

THE GORGE OUT.

Major Phillips at Last Succeeds in Making a Channel Through the Debris.

DYNAMITE DOES THE WORK

A Whole Ton of the Terrific Explosive Used in a Single Day.

500 POUNDS IN ONE BLAST.

Considerable Damage Done the Property in the Neighborhood of the Stone Bridge.

A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FILED.

How the Explosions Were Conducted and the Mountains of Wreckage They Shattered.

A VERY UNIQUE FEAT OF ENGINEERING

At last a channel has been cut through the immense gorge formed by the Johnstown flood at the stone railroad bridge, and the drift is being as rapidly as possible taken out or burned.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

JOHNSTOWN, June 15.—The opening of the gorge has at last been accomplished. The gorge is opened and the jam which has almost baffled human ingenuity has been blown apart, and the waters of the little, but wildly rapid, Conemaugh are rushing along with old-time swiftness and unimpeded buoyancy, carrying along wreckage of railroad bridges, ruined houses and devastated homesteads.

This was the gigantic task which has been completed to-day, and which was the all-interesting subject around the camps and in the town generally; a problem achieved by Major Phillips, a well-known civil engineer. The completion of the blasting required 2,000 pounds of dynamite to-day alone, and according to the information obtained from the men who were engaged in the work, there has been 10,000 pounds of dynamite used altogether.

THE WORK OF EXPERIENCED MEN.

Major Phillips, while speaking of the task of destruction, stated that he had about 20 men who were immediately occupied in laying the charges and doing the work incidental to the explosions. Mr. John Kirk, a well-known Pittsburg, has been the foreman of the detachment occupied in the explosion, and all are experienced and efficient men in their work.

"I have for many years superintended blasting operations. I have exploded ice gorges on the Susquehanna river, and debris of railroads, but never in all my experience have I blasted anything like that mass of debris down at this bridge."

This spoke the Major, and he then covered up to do not believe that there ever were such heavy charges used in blasting, and had it not been that the surroundings could not be much damaged I would not have done it here. As it is, the concussion has shaken some of the buildings around here to a considerable extent."

VARYING SIZES OF THE CHARGES.

"What were the sizes of the different charges exploded by you?" "Well, they were of various sizes. The largest one consisted of 500 pounds of dynamite. It was the one which went off at 12 o'clock. The others amounted to 400 pounds and 300 pounds."

"What was their effect?" "Oh, they were effective enough, but, as I said before, the charges had to be extraordinarily heavy to do any good. Take, for an example, the stuff we blew up at noon with our heaviest charge. There was a part of a railroad bridge at the bottom; on the top of that lay a hotel. We found that out, by the way, because we discovered a number of foundations of houses and frame buildings. Did you ever hear of such a conglomeration? My men intended to lay several 100-pound charges in a line underneath that pile, but I would not allow it. It was afraid the concussion would prove disastrous."

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE DONE.

But as it was, considerable damage was done, and several complaints came to General Hastings that the shocks were doing damage all around. In the Cambria Iron Works a ceiling was cracked. All the windows in the First ward schoolhouse were smashed. A house in Kerville was thrown off its foundation. A man who sat on a chair near headquarters was knocked off his seat into the mud, and a number of other trifling incidents were noted. There were a good many wild rumors of the terrible things that were supposed to have happened, but they were all without any foundation of fact.

Regarding the explosions of the blasts, your correspondent witnessed several of them, and the incident proved a very interesting sight. Two electric wires, probably 200 feet in length, connected with the explosive, ran over the debris to the top of a hill, where a small battery was attached to them.

CAREFULLY TAKEN DURING EXPLOSION.

After the charge had been safely lowered into the depth under the jam all the workmen were told to get out of the gorge. The entire place being cleared, Major Phillips

A TIRESOME TASK.

Soldiers of the Fourteenth Getting Exhausted of Guard Duty—Their Summer Encampment Spoiled and None of Them Very Sorry for It.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT. JOHNSTOWN, June 15.—The boys of the National Guard are getting awfully tired of the daily soldier life. The majority of them are complaining as to what they will likely be ordered home, and are making all kinds of excuses to be relieved and get to Pittsburg. Colonel Perchment stated to-day that the regiment would probably be ordered home next Wednesday or Thursday, and would likely be replaced by the Eighteenth Regiment.

This is the first time the Fourteenth Regiment has been ordered out since the reorganization after the Pittsburg riots of 1877. The hardest work most of them have to do is the standing guard duty of the boys during the day. The boys of the work were on guard during 10 and 12 hours at a stretch. When they get off for a few hours they generally have something to do, but the boys of the camp are a precious little time spent in loafing about the town. They manage to run into the guard house every person who has no business on the camp at night, and on the morning there is not the slightest chance for the burglar or marauder to practice at his business.

