

## Twice-a-Week Times

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### THE LADYSMITH DISASTER.

We have enjoyed such immunity for some time from calamities in our coal mines that the explosion in Ladysmith comes with all the more suddenness and force.

The heart breaking dread and fear which such a calamity entails on wives and children and friends is such as to evoke the deepest sympathy of the whole community.

Coal mine calamities, like those at sea, have a peculiar horror because of the elements of mystery and unusual circumstances which attend them. In each case men battle for their lives against odds so unequal that the element of tragedy is enormously increased over ordinary accident.

Ladysmith has had her share of such experiences. We can only hope fervently that in this case the loss of life may not be as great as is feared.

### THE FUNCTION OF THE PRESS.

The office and functions of a newspaper have been often defined, but rarely, we think, in such full and comprehensive yet brief terms as by Lord Burnham, owner of the London Telegraph, in an address to the International Union of the Associations of the Press in its recent gathering in London. Lord Burnham is one of the fathers of journalism in the old land, a personal friend of His Majesty, and took a prominent part as one of the hosts of the English press at the recent press conference. Welcoming the members as a division of the army of Peace and Goodwill, he described their functions as cosmopolitan. He added:

"What is your mission? In one word, it is humanity—the welfare, the culture, the progress of humanity. These are real things. The sun rises on a better world every day. I have seen it stated that the great problems of the globe have risen from sea level, or ocean depths, by slow, silent movements. You might have lived the longest life by the side of Mont Blanc and never have known that the huge mass grew any higher. But it was rising; it was being uplifted all the time. So it is with human society—upward, ever upward. And you are helping in the process, sometimes leading in the way of reform—sometimes, as I hope and believe, restraining revolutionary movements too hurried, too violent. You and I know—nobody better—how vast, though often unperceived, is the work of the journalist. On the world of the press the sun never sets. The pen of the writer, the brain of the thinker, the pencil of the reporter, the wire of the correspondent, the project of the manager, the vigilance of the editor, fill the lifelong day. They know no difference of light or dark. Withdrawn from the gaze of mankind, usually unknown, working often in obscurity, they are yet leaders in the van of progress. Internationally we have a great work to do. It is not given to man to determine or even to foresee the line of human development. A divinity doth shape our ends. But it may be given to us to save our generation from shock on the one hand and from stagnation on the other; to smooth the path of advance; to teach the nations that honor is nobler than dominion; justice grander than sovereignty; the role of the peacemaker higher than that of the conqueror, and that knowledge is the loftiest form of power."

### A TIMBER POLICY.

The evidence gathered by the Timber and Forestry Commission throughout the province all tends to the endorsement of the Liberal policy in regard to the timber wealth of the province, a policy which the McBride government has adopted bodily, just as it has made its own so many other of the wisely-conceived and popular policies of the opposition.

Long ago the Liberal party declared that licenses of timber limits should be for a lengthened period instead of the limited tenure of twenty-one years adopted some four years since. The McBride government would not hear of this, and some members of the cabinet were known to be strongly opposed to it; are still, it is whispered. But in the end the government adopted the Liberal view, and the recent inquiry followed Premier McBride's announcement of last session. There is no doubt, considering this official statement and the nature of the evidence heard by the commission, that one of the main recommendations to be made will be that licenses be perpetual, or at any rate so long as there is timber of commercial value on the limits.

There was a rather wide difference of opinion among witnesses as to what should be done in regard to the annual license fee or rental paid by limit-holders, and the royalty of fifty cents a thousand paid on the cut. This

difference was more accentuated in regard to the rentals, the source of nine-tenths of the present provincial revenue from timber. It is urged by many license-holders that the rental should be fixed for all time on the present licenses, but in view of the ever-increasing value of stumpage this does not seem fair to the province. While, of course, the licensees are entitled to some guarantee as to what they will have to pay. A proper solution of the difficulty would be a revision of the rental every five years, say, the revised figure to come into effect twelve months after the legislative session.

It will be advisable for the province to adopt regulations in regard to the manner of cutting timber, the size to which trees shall be cut, what shall be done with the brush left after logging, and so forth. As there is bound to be a tendency towards holding limits for speculative purposes on the part of some people there must be a regulation inserted in the licenses, as in Dominion licenses, giving the government power to call on holders to put in a mill and log their limits. This would protect the people against a timber monopoly and protect millmen against any attempt to put up the price of logs on them.

Whether the tenure of licenses were to be dealt with or not it is quite imperative that the forests should be protected from fire, which has been destroying millions of dollars worth of timber every year. It would be well to extend the present system of firewarding, which is said to have had a marked effect in diminishing loss this summer, so as to ensure a complete and efficient patrol of the woods during the dangerous season. The department of the Interior has an effective patrol in the railway belt. There is no doubt that at least one-half of the cost of this service should be borne by license-holders. The railways start a great many fires, and it is possible for the province to assess some of the cost on them.

