HOW THE REBELS ARE BLOCKADING CHILI'S PORTS.

Letters from Santiago That Give a Vivid Picture of the Progress of the Insurrection for a Week.

IQUIQUE BESIEGED AND STARVING

The Fine New Vessels of the Chilian Navy Doing Excellent Work in the Hands of the Insurgents.

SURRENDER OF COQUIMBO.

Government Forces Suffer Many Defeats and Some Defections, but Able in Many Instances to Beat Off the Insurrectionists.

ALARM AT THE CAPITAL.

The HERALD received yesterday from a correspondent in Santiago, Chili, a bundle of letters containing news of no little interest about the progress of the insurrection in that country, of which but meagre information has been received from day to day by cable, chiefly via Buenos Ayres and Europe, the direct cables being under the control of President Balmaceda's government and closed to news despatches.

These letters, giving a vivid picture of the doings of both the insurrectionists and the government troops, are printed below.

EXTENT OF THE INSURRECTION.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 17, 1891.—The insurrection now extends from Coquimbo to Sierra Nesta, and in spite of the reports of the government to the contrary some very serious fighting has been done.

The telegraph lines being the property of the government no news can be sent to the exterior. If what is observed at the capital can be taken as a standard from which to judge the spirit of the Chilians toward the government, the opposition to the authorities is deep and widespread.

President Balmaceda surrounds himself with troops, and the sentries around the Municipal Palace have been tripled, many additions having

PRESIDENT BALMACEDA.

been made to the sentries elsewhere. The garrison of the city has been increased to 15,000 men, and strict watch is kept by all the troops, as though an insurrection were liable to break out at any moment in Santiago.

The news that the city of Coquimbo, after a short fight, surrendered to the insurgents has had the effect of a thunderbolt in Santiago. This was not expected, and the government fear that other cities will revolt. General Urutia led the revolutionists.

CAPTURE OF COQUIMBO.

The cruisers Magallanes and Admiral Cochrane were detailed by the Admiral to capture Coquimbo, which they did on January 17. They arrived at Coquimbo on the night of the 16th and early on the 17th began to bombard the town. The land batteries were abandoned after half an hour's firing, and the people, as though by previous agreement, started for the armories. After a short, sharp struggle with a detachment of marines which had been landed from the ships the city surrendered to the invaders. The engagement in all did not last two hours.

As soon as President Balmaceda was informed of the fall of the city he despatched three thousand soldiers from the garrisons of Valparaiso, Santiago and Iquique, which left post haste for Coquimbo.

The cruiser Esmeralda bombarded the city of Talcahuano on the night of January 15 and destroyed all the land batteries.

Many of the improvements lately made on the harbor were destroyed, and the granite docks were totally destroyed. An attempt was made by the insurgents to land forces, but owing to the powerful garrison, which is loyal to the government, the insurgents were repulsed. About one hundred men were killed in this attack, and finally the insurgents withdrew the land forces.

ATTEMPT ON VALPARAISO.

The O'Higgins, the heaviest cruiser of the Chilian navy, appeared at Valparaiso on the morning of the 17th and made an attempt to land forces a little below the city's limit. A fierce fire was opened by the land batteries and the troops were withdrawn.

The Ministers of War and of the Interior are at present living at Valparaiso, and the garrison is about five thousand well armed men.

It has become known that the insurgents have lately received 7,000 Remington rifles through the Argentine Republic. This information has led the government to establish double guards at all the points leading to and from the Argentine Republic to guard against any future assistance being given the insurrectionists.

Life is becoming unbearable in Santiago. For the least indiscreet word a man may utter he is at once thrown into prison by the government. At present the prison is nearly full, there being over three hundred men of prominence in jail. They are all charged with being partial to the insurrection.

All the social clubs have been closed and all the papers suppressed. After the decree prohibiting the printing and publishing of papers was issued the police took possession of the offices of *El Mercurio* and destroyed all the presses and carried off half of the type. Any attempt to make an amicable settlement between the warring factions is at once suppressed by the government authorities as seditious.

Among the persons in prison are Senator Besa, ex-Minister of Finance, and Messrs. Novos, Altamirano and Gorostiaga.

FOREIGN SHIPS REQUESTED.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 18, 1891.—President Balmaceda issued a circular letter to-day to the members of the Diplomatic Corps in this city, asking them to have ships of their respective nations sent to the seat of the insurrection in order to better protect the interests of their respective citizens—not that the government is unable to protect the foreigners, but that the presence of foreign war vessels may influence the people toward peace.

The Diplomatic Corps was at once convened, and in view of the foregoing circular and of events which have transpired resolved to do as they were requested. At the same time they protested against the acts of brutality that were being daily enacted in Santiago and throughout the Republic.

The offices of the newspapers *El Heraldo*, *La Union* and *La Patria* were to-day entered by the police and the several plants destroyed. Two new presses, but lately brought from England, the property of *La Union*, were completely destroyed, every piece was broken and the type and other material scattered.

