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lands situated on the

being at a post marked

thence north forty

thence east forty chains

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The Victoria Times.

TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION.

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1903.

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NO. 28.

THERE IS A LACK OF UNANIMITY

DIVIDED OPINION ON SILVER-LEAD QUESTION

Mining Association Recommend Bounty Smaller Than Owners Claim Is Necessary.

Ottawa, May 8.—The Mining Association of British Columbia has sent its recommendations in regard to the lead question to the Finance Minister. It is probably the most malapropos suggestion

arguments, and since the budget was delivered—when it was made clear that there would be no change in the tariff—they have discussed the question of bounty. Without specifying what they believe would be necessary in the event of a bounty being given to induce the mines to work, it need only be said that the amounts suggested by the Mining Association are deemed by the gentlemen named as altogether inadequate to secure the desired results. It will be apparent to every person that when a representative body presents its views to the government great weight will attach thereto, and that the efforts of Messrs. Retallack and Pratt, who consider that it would be worse than useless for the government to act along the line suggested by the Mining Association, are made still more difficult. These gentlemen have been most zealous in attending to the duties assigned them by the lead mine owners. They know the whole complicated subject thoroughly, and naturally must view with chagrin and disappointment the recommendations of a well-meaning, but (on this question)

GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING A POLICY

A REASON FOR LINE TO SPENCE'S BRIDGE

J. Martin Appears Before Committee and Explains His Position on Subsidy Matter.

(From Friday's Daily.)

At yesterday afternoon's setting of the committee of inquiry into the Columbia & Western subsidy little new evidence was brought forth. The most startling feature was the appearance of Joseph Martin upon the scene to give evidence as to his innocence in connection with the matter and the simplicity which had characterized his every move in that connection.

Other than that the examination of Hon. Mr. Wells was largely one of the construction to be put upon the sections of the acts relating to the subsidy matter.

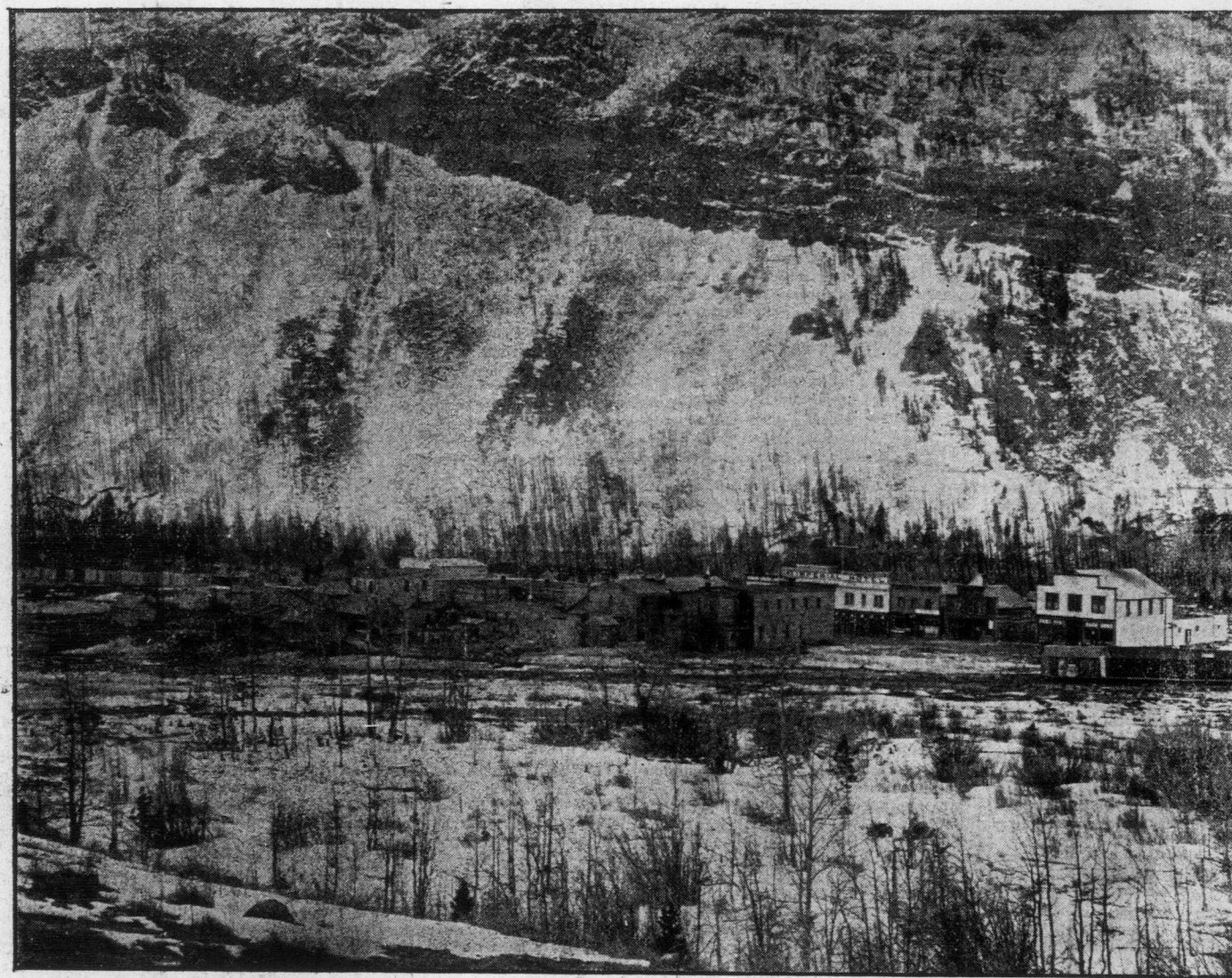
Hon. Mr. Prentice appeared before the committee and read a copy of the letter sent to G. McL. Brown from Hon. J. H. Turner, dated 2nd August, 1901. The letter was in reply to that sent by Mr. Brown to Mr. Wells and taken under consideration on 31st July. The letter stated that Mr. Brown's suggestions for a speedy settlement of the matter had been taken into consideration at the executive meeting, that they would endeavor to meet his views as to a speedy settlement, and that the matter was referred to Mr. Wells for action.