There must be larger areas of the province now under timber lease which are suitable for agriculture. From the statements of lumbermen to the commission the percentage is small; the commissioners appear to have been disappointed in this regard. It may be doubted, however, whether witnesses did not minimize the amount of such land. But whatever the extent the provincial government would be well-advised to adopt the Dominion policy of compelling limit-holders to cut the timber off agricultural areas when these are needed for settlement. This should not apply, of course, to stray quarter-sections or even whole sections, but only where there is some considerable extent of land, and a reasonable time should be given the holders to get the timber off.

A suggestion made to the commission by John Oliver, of Delta, in regard to the inclusion in licenses of a requirement that fair wages be paid, is worthy of adoption. There is ample precedent for this in state and municipal practices nowadays.

**What Other People Think**  
LAND OPEN TO SETTLEMENT ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.

To the Editor: I notice in a late issue of your paper that a deputation has asked the McBride government to remove the embargo on the land on Vancouver Island and open it up for settlement.

I well remember when the E. & N. railway was granted a large portion of land on the island for building the road. I also remember that in the agreement the railroad company was to allow the wild land to be open for settlement at \$2.50 per acre.

A short time back Dunsmuir & Co. sold their road and land, it is rumored, to the C. P. R.

Right on the top of that the McBride government issued timber licenses and tied up the land that was open for settlement on Vancouver Island, for 21 years.

I wrote to the office of the C. P. R. inquiring about some wild land that I wanted to take up on the E. & N. railway belt.

I was informed that it was not for sale or settlement. Now where does the C. P. R. derive its power? Is it the government? Can it violate laws that were made years ago for to safeguard the rights of the people?

The government has been spending the people's money to get settlers to come here, and when they arrive they find that the land that was open for settlement has been leased, most of it to U. S. citizens.

And I respectfully request that the heads of families in Vancouver Island will remember the McBride government when they again ask us for our votes. Any government that gives away the brightest of our children can make sure I shall remember them when the time comes.

SIXTY-TWO.  
A SETTLER'S COMPLAINT.

To the Editor: Is it not true the McBride government are paying Mr. J. H. Turner as emigrant commissioner in the city of London? Is it not also true that when emigrants arrive in Victoria they are told there is no government land for entry on Vancouver Island?

Now, the supposed owners of the E. & N. railway belt, the C. P. R., have withdrawn the land from entry on the E. & N. railway belt? Is it possible the new owners can do this thing without the permission of the government?

Another thing I wish to call to your attention is the fact that a portion of the parties that have obtained timber licenses for twenty-one years have come back and want the government to extend the leases indefinitely.

In my humble opinion the McBride government has been doing a very loose business regarding the public domain ever since they have been in office, and I respectfully call the attention of the voters of Vancouver Island at the next election to bear in mind that they are paying their share towards an emigrant commissioner at the same time the government is transferring the land mostly to aliens as fast as possible.

And it's up to the voters to make a change.

JAMES CLARK,  
Indian Chief Mine, Sidney Inlet, West Coast V. I., B. C.

## GRAND JURY ON FIRE DANGER

PUBLIC BUILDINGS SHOULD BE FIREPROOF

Attention Drawn to French's Menagerie on Account of Escaped Lion.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The necessity for better protection from fire in buildings where large numbers of people are assembled, and a reference to French's menagerie, were the features of the presentment of the grand jury made to Mr. Justice Irving this morning. The grand jurors are of opinion that all public buildings should be, as far as possible, made absolutely fireproof.

In regard to the menagerie, the jurors considered that it should be periodically inspected by the proper authorities, but they declined to take any action which might be an interference with Mr. French's rights.

The presentment was as follows: Hon. Mr. Justice Irving.

Sir.—We, the grand jury, congratulate your lordship on the few cases for trial at this assize. That there is only one case originating in the city of Victoria we consider speaks volumes for the orderly conduct prevailing in this community.

We visited the Old Men's Home and to record our opinion that better facilities for fire protection should be afforded. In consequence of the enfeebled physical condition of the inmates, we recommend that this matter receive immediate attention.

Our visit to the Provincial Royal Jubilee hospital was without warning, and we are pleased to find everything possible being done for the comfort and welfare of the patients. The hospital we made enquiries expressing to ourselves as perfectly satisfied with the treatment they are receiving. We were glad to find, since the last visit of the grand jury, that the Strathcona and female wards have been painted, and we hope the management will soon be in a position to continue the work of painting the premises, both inside and out. We were informed that the necessary funds are not available. We found a number of cases standing in one of the corridors containing one of the latest and most efficient X-ray apparatus procurable in England. The apparatus arrived some months ago, but has not yet been set up in consequence of there being no suitable room available, provision for which is due to shortage of funds. The construction of a building for tuberculosis patients is delayed for the same reason.

