

RARE HEROISM.

Miner Crushes Himself to Save His Comrades' Lives.

A rare act of heroism, such as deserves to be recorded in history and song, was performed at Roseland, B.C., recently, which saved the lives of two miners and proved plain Jim Hemsworth to be one of nature's noblemen. The Victoria cross has been bestowed on many less entitled to it than Hemsworth.

It was at the shaft of the Young America mine at Roseland that Jim Smith and Frank Conson came so near meeting with a frightful death, which must have been certain and swift, but for the prompt and heroic action of their comrade above, who in saving their lives did so at the risk of his own.

Smith and Conson were working at the bottom of a narrow shaft, at a depth of nearly 150 feet, engaged in loading ore into an iron-bound bucket, while Jim Hemsworth's duty consisted in hauling the bucket to the surface by means of a windlass.

The heavy bucket, filled with ore, had almost reached the top of the shaft, when the iron crank of the windlass suddenly snapped in twain a bit of pine, hurling Hemsworth to the ground. Springing to his feet, half dazed by the blow, Hemsworth saw the windlass hurling around at a frightful rate of speed as the loaded bucket shot down the shaft upon the men below.

He had not a second to lose. There was just one chance to save them, and he took that chance. Jumping forward, he threw his body upon the cogs of the whirling windlass, thrusting his arms and shoulders between the swift revolving wheels.

Their iron jaws crunched and tore the flesh, crushed nerve, bone and sinews, tore ghastly wounds from finger tip to shoulder, but the windlass stood still.

With an awful jerk the loaded bucket stopped just above the heads of the two terrified miners, far down in the shaft. Pale as death, and with blood flowing from him in streams, and suffering intense agony, he never uttered a cry nor even a sound as the jaws of the wheel pinioned him fast in a vice.

Superintendent Shields witnessed the accident from a short distance away, but so horrified was he at the sight that for a moment he stood as if paralyzed. Quickly recovering his faculties he rushed to Hemsworth's aid and in a twinkling had blocked the machinery and caused Hemsworth to be released from his perilous position.

As Hemsworth staggered back and was about to fall, Shields caught him in his arms, at the same time exclaiming: "My God, Jim, this is awful!"

"Oh, what's the difference," answered the plucky fellow, "so long as I saved the boys?"

It was not long, however, before the intense pain he suffered, together with the loss of blood, began to have their effect on Hemsworth's powerful constitution, and he became too weak to stand. A litter was hastily formed by men who had by this time arrived. Tenderly the wounded man was placed upon it, and with the utmost care carried to Roseland, a mile away, and placed on a cot in the hospital—San Francisco Examiner.

Oil on Steel Mill.

There is being tested by the navy department a simple and inexpensive device of great value to shipping. The invention consists of a mechanism which envelopes the submerged portion of a ship with a film of oil, thus reducing friction and overcoming to a large degree the resistance of the water. It is said for the invention that, applied to any vessel, either steam or sailing, it will increase the speed by at least 25 per cent without augmenting the amount of machinery or the expenditure of fuel.

Another and most valuable feature claimed is that it will prevent the growth of barnacles. The inventor also declares that the fatty composition will completely prevent corrosion of hulls. The oil used is crude petroleum.

Change of Venus.

He was as black as black the traditional ace of spades, and two dusky damsels, each of whom claimed the right to call him husband, sat bolt upright in the courtroom and glared at the defendant.

"Your honor," said the prisoner, "I want to apply for change of Venus in this case."

"On what ground?" inquired the court.

"I want a change of Venus," repeated the defendant, "because one of these women is prejudiced against me."—Troy Times.

Produce the Same Sensation.

Extreme cold produces on the skin the same sensation as those due to extreme heat, so that if a person touches a piece of cold iron, which has been subjected to intense frost, the result is the same as if the piece of iron had been drawn from the fire nearly red-hot.

Specified.

"He has quite a line of ancestors, but they were all tailors."

"I see. A clothes line"—Detroit Free Press.

THE ENGLISH DRAMA.

Its Origin and Early History—The Miracle Plays.

James A. Herne, the old-time actor, who combined with his presentation of Shore Acres a tendency to stage reminiscence in the lecture field, recently delivered a lecture in Kansas City on "The Theater as It Is."

He remarked: "The theater is a factor of society just as much as the church, and it is an educator, and its influence is for good and not for evil." To which a writer in the Cleveland Leader, taking mild exception, says that it should not be overlooked that the English drama began in the church in the form of miracle plays, a pantomimic method of imparting religious instruction, as well as social entertainment. It was introduced by the clergy; the priests were the first actors, and the churches the first theaters. The subjects were taken from Scripture history and the lives of the saints, and the representations known as mystery and miracle plays were little else but acting (pantomime), for long before Tennyson's day it was recognized that "things seen are mightier than things heard," and these sublime object lessons were presented to the public 200 years before they became literary. The spectacle was aided by the use of English words in the fourteenth century, and though town guilds undertook the performance, the church was still the producer of these religious plays.

In the early part of the fourteenth century the pope gave a monk leave to write a set of 23 miracle plays in English. They began with "The Downfall of Lucifer" and ended with "Doomed."

It is well known that Milton's first intention with the subject of "Paradise Lost" was to treat it as a miracle play, and he had actually made a commencement.

The morality came in later than the miracle play. This new step in the direction of the English drama was made in the fifteenth century in the reign of the "Holy Henry," and was under the special patronage of that good man, who founded and equipped St. Paul's, England's first grammar school (a preparatory school) within sight of the windows of Windsor, that he might see it grow, and, later, watch the boy at their play.

The morality was allegorical, and taught some lesson of duty or virtue through such actors as Fievelone, Honor, Retribution, etc.

The virtue, of course, triumphed, and the vice (out of which grew the clown of comedy) was in the end defeated and humiliated. Like all religious teaching, the morality failed to attract those who most needed its lessons, and the practice was introduced of enlivening the entertainment by interpolating humorous scenes, designed to attract and hold the audience together. These interludes took the place of the Christmas tree and the Sunday-school picnic to the modern unregenerate small boy, and from them, of course, grew the play as an amusement.

John Skelton, at the court of Henry VII., wrote an elaborate morality entitled "Magnificence." So prominent a churchman as Erasmus styled him "the grace and glory of English scholars." He had the courage to attack the court of Henry VIII. in "Colin Clout," and the private and favorite, Wolsey, in a later poem.

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