News has been received here that the insurgent fleet has blockaded Pisagua and Iquique, and will begin to bombard them in a day or two.

DYNAMITE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

A dynamite bomb was exploded to-day in the Presidential palace at Villa del Mar, and the palace was partly demolished, the cupola and part of the west wall having fallen.

The insurgents blockading Pisagua and Iquique demanded the surrender of those cities, but were refused.

The family of President Balmaceda will shortly leave for Europe, presumably for Paris, unless matters become more complicated.

It is said in this city to-day, although it has not been confirmed by the government, that the cruiser Lynch and the corvette Abtao have gone over to the insurgents and with them have gone three of the torpedo boats. Of the land forces it is said that two thousand men, comprising four regiments of infantry, one of engineers and one of cavalry, have taken up the insurgent banner.

The garrison at Valparaiso has been increased to sixteen thousand men, and every outlet of the city is being fortified, as it is every day expected that the insurgents will bombard the town if the officers in command do not surrender.

THREE THOUSAND MEN routed.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 19, 1891.—News has just been received by the government that the three thousand men who had been sent from Valparaiso, Iquique and Santiago to fight the insurgents at Coquimbo have been completely routed. Three regiments of infantry in the midst of the engagement revolted against their officers and joined hands with the insurgents. The rest of the men, in spite of all orders, fled from the field. The government lost in this engagement over two hundred men killed and as many more were wounded. The insurgents were all perfectly armed and had a plentiful supply of ammunition.

In Arica the garrison of the city, consisting of two regiments of grenadiers, were surrounded by troops which had disembarked from one of the ships which have revolted and were forced to surrender.

REBELS REPULSED AT VALPARAISO.

A despatch just received here from Valparaiso gives the details of the attempts made late last night, by the revolutionary fleet, to take the city. At about midnight all the steam launches and boats were filled with soldiers. In the bow of the launches Gatling guns and rapid firing guns were placed. These were to be used in protecting the troops while they debarked.

The government forces hurriedly placed two batteries of light artillery and a large detachment of troops on the shore, commanding the spot where the insurrectionists were to land. In spite of the combined fire of the Gatling guns and heavy musketry from the men in the boats the insurgents were repulsed after a short but sharp bayonet charge by the government troops. No further action was taken by the rebels.

Two officials of the city were thrown in prison. They are Messrs. Barrios and Riesco, and were the president and vice president of the Board of Aldermen. The authorities refuse to say what crime they are charged with and keep them closely guarded.

The city of Concepcion has declared itself in favor of the rebels. It was in this city that Balmaceda was hissed and stones were thrown at the train which conveyed him.

IQUIQUE'S BLOCKADE.

The blockade of Iquique continues as strict as ever. The Admiral Cochrane is anchored with its broadside to the city, while the Magallanes cruises outside of the harbor. No vessel is allowed to enter or leave, and the inhabitants are beginning to grow uneasy about their food supply.

A train load of food, water and several battalions of soldiers known to be faithful to the government left this city for Iquique to-day, and unless stopped in some way will arrive in time to succor the inhabitants of Iquique.

The Vice President of the Senate, Señor Don Valdo Silva; the President of the House, Señor Don Barros Luco, and several Senators are on board the rebel fleet and direct the insurrection.

WANING ENTHUSIASM.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 20, 1891.—No sooner had the news of the defeat of the government's forces been received than fresh troops were despatched for Coquimbo. One thing has been noticed of late among the government troops, and that is, the lack of enthusiasm of which at the beginning of the contest they had so much.

At this moment the President has been informed by telegraph that a regiment of infantry at Iquique has deserted and gone on board the two insurgent ships in the harbor. The soldiers took with them their arms and accoutrements. Only four of the officers remained true to the government, and they had to flee for their lives as they would have fared ill at the hands of the revolted regiment. The discipline observed by the insurgent fleet is wonderful.

DIPLOMATIC CORPS' APPEAL.

The Diplomatic Corps has sent an appeal to the Admiral in command of the insurgent fleet asking him in the name of humanity to give some intimation of the beginning of the bombardment of Valparaiso, so as to allow the women and children to leave the city. The Admiral has replied that he has no objection whatever to doing so.

A despatch has just been received from Iquique, and it says that the fleet which was blockading Iquique left this morning suddenly, and that after an absence of about six hours they returned with the new Chilian cruiser Abtao in tow. The Abtao was cruising and was about ten miles from Iquique when the Cochrane and Magallanes sighted her. They at once called upon her to surrender, but she refused. The Cochrane was the first to open hostilities, and after a little firing, in which some of the rigging of the Abtao was shot away, she struck her flag and was brought triumphantly to Iquique. Her crew has been separated and distributed on board her captors and she has been detailed to blockade Iquique.

This is a bitter blow to the President, for the Abtao has all the newest and most improved methods of warfare, and had just arrived from Europe, where she was built.

