

DISASTER NEAR ROGER'S PASS

STATEMENT ISSUED BY C.P.R. GENERAL MANAGER

Believes Number of Men Buried by Slide May Be Saved

Winnipeg, March 5.—General Manager Bury, of the C.P.R., has issued the following official report on the avalanche near Roger's Pass, B. C.:

At 11.30 last night one mile west of Roger's Pass, B. C., on the Canadian Pacific railway, a snow train consisting of a rotary plough, locomotive and a number of gangs of men, totalling one hundred, were clearing away a snowslide when a fresh slide came down, burying the snow train and men, including whites, Japanese and Italians.

Some escaped, but how many is not known as the slide carried away the wires.

A relief train of men, nurses and doctors was sent out from Revelstoke, 45 miles from the point of the slide, and are busy digging out the men.

It is believed many will be saved, but it is impossible at present to tell.

Local Men on Situation

William Newman, road superintendent of the E. & N., was for nineteen years stationed at Roger's Pass in charge of the road at that point. He says that so far as he can gather from the dispatches the slide must have come from Bald mountain, a bare rock which overlooks the summit. The exact point is within a quarter of a mile of the summit of the Selkirk, which are 100 feet high at that place. The valley is very narrow. The place is a mile and three-quarters from the Glacier Hotel.

Howard Chapman, manufacturers' agent in this city, has also tramped all over that district taking photographs for his picture post-card. The point of the slide is just around the bend at the foot of the glacier shown in the picture.

NATIONAL LABOR ALLIANCE FORMED

Will Endeavor to Drive American Federation From Politics

Washington, D.C., March 5.—Several New York capitalists and congressmen, who have been opposed in their districts for re-election by the American Federation of Labor, are reported today to be behind a new organization formed for the purpose of driving the labor faction from politics. The new organization will be called the National Labor Alliance.

Utmost secrecy was maintained in the formation of the alliance, and only last evening, following a meeting of its sponsors, did its existence become known. A generous campaign fund is said to have been collected and the co-operation of certain "independent" politicians secured.

IN SEARCH OF HEALTH.

Report That Czarina is Taking Sea Voyage on Imperial Yacht.

Paris, March 5.—The Russian Empress is reported to-day to be aboard the imperial yacht Standart, which is at Villefranche. The Standart is being guarded and these precautions have given rise to the belief that the Empress left Russia for a cruise in the Mediterranean to regain her health.

For more than a year the Czar and the Czarevitch have endeavored to persuade the Czarina to take a sea voyage. Her health became undermined through constant fear of attacks by nihilists upon members of the royal family.

The Empress hitherto has refused to leave Russia unless accompanied by her husband and children. That she may have consented to leave indicates that the Empress was in so serious a condition that physicians compelled her to make the voyage in search of health.

COMPANY WILL APPEAL.

Montreal, March 5.—Judge Weir yesterday dismissed the action for \$25,000 damages brought by the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company against ex-Alderman Clerique for having stated that he had been approached with a \$3,000 bribe to vote in favor of the company getting the lighting contract for the city. Judge Weir declared that Clerique's remarks in the city council concerning the light contract were privileged, and further that the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company did not suffer therefrom. The case will be appealed.

NEW BRUNSWICK BUDGET.

Fredericton, N. B., March 5.—In the legislature yesterday Hon. J. K. Fleming, provincial treasurer, brought down the budget. He stated that the expenditure of 1909 was \$1,255,381, which was \$102,587 over the amount estimated. The receipts were \$1,259,826, an amount of \$73,147 in excess of what was estimated.

ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVAL IN VICTORIA

Mrs. M. A. Hall Received Many Callers on Day Marking Event

Mrs. M. A. Hall, of 629 John street, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of her arrival in Victoria, on Tuesday last. All of her family made it a point to be on hand. Mrs. F. P. and Miss Phyllis Watson, of Vancouver, B. C., and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Macdonald, of Cochrane, Alberta, arrived on Tuesday's boat thereby making the event even more pleasurable to Mrs. Hall than she had anticipated. She also received numerous letters of congratulations from a number of friends and acquaintances who could not be present.

