates between Maine and Oregon, there are several thousand employes. It is estimated that the aggregate sum of the gift will reach \$60,000 or \$70,000.

### Famous Confederate Scout Dies.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Bushrod Underwood, who achieved fame as a scout in the Army of Northern Virginia, died here today, aged 56 years. Many deeds requiring great coolness and courage were credited to him by General R. E. Lee and Colonel John S. Mosby, of the Forty-third Virginia cavalry to which command he belonged.

### Gifts to Hanna's Employes.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 25.—The Cleveland City Railway Company, known locally as the Little Consolidated, of which Senator Hanna is President, has distributed nearly \$5,000 among the employes in Christmas gifts. Between 800 and 900 men employed on electric and cable lines received \$5 each.

### GROWTH OF THE LAWTON FUND.

#### People Respond Generously. Amount Now Over \$14,000.

Washington, Dec. 25.—The total subscription to the Lawton fund up to noon of Christmas day was \$14,329.55. The committee have determined to continue the work at least until the second of January.

It is not at all improbable that the fund will eventually reach the sum of \$50,000. The original intention was to raise only a fund sufficient to pay off the mortgage of about \$15,000 on the Lawton homestead at Redlands, California, but the generous response to the appeal encourages the committee to believe that enough money will be subscribed beyond that sum to place Mrs. Lawton and her children above want for the rest of their lives.

Among those who have promised subscriptions are: William K. Vanderbilt, \$1,000; J. Pierpont Morgan, \$1,000; C. P. Huntington, \$1,000; Thomas P. Ryan, New York, \$1,000, and Miss Helen Gould, \$500. The committee expects to receive at least ten subscriptions of \$1,000 each.

### DAY OF GORE AT BIRMINGHAM.

#### Four Men Killed. Police Docket Over a Hundred Cases.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 25.—The Birmingham police, after a busy Christmas day, docketed over a hundred cases. Peter Jones, colored, was shot and fatally wounded by J. D. Pattie, conductor on an Ensley electric car. Jones wanted to ride in the white people's car.

In a saloon fight Tony Snooker was stabbed seven times in the abdomen and will die. Bill Gooden was shot in the heart and instantly killed by Eustis Barnes in a Greek restaurant tonight. Both are colored.

Police Officer Fair shot and fatally wounded Will Thomas, a negro whom he was arresting.

### THREE DEAD IN A WRECK.

#### Twenty-One Were Injured. A Broken Wheel the Cause.

Pomona, Cal., Dec. 25.—A broken wheel on the engine of the local train from Los Angeles which was due to arrive in Pomona at 6:48 last night, caused a bad wreck. Three persons were killed and twenty-one were injured. All of the people killed and injured reside in this section.

### Splendid Meteoric Display.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 25.—Captain Fleetham and the crew of the British steamer *Greenmont*, which is now lying at the Delaware Breakwater, after a successful run from Java, witnessed a splendid meteoric display on December 9th, when the vessel was in latitude 23.14 and longitude 152.51. A brilliant meteor was sighted in the heavens toward the southwest. It ascended to an altitude of 10 degrees, where it remained an instant and then shot away in a northerly direction, followed closely by a dozen other meteors of the brilliancy of the planet Venus. A peculiar part of the displays was the non-appearance of the fiery trails usually seen with meteors. Instead of these there was a brilliant show of exploding electric balls.

### Drunken Father Killed by His Son.

New York, Dec. 25.—While his family was gathered around the Christmas dinner in Brooklyn, Charles Haffner, 40 years of age, entered his home drunk and caused a family quarrel, which ended in the murder of the father, by his son Harry. Haffner came home from a neighboring saloon and on his attention being called by Mrs. Haffner to a book and writing desk she had given to Harry, Haffner tore the book, smashed the writing desk, threatened to kill his son and wife and struck the former. Harry grasped a large knife and severed his father's jugular vein, and the older Haffner died before the arrival of the ambulance. Young Haffner was arrested.

### A Man Shot in Petersburg.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 25.—In Petersburg this evening, John W. Parrish, a popular young citizen, was shot and instantly killed. A friend had been beaten by railroad men and the fight was renewed. Parrish was standing on a porch, when a pistol was fired and he fell dead, shot through the body.

Burt Hunt, from Wisconsin, was arrested, charged with the shooting. He denies the charge.

### Shot His Wife and Himself.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 25.—Peter J. Holbert, an electrician of this city shot his wife and then turned the weapon on himself inflicting wounds from which he died. Mrs. Holbert will recover.

### For Asthma use CHENEY'S EXPECTORANT.

#### "Waste Not, Want Not."

Little leaks bring to want, and little impurities of the blood, if not attended to, bring a "Want" of health. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the one and only specific that will remove all blood humors and impurities, thereby putting you into a condition of perfect health.

Bad Stomach—"Headaches and tired feeling, bad condition of stomach, caused me to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. It stopped all faint trouble." Charles Bover, Glens Falls, N. Y.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Never Disappoints. Hood's Pills cure liver ills; the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

### OVERWORKED MEN, DELICATE WOMEN, SICKLY CHILDREN, TAKE



No other preparation has ever benefited so many voluntary testimonials from eminent people as the world famous Mariani Wine.