We were very satisfied with affairs at the provincial jail, excepting the approach, where the steps require renewal.

The police station calls for no comment further than our satisfaction with everything we inspected.

With reference to fire protection generally, we consider that in future all public buildings, such as schools, jails, hospitals, theatres, hotels and other places where people are assembled, such buildings being of more than two stories, should as near as possible be made absolutely fire proof.

We desire also to call attention to a menagerie in the neighborhood of Swan Lake, which, we are informed, is a menace to the safety of the neighboring community. We recommend periodical inspection by the proper authorities.

Respectfully submitted,  
SIMON LEISER.

"With reference to the menagerie in the neighborhood," said his lordship, "if the grand jury means that it is a nuisance, it has a right to keep all sorts of animals locked up, only being responsible in case of their escape, but if you wish it treated as a nuisance I will give him notice and have the place closed down."

Foreman Leiser explained that the reason the jury made this recommendation was that one of the animals was at present at large.

At the suggestion of his lordship the jury retired to consider whether they would present the menagerie as a nuisance or not, and on their return the foreman stated that they did not want to interfere with the rights of any citizen, but the public must be safeguarded. They would not declare the place a nuisance, but desired to call the attention of the government to it.

His lordship thanked the jurors for their services and promised to forward their recommendations to the proper quarters.

DIES FROM WOUNDS.

Albany, Oct. 7.—G. Phelps, a well known Albanian, died yesterday as the result of wounds he received a few days ago in a saloon in the Italian district, where he had gone to collect \$125 rent due. After receiving the money he was attacked by some one and stabbed in the forehead, neck, face, back and chest. The police believe that robbery was the motive for the crime. Vincent, proprietor of the saloon, who has been held by the police, it is understood, will be charged with the murder. He denies that he is the man who stabbed Phelps.

## PROSECUTION IN PENTY'S CASE

DEFENCE POSTPONED FOR ONE WEEK

Detective Claydard's Evidence Held to Be Non-admissible by Lawyer.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

In the police court this morning the preliminary hearing of the charge against John Penty in connection with the death of Alex Forfar at the engine rooms of the Empress hotel was commenced. John Penty is the engineer in charge of the engine rooms. It will be remembered while the repainting of one of the boilers was in progress and Forfar was inside steam passed into the boiler, has death resulting four days later. Mr. Penty, the chief engineer, is charged with manslaughter arising out of the finding of the coroner's jury.

This morning the evidence for the prosecution was all put in, after which an adjournment was taken for one week.

Mr. Penty was represented by R. T. Elliott, K. C., while H. W. R. Moore prosecuted. The theory advanced by the prosecution for the steam being introduced into the boiler was that a valve in a tube leading into boiler No. 2, where the accident happened, was closed.

The theory advanced by the defence was that the three boiler tubes lead to a common tank which connects with the sewer. In blowing off any of these boilers the steam and water is allowed to pass into the common tank. The prosecution contended that by the valve leading to No. 2 being not fully shut off, steam from No. 3 while being blown off passed into No. 2 and scalded the unfortunate young man who was inside boiler No. 2 at the time. As the engineer in charge Penty is held responsible for the accident.

The morning Dr. G. A. B. Hall, who attended Forfar, was the first witness examined. He testified to having been called to the scene on September 9th. He described the injuries. The engine room, the shoulders and the hips were the worst burned. The death, four days later, was due to the scalding.

Thomas Gray, employed in the Empress engine room, testified to having no knowledge as to these valves. He was not called upon to deal with them.

A. Dewenap, in charge of the work of the Empress, in his evidence said that it was not a part of the duty of the repainting gang to look into the stop cocks to see if they were shut off.

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## ALL BODIES OF MINE VICTIMS RECOVERED

(Continued from page 1.)

spring his brother was driving a load of hay when from some unknown cause the load upset and the man was killed. Quite recently his mother died, and now the family is extinct with the shutting out of the life of the man Mickal. He was a quiet, unobtrusive man, and was little known in the community to which he had recently come. This was the reason his body remained so long unidentified.

Andrew Moffatt was about to give up the life of a miner to enter the grocery business with his father, in Nanaimo. His body was taken to his father's home.

A Fast Run.

An incident which is worthy of record in connection with the sad affair was the record trip made by the extension train to Ladysmith and back to bring the doctor and the mine manager to the scene.

