

HELD HEADS UNDER WATER IN ICY POOL THEN RAISED TO GASP IN THE BURNING AIR

How Sixty Men Saved Their Lives Near a Deadly Shaft, in the Porcupine District—Group Threw Blanket Over Trench and Kept Soaked with Water—Hundreds Chose Death by Drowning in Preference to Fire—Carload of Coffins Sent from North Bay.

Graphic stories told in detail by refugees of the Porcupine fire horror, are contained in the Toronto papers. Many of the accounts of the harrowing experiences through which prospectors and miners passed saving only their lives were not contained in the telegraphed reports received in the city from the scene of the holocaust. The stories are of extraordinary interest.

Over 100 survivors of the fire horror in Porcupine and the adjoining camps reached Toronto at 11:15 last evening from North Bay; workers in the mines, prospectors, mine owners and other residents who escaped in the mad rush, flannels, coats, many wearing borrowed clothes, many with hats and faces scorched, many still dazed by their horrifying experiences.

Counted 23 Dead Bodies. "I counted twenty-five dead bodies in Golden City yesterday. I don't think there were any deaths in Pottsville; if there were they were only a few. But in South Porcupine it was not fifteen minutes from the outbreak before the whole town was completely wiped out. Driven to take refuge in the lake or in boats, dozens of the panic-stricken people were drowned. Nobody knows yet how many are at the bottom of the lake.

Goed Enough Prospecting. One of the survivors who reached Toronto last night was a college boy of 24, V. F. Swift, of Westfield, Mass. He had gone up north less than a month ago, and he and his partner, F. L. Bussey, of San Francisco, have had the most adventurous time of their lives. They met on the Porcupine trail just about three weeks ago and chummed.

"This last week," he said, "has been the busiest of the three. That was his dry way of putting it. "We had two claims in Bristol, but I don't know anything about them now; we had enough prospecting and are going home."

Wiped Out in 15 Minutes. "We were in Pottsville when the fire caught us," he said. "Bussey saved one suit case; I saved two. Everything else is gone. Hundreds of people have saved nothing at all but their skin, and many of them not that. "After sundown, we saw no other sign of it until Monday, but even then we did not think it was dangerous. On Tuesday morning about 9 o'clock Bussey and I went into town (Golden City) to get the mail. The wind then was blowing a terrific gale, and within fifteen minutes from the first outbreak the whole place was wiped out clean."

Charged Beyond Recognition. At 2 o'clock the fire reached Pottsville, and the only part of the town that escaped was the small section called Powell's Point. In South Porcupine yesterday morning the bodies burned beyond recognition. Nobody could recognize them; they were charred until you could hardly tell they had been human beings. I came across one man with his eyes bulging out of his head, and his nose and the side of his face all black. He was quite blind, and stumbling through the woods without any knowledge where he was going. He had lost his senses and I saw five more men and children among them. Now and then you would hear a woman scream that she was fainting, or crying for help. Then you would hear nothing more and looking around after the smoke lifted nothing was to be seen; she had disappeared under the water.

Foreigners Crowded the Women. The fire-fighters did splendid service, and the police worked like troopers to keep order. There was no rioting, but the excitement was tremendous. The foreigners were the worst; they would crowd the women and children, pushing and trampling over them regardless of human feeling. One or two of them, however, got what they deserved from the police and the special constables.

Nobody knows how many people were drowned in the lake. I saw several boats capsized, the crews being crowded beyond their capacity. There were quite fifty drowned to my knowledge. Fifty who couldn't get to the

number of dead cannot possibly be found out. A Beach Through the Woods. Longing for the sleep which had been denied them for four days and for a Turkish bath, to remove some of the mud that had rolled in to escape the flames, Ole Gillette and Stanley Webber, two survivors of the Dome mine, arrived in the city last night.