Mr. Duff continued the examination of Mr. Wells. The latter said that Sir Thomas Shaughnessy informed him that he did not know of the order-in-council of the 19th December, 1900, by which these blocks might have been granted in connection with the B. C. Southern. Sir Thomas was surprised and dissatisfied to hear that the order-in-council was granted. "I told him it was," explained Mr. Wells.

"After my return from Montreal," continued Mr. Wells, "Mr. Dunsmuir said Mr. Brown was pressing for crown grants. He wanted to know why they were not granted. 'What is the reason?' Why don't you deliver them?" asked Mr. Dunsmuir. "I said 'Mr. Dunsmuir, I cannot. I do not feel justified.' I said no settlement was arrived at by which I could grant them—that the concessions were not carried out. I said there was another reason—if Mr. Dunsmuir left it for a day or so I would explain. A day or two after I did explain it."

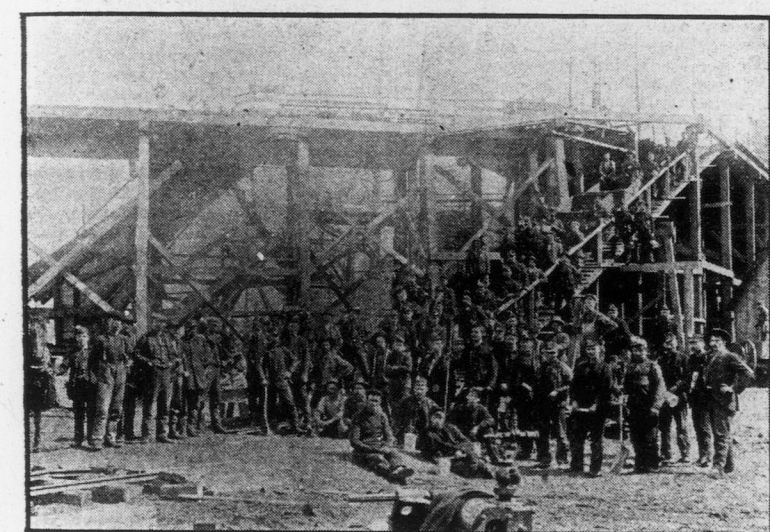
Mr. Wells explained that when he said he was not justified in giving the crown grants, Mr. Dunsmuir said Mr. Eberis will justify it. He understood this came direct from Mr. Eberis to Mr. Dunsmuir. "Then I mentioned the other circumstance. I told him it was surrounded with very dangerous elements, and it was a dangerous thing to deal with. Mr. Dunsmuir, I think, said at once he'd

THE DISASTER AT FRANK.