OCCUPATION OF COQUIMBO.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 21, 1891.—The forts at Valparaiso, says a despatch received here from that city, this morning fired upon the cruiser Blanco Encalada and succeeded in destroying the pilot house and killing several rebels. The Blanco withdrew to a safe distance, still keeping up the blockade. Toward night she sent up several rocket signals, and it is said by some that she was signalling for help.

The following despatch from Coquimbo has been registered at the Department of War here:—

COQUIMBO, Jan. 21, 1891.—4:30 P. M.

President BALMACEDA:—

The insurrectionists are rapidly building barricades in all the streets.

The Convent of the Notre Dame Sisters has been taken by the insurgents and converted into a fortress.

All the buildings which are in commanding positions have been taken by the rebels, and cannon brought from the land batteries and from the ships have been placed in such positions as to command every road which approaches the city.

The Cochrane, Magallanes and Abtao have come nearer the town, and at present are unloading powder and ammunition.

The rebels have about two thousand well armed men here and they are under the protection of the fleet's guns. Those guns which they have been unable to use they have spiked, removing all the powder and ammunition on board the ships. GONZALEZ.

Later despatches state that the government troops available for attack are now about 4,000. Captain Krung has taken charge of the rebel troops, and is personally superintending the erection of fortifications.

TALCA A BASE OF OPERATIONS.

The city of Talca is now being used by the government as a base of operations. From this city supplies have been sent to Iquique. The rebel leaders have begun to advance their forces toward this city, and are getting ready to begin a long and desperate siege of it shortly.

In this city active work is being done. The forts which encircle the city are being carefully inspected by a board of officers, and every weak point is being thoroughly overhauled. Several defensive places, such as bastions and rifle pits, have been made around the city and every precaution taken for an attack.

The Presidential palace has been heavily garrisoned. Regiments of artillery have been detailed to mount guard there, and every avenue of approach is commanded by a crossfire. Sentries have been stationed at all the doors, and no one is allowed to come in but those having business.

A CALL FOR TEN THOUSAND MEN.

The President has issued a proclamation, in which he calls for ten thousand men from the National Guard.

Through the help of the diplomatic corps the government has allowed Messrs. Jovino Novoa and Manuel Zamora to go free. These gentlemen, upon investigation, it appears, never had any dealings with the insurrectionists nor have they ever given any cause for complaint.

Propositions were to-day made to the leaders of the insurgents. The authorities would not state what the terms offered were, but it is known that the offers were refused.

IQUIQUE'S PLIGHT.

The blockade of Iquique continues and with disastrous results. As Iquique is in the rainless zone and as the land around the city is sandy, there is no water to drink except what is brought up from Valparaiso and other ports along the coast. Nothing grows around Iquique, and therefore the food also has to be brought there. The insurrectionists have already captured two transports full of food and water from Valparaiso, and the stock in Iquique is known to be very low. Unless the blockade can be broken and food and water sent to the inhabitants they will have to surrender to the rebel fleet or starve.

The veterans of the Peruvian war have been armed and formed into two regiments. They have been destined for the defence of Santiago.

TRYING TO BUY ARMS IN PERU.

The government is trying to buy arms in Peru, but it is not probable that the arms will ever get to Santiago, as the rebels are pretty well in possession of the northern part of Chili and might intercept the consignment.

Another strange feature of the war is that the government is unable to obtain transports for its troops and ammunition, as all the merchant ships are in favor of the rebels and refuse to serve the government.

The National Guard have been mustered into service, and divisions already have reported for active service at Atacama, Tarapaca, Coriapo and Antofagasta.

Telegrams are coming in from Iquique saying that the rebel fleet is beginning to shell the forts and that a heavy cannonading is going on.

The company Sud America, who have several steamships employed in the traffic along the coast and up to Panama, has given the government a setback by placing its steamships at the disposal of the insurrectionists, to be used as transports.

These vessels are very powerful and rapid, and should the rebels take it into their heads to make cruisers out of them there is no telling how much harm they could do to the government cause.

NORTHERN PROVINCES REBELLIOUS.

The government is much worried over the northern provinces, as it is understood that the majority of the inhabitants are inclined toward the insurrectionists.

The President has sent a telegram to the Chilian Legation at Montevideo instructing them to intercept the two Chilian cruisers, Condell and Lynn, which are now on their way from Europe. Should the captains of the cruisers refuse to wait for instructions at Montevideo the Legation has been notified to apply to the government of Uruguay in order to prevent them from obtaining provisions and coal.

This move on the part of the government is said to be due to the fear that the two cruisers will revolt and join forces with the rest of the fleet.

CAPTURE OF PISAGUA.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 22, 1891.—The President received a telegram from Montevideo early to-day saying that the Condell had arrived, and is at anchor awaiting instructions.