"We dashed through the woods with the great air around us," said Webber; "everybody dashed wildly for safety into the fire or out of it, as the wind might blow the flames. We raced through the bottom of a V shaped wall of flames and the corner closed in right behind us. I made for the lake, while Gillette stayed in a mud trench. C. E. Meeks, manager of the Dome mine, stayed in his house until the flames got there, but he and his wife and two children and his mother-in-law, when the house went, they all ran over the hill to a place where several barrels of water were placed for emergency. They were all right when they got there, but all were badly burned on the way."

Sixty in Pool of Ice Water. Speaking of the men who perished in the bottom of the West Dome shaft, he said he thought they went down as a last resort when they were all right when they got there. "There was a big pool of ice water at the Dome shaft," he continued, "where over 50 of our men went in. They would keep their heads under the water as long as they could, and then they would gasp in a breath of the burning air. They were all saved."

Retreat Was Cut Off. William Fowler, Toronto prospector, living at 53 Harbour street, he hurried to his home, where he was running a bath, and he stayed there several days. Mr. Fowler was with a prospecting party of eight and was in the Deloro Township. After the fire broke out he and his party were caught by the raging flames, too far out to reach the town.

We had all finished our midday meal on Tuesday," said Mr. Fowler, "when I heard a roar in the distance. I told the others, and we watched the fire for a few minutes. A big cloud of smoke blew up and a wind came from the west, blowing and one of our party, an old Denver miner, warned us that it would travel a mile or more in that direction. We dropped everything but a few grips containing food, and ran for our lives."

Under Blanket Trench. The flames were hemming us in on every side, and just when things looked hopeless we ran across an old camp, where a trench had been dug. We piled into the trench, which was about five feet deep, and found to our joy that there was a well of water in one end. We rigged up a blanket over the top, and the water and soaked it with water, while we all kept down. We had hardly got fixed when the flames were on top of the trees, and the fire all around us became hotter and hotter. We took turns in throwing water on each other from the well and in dashing water up against the blanket. Several times sparks came through the blanket, but we managed to put them out with the water."

For over four hours the party were forced to stay in the trench, and when they feared they would suffocate they got up and started to lift up the blanket. Mr. McLean was the first to do this, and he was the first to be burned up with the town."

Went Blind Temporarily. As soon as the flames had passed them by, the party began their long and bitterly hot march to Pottsville. Fowler said he could not stand the heat, and he went temporarily blind, having to be led by his fellow miners. "Yesterday was the worst day of my life," he said, "and I am sure that he was able to see at all clearly."

Mr. Fowler's wife aided him in telling his story. He has had a lot of the terrible incidents almost immediately on his arrival. "But I don't know anybody but the things I saw," he said; "they are too horrible. The newspapers can't begin to tell what happened. One had reports of the dead will run far higher than the press estimates."

Shoulder Deep in Water. J. J. Moss, a mine operator from Reno, Nevada, was among those who saved their lives by standing shoulder deep in the waters of Porcupine lake until the fury of the flames subsided. He said that fully 400 people died in the lake and expressed the

belief that twenty or thirty in his vicinity had drowned. He joined a party of seven of the Imperial bank staff, who had placed the gold and money belonging to the bank in a canoe to save it.

"It took all the strength of the eight of us to prevent the canoe from being swamped by the waves," said Mr. Moss, who had been able to save his money and his property by burying them in a rut in one of the streets of South Porcupine.

A. Brown, an agent on the train which arrived last evening, came through from Ensliehart. "In addition to the people who were on the ground when the fire broke out," he said, "there were 300 prospectors who had arrived on Saturday and Sunday, and they were all going into the woods. They must have perished. On Wednesday night 65 people slept in a Pullman car at Cochrane, while the train was taken out of the ground and the heat from the ground was so intense that both sides of the coaches were scorched. The fire had passed over that area on Tuesday, but the ground is still burning, and will burn for months unless there is a heavy rain."

