

A Week Ago the Signs That Ross Might Be Beaten: To-Day the Certainty is That Whitney Will Sweep the Province

HEAVY GAMBLE OF 150 MEN IN A FLASH MINERS ENTRAPPED BY AN EXPLOSION

Coal Creek Mines of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company Visited by the Worst Disaster in the History of British Columbia—Heroic Work of Rescuing Parties—Cause Only Guessed At

Fernie, B.C., May 23.—One of the worst coal mining disasters in the history of British Columbia occurred at the Coal Creek mines at 7 o'clock last night, when from 125 to 150 men met almost instant death in mines Nos. 2 and 3. The explosion occurred in the depths of No. 2, and not a man of over 100 employed in that mine escaped to tell the tale. From No. 3 workings, which are connected with No. 2, about 21 men escaped. The first intimation of the disaster which those on the outside received was a rush of coal dust and fire to a height of over 1000 feet above the fans. Word was immediately sent to Fernie, five miles from the mines, and inside of 12 minutes from the time the accident occurred relief parties were at work.

The Dead Recovered.

The dead who were recovered are: Steve Morgan, Joe Sangala, Willie Robertson, Victor Johnson, John Leadbeater, Frank Salter, John McLeod, F. Fernall, Thomas Johnson, and an Italian whose name is unknown. The mine is free from fire, and the bodies will be removed as fast as the afterdamp is cleared from the mine. The rescue parties are working in four-hour shifts, and the company are doing all in their power to assist in the work.

Town Horror-Stricken.

The town is horror-stricken, and heart-rending scenes meet the eye on every side. All day the trains to the mine have been crowded with anxious friends and relatives of the imprisoned men, hurrying to the scene of the disaster. A meeting of the Board of Trade has been called for tonight to organize a relief fund for the sufferers. The cause of the accident is unknown, but the opinion of many is that a blow at national property, or a shot from one of the machines, is the most likely cause. The mine is six miles from Fernie, the mining town in the centre of the rich coal fields, and No. 2 shaft is the driest, gasiest of tunnels. As the provincial mineralogist told in a recent report, the management took risks a year ago in the working of the mine in order to hurry the supply, for the demand exceeded the development, and in order to get the coal, the workings were carried off in a cork-screw-like driver, instead of the usual square driver, and other risks were taken.

Since then, however, the conditions were improved, and the report received by the government from its inspector on May 8 states that the mine was then in a safe condition, the ventilation being good, the fans furnishing air about 40 per cent. in excess of the requirements. The report was most favorable, and compared most advantageously with last year's report, which severely criticized the mine. At one time efforts were to have been started to have the mine closed if the full letter of the Mining Act was not obeyed.

Inspector's Warning.

Nos. 2 and 3 mines, in which the explosion occurred, are connected, and the inspector of mines has pointed out in his reports that an explosion in one would be apt to affect the other. No. 2 mine was the mine in which the explosion occurred, and from which most apprehension has therefore always been felt. This mine also gave off gas when the mine was at work, although No. 3 was wet, and an explosion in No. 2 was therefore likely to affect No. 3.

Cause Guessed At.

In one of his reports, Mr. Dick refers to the fact that there were a great many resignations in the mine, and that they were supplied with safety lamps some of them seemed to disregard the fact that a safety lamp was not to be used in a safe lamp at all. The cause of the accident may be found in this fact, but, of course, up to the present time is pure conjecture.



PILOT ROSS: It was dark and uncertain enough yesterday, but where am I today!

MILITARISM ONLY A BOGEY SIR WILFRID IS ITS AUTHOR

High Ministerial Authorities in London Surprised at Canadian Premier's Denseness—Col. Denison Still Touring the Country for Imperial Protection.

London, May 23.—High ministerial authorities express surprise at the misapprehension that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Canadians have fallen into regarding the proposals that the British ministry contemplates submitting to the coronation conference in the matter of defence. They say that no British ministry would dream of attempting to impose upon Canada what Sir Wilfrid Laurier has called a system of militarism.