General Hastings generally takes a trip through the camp at night, to see that everything is all right and the guards are on duty. After "taps," the heavy snoring from the darkened tents is the best evidence in the world that the boys are tired of their day's work. It is generally conceded among the men that their stay at Johnstown will do away with the annual summer encampment this year. Very few of them are sorry on this account, as they have had enough soldiering the past 11 days to last them for several years to come. They have been since Tuesday week at a camp nearly for home. MCGOWAN.

EIGHT MORE UNIDENTIFIED.

A Description of Bodies and Their Belongings Recovered Yesterday.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT. JOHNSTOWN, June 15.—Sergeant General Dr. E. Stillman, who is in charge of the Bureau of Information, received reports to-day of eight bodies being found. Some of them were discovered last night, but owing to the lateness of the hour, no report of them was made. Five of the bodies were those of females, and three of them males. Every one was so badly disfigured by contact with the water, that it was impossible to identify them. The heavy charges of dynamite tore the limbs of several of them from the bodies and left them in a horrible, mangled and mutilated condition. One of the bodies for a body was the left foot of a female child. Efforts were made by the searchers to find the remainder of the body, but it could not be seen. It is thought that the child's mother had torn it to pieces. A number of workmen on the raft picked up little pieces of flesh and bone supposed to be from the body of the child.

Major Phillips, the engineer who has charge of this work, was for many years Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the Lewistown division. He has been a soldier of some prominence, having been an attaché on General Hartman's staff. A good many Pittsburgers are well acquainted with him, because he was in that city after Don Scott's clearing away of the debris on the Pennsylvania Railroad after the riot in 1857. HEINRICH.

DELIVING FOR TREASURES.

Strange Scenes in the Wrecks of Jewelry Stores, With Gems in the Mud.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT. JOHNSTOWN, June 15.—The remains of jewelry stores here are the objective points of people who are anxious to speculate on the destruction wrought by the deluge. Crowds of men, boys, and searching amidst the ruins for hidden treasures, congregate about these wrecked stores and wallow in slush several feet deep, pawing in the dirt and slime for gold and diamonds. The sparkling gems strew the huge mud piles, and many are rooted out by the eager searchers.

Police have instructions to arrest anybody found taking away articles that they find in the debris, and curiosity-seekers should take notice. Three banks were doing business in this city before the deluge; but only two will resume operations as soon as matters assume more tangible shape. The Savings and First National did not lose a dollar in the flood, and will open their doors shortly. John Dibert & Co., bankers, will stop business and call in all their investments. The firm of which J. D. Roberts is the only surviving member suffered heavy losses; but it is reported that the creditors will be paid dollar for dollar. BAHMER.

COFFINS, COFFINS EVERYWHERE.

Burial Cases Arriving at Johnstown in Carload Lots All the Time.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT. JOHNSTOWN, June 15.—One would imagine, after all the coffins that have been sent here from Pittsburg and the East, the undertakers who are in charge of the funerals would have enough, but such is not the case. At the Pennsylvania Railroad station to-day the first objects that greeted the eyes of the passengers on through trains were long rows of coffins piled up promiscuously upon the station platforms. Coffins, coffins everywhere. Big coffins, little coffins, black coffins, white coffins and red coffins. They were piled up so high about the depot and so close to the car windows that one could imagine that if he were very close to them they would fall over upon and kill him.

AGAIN OVER ITS BANKS.

The Fatal Conemaugh Floods 500 Italians Out of Their Tents Quickly.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT. JOHNSTOWN, June 15.—The heavy rains to-day swelled the Conemaugh river to such an extent that it overflowed its banks to-night about one quarter of a mile above the Cambria Iron Company's store. The water rushed into the town through a number of gullies near the Catholic Church, and flooded the tents of the workers who were encamped nearby.

CHAMPAGNE FOR THE MAJOR.

Enthusiasm Over the Clearing of the Channel Assumes a Practical Form.

JOHNSTOWN, June 15.—When the great mass of debris moved down the river to-day the scene was a remarkable one. The crowds that lined the shores and the famous stone bridge raised a shout that was heard the length and breadth of the valley. Major Phillips was the recipient of a basket of champagne and a suit of clothes, beside many congratulations.

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"I never before saw an election in Philadelphia in which the vote was so light," said a member of the Prohibitionists in the Quaker City. "I think that I could not estimate the total vote within 5,000 of the actual figures. This time, however, I cannot come within 25,000. I think the Prohibitionists will poll their whole strength in the city and in the State."

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On the Rack. Dan Brown, the Station avenue officer, who preferred charges against Alexander Sullivan's partner, mounted the steps and entered the grand jury room. Mr. Windes was detained by the jury for nearly an hour, and was finally released. He is reported to be as true to the nature of his testimony. It finally transpired that Mr. Windes had been questioned minutely as to his information regarding the murder of Dr. Cronin on the Board of Trade, and whether the money used by the Irish leaders was the funds of the Clan-na-Gael organization. The witness knew nothing of the Sullivan's private speculations, and it is stated, was unable to give the jury any valuable information.

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