Special Trainload of Coffins was sent north from North Bay yesterday afternoon, according to Mr. Brown. "The train was taken out of the ground and the heat from the ground was so intense that both sides of the coaches were scorched. The fire had passed over that area on Tuesday, but the ground is still burning, and will burn for months unless there is a heavy rain."

At Pottsville more than 20 buildings, but they could not prevent the fire from spreading to the frame buildings, but no power on earth could stop them. Women and children were rushed into boats and taken out into the water up to their necks; but even then their faces were burned and many were drowned. There must have been 200 or 300 people in the water, and scores of them were drowned."

A Black Trench of July. J. S. Long, of Pearl Lake, stood in the flames, while the men in the trench were burning. "It was a black trench of July in Pearl Lake," he said, "and the men were burning. People were drowned, while at least that many more were buried to death, when it was seen that the fire was travelling a mile or more in that direction. They would not remain and help us fight. I escaped by taking to the water, but how some managed to get out, I don't know."

How Golden City Was Saved. The most dramatic story of the almost supernatural efforts that Golden City was saved from destruction was the statement of Mr. H. E. McLean, 275 Dundas street, who represents the United Empire typewriter company, in the north country.

"For five hours I worked at a well lifting water and handing it to the bucket brigade," said Mr. McLean. "It was a case of keep at it. The flames were within five feet of us, and even broke out under our very feet and great coils of embers and sparks were lighting on all sides and it was a case of work like a man or you were burned up with the town."

Washed word came across the lake that the town of Porcupine was ablaze, and every boat in Golden City set out to rescue the fugitives on the other side. The dynamic explosion at the fire for the South Porcupine people to escape the terrible heat by standing neck-deep in the water. Those who did so had their faces burned and scarred into one great blister.

Arm Blown Off by Dynamite. One man had his arm blown off in the dynamite explosion at the Dome mine, and it had to be amputated at the shoulder. Dr. Hatheway, of Golden City, and the chief of police there, deserved great credit for their work. The looking of clothes on dead bodies was stopped only by the orders of the chief of police that all looters be shot at sight.

Wait Porcupine for Pottsville. Planning to spend a week among the mines of the great north country, Mr. W. J. Barnard, of the Dominion Anterling service, Toronto, arrived in Porcupine only last Sunday, but his visit was cut short by the conflagration.

Board of Trade Learns that a Hundred Thousand Tons Are Available in Spokane and Take Steps to Secure a Supply of Western Products. Calgary, July 1.—The Dominion Government will be asked by the city and board of trade of Calgary to once remove the duties on coal exported from the United States for a period of six months. A local paper this afternoon, published a letter from a Spokane coal dealer, containing the information that there were a hundred thousand tons of coal available for export to Alberta and Saskatchewan during the next two months.

At a joint meeting of the board of trade and representatives of the city, held this afternoon, a unanimous resolution was passed to the effect that the Government be memorialized to suspend all duties on coal for a period of six months. This resolution was transmitted by wire to Mayor Mitchell, who is in Ottawa for submission by him to the proper authorities. A resolution of the board of trade is also being prepared to ascertain at what cost coal could be obtained in the United States and to endeavor to secure reduced rates from boundary points to all points in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

5800 Fire Ottawa. Ottawa, July 25.—A fire yesterday destroyed the W. H. Cooper & Son furniture store, entailing a loss of \$10,000 to the stock and about \$20,000 to the building. Both stock and building were insured.

London Cheers for Laurier. But it cannot succeed either here or in Canada. In Britain it has failed



THE HURRICANE OF FIRE SWEEPING INTO THE TOWN OF PORCUPINE—With the accompanying death and destruction.

Laurier's Work IN GREAT BRITAIN

(By J. A. Macdonald in the Toronto Globe.)