The following were among those who called and congratulated Mrs. Hall: Mrs. W. McCarter, Captain and Mrs. C. J. Harris, Mrs. Thos. Rennie, Esquimalt, B. C.; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Macdonald, Cochrane, Alta.; Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cullum, Mrs. Burkholder, Mrs. and Miss Watson, Vancouver, B. C.; Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Walker, Mrs. W. C. Bryant, Mrs. Kettle, Mrs. Gaster, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Esnouf, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lemm, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. L. Rogerson, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Sherritt, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hall, Mrs. F. J. Hawkins, Mrs. T. W. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hall, Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. J. P. McConnell, Mrs. W. W. Watson, Miss M. Merrill, Miss E. Merrill, A. H. Hall, White Horse, Y. T.; A. H. Maynard, E. Hawkins, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. McCulloch.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS FOR LOCAL CORPS

Officers Mess to Meet on Thursday Next—Reports on Big Guns

The latest regimental orders issued by Lt.-Col. Currie, of the Fifth Regiment, contains the following for the guidance of the members of the regiment:

The following men having been duly attested are taken on the strength, and will assume the regimental numbers opposite their names: Gnr. John D. Lewis and Tpr. Albert G. Hawkins.

The regular monthly meeting of the officers' mess will be held on Thursday next the 10th inst. at 8:30 p. m. Dress, undress uniform.

Officers commanding companies will furnish to the adjutant by the 16th inst., a complete copy of the Manning detail of their respective batteries. Alterations or amendments must be reported in writing to the adjutant during the first week in each month.

Officers commanding companies may immediately obtain new issue of seventy-five "Bullthroughs," also seventy-five "Sight-protectors" on requisition to the regimental quartermaster.

The attention of officers is directed to regimental order No. 8, 1899, para. 4, as follows:

"During the second and fourth weeks in each month the officer commanding Nos. 2 and 3 companies respectively will ascertain and report to the adjutant the pressure in the recoil cylinder on the 6-inch B. L. gun.

"Any damage or deficiency in stores to the 6-inch B. L. and 12 p. Q. F. guns will be immediately reported to the adjutant."

The regular monthly meeting of the sergeants' mess will be held at the drill hall on Thursday next the 10th instant at 8 p. m.

ANNUAL DINNER OF LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Empress Hotel the Scene of a Pleasant Gathering Last Evening

(From Saturday's Daily.) A most enjoyable time was had at the Empress hotel last evening on the occasion of the second annual dinner of the Victoria Law Students' Society.

There were twenty-five in attendance. An excellent menu was served and the entire proceedings passed off most pleasantly. Some excellent speeches were delivered.

The chair was occupied by D. S. Tait, president of the society, and to him fell the honor of proposing the health of the president of the United States. The Bench was proposed and suitably responded to by Hon. Mr. Justice Gregory. Other toasts were: The Bar, proposed by His Honor Judge Lampman, and responded to by E. V. Bodwell, K.C.; The Desk, proposed by O. C. Bass, responded to by W. R. Vaughan; The Legal Faculty of the University of Washington, proposed by E. L. Tait, responded to by Daniel B. Coswell, who brought greetings to the local students and extended them an invitation to visit the American university; the Vancouver Law Students' Society, proposed by J. E. Sears, responded to by R. W. Ellis; Our Future Clients, proposed by A. W. Milligan, responded to by C. H. Pitt; The Ladies, proposed by P. A. Babinington, responded to by C. G. White, and The Press proposed by A. Cars, responded to by W. Blakemore.

NEW CEMENT WORKS. Halifax, March 5.—The representative of a big English cement manufacturing concern is in the province, examining and reporting upon limestone quarries and the possibilities of establishing branch cement works to be operated independent of the merger. Three quarries so far have been examined.

COMMISSION ON FIRE INSURANCE

LINE OF ARGUMENT OUTLINED WEDNESDAY

J. J. Shallcross Declares That All Companies Should Be Given "Open Door"

Thursday afternoon's session of the royal commission to inquire into the method system of conducting fire insurance business in this province, proved very interesting and important. E. V. Bodwell, K.C., who was present on behalf of the board of companies doing business in British Columbia, explained what was the purpose of the bill now before the legislature, and J. J. Shallcross, who was chairman of the special committee of the board of trade, which had inquired into the matter, indicated what the line of attack on the proposed bill would be.

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Mr. Shallcross: It is a good principle, but if you apply it to insurance companies you should also apply it to every trading company in existence. Continuing, Mr. Shallcross said that notwithstanding the fact that the Dominion government required a deposit he doubted the justice of the arrangement. The board of trade has had a question whether the Dominion Act was not ultra vires.

The Chairman: Oh, we can hardly go into that.

Mr. Shallcross, continuing, said that tradesmen found that they had no hold on outside tradesmen. The insurance companies should be placed in the same position of tradesmen. The board of trade has had passed three resolutions on the question of the proposed bill—one favorable, one adverse and a unanimous report that all companies doing business in the province should be required to deposit \$30,000 with the provincial government.