The Magallanes, it is reported by telegraph, has left the blockade of the Iquique to the Abtao and the Admiral Cochrane, and late last night captured the town of Pisagua without firing a shot. The garrison was at first inclined to resist, but finally surrendered, as the city *en masse* was in favor of the rebels.

One regiment of infantry, part of the garrison, deserted the government and joined the rebel ranks.

DESTITUTION IN IQUIQUE.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 23, 1891.—Alarming news has been received by telegraph from Iquique which the government will not make public, but it is understood that the inhabitants are in very destitute circumstances. An attempt was made by the rebel troops to capture several of the land batteries which command the city, but they were unsuccessful. As the several attempts made to break the blockade have been ineffectual the government will now try to send water and food by land, protected by a strong guard. The rebels say they will stop this at all hazards, and therefore the government is still in doubt as to the feasibility of this plan.

At Punto Caldera the revolutionists from the Magallanes landed a little below the city and proceeded toward the city. A pitched battle between the two factions took place. In spite of the assistance of the cruiser the rebels had to take to their boats. The Magallanes started to shell the town, but desisted and left during the night.

The government forces suffered very much at the hands of the rebels, and their loss was about thirty-five dead and fifteen wounded.

SHELLING IQUIQUE.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 24, 1891.—The telegraph has been working all day between this city and Iquique. The government officials refuse to speak and there is an air of mystery about the Presidential Palace and Department of War. Enough has, nevertheless, leaked out to satisfy all persons living here that the plans of the government have been upset.

It is said that the Admiral Cochrane and the Abtao approached the city under a heave fire from the land batteries and deliberately proceeded to shell the town. After a heavy bombardment the cruisers withdrew and late at night disembarked a large detachment of men.

It was the intention of the rebels to attack the town at sunrise, but they were seen, and when morning dawned the rebels were surprised to see the government forces in battle array before them. A fierce battle, which lasted for several hours, ensued, and the rebels had to retire to their boats.

The latest reports are that the rebels are concentrating their forces on Iquique and that within thirty-six hours another attack is likely to be made. The government has sent help and it is to be hoped it will arrive in time.

EFFECT OF THE BLOCKADE AT IQUIQUE AND OTHER CHILIAN PORTS.

PANAMA, Feb. 15, 1891.—Advices from Arica, Peru, to February 2 report:—Coquimbo and Pisagua have been retaken by the government. The workmen at Pisagua applied to the Governor for bread, and he refused to furnish supplies. The men were fired on and many were killed.

Valparaiso is still blockaded, but the steamers manage to get in out after being overhauled by the blockading vessels. Any boat moving in the bay after five P. M. is fired on from the shore.

A great many notable people in Santiago have desired to sell or mortgage their property, but the government has protested, and it is feared that confiscation will follow. The better classes in Santiago are siding with the revolutionists.

COURTEOUS NOTES EXCHANGED.

On January 13 Captain F. Valencia Day, the commander of the ironclad Blanco Escalada, then at anchor in Iquique, sent a despatch to the Intendent of Tarapaca, who is also a Chilian and whose offices are in Iquique, in which despatch the commander of the revolutionary squadron said:—

OFF IQUIQUE, Jan. 13, 1891.

I beg to inform you that, by order of the Congressional delegation, I have taken possession of this bay and have blockaded communication with it since the 10th inst. Other measures which may be adopted I shall communicate to you, but in the meanwhile I shall prevent provisions reaching shore.

I hope yourself and the forces you command will not prolong a situation which may involve great interests and which will lead to your serving an unconstitutional cause such as that of the dictatorship proclaimed on the 1st inst.

I beg to inform you that any steps taken against my vessels will be energetically repressed.

F. VALENCIA DAY.

To this note the Intendente, Manuel Salinas, sent a polite but very firm refusal, informing the Captain that he must consider him a rebel, refusing to recognize the blockade and promising an energetic resistance should he attempt to land troops.

FAMINE PRICES.

A letter from Iquique, dated January 16, says:—"The inhabitants of this city are greatly alarmed. A number of families left by the steamship Chili for Tacna, Arequiba and Lima and some have gone to Pica and Tarapaca. No one dares to go to the nitrate works. Speculators have raised the price of provisions, and potatoes, for instance, which four days ago were worth $6, Chilian currency, a sack, are to-day selling for $24."

The German steamship Romulus, which was chartered by the Chilian government for the purpose, recently left Pisagua with five hundred emigrants—men, women and children. Pisagua is entirely destitute of resources, and were the place blockaded by a revolutionary squadron in order to compel surrender—as it is at present—non-combatants would have suffered terribly.

The coast steamship Arequiba, recently in Panama, was not allowed by the Chilian revolutionary squadron to proceed further south than Ilo. She returned northward with cargo on board for the southern ports, which was landed and stored to await the raising of the blockades, when it will be carried on to the ports of destination.

THE UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP PENSACOLA AT CHILI.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1891.—Secretary Blaine today received a cable message from United States Minister Egan, at Santiago, Chili, saying that the United States steamship Pensacola arrived at Talcahuano on the 20th inst., and that Rear Admiral McCann reports some fighting at Iquique and that the rest of the country is tranquil.