The 140,000,000 of Protection for Britain are very angry these days. The cause of their wrath is the refusal of the Imperial conference, to lend itself to their campaign, and the politicians are nursing their wrath for the most part in secret, or giving it expression only in a general conference they have not been able to conceal their chagrin and disappointment. They did so strongly hope that the prime ministers from the Dominion could be entered into an expression of opinion which could be worked into their own tariff campaign. But never a word did any of the premiers utter which gave even a crumb of comfort to the weary advocates of the Chamberlain tariff policy. This refusal was so deliberate and so squarely in defiance of the daily appeals and exhortations, and even threats of the more aggressive of the protectionist journals, that all the world now knows of it.

Unloving Press on Laurier. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, being the senior member of the cabinet, and the ablest member of the imperial conference, is made the object of the most direct attacks. The Times went so far as to judge would be prudent in its criticism of Sir Wilfrid, and in damning him with faint praise. The Morning Post, one of the most aggressive of the protectionist journals, is much more outspoken. Again and again it has misrepresented, perhaps ignorantly, both what Sir Wilfrid said and what he meant. Again and again it stands for today. It represented him as asking for protection in Britain in order that Canada might get a preference in the tariff, and in praising him for it, and when he declined to respond to its praise it began to scold him. The other protectionist newspapers have behaved in the same way.

Sir Wilfrid Wins Out. Of course, Sir Wilfrid is much too good to be caught by such a trick. He gave no heed, made no answer, but did his part as a member of the conference with such intelligence and effectiveness that, despite the tariff press, he stands out distinctly the most conspicuous figure of the conference. Again and again he has been the target of the attacks of the protectionist journals, and he has not been deterred by them. He has not only stood firm, but he has won the day. He has won the day in the opinion of the Canadian public, and he has won the day in the opinion of the British public.

Wind 60 Miles an Hour. The wind blowing with a velocity of 60 or 65 miles an hour, and the wall of flame would curve upwards and over a tract of a quarter of a mile, and the rapidity of approach that prevented so many from making their escape. It seems a peculiar stroke of irony that he should have managed to save his wife and child from the fire of Kelay, only for all three to perish at Porcupine.

CALGARY WANTS COAL DUTIES OFF

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already. On the day of the Royal progress through London no one man in the long line of carriages, outside of Royalty itself, was given so quick, so enthusiastic and so prolonged cheering throughout the entire seven miles of the procession as was Sir Wilfrid Laurier. At every stage his striking features were recognized and instantly the cheers broke out, and name often being called again and again. The fact that he would be influenced by a considerable section of the newspapers seemed to illustrate what the Lord Advocate for Scotland said to me about the last general election in Britain: "It was a campaign of the platform against the press and the platform was in the present instance the protectionist press seems equally to fail in its effort to damage the reputation of the foremost Canadian statesman."

And Canada will understand. Most thoughtful Canadians will approve of the reasonable position taken by the Prime Minister on the question of old treaty restrictions, on immigration, on Empire organization and Empire trade, and on the matters of defence. That position was at once truly Canadian and truly imperial. And because Sir Wilfrid Laurier refused to be dragged into domestic politics, he has proved himself the true Canadian and the greater imperial statesman. He would not enter the controversy, even in self-defence, and he has shown that he does not care to do so. He has shown that he is not a man who is easily moved, and that he is not a man who is easily misled. He has shown that he is a man who is not afraid to stand up for his principles, and that he is a man who is not afraid to stand up for his country.

Japanese Emperor to Vienna, July 21.—A Japanese official visit to Vienna is expected to take place early in the month. The Emperor is expected to arrive in Vienna on July 21st, and to remain there for a few days. The visit is expected to be a very successful one, and to result in a number of important agreements between the two empires.

Rain Falling in Pottsville, July 20.—A heavy rain fell in Pottsville on July 20th, and it is expected to continue for a few days. The rain is expected to be very beneficial to the crops, and to help to clear up the air.

Port Arthur, Ont., July 20.—A heavy rain fell in Port Arthur on July 20th, and it is expected to continue for a few days. The rain is expected to be very beneficial to the crops, and to help to clear up the air.