Asked by Chairman Lennie to explain what line he would take before the commission, Mr. Bodwell entered into a long explanation of the attitude of the board companies, on whose behalf he appeared. He said the public should have a protection in regard to the fire insurance which they did not have at the present time—that of security.

There was a conflict of legislation on the matter between the Dominion and the province. By the Dominion Act Canadian companies were required to deposit \$50,000 with the government, and outside companies \$100,000, before they could get registration. As a result of the present state of affairs a large number of foreign companies are doing business in British Columbia who have not been secured by the law.

He believed this to be unfair to the public and to those companies which complied with the law were under a heavy expense which outside companies did not have to bear. Thus Vancouver charged \$200 registration fee to insurance companies; Victoria \$100, and New Westminster \$100. These imposts were evaded by the companies not having offices in the province and also evaded the government and the municipalities suffered, and the practice generally was not, he believed, in the best interests of the province.

The Dominion Act made no provision to avoid what had occurred in British Columbia. The business done in that province was very large. They cut rates, and while this was a seeming benefit to the people it was a very dangerous system. Mr. Bodwell cited a case in point. A fire had occurred at Vancouver recently and there had been a dispute about the loss. The company declined to settle and the people insured, as it is an outside company, cannot have a writ issued here to go where the company has residence.

Even if a suit is started in a foreign country he finds a different set of conditions from those which obtain under the local act. The general public did not understand that the general contract with these outside companies, but only that which is binding on the honor of the company; and as long as human nature remained as it was in the event of a big conflagration the temptation to evade payment would be strong.

The object of the board companies was not to create a monopoly in the province, but to have the companies placed on the same footing by arranging that a deposit should be placed with the government. This would keep out companies that were not sound, and confine the insurance to good risks. If the legislation were carried out as was hoped, there would, he believed, be a great reduction in rates.

Mr. Bodwell proceeded to say that statistics had shown that 69 per cent. of all fires were incendiary. He next explained what was meant by a "standard" town and the elaborate machinery which was maintained by the board companies in order to classify risks. He said it was obviously unfair, that after all this had been done an outside company should be enabled to come into the province, and take the benefit of this classification, and take the business at a lower rate.

Chairman Lennie asked Mr. Bodwell to put in a comparison of rates and the latter promised to do so.

Mr. Bodwell then up in the proposed insurance bill as drafted last session, also applications for the incorporation and insurance companies which are now before the private bills committee—the Western Assurance Company, capitalized at \$1,000,000, and the British Empire Company, capitalized at \$180,000. Reading from the bills incorporating these companies, Mr. Bodwell showed that they contained exactly what was proposed to incorporate in the general insurance bill.

Mr. Bodwell promised to also put in a list of the companies which had been incorporated in the province for the past few years.

Chairman Lennie said this would prove most useful information to the commission.

Stephen Wootton, registrar-general, was next examined by Mr. Bodwell as to the list of foreign companies registered in British Columbia.

Mr. Shallcross, at this stage asked that Mr. Bodwell put in what he proposed should be the remedy for the situation he had depicted so that his argument could be met in reply.

Mr. Bodwell contended that that had already been shown.

Should he be asked this, saying that it was now, he believed, proposed to have an inspector of insurance in British Columbia. Another new suggestion was that there should be an inquiry into the cause of every fire which occurred. He believed that Mr. Bodwell's proposals should be placed in writing. He could say at the outset that he was going to insist that the general public should be permitted to place their insurance in the cheapest market.

The Chairman: Then you are opposed to the bill?

Mr. Shallcross: Yes, practically. We want to be allowed to get our insurance as cheaply as we may.

Mr. Shallcross: It is largely impracticable.

The Chairman: And that it is bad to have an inspector?

Mr. Shallcross: And that it is bad to have an investigation into the cause of fires?

Mr. Shallcross: Yes, unless there is an inquiry into every fire you will greatly increase the cost of the government of the country.

The Chairman: Had to have a deposit?

MORE BODIES ARE RECOVERED

TWELVE FOUND IN SNOW IN MOUNTAINS

Remains of Victims of Avalanche Are Taken Over Trails on Sleighs

Wellington, Wash., March 5.—It is a strange story which is being told bearing the victims of Tuesday's disaster, over the dangerous trails skirting the perilous chasms to the Scenic Hot Springs. The bodies are placed on sleighs, but are drawn by men, and in places the trail is so dangerous that a single slip might lead to fresh fatalities. Wellington depot is so crowded with dead bodies that it is almost impossible to move about. Seven undertakers are working continuously embalming the bodies, while the rescue work continues feverishly.

