

THE LEATHERNECK



Vol. 5, No. 12

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 21, 1922

Five Cents

PERSISTENCE

Every individual can take a lesson in persistence from the fight which Pennsylvania mine owners have been making for sixty-two years to control a mine fire which has been burning for that length of time on one of their properties. News dispatches state that, although the fire is still burning, it is well under control.

This venerable fire has been raging since February, 1859, in an abandoned gangway. The area involved is about one mile long and 1,500 feet wide. While no estimate is made of the millions of tons of coal consumed, it is stated that the mine company has spent more than \$3,000,000 in the fight.

The ordinary fire counts its life by hours, but this one, having its being in the very seat of fuel, has fed on itself for more than a half century. Fire-fighting, under such circumstances, takes on the character of an endurance contest rather than the feverish activity which marks the battle with fire above ground.

A few years after this Summit Hill fire started an open cut was made in the involved area, which seemed to isolate the flames for a time, but finally they leaped the cut and have never been ended since. Within the last dozen years or so a concrete-and-clay barrier, about twelve feet thick, 170 feet deep and 700 feet long, was built, which seems to have checked the progress of the fire.

There is something about this ceaselessly burning fire which grips the imagination. In ancient times various temples had fires which were supposed never to go out. The ever-burning lamp has been a sort of symbol for constancy throughout the ages. There is something inspiring, too, in the ceaseless activity with which plain business men have fought the Summit Hill mine fire. In a contest with an elemental force man has at least held his own.—*Washington Star*.

SCHOOL FOR STENOGRAPHERS

AND CLERKS WILL BE ORGANIZED

Orders will be issued in the immediate future to the students who will take the course in stenography and clerical work to be given under the direction of the Marine Corps Institute. Twenty-five privates or privates first-class will be ordered to the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., in time to begin the work of the course on February 1.

The purpose of this class is to train men to meet the demands of the service for competent clerks. The course will be twenty-four weeks in length during which period the students will be instructed in Spelling, Grammar, Composition, Penmanship, Typewriting, Letter-writing, Shorthand, and Single-entry Bookkeeping.

In selecting the men to take this work only privates and privates first-class who have at least two years to do were considered. Previous schooling was an important factor in making the selection and men who have taken or are taking courses in the Marine Corps Institute along the lines of the work to be done in the school, were given the preference.

MARINES PRAISED FOR CONDUCT AT FIRE

Upon receipt of a letter of appreciation from Wm. E. Bleo, General Manager of the Compagnie D'Eclairge Electrique of Port Au Prince, Haiti, Colonel J. H. Russell issued the following order:

BRIGADE GENERAL ORDER No. 76

1. The Brigade Commander is most gratified to hear expressed on every hand, admiration and appreciation of the work performed, in the face of no little danger, by the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps and the Navy, on the occasion of the accident to the power plant of the Electric Light Company, situated at Bizonton, on December 15, 1921.

2. The explosion occurred at about 5:30 P. M., and practically demolished the plant. The personnel of the Sub-chaser Division situated near the scene of the accident, responded instantly. Officers and men entering the building, with a total disregard of personal danger, drew the fires from under the boilers and took such other steps as were necessary to prevent a further loss of life and damage of property. The promptness with which the officers and men of the Marine Barracks responded and the work performed by them upon their arrival at Bizonton, was indicative of a high stage of efficiency in the face of an emergency.

3. The action of all officers and men concerned on this unhappy occasion, and the example set, was splendid, and upholds the best traditions of the Naval service and Marine Corps and was worthy of the highest commendation.

(Signed) JOHN H. RUSSELL,
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps.

MARINE CLUB ORGANIZED

A Club of Marines and ex-Marines has been organized in Los Angeles, California, with Wilbur T. Love, formerly a second lieutenant of the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion, as president; First Sergeant C. A. Fachman, treasurer; Sgt. Major F. M. Stewart, vice-president; Sgt. L. A. Voss, secretary; and Sgt. B. F. McFarland, sergeant-at-arms.

The club has a present membership of ninety-one but expects to reach the five hundred mark soon. The club will have its own club house where ex-Marines and visiting Marines can be entertained. One of the features of the organization is to be an employment committee to find positions for ex-Marines of Los Angeles and vicinity.

HEADQUARTERS COMPILES PAY DATA

Questionnaires have been sent to all commanding officers for distribution among the commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men, first and second class (Sergeants Major, Quartermaster Sergeants, First Sergeants, and Gun-nery Sergeants).

The object of this questionnaire is to obtain the necessary pay data in the event that a pay schedule is adopted similar to that placed before the joint Congressional Committee by Congressman John C. McKenzie.