Chicago Grain Market. Chicago, July 26.—The grain market in Chicago was very active today, and prices were generally higher. The market was very strong, and it is expected to continue for a few days.

C.P.R. CLAIMS AGENT MAKES SETTLEMENT

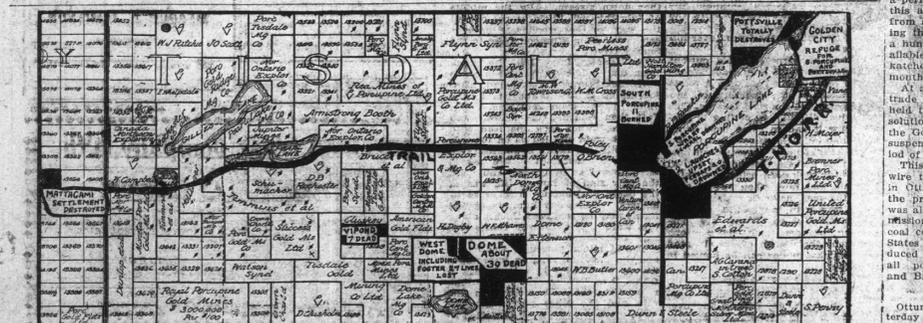
R. W. Kellogg, general claims agent of the Canadian Pacific railway, having charge of all personal claims laid against the C. P. R. by Port Arthur and Calgary, arrived in the city yesterday to arrange settlements with the complainants of the wreck, which took place on the 12th of July, near Pottsville, some fifty miles south of Edmonton.

Mr. Kellogg states that the officials of the road have arrived at a decision as to the cause of the wreck, and are of the opinion that it was purely accidental and that it was fortunate that there were no lives lost. The officials have been unable to trace any negligence or carelessness on the part of the employees nor can they find any cause for the accident in the condition of the track at this point, but assume that it must go down in history as one of those mysterious misfortunes which so frequently visit railroads.

Mr. Kellogg had little difficulty in arranging settlements with those who were injured, and he states that although some were a trifle unreasonable in their requests, the majority were pleased to accept settlements at his hands. He also righted the differences between the local order of Orangemen and the railroad, the Orangemen being indignant over what they claimed was unnecessary delay caused by the wreck.

GETTING MEN FOR THE BIG HARVEST

Hon. Robt. Rogers in Montreal Has Completed Arrangements in Order That Harvesters Will Be Sent Out to West by All Regular Trains. Toronto, July 21.—Hon. Robert Rogers stated here tonight that he had just completed satisfactory arrangements with the Canadian Pacific Railway at a conference in Montreal whereby men for harvesting the western wheat crop will be forwarded from Ontario and Quebec with the greatest possible dispatch. It will not now be necessary for men to wait for the periodical harvesters' excursion as the railway has agreed to send the men west on the regular trains as fast as they are ticketed. The securing of men for the harvest and providing for their transportation was the chief object of Mr. Rogers' trip to the east, and he says the present prospects are that all the men needed will be on the fields by the time the harvesting begins. Work in this connection will be completed today and he leaves for Winnipeg this evening.



NUMBER OF VICTIMS CLAIMED BY FIRE IN THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS—Map of devastated mining area, showing where chief loss of life occurred in the fearful tragedy of North Ontario. Since the map was drawn, however, estimates of the dead at the Porcupine have been reduced to thirty.

Constipation root of many ills sickness and endless amount of human misery.

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills thoroughly tested over fifty years have been proved safe and certain for constipation all kinds to try them. 25c a box

GREAT STRIKE ALL WORK AT

Seamen and Dockers' Win in the Struggle of Their Dock Ship Leaves Three

Cardiff, Wales, July 26.—The dockers were beginning to get impatient that they had put a complete stop to city and the neighborhood are 16,000 men now stop place, Harry and News these ports are idle and left any of the three close down.

A desultory spirit There was a fierce fight. The mob tried to rush the London Mounted Police were routed, many scalps and faces.

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