

NEARLY TWO HUNDRED MINERS ENTOMBED IN COLLIERY AT HILLCREST, ALBERTA

EXPLOSION IN COAL MINE; HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIVE LIVES ARE LIKELY LOST

Practically Whole Male population of the Town Wiped Out by the Disaster—Pathetic Scenes as Bereaved Relatives Wait for Recovery of Victims from Mines.

ONLY FORTY-EIGHT CAME OUT
OF MINE ALIVE AFTER THE CALAMITY.

All Hope of Saving Any of Those Entombed Has Been Abandoned—The Work of Rescue Begun—Heart Rending Scenes as Bodies of Victims are Brought to the Surface.

Hillcrest, Alb., June 19.—In what is probably the worst mining disaster that ever occurred in the history of Canada practically the whole male population of this town was wiped out today. Nearly two hundred homes mourn the loss of father, son or brother, and the women folk sit around in their homes on the neighboring hills watching the gruesome truckloads of dust begrimed bodies as they are brought to the surface with motuous regularity.

The explosive fire damp has done its treacherous work. Twelve hundred feet down in the bowels of the earth, where the men labored, in one brief moment, one hundred and ninety-five of the two hundred and thirty-six men who went to work this morning were hurled into eternity. Some of them are believed to be beneath tons of coal, some are found with their picks in their hands, and others are propped against the walls of the mines, tools in hand, as though ready for work.

Only 41 of the shift came out alive. All day long since the explosion occurred there has been a funeral procession of bodies passing from mine to washhouse, where the bodies are dressed. From there a rapid procession is leaving for the town. All day long women and children have traversed the same path in hope of hearing some cheering news from their loved ones, and in their path they would meet mothers and sisters returning broken hearted to their homes.

At the mouth of the mine husky, grimy men labor with herculean endurance as back and forth the rescue trucks grind with their ghastly loads of human remains. Men decked with oxygen helmets, slide quickly in and out among the crowd of anxious watchers and then, as silently disappear into the bowels of the earth, only to reappear with corpses as companions.

There is no confusion, everything is orderly. The miners appear to accept death as a matter of course and the women weep in silence when they watch the bodies of their loved ones brought to the surface wrapped in rude blankets and conveyed away to the temporary morgue. For this purpose the washhouse of the mines has been turned into a morgue. Some of the bodies brought up are bruised, torn and broken, but the cause of death in the majority of cases must be attributed to suffocation.

A large number of corpses have been brought to the surface. The eighty tired and willing workers at the rescue work have apparently made up their minds that not a living soul remains in the mine. To the question put to General Manager Brown, of the Hillcrest collieries, the only answer is a shake of the head and the doleful words, "We have hope."

LIGHTNING KILLS ONE, STUNS TWO OTHERS

Ontario Man Struck Down
While at Work in Field—
His Companions Rendered
Unconscious.

St. Catharines, Ont., June 19.—Edward James Canner, aged thirty-four, a native of Northampton, Eng., was today instantly killed by lightning while in the field at Senator Smith's farm at Jordan Station. Two other fellow workmen were stunned by the shock.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF G.T.R. TO BE BURIED IN VERMONT, SUNDAY

Montreal, June 19.—The funeral of the late M. M. Reynolds, vice-president of the Grand Trunk, Grand Trunk Pacific and Central Vermont Railways, will take place at the Episcopal church at St. Albans Vermont, at 3.30 Sunday afternoon. The remains left Old Point Comfort, Virginia, on a private railway car this evening. E. J. Chamberlain, president of the G. T. R., will be present at the service, which will be attended by a big representation of railway officials from both Canada and the United States, a special train leaving Montreal at one o'clock on Sunday to convey friends to St. Albans.

TRYING TO ENLIST SUBSCRIPTIONS TO CONTINUE CAN. AGENCY

The Prospect Looks Doubtful
Judging by Results of the
First Day's Campaign.

London, June 20.—Efforts were on foot yesterday in the city to enlist subscriptions to carry on the Canadian agency, but it is extremely doubtful whether the attempt will be successful. One Canadian banker thought it would be easier to continue the Chaplin Mine Grenfell firm than the agency. A considerable feeling of resentment is evident in investment circles over the position of the Messines Transvaal Western Land Companies, the shareholders of which are being advised by certain newspapers to band themselves together and take action.

LANDSLIDE IN TUNNEL KILLS TWELVE

Nice, France, June 19.—Twelve persons were killed and seven injured by a landslide today in a tunnel of the new railway from Nice to Cupes, Italy. It is feared that more people were beneath the debris.

