THE FERNIE DISASTER

(Continued from page one.)

son of the explosion will be heavy, the full extent of which it will be impossible to estimate until the mines have sight of the freshly turned earth seminated to estimate until the mines have sight of the freshly turned earth seminated to the semina been thoroughly cleared of gas so that ed to open the fluodgates of their sorthey can be inspected. At the present time it is not unlikely that the present workings of the No. 2 mine will altogether be abandoned.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE SLAVS.

thing and that is, that the Slavs are a much lower order of human than the English miners. Throughout they have betrayed an almost callous indifference to the fate of those who were imprisoned in the mines, and even at a time when there was a prospect of escue and when man to man the relief parties were required the most the Slavs were conspicuous by their absence: indeed, throughout the Englishspeaking miners were obliged to bear the brunt of the rescue work.

RIGHTY ODD STILL IN MINE.

Of the 80 odd men who are now supposed to be in the mines it is as yet impossible to ascertain the identity, especially in the case of the miners who were working on the contract sys-From the position of the body of W. H. Brearly, night overman, it is evident that they had just completed the taking of the names of the time men on the ill-fated shift. His time book, which was found on the body, furnishes a clue to the identity of at least half of the men who are yet imprisoned. Of the names appearing on overman's book, the owners which have not since reported to the company or been taken out of the mine dead, the following is a list, and a reading of it will show that it accounts for at least one-half of the men supposed to be in the mine:

ROBERT LAMB. GEORGE BEACH. ANDREW PATTERSON. W. J. DAVIS. HENRY HAWKINS. JOE HOUBOS. STEVE SOFSAC. JOHN MATULICK. MIKE BAKOS. S. BALAYTI. JOHN KREVATS. EDWARD FALEY. CLARE ELLYN. FRANK BANASKI. ALEX. FEATHERSTONE. MAT. MAUGHENEY. JESSE WHEELER. JOHN SZEDROVICK. H. HARTLEY. GEORGE RUTLEDGE. WILLIAM McDONALD. JAMES DICKSON. THOMAS CRAIG. A. J. DAVIS. L. A. BROWN. S. J. MARSHALL. ALBIN CARLSON. ALEX BOEDI. STEVE L. PAISKO. ANGUS GUNN. MIKE KURATOR. ANTONI PETRO. N. ROSARIO. WILLIAM LOVE. WILLIAM MARCHAND. ANDY ANGELO. FRED FREDERICTO.

(Special to the Miner.)

FERNIE, B. C., May 25.-Today marked the recovery of fully 50 of the victims of the colliery disaster, and the town had all the seeming as if the angel of death had passed over it. In the miners' section there were few of the cottages which did not display the badge of mourning. On some of the doors it was a large piece of the black crepe to signify that the head of the family had gone, and on others, by far too many, the crepe was set upon a ribbon of white to indicate that the was decided to cut the carcasses up had passed outside the city limits. Chie attracted to the mines by reason of the done, and alternately a section of dead trip. He was not given time by the fact that they offered him the speed-horse would be packed out on a stretiest means of earning a man's wages. cher to be followed by the body of The bade of death in Fernie is not human, and another section of horse posted until the body of the victim has in turn. It is the stench from the carbeen recovered. This has been gen- casses that is likely to cause the greatare close upon a hundred houses wait- now ahead of the workers in the No ing for their dead, and with every cer- 2, as they have been exposed to conyet the crepe does not go up until the stage of decomposition. The same it remains only so long as it is necesbadge of crepe tomorrow. DAY GIVEN UP TO FUNERALS.

Today, was given over wholly to funerals. These were all conducted by the relatives of the deceased. There were close upon 15 of them, and in most instances were attended by none but the immediate friends of the family afflicted, and at the cemetery it frequently happened that four or five little circles would be around open graves at the same time. It is by the arrangements for the burial of the victims that the awful nature of the calamity is appreciated. The victims are to part of the old burying grounds, but is situate upon the top of a bench overlooking the town. Here a gang of men is engaged steadily in digging the graves and in covering up the podies as they are lowered into them. It is said that the coal company has contracted for 150 of them, and this number, it is said, will probably represent the killed when the mine has been fully explored. The graves ere lined up 25 in a row, and Catholics and Protestants will lie side by side, with nothing but a pathway to separate them in their last sleep.