A GUATEMALAN TOWN WIPED OUT IN THREE-QUARTERS OF A MINUTE

Quezaltenango, With a Population of 25,000, Visited by an Annihilating Earthquake—News Travels Across the Atlantic and Back Again.

Hamburg, May 23.—A special despatch to the Hamburg Doersenhalle from Guatemala says that the town of Quezaltenango has been wholly destroyed by an earthquake, which lasted three-quarters of a minute, and entirely annihilated the town. A part of the coffee crop there has been destroyed.

BOILER TOOK WINGS.

Went Up Forty Feet, But Came Down on a Bed.

Ottawa, May 23.—The boiler of a steam driven work in connection with sewer extension work on Louisa-street blew up yesterday afternoon. The force of the explosion lifted the boiler forty feet in the air, and it crashed down through the roof of George Cairns' house. It landed on top of a bed in a room in the northeast corner, which was smashed to pieces. At the time of the accident John Masson, an unskilled engineer, was in charge of the engine. He was trying to get up 75 or 80 pounds of steam when the boiler flew off on its voyage of discovery. It is said that the boiler was a second-hand one and that the steam pressure put on was more than it could stand. Masson was badly scalded by steam, and a couple of youngsters who were looking on, suffered in the same way.

TO-DAY IN TORONTO.

- Victoria Day, all day.
- Ontario Jockey Club races, Woodbine, 2 p.m.
- Lacrosse, Tecumseh v. Orangeville, Hamilton's Point, 3 p.m.
- Baseball, Toronto v. Rochester, two games, 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Victoria Park sports, all day.
- Munro Park games, vaudeville show and band concert, 3:30 and 8:15 p.m.
- Hanklin's Point, monkey balloon, band concert and other attractions, all day.
- House of Providence picnic, Povung-street grounds, afternoon and evening.
- To Niagara Falls, steamers leave at 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- To Hamilton, steamers leave at 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 2, 5:15 and 9:30 p.m.
- To St. Catharines, Lakeside leaves at 8 a.m. and 2:10 p.m.
- To Oshawa, Argyle leaves at 7:30 and 2 p.m.
- To Oakville, White Star leaves at 9:15 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Riverdale Park Zoo, all day.
- Choir, 8 p.m.
- Princess, "Florodora," 2 and 8 p.m.
- Grand, Robert Mantel in "The Corsican Brothers," 2 and 8 p.m.
- Toronto, "On the Shawnee River," 2 and 8 p.m.
- Shea's, vaudeville, 2 and 8 p.m.
- Star, burlesque, 2 and 8 p.m.
- Boying, 8 Mutual-street Rink, Martin Duffy v. Tom Cough, 20 rounds.
- They are all smoking Carnegies—Best five cent cigar ever published.
- G.O.R. Buglers, Armourees, May 23.
- Grano Cereal Coffee, Canadian Mako

It Has Been Practically Secured, But Some of the Burghers Are Loth to Acquire in the Terms, Which Will Be Found Exceptionally Liberal.

London, May 23.—The Associated Press has every reason to believe that peace in South Africa is practically assured. How soon it will be announced is apparently more upon the convenience of the Boer leaders than upon the inclination of the British government. The private and official agents to-night in London from South Africa all point to the same conclusion. The delay is technical, and to end the long war seems to be the desire of both British and Boer leaders. The latter, however, are unable to convince all their followers of the wisdom of acquiescing in the terms of peace.

Mock Ultimatum Sent.

Information as to what transpired at the day's meeting of the cabinet is closely guarded, but it is not likely that the cabinet transactions were of vital importance. The surest news is that the peace agreement of critically minor importance.