P.E.I. FOXES VALUED AT 13 MILLIONS

Over 3,000 Animals and Value
Twice as Great as that of
Island's Live Stock and
Poultry.

Ottawa, June 19.—That the foxes held in captivity in connection with the fur farming industry of Prince Edward Island alone are worth \$15,186,158, is the information contained in a census department bulletin issued today. There are 3,150 foxes of all breeds and the value of these animals is twice as great as that of all the horses, cattle, swine and sheep and poultry on the island.

BOMB UNDER POLICE STATION

Montreal, June 19.—An infernal machine containing enough nitro-glycerine to demolish all the houses within a block of its location, was found last night beneath a window of the Seventy-Ninth Precinct Police Station at the corner of St. Hubert street and Thirty-Third avenue. Attached to it was an explosive cap which needed only the slightest jar to explode the powerful material within.

AGRICULTURAL GRANT TO THE PROVINCES BY DOM. GOVERNMENT

Ottawa, Ont., June 19.—The department of agriculture has almost completed the location of the federal grant of \$500,000 which is to be given to the provinces this year under the agricultural instruction act of last session. Nova Scotia's share of the grant, on a per capita basis, will be \$61,144 this year.

Arrangements for the apportionment of the grant to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are not yet quite completed.

WILL REDOUBT ON THEIR OWN HEADS

Grits Likely to Hear More of
That Breach of Faith in the
Matter of Senate Enlarge-
ment.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, June 19.—The breach of faith of the Liberal leaders in the Commons and the Senate on the last day of the session, when they killed the bill to increase the western representation in the Senate to equalize with that of the other portions of Canada going to redound on their own heads.

It will be remembered that an arrangement was reached between the government and opposition leaders whereby the redistribution and senate increase measures would go through the senate together in the form in which they left the Commons. After passing the redistribution bill Senator Bostock, the Liberal leader in the senate, moved an amendment to the senate bill which was carried by the Liberal majority that it should not go into effect until after the next general election. The government of course refused to accept this amendment and the bill was killed.

When the agreement was reached between the two leaders the Liberals were dealt with most leniently in the redistribution bill, but it is now stated that the redistribution question will be reopened next session and that there will be amendments to it which will not be so favorable to the Liberal interests as the present measure is. The breach of faith will react on themselves.

THINKS THERE IS STILL A CHANCE TO SETTLE MEXICAN TROUBLE

Peace Envoy from Argentina
Hopeful that Mediation Con-
ference May Yet Smooth
Over the Difficulties.

Washington, June 19.—Hope that the wavering mediation programme still might bring peace to Mexico was expressed here late tonight by Argentine Minister Naon as he took the train for Niagara Falls, after a series of conferences with President Wilson and Secretary Bryan and Luis Cabrera, of the Washington agency of the constitutionalists.

Minister Naon came to Washington unexpectedly today from New Haven and Cambridge, where he had been attending the Yale and Harvard commencement exercises. It was not denied that the diplomat had come for a final word with the highest officials of the administration concerning the deadlock between the Mexican and American delegates at the Niagara Falls mediation conference. "I maintain hope for two reasons," he said. "The first is that I am in

MORE EVIDENCE HEARD REGARDING THE TROUBLE WITH STEERING GEAR

An Empire Cruise of The Imperial Squadron

London Paper Suggests the Plan—Favors Having it on Eye
of Imperial Conference Which is to be Held Next Year.

London, June 20.—A demonstration of British sea power by an empire cruiser of the imperial squadron on the eve of the imperial conference, next year, is suggested by the Daily Telegraph as a brilliant, because the problem of naval defence will form one of the main subjects of discussion at the conference.

The Telegraph anticipates that, owing to the general improvement in the international situation, and the early delivery of ships, the admiralty will be able to accelerate its plans for sending a battle squadron of dreadnoughts to the Mediterranean. In view of the accession of strength in ships of the swift class, it is proposed that the admiralty may determine to base on Gibraltar three of the four battle cruisers now in the Mediterranean, together with the gift ship

New Zealand, as the nucleus of an imperial squadron. Although these ships would be based on Gibraltar, they would be free to cruise in the Atlantic or the Pacific as required. The imperial conference, coinciding with the twenty-first birthday of the Prince of Wales, will undoubtedly be marked by a great awakening of imperial sentiment, says the Telegraph. The readjustment of our strength in the Mediterranean and the improved international outlook, says the Telegraph, offers the imperial government a unique opportunity of illustrating the ability of British sea power, the unity of the sea, force of strategic principles, which the admiralty recommends as the foundation of imperial security and the desire of the mother country to do honor to the statesmen of the self governing dominions.