THE FLOODGATES OF SORROW. observed in the apportionment of the numbered among the dead. graves is in itself suggestive. Blood are four brothers, in others there are accomplished by a rush of fire and a father and son, while earthly friendships have been observed by reserving

buried and the grave alongside stands Scores of widows and children thronged the cemetery all day. In many cases the bereaved had not been permitted to see the remains and the

There were innumerable cases little children too young to understand endeavoring to comfort, but its own sorrow to realize the affliction The explosion has demonstrated one and need of solace of the other.

MAKING MINE MORE SAFE.

Since midnight on Saturday the efforts of the men engaged on the work has been along the line of making the mine more safe for them in their mission of reclaiming the bodies, as it has since been shown that nothing in the shape of timber has been left in the vicinity of the exn. That no accidents have happened so far is due solely to the excellent roof of the mine. Considerable difficulty was encountered during the earlier hours of the morning, as the gas was very oppressive, but upor whole very good progress was made. The total advance made by the rescue party up to 6 o'clock this evening was 300 feet, but this brings them fully 3000 feet into the mine, and they are now practically up to the face of the workings in the No. 2, the one in which the explosion is believed to have occurred. Of the remaining distance to be traveresed before the mine work ings can be said to be thoroughly ex plored it is estimated that 1500 feet will cover it. The rescue party is now close to one of the rooms in which a number of the men were working, and it is fully expected that at least 30 bodies will be taken out during the course of the evening or early tomor row morning.

60 TO 100 REMAIN IN MINE.

be cut down. Some 51 bodies were out prisoned comrades. In the first reports ber of men at work available. Of the that they had heard the explosion ar tract system, the check upon them is the lifting of their tallies before they with the fire bosses were there because enter the mine to go on shift. This list of tallies has not yet been made up by the clerk who has charge of it, gether to while the idle moments. and even if it were made up it would not be a safe list of the dead, since it not infrequently happens that one man takes another's shift for him. Of the men who were working by the day the check upon them is the time book of the overman. When the body of W. H. Brearly was recovered it was thought that he had completed the list of the dead men at work, but it is now evident that he had not made a complete round of the mine at the time the explosion occurred and his record is therefore incomplete. The officers of the coal company concede that the loss of life may reach to 110, and it may be found to be nearer to this figure than the 150 which is set by some

OTHER NAMES GIVEN.

evening were: HENRY HAWKINS E. A. BROWN. ALBION CARBON.

GEORGE RUTLEDGE.

STENCH IS AWFUL. There were a number of horses in fate happening to him the police of No. 2 mine at the time of the explosion, and the stench arising from their carcasses this morning was overpower- a crowd swollen to fully 600, and th ing. An effort was made to get rid of accused was forthwith hustled through them by eating them up with lime, the principal streets of the town am but this proved too slow and finally it the jeers of all. At 11 o'clock the crow victim was but a lad, who had been and remove them in pieces. This was Barnes is accompanying Stevens on hi erally observed, and although there est trouble in the recovery of the bodies tainty that their relatives are dead, siderable heat and are in an advanced corpse is brought out of the mine, and also largely the case with the miners' hodies that are now being met with. sary to perfect the funeral arrange- One of those recovered early this ments and have a start made for the morning was so badly mangled that it cemetery. Thus it happens that the was only by the shreds of clothing house that is missed today wears its clinging to it that identification was possible. In another instance of one of the boys recovered the force of the explosion had been so great that there was not a shred of clothing remaining on the body save the leather belt which the victim had worn.