Were the Boers a Thoroughly Disciplined Force, Dependent upon the Action of their General Officers, Peace Would Probably be Reached to-night, but Both Dewet and other generals seem themselves unable positively to guarantee the delegates which their example will follow. Delegates at Vereeniging according to information in possession of the War Office, are fairly evenly divided between extreme propositions are exercised both in London and Pretoria to prevent any premature action or report which might adversely influence the burghers.

Terms Exceptionally Liberal.

The House of Commons who is in close touch with the government said to a representative of the Associated Press that he believed everything was settled and the British terms would be found unacceptably liberal.

Boer Supplies Captured.

Meanwhile, outside the Boer commandos immediately connected with the peace negotiations, fighting continues. Lovat's scouts surprised Pouch's commando in Cape Colony Wednesday last and captured most of the Boer supplies.

PRETORIA CHEERFUL.

Pretoria, May 23.—The feeling here, which has been decidedly pessimistic for several days, is now more cheerful, the no real news of the conference between Lord Kitchener and Lord Milner and the Boer delegates has been allowed to leak out. It is known, however, that the delegates came to Pretoria as the result of a complete deadlock at Vereeniging, where the Free States held out for independence, and the majority of the Transvaalers, and the anxious for peace, refused to abandon their allies. This is the cause of the Boer delegation being now here. It was at first thought that the delegates would merely report a refusal to accept the British terms. Everybody expected them to depart immediately, and that hostilities would actively recommence. To the general surprise, however, the delegates are still here, and the hopefulness of to-day is the outcome of the general conviction that some arrangement is pending, which may solve the difficulty at Vereeniging.

FORMERLY OF BRAMPTON.

Winnipeg, Man., May 23.—G. W. Boyd, registrar of the land titles office at Portage la Prairie, this morning of pneumonia, aged 45. He came from Brampton, Ont., a graduate of Toronto University.

DECIDEDLY WARM.

Meteorological Office, Toronto, May 23.—(8 p.m.)—Thunderstorms have been fairly general again to-day in Ontario and Quebec, and showers have occurred over the Northwest Territories. The outlook is still unsettled, and more thunderstorms are generally indicated. Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 40-58; Kamloops, 40-58; Calgary, 40-58; Qu'Appelle, 42-62; Winnipeg, 40-56; Port Arthur, 40-58; Sault Ste. Marie, 50-80; Toronto, 38-78; Ottawa, 40-82; Montreal, 62-82; Quebec, 60-80; Halifax, 46-68.

LOWER LAKE AND GEORGIAN BAY—MODERATE TO FRESH SOUTHERLY TO WESTERLY WINDS; FOR THE MOST PART FAIR AND DECIDEDLY WARM, BUT THUNDERSTORMS AT MANY PLACES.

Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence—Moderate to fresh southerly to westerly winds; for the most part fair and decidedly warm, but thunderstorms at many places. Lower St. Lawrence—For the most part fair, but some local thunderstorms; not much change in temperature. Gulf and Maritime—Moderate winds; fair; warmer at most places; some local showers or thunderstorms, more especially to-night or on Sunday. Lake Superior—Moderate winds; a few local showers or thunderstorms, but generally fair and somewhat warmer. They are all smoking Carnegies—Best five cent cigar ever published.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Ship	Company	Destination
Spartan	At.	From
La Savoye	New York	Genoa
La Savoie	New York	Havre
Chloris	New York	Genoa
Klantschon	Plymouth	New York
Germania	Hamburg	New York
Parisi	Charbourg	New York

COULD CONTROL THE C.P.R.

Hon. Mr. Tarte in His Paper Points Out the Possibility of Foreign Invasion.

IT WOULD BE A DISASTER TO US

Sees in the Steamship Combine a Peril and a Menace to Canada.

Montreal, Que., May 24.—Hon. Mr. Tarte writes from Ottawa as follows: Very large transactions have recently taken place in Canadian Pacific Railway stock. There are people who appear to be well posted, in such matters, and who declare that this activity has no importance as far as the future control of the company is concerned. In fact I believe that this is the case, but it is well worth our attention to what is taking place at the present time.