It is said at the Navy Department that the Pensacola is on her way to Valparaiso and stopped at Talcahuano for coal.

The cruiser San Francisco, now at San Francisco, is reported as being nearly ready for sea, and will probably be ordered to join the Pensacola and Baltimore in Chilian waters.

ANXIOUS ABOUT THEIR PENSIONS.

EX-POLICEMEN NOW ON THE LIST DISTURBED BY THE SUIT TO RECOVER FINES.

At a meeting of the Police Board yesterday a letter was read from Lawyer John D. Townsend asking the Board for information concerning the present standing of the pension fund. Mr. Townsend said that ex-Superintendent Walling, ex-Inspector Dilks and other pensioners had informed him that if certain suits now pending in court by ex-policemen for the recovery of fines exacted from them was successful the pension fund would be depleted.

President McLean was not inclined to believe that any suits now pending would go against the Board. In case, however, the pension fund was reduced, he said the Board of Estimate and Apportionment would be called upon to make up the deficiency. In the event of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment refusing to make an appropriation, President McLean thought the pensioners would be the sufferers.

The policeman who has occasioned all this uneasiness among the retired police officials is ex-Policeman David O'Callahan, of the Old slip station. He was dismissed from the force for drunkenness after serving nearly twenty years, and is now suing the city to recover all the money the Board took from him in the way of fines while he was connected with the force. If this suit is successful there will probably be two hundred suits of a similar nature brought against the Board.

Commissioner Martin introduced a resolution requesting the Corporation Counsel to draft a bill to be introduced at the next session of the Legislature, giving the Police Board power to condemn land for the purpose of building new station houses. The resolution was adopted.

General Butterfield sent a communication to the Police Board yesterday praising the policemen for the excellent work at General Sherman's funeral.

Postmaster Van Cott also sent a letter complimenting the police for the work done at the recent Post Office fire.

MINERS SAVED AFTER A FIGHT WITH BLACK DAMP.

Only by a Tremendous Struggle Were the Men Imprisoned at Jeansville Reached by the Searchers.

GRAPHIC STORY OF THE RESCUE

Superintendent MacFarlane Tells How His Gallant Followers Battled to Save Lives.

MAKING A FIGHT FOR HEALTH.

The Miners Were Almost Dead When Found, and Recovery Is Not Yet Fully Assured.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HAZLETON, Pa., Feb. 24, 1891.—Thomas Tomisky, Joseph Metusky, John Barno and Wassel Frinko, the four miners rescued alive last night from the Jeansville mine, after having been overwhelmed by water on February 4 and imprisoned for nearly twenty days, were brought to the surface this morning. They are now at the Sons of Temperance Hall, which has been converted into a temporary hospital. Their bodies are greatly emaciated from hunger and suffering and the battle for life will be a difficult one.

NEWS RECEIVED WITH INCREDULITY.

When the news of the finding of these four men alive came to the surface from the bottom of the Jeansville mine about nine o'clock last night it was not credited. Such a preservation of life seemed a physical impossibility. For men to live almost twenty days with no food or water and in a space that could at best be but a few cubic yards in extent was at first believed to be beyond the limits of human endurance.

The first news did not long lack confirmation. Word came that not only were the men alive, but had spoken with the rescuing party, and had given their names and recognized by their voices those who were pressing forward to their relief.

When this news was spread abroad the people of the town of Jeansville were electrified. It was nothing that these four men were Polanders—people of a race hated and despised by the English speaking miners. They were men, they were human beings, and they were about to be rescued from a living tomb after having been given up as dead, and after an experience hardly paralleled in the history of mining in the world.

CROWDS TO WELCOME THE RESCUED.

The mouth of the slope was surrounded at ten o'clock by a crowd of a thousand people—men, women and children. The rescuing party at work in the mine was in constant communication with the surface by pickets stationed along the gangways, and every step in their progress was known by the waiting throngs almost as soon as made.

"The men have been reached," was the news passed along, and a ringing cheer broke out.

"The first one has been brought out—it is 'Big Joe,'" was shouted from the depths, and another wild burst of cheering was the answer.

"They are all out, and have been brought to the foot of the slope," was the next news given, and the crowd grew wild with excitement.

People waited in hope of seeing the men thus rescued from so awful a fate, but in this they were disappointed. Inside Superintendent David McFarlane came to the surface with the band of worn out rescuers. He mounted a car. Around him in the night stood a thousand men, the darkness lit by their mining lamps. As McFarlane's tall form towered up bareheaded they were silent.

"With God's help," cried Mr. McFarlane, "we have saved them. They are alive and will live."

"Three cheers for MacFarlane!" cried a voice, and the cheers rang through the still night air so loudly as to be heard in every household in the little town.

SINGING THE DOXOLOGY.