BODIES BADLY MUTILATED. the time of the explosion is also shown

by the severe burning of several of the bodies that have been recovered within the last few hours. The faces made in the underground workings, and hands of the victims are also shot have demonstrated beyond a doubt full of fine rock and coal dust, and prepreciated. The victims are to sent a most revolting appearance, even a cemetery of their own. It forms after they have been cleaned upin the wash house. It is doubtless the realiza- ably at a point about 3000 feet from found to be badly mangled and burned that has caused those in charge of the recovered and the tunnel stopped at a have the remains coffined as soon as stead of bringing them to Fernie on stretchers. A carload of coffins was lower No. 2. taken up to the mine this evening.

CAUSE OF EXPLOSION NOT

KNOWN. There are the usual number of nar row escapes, but none of those who did escape know anything of the where abouts or the origin of the explosio The arrangements that have been or its cause, and those who did are all

There was little of the spectacular and social ties have been observed in the explosion save the blowing off as far as possible. In one group there of the roof of the fan house. This was volley of coal dust and fine particle of coal and rock. The roof in the fan and ticketing adjoining pits for men house went because it was the weakest who had been comrades until the fate- point in the structure, and it was forful Thursday night which carried all tunate it was so, for it gave the ex- Stockton, England.

off into eternity. In some cases one of plosion a vent without working any the bodies has been recovered and injury to the fan itself, which did not stop working for an instant. The value F OF IMPORTANCE ticketed and waiting for the other. of this was important, in that it secured the clearing of the mine of gases much sooner than could otherwise have been attained. The blowing off of the roof of the fan house was witnessed by a number of persons in the company boarding house at the mine. They say the force of the explosion was so great that the roof went up until it did not appear to be any larger than a man's hand, and was followed immediately after by a column of fire and coal dust each family appeared to be too full of and small pieces of coal, which lasted several minutes.

> ATTRIBUTED TO MACHINES The miners generally attribute the explosion to the use of machines in the mine, which occasions heavy

blasts of powder. These machines while used in other properties with comparative safety. are held by the miners to be dangerous

in a mine such as the No. 2. MINERS WILL SMOKE.

There is another probable cause, and one which is held by many in view of past experiences. This is that the ex-plosion was caused in the first instance some of the foreign miners smok ing in the mine and lighting matches It is said that there have been a number of convictions in the local stipendlary magistrate's courts for this ofand that in nearly all, if not all of the cases proven, the offender were the foreigners. If this was the cause it will never be possible to prove it, but if the explosion was caused by the machines it is said that it will be indicated by the shape the machines are in when they are reached.

ABOUT THE FOREIGN MINERS. One matter which has been widely mmented upon was the action of the foreign miners after the explosion. While the people of the town wer climbing the mountain, having missed the train, to be of some assistance to the imprisoned, they were all foreigners who were making their way down, As to the great loss of life there ap- the English-speaking miners almost to pears no prospect whatever that it will a man remaining to assist their imby 6 o'clock this evening. Of those of the disaster it was given out that still remaining in the mine the estimate from the position in which the bodies varies from 60 to 100. There is at of the two fire bosses were found in present no exact check upon the num- close proximity to a number of others men working as miners, that is, the were leading the men out of the mine men who were working upon the con- This idea, heroic as it is, is now said to be incorrect, and that the men found they were short of cars, and that follow ing their usual custom had met to

A THOUGHTLESS REMARK.

There was an exciting time in town this evening and for a time it was feared that there would be a breach of the peace. It appears that when the news of the frightful calamity at the mine was first brought to the town, s provincial policeman named Stevens on hearing that there were 150 men killed at the mine made the thoughtless remark that it was a pity there were not another 150 killed. The remark did not come to the ears of the miners un til this evening, when they heard th evidence of the men who had heard Ste vens make the remark. They ther marched in a body fully 300 strong to the recreation grounds in the center of the town and calling upon Chief Constable Barnes laid the case before OTHER NAMES GIVEN.

him in the presence of the accuse
The names of those whose bodies Stevens and demanded that he forth were recovered before 6 o'clock this with be ordered out of town. The chief endeavored to reason with the angry cused a fair trial, but the men were all in a high state of excitement over their sufferings and would not listen to what the chief had to say. They insisted upon the accused leaving town forth with, and in order to prevent a wors verdict was received with cheers from

FERNIE, B. C., May 26 .- The rescu work proceeded slowly but satisfac torily at the mines today, some seven bodies being recovered since last report, making a total of 59 up to date. The ever-present gas is greatly delaying operations, and it will be quite fortnight ere all are removed.