GOOD CROP OUTLOOK.

Wheat, Oats, Barley and Flax Averages Show Great Increase.

Winnipeg, May 23.—W. J. Parsh, secretary of the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association, has compiled the following statement regarding crop conditions in the Northwest. From circulars sent out on May 1 answers from 102 points show condition when tabulated as follows: Good, 77; fair, 10; late, 12; unfavorable, 10.

MR. ROSS AND MR. WHITNEY.

Premier Ross spoke at Windsor last night and was assisted in oratory by R. F. Sutherland M.P., and M. K. Cowan, M.P.

W. J. COMMON DEAD.

Montreal, May 23.—Samuel Saxe was discharged by the court to-day, following the civil examination into the facts attending the failure of his firm.

A SUBSTANTIAL CHECK.

A cheque for \$17,900 for the first distribution of liquor licenses was received by the City Treasurer from the License Commissioners yesterday afternoon. A similar amount is expected at the end of the year.

Queen's Own Band Concert May 28

A CASUALTY.

The sculptor's stone, the graven prime; the tablet to the chancel dim; the chiselled by familiar ways, are not for him.

Patents—Fashersonnauha & Co., Kingston West, Toronto, also Montreal, Ottawa and Washington.

A strange hand turns a stranger and, and strangers bear him to his rest. And loved the best. Edgar Wallace.

COAL SELLS AT \$8.50 A TON.

Anthracite in New York Brings Highest Price in 25 Years.

New York, May 23.—The west coast famine in history faces the city. Coal sells at \$8.50.

LIGHTNING BRINGS DEATH

A Farmer Near Boston, Ont., Struck Down While in His Stable.

Waterford, May 23.—During the heavy thunderstorm which swept over this section yesterday afternoon and evening, a sad fatality occurred at Boston, at the home of Mr. William Johnson. Mr. Johnson was in the stable while the storm was raging with lightning, and with him were his younger brother, Ralph Johnson, and his father-in-law, Mr. J. Ames Caughy. As Mr. Johnson stepped in front of one of the horses to remove the latter, a blinding flash of lightning came, and struck Mr. Caughy, killing him instantly. The Johnson brothers immediately carried him out of the barn, which was by this time enveloped in flames. The stable and drive shed were totally destroyed, together with their contents. The loss to the building and contents is about \$100, partly insured.

TWO RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS

Wind Blew a Shed Down on Eight Men and Eight Horses Near Windsor.

Windsor, May 23.—Eight men and as many teams of horses were ensconced under a shed on the Walker farm yesterday afternoon when the storm came up. The wind blew the shed down, and the men and horses all knocked to the ground. Two horses were killed. Archie Hawkins, who was driven through his tongue and George Simpson, Jr., suffered an injury to his back.

AGREEMENT RATIFIED.

Changes Are More Favorable to the Steel Co. It is Said.

Montreal, Que., May 23.—The directors of the Dominion Steel and Coal Co. met to-day and ratified the agreement between the two companies. The changes are more favorable to the Steel Co. for instance the royalty, which was to have been paid at the rate of 15 cents a ton, has been reduced to 12-1/2, and while the Steel Company assumes the liabilities of the Coal Company it gets all the assets. These changes appear to place the Steel Co. in a better position than formerly.

FIRE AT JARVIS.

Jarvis, Ont., May 23.—A fire occurred to-night in a building owned by Dr. W. W. Howell and occupied as a residence by W. E. Morrow. The building was completely destroyed and only part of the contents were saved and in a damaged condition. There is understood to be a fair insurance, both on building and contents.

Patents—Fashersonnauha & Co., Kingston West, Toronto, also Montreal, Ottawa and Washington.

Drink Grano, Cereal Coffee.

They are all smoking Carnegies—Best five cent cigar ever published.