### Mariani Wine WORKS WONDERS

Sold by all Druggists. Beware of imitations. Mariani & Co., 51 W. 15th Street, New York, publish a handsome book of endorsements of Emperors, Empress, Princess, Cardinals, Archbishops and other distinguished personages. It is sent gratis and postpaid to all who write for it.



### Wants of the Family.

Watches, clocks, jewelry and novelties. These are things they all want, and we have a nice variety, suitable for presents.

B. R. JOLLY, 128 FAYETTEVILLE ST.

CASH for acceptable ideas. State if patented. THE PATENT RECORD, Baltimore, Md. Subscription price of the PATENT RECORD \$1.00 per annum. Samples free.

### Seasonable Goods.

15 CARLOADS RED ASH GRATE COAL. FREE BURNING WHITE ASH EGG COAL.

10 CAR LOADS CHESTNUT COAL. 15 CAR LOADS STOVE COAL. POCAHONTAS DOMESTIC AND STEAM COAL COMING EVERY WEEK.

1 CAR LOAD BEST NORTHERN IRISH POTATOES. 25 CRATES BEST MOUNTAIN APPLES. SEVERAL CAR LOADS CORN, HAY, BRAN, CHOPS, ETC. FOR SALE AT LOW CASH PRICES, BY

JONES & POWELL, RALEIGH, N. C.

### SALE OF LAND.

By virtue of the powers contained in a deed of trust from J. R. Fleming and wife to the Trustees of Rex Hospital, which said deed is recorded in book 97 at page 62, Register of Deeds' office for Wake county, we will, on Saturday, the 27th day of January, 1900, expose to public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the court house door in Raleigh, N. C., the following described tracts of land, to-wit:

First: That certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the county of Wake, said State, adjoining the lands of J. M. Fleming, Wm. Mitchell, Jaspas Fleming, J. S. Still, Sallie Williams, John Wall and others, bounded and described as follows: First tract adjoins the lands of J. M. Fleming on the north William Mitchell on the east, Nathan Dunn, col. on the south and the upper Leigh on the west, and begins at a stake and pointers in the Leitch line and runs thence east 14 poles to the junction of the William Still branch, thence up the courses of the said Still branch to an ash, thence S 13 1/2 E with William Mitchell line 77 1/2 poles to a stake in said Mitchell line, thence West 124 poles to a rock in Leigh line, thence N 6 1/2 degrees E, with said Leigh line 60 poles to the beginning, containing 52 acres more or less, same being lot No 19 lands of James M. Fleming, deceased as surveyed by W. B. Fowler on October 28, 1886, and drawn by said J. R. Fleming in division of said lands of J. M. Fleming, deceased.

Second Tract: Bounded on the north by the lands of Jaspas Fleming and said J. R. Fleming, on the east by lands of said Jaspas Fleming, on the south by the Raleigh road and on the west by the lands of J. L. P. Still, containing 71 acres more or less, same being the home place of said J. R. Fleming in the town of Rolesville, and being the place where on said Fleming and wife now reside.

Third Tract: Beginning at a stake on the Louisville road, Sallie Williams' corner, thence S. 14 degrees E. 98 poles to a poplar in the branch, John Wall's line thence S. 25 1/4-100 W. 85 1/2 poles to a corner-stone, thence W. 38 degrees W. 131 poles to a corner-stone on the Louisville road, thence with said road nearly east to the beginning, containing 60 acres more or less, the same being known as part of the Charles Jordan land, and conveyed to the parties of the first part by Sid N. Ferrell by deed recorded in Register of Deeds' office for Wake county and hereby referred to as part of this deed for certainty of description.

TRUSTEES OF REX HOSPITAL.

### W. & W. RAILROAD AND BRANCHES! AND ATLANTIC COAST LINE RAILROAD COMPANY OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

#### Condensed Schedule.

DATED	No 28		No 35		No 103		No 41		No 49	
	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun
July 31, 1899.										
Lv Weldon	11:50	8:58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ar Rocky Mt	12:55	9:52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Tarboro	12:21	—	6:00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Rocky Mt	1:00	8:52	8:57	5:40	12:40	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Wilson	1:58	10:25	7:16	6:20	2:40	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Selma	2:55	11:10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Fayetteville	4:30	12:22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ar Florence	7:25	2:24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ar Goldsboro	—	—	7:55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Goldsboro	—	—	—	7:01	3:21	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Magnolia	—	—	—	8:09	4:25	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Wilm'gton	—	—	—	9:40	5:50	—	—	—	—	—

### TRAINS GOING NORTH.

DATED	No 78		No 102		No 82		No 46		No 48	
	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun	Daily	Ex Sun
Lv Florence	9:40	—	9:45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Fayetteville	12:20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Selma	1:50	—	10:56	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ar Wilson	2:35	—	11:34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Wilm'gton	—	—	—	6:50	1:45	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Magnolia	—	—	—	8:23	11:19	—	—	—	—	—
Lv Goldsboro	—	—	—	5:10	9:27	12:30	—	—	—	—
Ar Wilson	2:35	5:43	11:33	10:30	1:16	—	—	—	—	—
Ar Rocky Mt	3:30	6:25	12:49	11:11	1:53	—	—	—	—	