GENERAL VIEW OF FRANK. The Foreground Is Now Covered With Part of the Slide, but None of the Houses Shown Were Touched.

THE DISASTER AT FRANK.



GROUP OF FRANK MINERS. The Employees Going on Shift at the Main Entry.

that has ever been made on this vexed matter. The Mining Association—told Mr. Fielding that a bonus of \$4 a ton on lead in the ore, or \$8 on lead bullion mined and smelted in Canada, or \$10 per ton on lead mined, smelted and refined in Canada is all that is required to place the industry on a satisfactory footing. This recommendation, coming as it does from an association that is supposed to represent the great mining interests of British Columbia, should have some weight in determining the action that is expected the government will yet take in the way of aid by bonus to this struggling industry.

The Mining Association has spoken, it is quite clear, without any knowledge of the facts. Messrs. Retallack and Pratt, who directly represent the lead-silver mines, have been here for several months, and have kept in close touch with the government and with the representatives from British Columbia. They have repeatedly presented their

badly-informed body of gentlemen at a critical moment in the negotiations. The position now is that the silver-lead mine owners through Messrs. Retallack and Pratt are asking for what they consider an adequate bounty, and the Mining Association recommend as adequate a bounty much less in amount than the lead mine owners have already said is absolutely necessary. British Columbia opinion being thus divided, what view is the Finance Minister likely to come to? Lack of unanimity, in matters of this kind, like the vagaries of some of its local politicians, is not conducive to the most favorable consideration of British Columbia questions.

—In aid of Banner Lodge, No. 6, A. O. U. W., a dance and entertainment will be given in the A. O. U. W. hall by the Victoria West Amateur Dramatic Society on Friday, May 15th, when the play "Borderland" will be presented.

THE DISASTER AT FRANK.



A SCENE OF DESOLATION.

Ruins of Six Cottages Overwhelmed by the Slide. Between the Cottage at the End of the Row and the Debris, the Entire Family of A. Leitch Was Taken Out.

have nothing of that sort. He expressed himself as being not to be made. I concurred in this view."

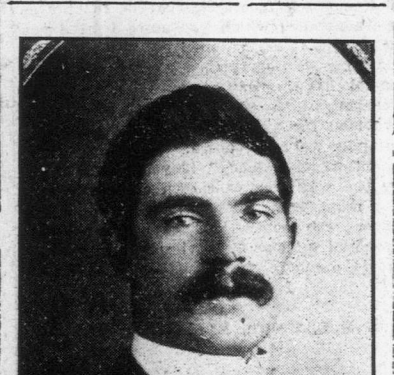
"How long before 18th March was this?" asked Mr. Duff. "A very short time, only a day or so," replied Mr. Wells.

"Did you have a discussion with any member of the government other than Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Prentice?" asked Mr. Duff. Mr. Wells said: "Before cancellation I had a conversation with Mr. Eberis, in Eberis's own room. I took strong ground against the grants. I urged that there was not sufficient compensation given. Not so much of giving away too much property; it was as I always held, that they had departed from the spirit of the act."

This was certainly one of the grounds upon which the council acted. All members were present and knew the grounds for cancelling of order as he gave them. Mr. Brown came to him during the session, prior to the 18th March. He did not tell Mr. Brown what took place in Montreal. He told him the crown grants

could not be delivered. He understood that Mr. Dunsmuir had been pressed to deliver the grants by Mr. Brown and Mr. Eberis. Mr. Eberis had undertaken to defend the course of the government in granting the land.

In an interview with Mr. Eberis before he left for up country, Mr. Eberis said



CYRUS MORRIS,

Inside Superintendent of Coal Mine at Frank.

that the transfer from B. C. Southern to Columbia & Western should make no difference, as they were practically dealing with the same company. He (witness) still maintained his former position.