"Now, boys," said Mr. MacFarlane, "let us go home. The doctors have the rescued men in charge and dare not bring them to the open air for many hours. Fall in, their rescuers, behind me."

He led the way down in the town and the band of rescuers, forty or fifty in number, fell into line behind him, while the throng poured along before and behind the brave men, cheering as men can cheer when their whole hearts are in it. In front of the house of J. C. Haden, the owner of the mine, the men halted and once more woke the echoes with three rousing cheers.

At the street corners where the company's office stands another halt was made and there, standing bareheaded in the midst of the throng—the scene dimly lighted by the flickering flames of the miners' lamps—the band of rescuers started the grand old hymn "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." It was caught by every voice in the crowd, and the words of that song of thanksgiving were poured out into the night air from a thousand tongues. It was a strange, a weird and fascinating scene, and from none that saw it or participated in it can its recollection ever be effaced.

RESCUED MEN BROUGHT OUT.

The great crowd slowly dispersed, and at five o'clock this morning, when all was still, the four helpless forms, thickly rolled in blankets, were brought up the slope and gently carried to the Sons of Temperance Hall, which was turned into a temporary hospital. Here the doctors assumed supreme charge. No one was admitted, and there through the day the men lay helpless and only semi-conscious of what was going on about them—hovering for the time being between life and death.

HOW THEY WERE IMPRISONED.

The disaster by which they were imprisoned in the mine, and by which fourteen other men lost their lives, took place about eleven o'clock on the morning of February 4. The mine is operated through a slope 1,200 feet long. At the bottom of this slope a gangway runs for twice that distance. Then there is another slope 650 feet long. At the bottom of this a gangway runs to the right and left. It runs along the bottom of a basin or "dip" in the coal seam. From both sides of the gangway the vein pitches up at an angle of forty to fifty degrees. Up this steep incline on both sides are driven the "breasts," the coal, as fast as mined, sliding down the steep ascent to the gangway, where it is loaded into cars.

The gangway running to the left from the slope approached some abandoned workings of another mine filled with water. A wrong calculation somewhere caused a breaking through of this water. All the men in that part of the gangway between the slope and where the water broke in got out, but those on the other side of the slope found their escape cut off even before they knew what had happened. Several were caught on the gangway and drowned, as was proven when the bodies were recovered.

TRYING TO ESCAPE.

Others had time to clamber up the steep ascent of the "breasts" and reach the highest point and get above the water. Eight men succeeded in gaining such a position. Four of these were in No. 1 "breast" and were taken out dead yesterday morning. The other four who got above the water line were in No. 5 "breast" and they were to-day brought out alive.

The four who died perished beyond question by their own act. They had even more air space than the four who lived, but they built a fire to drive away the biting cold and burned up the oxygen on which depended their own lives. They died of suffocation.

STORY OF THE RESCUE.

The story of the rescue is graphically told by Superintendent MacFarlane, who narrated what he knew to me this afternoon.

"We reached No. 1 'breast,'" he said, "on the northeast side yesterday morning. We reached it by wading to our armpits in the water in the gangway. When we entered the 'breast' we found the air very bad. Our lights went out at once. We crawled up some distance and called, but got no answer.

"When the air got a little better we worked our way up and came on the body of James Balock, a Pole. He had a bottle in his hand. He had evidently crawled down to the water to fill the bottle, and died while on the way back, for he had clutched the bottle in his hand and it was full of water.

"When we managed to get to the top of the 'breast' we found the bodies of Henry Bull and Lawrence Reed lying in each other's arms. They had died while sleeping. Close by them was the body of another Pole—Thomas Ashor—lying near a little heap of ashes and half burned wood. They had kindled a fire and thus destroyed the air that was the only thing needed to save their lives. Had they not built this fire, I am confident we should have reached them alive. They had more air space than the four we brought out alive.

NOT DEAD LONG.

"They could not, however, have been dead very long, for they were not decomposed and the mine rats had only just begun their attacks on them.

"After these bodies had been taken up I went home to rest awhile, but the work of exploration went on. During the afternoon the rescuing party reached the bottom of No. 5 'breast.' They found foot marks, showing that somebody was up there, but they could not get up, for the 'breast' was full of black damp. They brought the air current, and in the evening again attempted to climb the 'breast.' They were again stopped by black damp.

"There were four men in this party—Joseph Kelshaw, William Hale, Alexander Morton and James Sterling. They had no idea that any one was alive up there, but Kelshaw called out and then they heard the faint sound of a voice coming down the 'breast.' They shouted again and again the faint reply came.

FELL ON THEIR KNEES AND PRAYED.

