

MANY THOUSANDS OF VISITORS ARRIVE

Church Services Yesterday
Start Celebration of Steam-
er Centennial.

EVENTS SCHEDULED

All Is in Readiness for the Gov-
ernment Mine Safety
Demonstration.

STATEMENT OF DR. HOLMES

COMPLETE PROGRAM OF CELEBRATION ON PAGE 2.

With special services in many of the churches, Pittsburgh's celebration of the centennial anniversary of steam navigation in the western rivers under the auspices of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania began yesterday. Fully 50,000 persons arrived in the city to attend the centennial and the mine safety demonstration under the auspices of the United States Bureau of Mines, and many thousands more are expected today.

The Rev. John H. Prugh, in the Grace Reformed Church, Dithridge and Bayard streets, preached a sermon on "History and Its Inspiration to the Men of Today." He dwelt on the work of the Historical Society in arranging an affair of this sort and paid a tribute to the pioneer navigators of the western rivers.

Under the auspices of the Historical Society there will be several meetings today, at which prominent speakers will make addresses, among them being Gov. John K. Tener and Congressman Nicholas Longworth of Cincinnati.

Prominent Men Arrive.

At the Fort Pitt Hotel, which is the headquarters of the United States Bureau of Mines, many hundreds of guests, mine owners, operators, mine experts, officials from foreign countries, mine rescue teams and first-aid-to-the-injured teams arrived all day. By evening the corridor of the hotel was thronged with men who are engaged in every department of the mining industry.

The most notable of the arrivals was Dr. Joseph A. Holmes, director of the Bureau of Mines, who will supervise the demonstration. Among some of the others who arrived were Deputy Commissioner of Labor James S. Whalen of New York; William W. Jones, New York state mine inspector; State Inspector of Mines D. C. Botting of Seattle, Wash.; J. M. P. Puligny, chief engineer of public work of France; R. F. Tolmie, deputy minister of mines, of Victoria, B. C.; J. G. F. Hudson, Canadian mine inspector, of Ottawa; A. Ferris, representing Mexico; William Stracher, mine inspector, of British Columbia; James E. Talmage, director of the Desert Museum of Salt Lake City, Utah.

First-Aid Teams Arrive.

Among the helmet and first-aid-to-the-injured teams to arrive were the Stearns Coal Company team of Stearns, Ky., in charge of J. E. Butler, superintendent of the mine; Colorado Fuel and Iron Company team of Trinidad, Col.; first-aid team from Pratt mine No. 2 of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway Company, Wylm, Ala., in charge of Dr. W. S. Rountree; Northwestern Improvement Company team of Roslyn, Wash.; Stag Cannon Fuel Company of Dawson, N. M. The teams representing Pennsylvania and Ohio mines will arrive some time today.

The demonstration at Arsenal Park and Bruceton today will be of an expert nature and will be for the benefit of mine owners, operators, mine inspectors, foreign representatives and mining engineers. The miners will not be present at these demonstrations as there is not sufficient room.

Secretary of the Interior Walter L.

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Fisher will make an address of welcome to those present at Arsenal Park this morning on behalf of the executive branch of the government. Congressman Martin B. Foster of Illinois, chairman of the House Committee on Mines and Mining, will respond on behalf of the legislative branch of the government.

H. M. Wilson, chairman of the general committee, has all of his arrangements completed for the entertainment of the many distinguished guests.

The trip to Bruceton this afternoon will be made in a special train which leaves the Baltimore & Ohio station promptly at 2 o'clock.

Fully 70,000 tickets have been sent to the various mine owners throughout the country, inviting them and their employees to be present at Forbes Field tomorrow, when President Taft will be the guest of honor. About 40,000 are expected and if there is any room for the general public after these guests are accommodated, they will be admitted to the grounds.

Practical Rescue Work.

The cars of the West Virginia and Pittsburgh Mine Rescue Corps were sent to Bruceton last night, where they will be used today for the practical rescue work, after the test mine explosion at that place.

Among the many hundreds of men who arrived in this city to compete in the mining demonstration, three-fourths of them have had actual experience in mine rescue work. Some of them have assisted in some of the most horrible mine disasters of the present day.

When Dr. Holmes arrived yesterday he was very enthusiastic over the plans for the demonstration, and when asked the purposes and advantages that would be gained from this event, he said:

The great purpose of the national mine safety demonstration is to stimulate and encourage the movement for mine rescue and first-aid work.

Of course, the aim of all this work should be the prevention of mine accidents, but every one who studies the situation realizes that this will have to come by degrees, and that there probably will be some accidents as long as mining continues. In view of this fact, it is important that everything possible be done looking to the rescue and prompt aid for miners that may be injured.

One feature of the approaching demonstration that will greatly stimulate the movement is the bringing together from all parts of the country of the miners who are leading in this rescue and first-aid work.

There will take part in the great demonstration at Pittsburgh 40 or more teams of miners coming from every important coal-producing state, some of them from such far away coal fields as those in the state of Washington, and New Mexico; and those coming will be the prize-winners—those who have already won the highest prizes as being the most skillful miners in this work to be found in the regions from which they come.

To Arouse Public Interest.

One benefit to grow out of this great demonstration will be the awakening of the public to a realization of the magnitude and growth of this movement; and it will stimulate the public to aid this movement in every way possible.

Again, this great demonstration will stimulate the establishment of local rescue and first-aid stations at many of the large collieries in different parts of the country, where either large individual operators or groups of operators will supply the equipment and the young, public-spirited miners will take the training and organize into first-aid and rescue teams.

Again, assemblages and demonstrations of this kind will help to bring about the better co-operation between the miners and the coal operators, the mine inspectors, the Bureau of Mines and the Red Cross organizations. They also will stimulate inquiries and investigations and the development of better rules and regulations looking to the ultimate prevention of mine accidents.