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THE TWO FUNCTIONS OF RESCUE APPARATUS.

Although rescue, or breathing, apparatus was primarily designed for the salvage of life after explosions in collieries, yet in practice the devices have been more utilized in fighting fires.

Experience has thus taught us the underlying principle, namely, that the provision of rescue apparatus for fighting fires in mines is a matter to be left in the hands of mine owners, but that the salvage of life after explosions, or in circumstances involving great danger to the rescuers, is one that concerns the Government more than the individual owner.

This principle has been recognized by the Home Secretary of Great Britain. In effect it has been acted upon by several Canadian collieries. But our Governments, both Provincial and Federal, have been exceedingly tardy in taking any steps whatever.

As matters now stand, those of our collieries that possess rescue stations may be called upon at any time to furnish assistance to other mines. This is absolutely unfair. In rescue work there is always a large element of risk. That risk is unreasonably large when the rescuers attempt salvage work in mines with which they are unacquainted. Indeed, it is debatable if such requests should be granted.

In these circumstances it is manifestly the duty of the Federal Government, and equally the duty of the Provincial Governments, to see to it that all coal mining centres are provided with the means of instructing coal miners in the use of rescue apparatus. Whilst mine owners must do their part, the Government cannot afford to ignore the moral obligation resting upon its own shoulders.

The subdivision of responsibility as indicated above forms the only practicable basis upon which joint work can be begun.

THE PASSING OF LE ROI.

There is something unspeakably tragical in the failure of a full-grown mining enterprise. Some years before the Rossland boom began, two French-Canadians, Morris and Bourgeois, staked the Le Roi claims. In 1892, Col. I. N. Paton, of Spokane, Washington, took over the mine. In 1893 extensive development was commenced. One year later the meteoric Augustus Heinze came on the scene. He it was who built nine miles of railway from the mine to Trail; also he erected a smelter wherewithal to treat the ore. Just after the height of the boom, ex-Governor C. H. McIntosh, known to all adult Canadians, came on the scene as a representative of one of Whittaker Wright's syndicates. After purchasing Le Roi for a sum exceeding \$4,000,-