"They fell on their knees and thanked God that at least one life had been spared. This was about eight o'clock last evening and they sent for me. I went in with Mine Inspector J. M. Lewis, of Hazleton, and Mine Foreman Caleb Williams. When we got to the 'breast' Kelshaw, Hale and myself advanced into the black damp. It was awful; we could hardly breathe; but we fought our way on until we reached the first air way. There we had to stop. The black damp was so thick that our lights would not burn a second. No light would burn for sixty feet further down the 'breast,' but we stuck it out. We called as loudly as we could, and heard a voice answer as from across the 'breast' a little higher up, and we thought about fifty feet away, the 'breast' being thirty-five feet wide.

"We talked to the men. Joe Metusky—better known as 'Big Joe'—one of the imprisoned men, did most of the talking to us. He told us there were four there, all alive. He recognized our voices and told us who we were.

"BIG JOE" TRIES TO GET OUT.

"He tried to get across the 'breast' but could not for the black damp. I told Lewis to come up the 'breast' as far as the air way next below us with a piece of canvas and try and get a little air up the 'breast.' He did so and then came up to where we were. There were now four of us up there. Kelshaw made a desperate effort and got across the 'breast,' we fanning the black damp away with our coats. In a minute or two he came back with a man in his arms. He did not know who it was, for we had no light nearer than sixty feet away. The lamps would not burn for the black damp.

"Kilshaw dropped the man in my arms and fell over himself, pretty nearly gone. I took the man and held him close to me to warm him, and moistened his lips with a little brandy and water, and then he told us his name was John Fomisky.

"We wrapped him in blankets and nourished him, and got a little milk and water and poured it down his throat.

KISSED HIS RESCUERS' HANDS.

"The poor fellow said nothing but 'Thank God!' in his own language, and kissed our hands when they came near his face. Tears ran from his eyes like a child.

"Dr. Mears was at the foot of the 'breast' with some hot beef tea and he passed a little up and John drank. John tried to talk and told me they had no light after the third day, and nothing to eat at all.

"I held him in my arms and nourished him and gave him little sips of milk and beef tea.

"Then William Hale went across the breast and brought back Joe Metuski. We gave him similar treatment. He was in better shape and could talk a little. Hale wanted to go across again, but I would not let him. I called up David Nelson, who was down below, and he tried it, but could not get across. Then Hale tried it again and brought back Wassel Frinko. I sat with the three hugged up close around me and gave them food. We called out and got no answer, but Joe told me there was another man there.

THE LAST MAN RESCUED.

"Then Hale and Nelson made another attempt to get across. The others fanned the black damp away with their coats, and they managed to reach the other man and brought him back. This was John Barno. He was in very bad shape and he could not speak, nor even move his head.

"After we had wrapped them up well and fed them a little with tiny sips of beef tea and milk and brandy, we passed them down the breast and they were carried to the first slope and taken up and laid in a warm spot near the engine. We were about played out then and came up to the surface. We left the men in charge of the doctors and some men who had not been in the black damp. It was about midnight when we got them up the inside slope and about one o'clock when I came to the surface."

Sons of Temperance Hall, converted into a temporary hospital, is a large frame building close by the coal company's office.

VISITING THE MEN.

In the main room four beds have been made by placing two benches together and over them a spring mattress. On these mattresses, wrapped in blankets, black with coal dirt and just as they were brought from their living tomb, lay the four men when I visited them this afternoon. At the hall two policemen were on duty and would not admit a soul except on the doctor's order. A word from Dr. J. H. Mears, the physician in charge, was sufficient to open the door for me. Of the four men there is little doubt but that three will recover.

FRINKO MAY NOT RECOVER.

The fourth one—Wassell Frinko—is in a very critical condition. Physically he was not so powerful as the other three, and the three weeks' fast, coupled with the black damp and sulphur water, has reduced him to a state of prostration that renders his recovery very doubtful. He lies almost naked on the bed, unwashed and covered with coal dirt, but half conscious and breathing in short, fitful pants. He moans for water, but none can be given him. He is allowed to suck a wet rag, and at regular intervals of fifteen minutes a spoonful or two of milk and water or weak beef tea is given him.

Opposite to him lies John Barno. He, too, is in a very weak condition, but seems hardly conscious of what is going on around, but his general strength is far superior to Frinko's and the doctors have little doubt of his recovery.

Alongside the bed of Barno is the mattrass on which rests the once herculean form of Joseph Metuski, better known as "Big Joe." He was esteemed the most powerful man in the mining country, being six feet in height, without an ounce of superfluous flesh. He weighed 192 pounds. Now he lies helpless as an infant, scarcely able to stir his limbs or roll his head, but outside of his weakness his physical condition is good. He can talk English fairly well, is quick witted and intelligent and able to depict his fearful experience—to talk about it rationally for half an hour and more.

"BIG JOE'S" STORY.

With Dr. Mears I bent over the bedside asking questions and listened to the broken English which came in quick sentences from the "Big Joe" lips.

"We had nothing to eat at the time," he said, "we had four bits of bread each on the first two days. Then we had nothing. Once in awhile we scratched a little bark from the props and chewed it, but it was no good. While we had it we would take the bread and break it in little bits as big as the top of a finger and swallow it. We had no light after the third day. We had two lamps full of oil, but it was gone in three days.