Twelve bodies were found yesterday, including Conductor J. M. Farzybok. New slides are threatened from the mountains.

A fierce blizzard is raging at Wellington and along the trail to Scenic. The newspapers returned to Scenic to spend the night and on returning to Wellington at daylight this morning found the trail nearly obliterated.

The bodies of Engineers E. F. Jarnigan and Fireman J. Partridge were recovered to-day, making a total of 47 bodies recovered.

Blizzard Raging. Wellington, Wash., March 5, 1 p. m.—The wind is increasing in velocity, and it is bitterly cold here, but men with Alaskan sleighs have started for Scenic with 12 bodies. It is problematic whether the grim avalanche can get through now. The bodies are those of Mrs. Covington, Dan Gilman, C. S. Eltinge, J. L. Pettit, E. W. Topping, A. Campbell, J. Kelly, R. M. Barnhart, John Parzybok, B. F. Jarnigan, Blackburn and Longway.

The snow is rapidly filling up the holes dug in the debris.

Little Varden Gray, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Gray, will live, and there is joy among the survivors and relief workers here. Varden Gray is the tiniest of all those who by some miracle came out of the avalanche alive. When found the baby was crying from the pain of a splinter in his forehead. With a razor, the workers rudely pulled surgeons and removed the splinter. Doctors arrived soon after and dressed the wounds while the baby laughed. Both parents were injured in the wreck, but will live.

MEETING TO DISCUSS NAVAL AFFAIRS

Resolutions Will Be Introduced Bearing on Policy to Be Followed by Government

A meeting to discuss naval affairs will be held on Thursday next in the Victoria theatre. The leaders of each of three parties in the provincial legislature have been invited to speak, and while it is not so advertised, it is expected that Clive Phillips-Woolley will be the principal speaker of the evening. A full chorus from the navy will be present, and a number of patriotic songs will be sung.

It is understood that a resolution dealing with naval affairs will be presented for the acceptance or rejection of the meeting. While the terms of this resolution will not be made public until the meeting convenes, it is understood that it will commend the action of the Dominion government for the steps they have already taken in laying the foundation of a Canadian navy, but that it will ask that the naval units be increased by the addition of one line of battle ship, probably of the Indomitable type. It is also understood that the matter of the control of the navy in time of war will be up for discussion. There is a suggestion that the supreme power should in time of war revert automatically to the first sea lord. On this there is considerable difference of opinion, and at the meeting everyone will be accorded the privilege of expressing their views.

There is naturally a great deal of interest taken in naval affairs in Victoria, which in the future will undoubtedly become a prominent naval centre. While there is not, and probably will never be, unity of thought on this matter, it is always a good thing to discuss them. It has been suggested that the meeting is likely to be dominated by the ultra naval and ultra military section of the community, but there should also be a good representation of all shades of opinion.

GOVERNMENT AND VETO POWER BILL

Premier Asquith's Statement in the House of Commons

London, March 4.—In reply to a question in the Commons yesterday as to the Premier's statement in the programme, Premier Asquith said the intention of the government, subject to unforeseen contingencies, was to ask the House to dispose of the budget as soon as the resolution of the House of Lords had been passed through the Commons. Premier Asquith announced that the government's intention was to get the proposals regarding the power of the House on the statute book in the earliest possible moment. The premier declared that unless the government were able to submit to the House a bill which would insure that their proposals would not only pass the Commons, but that they would be passed into law, the government would not continue in office.

The premier said: "It is intended to embody these proposals, that is in regard to the veto power, in a bill but until we know what decisions have been given by the House of Commons and the other, it would be premature to determine finally what our course of procedure should be."

In reply to a question of Professor Butler, Premier Asquith admitted that he had informed the House on Monday last that the only change in procedure from that originally announced would be submitted to the House of Lords. The premier added, however, "but at the same time I myself and the chancellor of the exchequer said that in certain circumstances we did not intend to ask this House to repeat the process which has been described in days bygone as ploughing the sands."

The premier, parliamentary secretary to the premier, stated that there was no reason to suppose that the relations between India and Tibet would be affected by the recent events. The policy of the government would be to strictly observe its treaty obligations and to require the other countries interested in Tibet to take similar action.

ALLEGED COMBINE

New York, March 4.—Seven of the eight directors of the consolidated milk exchange recently indicted for violation of the state monopoly law in taking joint action to increase the price of milk at wholesale yesterday through their counsel, former District Attorney Jerome, pleaded not guilty to the indictment. No plea was offered by the police director, Walter Comfort, who is in Cuba.

Extensive deposits of asbestos of fine quality, and of wholly new variety, in the Urenberg district of Russia.