The bodies now being reached are badly crushed and broken, and hereafter immediate burial will be imperative. The funeral trains are discharging their ghastly burdens directly at the little cemetery.

FERNIE, B. C., May 27.—Careful and conservative checking of information from all sources now leads to the placing of the number of killed by the ren, in Nova Scotia; James Wilson, Jr. explosion at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company's mines at 151, and up The presence of fire in the mine at till midnight last night but 50 bodies Owen, son of fore-going; George Beav

had been recovered. Explorations, which have so far been made in the underground workings, that the explosion took place at some point in the workings of No. 2, probtion of the fact that the bodies will be the entrance. By 7 o'clock last evening relief to change their procedure and point about 3000 feet in and also at the exit. The reason for this stoppage of they are brought out of the mine in- the tunnel is because it is desired to clear the gas from the workings of

> BODIES RECOVERED. Following is a list of the names of the men whose bodies have so far been

Steven Morgan. William Robertson. Boy, widowed mother. John Leadbeater, family, Lethbridge Frank Salters. John R. McLeod, Nanaimo Thomas Fearful, Sr., wife and family

Fernie, from Montana.

The mas Fearful, Jr. Thomas Johnson. W. H. Brearly, Overman, single, from

TO ROSSLAND

A report was current yesterday that the War Eagle and Centre Star mines had closed a deal for the purchase of the Silica reduction works and the concessions owned by the British Columbia Bullion Extraction Company, Limited, located at Silica, a mile and a half south of this city, but no definite information is obtainable.

It is generally known that the War Eagle and Centre Star mines have had under consideration for a long period the adoption of a process of reduction more economical in its operation than the ordinary smelting process and the incidental division of profits with the custom smelter, so that the rumor carries weight in the minds of many.

The Silica plant was built to treat Rossland ores by a cyaniding process, and the experiments conducted there from time to time were claimed to have given excellent results. Operations on a large scale have never been carried on at Silica, so that the plant is practically as good as the day it was installed. The last work done at the Silica. plant was the treatment of a 100-ton test shipment of ore from the Tamarack mine, and it was demonstrated that the process secured as large a percentage of values from that ore as could be secured by any other system of treatment.

***************** Joseph Tuka, Italian, wife in Italy. John C. Korman, Ronald Jones. Walter Wright.

Andrew Hoven. Thomas Glover, wife and six children n Fernie. James Cartledge. Owen Holmes.

William Ferguson. M. J. Fleming, from Red Lodge,

Sam Hand, from Staffordshire, Eng-Thomas Stevens, wife and family. John Karneey, from Nelson.

John Hughes. James McIntyre. Harry Wilson, boy.

Tony Mutzo. William Neace William McPhail, father and mother n Fernie. John Zelonica. John Welch. Amos Buck. Antonio Frederico. Edgar Reid.

J. Flora. Phillip Schroeda Andy Postrosh. John Krevats, bo Rennie McMillan, boy. John Hawley.

William Love, Montana.

Joe Velgi.

E. A. Brown, father of an engineer on the C. P. R. out of Kamloops. Albin Carlser George Rutledge. Harry Hawkins. Harry Hawkins, Cambridgeshire.

Matteo Frederico, unknown Italian OTHER VICTIMS.