Witnesses on Stand Yesterday
Agree Vessel "Zig-zagged"
Coming Down the River.

WATER RUSHED INTO LINER IN GREAT VOLUME

Officer of Steamer Alden Says
He Had to Port Helm 1 1/2 to
2 Points to Avoid the Em-
press.

Quebec, June 19.—The alleged defective steering gear of the Empress of Ireland and the rapidly with which she went to the bottom of the St. Lawrence after being struck by the collier Storstad on May 29, formed the two most conspicuous details connected with the calamity enquired into today by the Dominion Commission sitting in the court house here. On the first of these two points, evidence was submitted by a number of sailors and Pilot Napoleon Lepedre, who were on the collier Alden, which was passed by the Empress around the time that she was said to be steering badly by James Francis Gohway, a quartermaster, who claimed yesterday that the liner's helm jammed for three minutes on the night of the disaster. These witnesses all agreed that the Empress, as the pilot put it, zig-zagged down the river, though they all had to confess that while still a good distance away she showed red to red in conformity with navigation laws and passed more than a cables length away.

C. S. Haight, New York, acting for the Storstad owners, in the morning searched around diligently in his cross-examination of George O'Toole, the engineer who looked after the steering apparatus, for some fault in it, but beyond getting a popular description of a piece of intricate mechanism which will probably be of interest to a layman he gained nothing to support the theory that the gear was unreliable. Mr. Aspinall, K. C., the C. P. R. lawyer, seemed by his questions to the men of the Alden, to suggest that the liner's alleged steering was due to the fact that they had straight ahead and that any variations in the appearance of her lights was due to momentary influences of the current, which were immediately corrected. It was obvious, too, that though the men said they were afraid of a collision no attempt was made to slow up the boat.

On the bulkhead question the evidence showed that the water rushed into the liner in tremendous volume and in a few moments had reached within eight feet of the top of her watertight compartments. Lord Jersey said that a few days ago he had concluded that the ship had the two watertight compartments which she could float with filled, opened up by the first blow of the nose of the collier, which had dragged away more of the Empress starboard side when she fell back, and that therefore nothing could have saved the vessel.

Late this afternoon Jacob Saxe, third officer of the Storstad, another eye witness of the disaster, gave his evidence in chief, and his cross-examination by Mr. Aspinall is expected to form the most interesting phase of tomorrow morning's proceedings.

WILL OPPOSE HON. ADAM BECK

London, Ont., June 19.—W. J. Stevenson was nominated by London Liberals' Association tonight, to contest the riding against Hon. Adam Beck in the approaching provincial elections.

PLAN VICTORIOUS FOR WELCOMING POLO TEAM.

London, June 19.—The Hurlington Polo Club will entertain the victorious polo team of Baron Wimborne at dinner July 4. King George has promised to attend the dinner.

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DROP NAME OF W. BURNS FROM HONORARY LIST

Police Chief's Association El-
minate Him From Honorary
Roll—No Official Reason
Given.

Grand Rapids, Mich., June 19.—William J. Burns, the detective, was dropped from honorary membership in the police chiefs' association today. No official reason was given for dropping Burns, but it was stated by members of the association that a majority of the delegates formally declined to eliminate him, and to do so the honorary membership list was revised and Burns' name omitted. Several times during the convention police chiefs criticized statements which Burns was alleged to have made concerning police methods. His action in the Leo Frank murder case, which he investigated in Georgia, also brought forth caustic comment from some of the delegates.

FOR U. S. CONSUL AT ST. STEPHEN.

Washington, June 19.—President Wilson has sent to the senate the nomination of Henry H. Balch, of Madison, Ala., to be United States consul at St. Stephen, N. E.

The position of knowing more than you, and the second is that I see no reason for changing my attitude."

FIRST LARGE STEAMSHIP TO PASS THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL



The steamship Alliance, belonging to the Panama Railroad Company, is the first large vessel to pass through the Gatun locks of the Panama Canal. It was on June 9 that she was sent through the locks for the purpose of testing the electric locomotives that will be used to tow vessels through the locks. The test was a success, the locomotives handling the four thousand ton steamship easily and speedily. It took the Alliance one and one-half hours to pass through the locks.