When Mr. Brown made the proposal of granting the lands to the Columbia & Western, he was not sure that Mr. Brown knew they were allotted to the B. C. Southern. He could not remember Mr. Brown showing any knowledge of that fact. But Mr. Brown was present at the meeting when the question was taken up and discussed. "Mr. McEbride was there. I think all members were present. Mr. Brown must have been aware of it." He was opposed up to the time of his going up country to making this transfer.

At the meeting on the 10th August he (witness) signed the recommendation which was acted upon. If the recommendation of a minister was acted upon on the 31st of July or 2nd August, it was not his, as he was not in Victoria. If any action was taken on a minister's recommendation it could not have been his. Mr. Wells never saw the letter of 31st July, and could not have acted upon it. The memoranda describing the lands he was assured were prepared outside of his office.

Referring to Mr. Dunsmuir's assurance by letter, dated 15th May, 1901, to Mr. Brown that a bill would be introduced to deal with the matter, Mr. Wells said he remembered a bill prepared to be introduced on the last night of the session of 1901, reinstating the Columbia & Western.

"Why was it not introduced? Was it a mere matter of delay?" asked Mr. Duff,

"Well I'm not prepared to say—that's all I can say on that," replied Mr. Wells. He added that the members were all unanimous on the matter.

In 1902 bill 87 was introduced by him. It was prepared in the Attorney-General's office. He had nothing to do with its preparation. It was probably prepared by Mr. McLean, Deputy Attorney-General. The bill, he would say, was to carry out the promise made to Mr. Brown by letter from Mr. Dunsmuir on 15th May, 1901.

He understood the bill as a reinstatement of the company. It was to provide that the company was to receive its subsidy for section 4.

Considerable discussion followed as to the relative clauses of the Subsidy Act and the bill introduced, and as to how far the company might go in selecting the lands. Mr. Wells for the most part, however, defended the bill, its purpose being to reinstate the company simply.

Mr. Duff contended that the bill introduced gave the right for the company to make the selection, and that they should be taken anywhere in Yale and Kootenay.

Mr. Wells admitted that the bill was a little deficient, inasmuch as the powers being somewhat larger than under the Subsidy Act.

Mr. Wells did not realize that a change had been made in the character of the bill from other railroad acts, in the way of altering from permissive power of the government to obligatory power. "If shall be lawful to select" being altered

called it to the attention of Sir Thomas. He (Wells) said that he did not see where the company was to get a great benefit from these lands, as another company was to get them. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy told him then that they were to furnish the lands and get shares.

The memorandum he furnished Sir Thomas as to what should be done was at the request of Sir Thomas. It referred to section 4.

He had in his mind in addition to the delivery of the crown grants that it would be a very important addition to the railway policy of the government if the line was built to Spence's Bridge. The government was seeking such. He was exceedingly anxious to get this matter through.

"Why if these crown grants were so important were they not mentioned in the memorandum?" asked Mr. Duff. Mr. Wells explained that Sir Thomas and he had talked the matter over, and the conditions were known to Sir Thomas.

The telegrams between Hon. Mr. Wells and Sir Thomas Shaughnessy referred to the evening before were introduced. These were read by the committee and by the counsel, but were not made public.

Mr. Gore was recalled, and in answer to Mr. Duff said he had a copy of memorandum relating to the blocks which was recommended to the executive. It was prepared from a draft

THE DISASTER AT FRANK.



BLAIRMORE, NEAR FRANK.

The Point to Which the Frank Inhabitants Were Removed for Safety.

to "the company shall select" was not intentional as far as he knew.

Referring to the visit to Montreal, Mr. Wells said he was not positive that the proposal was made to him on his first interview with Mr. Taylor.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy last fall referred to the furnishing of the lands. He used the words "furnish the lands and takes shares" he thought. Mr. Wells

which he did not prepare, and which he thought came from the private secretary of the Chief Commissioner. He did not know who prepared it. The first two sheets were carbon copies of work in his own office. The remaining sheets were not carbon copies. His type writer dated it the 28th August, 1901, which showed that this document was struck off on