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ESCAPES IN WHEEL CHAIR.

San Jose, Cal., March 4.—An escaped patient from the county hospital who was taken to the hospital to-day by the authorities.

The patient, John Ryan, who is old and crippled, wheeled himself a distance of four miles and a half, and found a place of concealment on the county road. Later he was found by the police. He said that he did not relish his treatment at the institution, and decided to decamp.

APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE.

Honolulu, March 5.—The 400 Russians recently brought here by the territorial board of immigration to work on the sugar plantations, but who have refused to accept employment at the wages offered, have called to the Russian ambassador at Washington for assistance to enable them to return to their homes. They claim that they were promised double the amount of wages actually being paid plantation laborers.

Styles That Win The Men

There are no "dull months" or "slack seasons" at the Fit-Reform Wardrobe. We have made it far too attractive for that.

The famous Fit-Reform designers in Montreal (in close touch with New York, London, Paris and Vienna) are constantly creating new styles and improving those already in vogue. A week after a model is completed, we have the duplicate here.

This is why we are able to show so many new distinctive, attractive styles that appeal so strongly to well dressed men. And this is one reason why the Fit-Reform Wardrobe is busy from one year's end to the other.

Have you seen the elegant Tweed and Worsted Suits at \$18, \$20 and \$22? For good taste, good style and downright value, they have no equals in Canada.

ALLEN & CO.

FIT-REFORM

1201 Government Street, Victoria, B.C.

ACCEPTS OFFER OF COAL COMPANY

Dominion Steel Concern Will Receive \$800,000 in Settlement of Claims

Montreal, March 5.—A meeting of directors of the Dominion Iron and Steel and Dominion Coal Company was held this afternoon at the conclusion of which the statement was handed out that the steel company agreed to accept \$800,000 in settlement of all claims against the coal company for non-fulfillment of the contract for the supply of coal. It was announced that a dividend of 3 1/2 per cent. had been agreed upon, payable April 1st. This will cover all dividends accrued to date.

GATHERINGS OF STRIKERS PROHIBITED

Philadelphia Police Have Orders to Prevent Street Meetings

Philadelphia, Pa., March 5.—Long before the hour set for the mass meeting of strikers in Independence square this afternoon thousands of men and women gathered there. It was estimated that by 2 o'clock 5,000 persons had crowded the streets surrounding the square.

The throng was increasing when a detachment of 200 specially selected policemen—the largest men on the force—entered the square, and with riot clubs drove the crowds back into the nearby streets.

Although the announcement of the mayor that he had prohibited the meeting under the riot act had been given wide-spread circulation, the preparations for the meeting were carried on as if nothing had happened to suggest a postponement.

After clearing the square the two hundred giant policemen remained on guard. The disgruntled crowd stood back sullenly awaiting developments.

RIVERS FALLING.

Lewiston, Idaho, March 5.—The Snake and Clearwater rivers both fell during the night and it is believed the crest of the flood has passed. A clear sky promises to check the floods on the prairies, and zero weather is reported from mining camps along the headwaters of the Clearwater. Traffic is still indefinitely suspended and only the line from Camas to Grangeville is being operated, with new slides being reported almost constantly along the Clearwater line and the Ripari branch.

The electric line from Moscow to Spokane was open yesterday and arrangements were being made to run Northern Pacific trains over it but washouts near Palouse blocked it again to-day.

KOOTENAY LAKE CLEAR.

Nelson, March 5.—With continued warm weather, lake navigation is resuming its normal condition, and steamers on Kootenay lake are no longer tied up by ice. Traffic between Nakusp and Arrowhead and between Nakusp and West Robson has been resumed. The Arrow lakes through service cannot be resumed until spring, the water being too low to permit navigation of the narrows and other shallow points by the steamers Ross and Kootenay.

FLOOD THREATENED.

Helena, Mont., March 5.—It is feared that a serious flood will result from the upper Missouri river on account of the unusually high water for this time of the year. The river already is higher than it has been at any time during the month of March in five years.

WILL LIQUOR BE DISALLOWED

GOVERNMENT SEEN DEPENDING

Evidently a Case of Secure Favor of Elements

(From Thursday's Daily.) Has the McBride government once more flim-flammed an able people of British Columbia? The Attorney-General's notice act been phrased in to court disallowance, the government's liquor license renewal act at the same time giving opportunity to hypocritical zeal in the cause of it looks very like it.

For the first time since the act of the bill, finally passed, it was admitted by Premier McBride and Attorney-General Bowser that they were aware of the disallowance because it would prove an embarrassment to the government.