Jimmy McKay, who is usually the most careful of engineers, was told to hurry as the case was urgent. He opened the engine throttle wide and in 23 minutes had dashed down the twelve miles to the city, picked up the passengers and was back at the mine. The conductor set his teeth and gripped the brake wheel in case they might be needed, for at times the train was rushing far faster than a mile a minute. It is customary to come to town pretty fast, but this was a record run and McKay is proud of it.

City Feels Sore.

The catastrophe which has overtaken the city of Ladysmith has come as a sad anti-climax to the year of prosperity which the city has passed through. There has of late been so great a demand for the extension coal that many ships have been unable to get their bunkers filled at that port owing to there not being enough coal to go round. The mines have been worked at full blast all the time, and when the explosion occurred no less than 500 men were employed on every shift in the workings running out from the one tunnel.

The result of this steady demand for the coal and of other causes the city has been and is suffering. New buildings have been erected and those already there have been improved. Other evidences of the permanency of the prosperity were shown in the improvements to the streets, the sewerage system and other public conveniences. Now has come a set back, but it will be only temporary. The mines will be running again next week but the bereaved hearts do not heal so easily, and the scars caused by the awful event of October 5th will long remain.

Clearing Mine of Gas.

Alex. Brydon, seen last night just before midnight, as he left the mine with a shift, said that the mine was then almost free from gas. It would be a little time before the debris caused by the cave-in could be removed and the mine straightened out. This would, however, be only a matter of a short time. The examining of the face of the workings could not be proceeded with. Some people who were not miners rather wondered why they were so slow getting into the mine. After an explosion the tendency was always for the mine to fill up with gas or afterdamp, and this would lie in the workings for an indefinite period. The only way to get it out was to introduce a draught of fresh air. The air would not go into the workings unless actually forced to do so. There had to be an intake and outlet. This was made by putting a brattice or partition through the level around one end of which the air had to pass. If a brattice was broken the air rushed through the opening thus formed and did not get any farther in. It was this brattice work that had to be repaired before it was safe to go in. A step or two ahead of where the air was circulating meant certain death.

Asked as to the result from the blowing out of a shot, Mr. Brydon said that the shock which should expand itself in loosening the coal when blown out expended itself in the air in the mine. This disturbed the dust on the timbers, and also started a blaze. If there was any gas in the roof it was likely to be forced out and the result was an explosion.

Dread the Mines.

At the time of a disaster of this kind it is customary for many of the people in a mining community to forswear the mines and all that pertains to them. Men often leave the town, but they are back again soon, and in a few weeks many are found in their own stalls. The wife of one of the victims at Ladysmith burned the mining clothes of her two boys who were working in one of the mines, and declared that they should never enter a coal mine again. These resolutions are never kept, for there is a fascination about the business which cannot be resisted. Everyone returns again, once they have familiarized themselves with the work.

On the arrival of every train coming from the Extension mines after the accident, crowds congregated, among whom were a few women. When a coffin was taken off the train, or a stretcher was carried away with its grim burden, there was respectful silence. All last night many people listened for the whistle of the train, but every time it arrived they were disappointed at the non-arrival of the bodies. It was early morning before they were in readiness to be removed. Then all were brought down with the exception of the two who were brought out of the mines later.

Mr. Dunsmuir Remains.

Hon. James Dunsmuir is still at the mine, and will probably take part personally in the investigation. He is deeply grieved at the loss of life which has occurred, and especially at the fact that the men who were lost were the finest men in the community and in the employ of the company.

Glaciers are generally masses of consolidated snow which by their own weight move slowly down the mountain where they have been accumulated. Their pace is seldom more than one inch per hour. The Alpine glaciers give birth to the five great rivers of Central Europe—the Rhine, Rhone, Po, Inn and Adige.

Prince Albert, Sask., Oct. 7.—While duck shooting 5 miles north of here yesterday, Alphonse Laporte, proprietor of the Saskatchewan hotel, while pulling a gun by the muzzle from a rig, accidentally shot himself in the abdomen, dying almost instantly.

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## WILL CROOKS IN VICTORIA

NOTED LABOR MEMBER ON WAY ROUND WORLD

Speaks of Social Revolution in England and Position of Labor Party.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Will Crooks, member of the parliament of the United Kingdom for Woolwich since 1903, is in the city to-day and will lecture this evening in the A. O. U. W. hall on the advanced legislation secured during the last few years.

Mr. Crooks is on a tour of the empire to learn of labor conditions in each part of it. He has gone through Canada with open eyes, but he modestly declines to discuss our conditions or make suggestions, but he will talk freely of things as they are in the old land. "I am here to observe and learn, not to advise," he says. His life has been a strenuous one, and during most of his fifty-seven years he has been a toiler. In addition to making a livelihood he has given largely of his time for the last twenty years as a representative of his fellow workers on public bodies. He has been a member of the London County Council since 1892, chairman of the Poplar Board of

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