In addition to the above list the man agement of the mine have the following tor was in the neighborhood of Vernames of the men known to have been in the mine at the time of the explosion Robert Lamb, fire boss, married man, vith one child, Nanaimo; George Beach, single. Staffordshire: Andrew Paterson, single; W. J. Davis, married; Joseph Hobus, Steve Sofsas, John Matulick, Joe Mataga, Mike Baks, boy: Steve Valeyti, boy, widowed mother Ed Farley, Clare Ellyn, married; Frank Alexander Featherstone single; Matt Maughney, single; Jes Wheeler, single: John Scederovich, H. Hartley, William McDonald, boy, father and mother in Nelson: James Dickson, Thomas Craig, A. J. Davis, married; S. J. Fish, single; Alex Bodi, Steve Rasko, Angus Gunn, Mike Kurator, N Rosario, A. M. Marchant, Andrew Angelo, F. Fredereco, Frank Lewis, single; Malcolm McLeod, wife and eight childson of former manager, father and mother now here; John Stewart, from Nova Scotia; John Owen, William er, wife and family in Fernie; Alexan der Walker, Joe Shelling, Aaron Colclough, Thorpe brothers, two.

FOR FERNIE

SUFFERERS

The Fernie relief fund was swelled yesterday by a contribution of \$50 from the corporation. Printed subscription lists I have been distributed over the city, and returns from these will \$ doubtless commence to come in at an early date.

The Dominion Express company has undertaken to transmit all remittances free of charge.

The sums embraced in the principal contributions to date aggregate \$675.

·DR:

BAKING

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Highest award, Chicago World's Fair. Highest tests by U. S. Gov't Chemists.

PRICE BAKING POWDER CO.,

HOW BOILER INSPECTION ACT WORKS

The Velvet Mine Closed Down For More Than a Week--Manager Telegraphing For Elusive Inspectors.

The latest example of the way in then wired to the chief boiler inspector,

ng the shell of the boiler, to get in touc of the Act, which was far from bene- ager's wire to Revelstoke as directed the telegraph company that the inspec- legislation.

which existing legislation hampers and Victoria, stating circumstances and which existing legislation hampers and asking if he could not authorize local injures mining operations, is attribused to the Boiler Inspection Act which mine was shut down and company sufwas passed last year, notwithstanding fering daily heavy loss. The special mesthe earnest protest of several mine- senger who took that wire in brought the earnest protest of several mine-owners. A trifling accident to a boiler trict inspector, instructing that repairs at the Velvet mine has necessitated be done in a particular way, which inthe closing down of the mine for the volved further considerable delay and last week, while the manager has been which was, according to the manager, telegraphing all over the country to unnecessary at best. In the inspector's get the resident inspector, who alone is telegram he said reply Revelstoke. So authorized to supervise the repairs. the manager wired him to that address Section 31 of the Act provides that "On in reference to his instructions and the occurrence of an accident to any asking him to come over. Meantime boiler or engine or any part of same, another message came from telegraph the engineer in charge shall report such operator at Victoria re wire to chief accident in writing to the inspector in inspector, saying message not delivwhose jurisdiction it took place, or in ered, as latter was at New Westminster default the inspector may cancel his and asking authority to forward. This was given and the reply came to hand More than a week ago a small blister on the second day after date of rewas observable in the boiler. Any com- quest from manager, authorizing local petent boiler master could easily re- engineer to make repairs and then re-

pair it, but the law must be obeyed. . port. Here was a sort of dilema. Were A special messenger was at once sent the more or less definite instructions of A special messenger was at once sent the more or less definite instructions of into Rossland for a boiler maker and a bricklayer to do the necessary repairs. These went out post-haste, but when the engineer saw that the repairs tions? The safe solution seemed to be with the district inspeche refused to touch it without the boil- tor and have him see things for himer inspector's sanction, as he had had self, or explain the situation if he could previous experience of the operation not come. But in answer to the manficial from the owner's point of view. came the reply message, "not delivered, The manager thereupon at once wrote whreabouts not known." The telegraph and telegraphed to the inspector and company was instructed to make best received a reply from the telegraph efforts to get him, and to try Vernon as company that the message had not the place from which he had telegraphed. een delivered, as the inspector was And so another day's loss to the comsomewhere about Kamloops, but they pany and the employees, who were would try to find him and deliver the thrown out of work, was fruitlessly message. Next day came word from sacrificed to red tape and vexatious

Mr. Sorenson, the manager of the non, and it would require a special Velvet mine, does not blame Mr. Madinessenger to get the message delivered. gan, the inspector, in the least for the This message had to be sent out by above exasperating incident, but he rider to the mine and answer was sent does feel that his company, and the in authorizing special messenger and miners who have been laid off work to continue efforts till they found him. by such a piece of legislative bungling, Four days elapsed and the manager have good ground for loud complaint.