"Why didn't you keep the oil and drink it?" he was asked.

"Is it good?" asked Joe in surprise.

"The best thing you could have taken," said the doctor.

"We didn't know that. We burned it. But it was all gone in three days. Then we made a little fire out of the wood off the props. I had matches, and we lit it.

"Then we boiled some of the water and put crumbs of bread in it to make it better. It was bad water—very bad—but we drank it. We had a dinner can and one of us crawled down the 'breast' and got some of the water. Our fire went out then and wouldn't burn again. I used all my matches, but it wouldn't burn.

TRIED TO SLEEP.

"Then we just lay still and tried to sleep. We drank water till we got so weak we couldn't crawl down to get it."

"How long ago was it that you got the last water?"

"I don't know; possibly a week. We didn't stir after that. We couldn't move. Frinko and Barno got mad and sang songs and laughed and acted like they were at home. I kept quiet. I slept a good deal. Slept all I could. I heard the men coming to us a long time before they heard me. I couldn't shout. My mouth was dry. Then they got nearer and I made them hear me."

He was growing exhausted now with talking and the doctor interfered.

Thomas Tomisky lay opposite "Big Joe." He, too, was in a very poor physical condition, and so weak as to be helpless.

COULD NOT TALK.

He could not talk much and it was not possible to obtain any rational information from him.

"Big Joe" is a married man. He had a wife and three children when he went down into the mine February 4. Another little one was born to him on Friday last, while its father was buried eight hundred feet under ground, it was then believed beyond all hope of recovery. John Barnes is a single man. The other two have wives and families in the old country.

This afternoon I visited the colliery where the disaster happened. The outside was deserted. No one but the engineer and pump runner was there. One of the mine carpenters came around and was impressed into service. Miners' hats and lamps were borrowed and I climbed into a car and was lowered swiftly down the steep slope twelve hundred feet long. At the bottom a gangway, barely wide enough to allow a car to pass, opened out, and I travelled for nearly half a mile through slush and mud.

One hundred and seventy feet from the bottom the marks of water began, so high had the flood risen up a grade of forty-three degrees. Down in the gangway at the bottom further progress was barred. Water and mud lay two feet deep and in many places deeper, and to reach the chamber where the men were found it was necessary to wade in mud and water to the waist. At the bottom of the slope three or four men were seated. They had been at work cleaning up the wreck and had stopped to rest and eat.

KELSHAW STILL AT WORK.

Among them was Joseph Kelshaw, the man who led the rescue party when they heard the first signs of life. He is a small man, but built of iron. In spite of the exhaustion of the previous night, he was at his post again as steady and resolute as ever.

There was no use attempting to reach the "breast" where "Big Joe" and his friends were rescued, and I turned up the slope and was hauled up to the surface.

It is impossible to overstate the deep impression that the escape of these four men has created all through this region. It has no parallel in the history of mining the world over. The longest period during which men were imprisoned without food and water was ten days, and this happened over ten years ago in Wales.

It is believed that the result might have been different had the imprisoned men been of an English speaking race. The Poles are the hardiest men who work in the mines, and they can endure fatigue and exhaustion better than any other race.

The rescued men are resting quietly this evening. The pulses of all but "Big Joe" have improved in the past few hours. He appears to be growing weaker. Two professional nurses have arrived and will look after the men.

BURYING SPRING HILL VICTIMS.

MANY OF THE DEAD BEING PLACED IN A COMMON GRAVE.

SPRING HILL MINE, N. S., Feb. 24, 1891.—The work of recovering the bodies of those who lost their lives in Saturday's awful explosion proceeded all night without interruption. A number of bodies were brought to the surface. One hundred and fifty men were at work in the cemetery this morning digging graves. Several graves are being made large enough for two or three bodies, and are intended to contain the bodies of relatives or those who belong to the same family. A large grave, sixteen feet square, has been dug for the bodies of strangers. The weather is bitterly cold and blustering, and the men who are digging graves and interring the dead are almost benumbed with cold.

A committee is in charge at the cemetery, provided with lists of the dead, and as soon as the graves are ready word is sent to another committee, with headquarters at the Methodist Church, and after the ministers at the church have held a short service over it the body is sent down for burial accompanied by one of the ministers.

The Coroner began taking evidence last night, but little evidence showing the cause of the disaster has been obtained. Governor General Stanley has forwarded, at the command of the Queen, an expression of Her Majesty's sympathy with the injured and the relatives of those who lost their lives.

AID FOR THE SURVIVORS.

At the Maritime Exchange in this city yesterday afternoon a subscription was opened for the relief of the families of the Spring Hill miners. The following contributions were received:—Bowring & Archibald, $50; A. E. Outerbridge & Co., $50; Lawton Brothers, of Havana, $20; Scammell Brothers, $20, and C. Von Pustan & Co.,