WILL PAY EXPENSES

CROW'S NEST COAL COMPANY DI-RECTORS REFUTE CERTAIN STATEMENTS.

WAS INSPECTED BY GOVERN-MENT INSPECTOR.

Nest Coal Company directors authorize to prevent the catastrophe, he spoke the statement that the company will with contempt of the danger of minpay all funeral expenses, relieve against ers. As an illustration of this he menimmediate want and suffering, and pro- tioned that in the month of March he vide permanently against any destitu- had received a report from the inspection. They state that so far the cause tor that nine men had been found in of the explosion is not known, but that the mines with pipes and tobacco, the day preceding the accident the while five had been found with matchmines were inspected by Government es, in contravention of the law. The Mine Inspector Adolphus Dick, who latter were prosecuted, but he express-

to the mines being dangerous and re- tributable to Providence on the careporting previous explosions and assigning various causes for the explosion ald not be believed. This is the first explosion that has taken place at the mines. Men were recently fined by the who had failed to pass the examining magistrate at the instance of the comacco being found upon them at the pany for taking matches into the mines, time. The safety lamps can only be the accident was due to carelessness opened by magnets.

mediately commenced upon the old in this province was exceeded by that scale, so that the miners may resume of any civilized country. It was a their occupations at an early date.

J. L. Brown, representing the Inland Cigar Factory of Kamloops, arrived explosion was due to the explosion of in town last night.

DISCUSSED IN THE HOUSE.

The Fernie Disaster Caused Hot Words Yesterday Afternoon. (Special to The Miner.)

VICTORIA, B. C., May 26.—The Fer-

nie disaster caused hot words in the British Columbia house this afternoon. E. C. Smith, member for the district, DAY PRECEDING ACCIDENT MINE asked the government for \$50,000 for the sufferers, and Colonel Prior, the minister of mines, said the government had sent \$5000 and would send an additional \$5000 if necessary. After dwelling on the precautions the government TORONTO, Ont., May 26.-The Crow's inspector and the company had taken issued his written certificate that the ed the opinion that the accident was mines were in excellent condition. due, not to the company's or govern-Inaccurate telegrams from the west as ment's lack of inspection, but was at-

lessness of the men. J. H. Hawthorntwaite, the labor and miners' representative, resented this, and said he was informed that 36 men board for mines had been sent to the Very little damage has been done to the mines, and when the work of rescue is completed operations can be imshame and something had to be done

to stop the holocaust. Colonel Prior said he believed the coal dust due to a blowout shot.

Per Year

Mrish ha era in

LONDON, June the house of comr with a brilliant dience as when treasury, and go the house, A. J. this afternoon cluded with the An hour before large crowd, on W cheered the noted larly the colonis Chamberlain, who ly from the co broad smile on Long before the galleries of th Joseph H. Choa tary of the emba and many mem patiently waited ment of questions ally large number grim, aristocrati packed. Noticea end of the dram

GREAT Mr. Chamberla both received a walked to their lain's ovation b enthusiastic of

The period of to an end. Am broken a few plause, such as seldom hears, Mr in South Africa reference to the hit of the day. salvo of "hears, from the galler which refused to As the liberal rlainer the che side of the ho the opposition's

IRISH Through all t sat impassive, afternoon they was thought to This it was so by the reappear turned from the When Mr. Be concluded ever opportunity for by the govern commons action

portionately in

THE Sir Henry Ca liberal leader, tion, said unbo be felt throug dusion of p mous in admir now their frien whose military purpose and se liberty and o the respect of opponents, Eve ongratulation he country on ation of peace.

LORD KIT Mr. Balfour the governme opportunity of to Lord Kitch South Africa ouse of cor ordinary avoca HOU

LONDON. went to the l peace statem Salisbury. The