



VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1902.

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MANY BODIES ARE COVERED BY ROCKS

IT WILL TAKE DAYS TO REACH THEM ALL

Remains of Several Victims Are in Sight - Committee Is Kept Busy Distributing Relief

The Times correspondent at Fernie reports the recovery of additional bodies from the Coal Creek mines. Thirteen more have been taken out and of these seven are unidentified. A number of the bodies are known to be buried under debris, and it will probably be some days before they are reached.

Archibald Dick, inspector of mines, in a message to the Minister of Mines, last night stated that on May 19th he examined No. 3 mine. All was clear of gas; ventilation was good, 27,000 feet of air passage per minute for 50 men. On May 20th examined No. 2 mine. At high line division there were 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute, 30 men, and in East and West districts, 75,000 cubic feet of air per minute, 60 men. He did not find gas in the mines. At a meeting of Winnipeg city council last night the sum of \$500 was voted to assist.

A dispatch from Toronto says the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company directors have authorized the statement that the company will pay all funeral expenses, relieve against immediate want and suffering and provide permanently any destitution. They state, so far, the cause of the explosion is not known, but that the day preceding the accident, the mines were inspected by the government mine inspector, Arch. Dick, who issued his written certificate that the mines were in excellent condition. Inaccurate telegrams from the West as to the mines being dangerous and reporting previous explosions, and assigning various causes for the explosion, should not be believed. This is the first explosion that has taken place in the mines. Men were recently fined by the magistrate at the instance of the company for taking matches into the mines, tobacco being found upon them, and one man who denied having matches about him, on being searched, was found to have matches in his hair. Very little damage has been done to the mines, and when the work of rescue is completed operations can be immediately recommenced upon the old scale, so that the miners may resume their operations at an early date.

ADDITIONAL BODIES Have Been Taken From the Wrecked Workings of Mine.

Fernie, May 27.—The following additional bodies have been recovered: Albert Cole, John Horbet, H. Hartley, Peter L. Lokae, W. Lezar, Jas. Mitchell, Three unknown from room 10, and four unknown from room 8. About 18 bodies are in sight and will be removed to-night. The work of recovering the bodies is slow, as the roofs of many of the rooms have caved in, burying the bodies under tons of rock. This work may consume a week more.

The suspense of the widows and families awaiting the recovery of the bodies is heart rending. Funerals are held at all hours and cause but little notice now. So far there are known to be 40 to 50 widows. This information is hard to get, as the coal company does not have it. The relief fund has reached \$6,500 and the committee is already distributing it. New cases of destitution are being found every hour. Another of our constables, G. Henderson, showed the white feather and "hit the ties" this evening. A. P. Walker was put on the force to-day.

PATHETIC SCENES. Girl Arrived in Time to See Her Intended Husband Borne to Cemetery.

Fernie, May 27.—Later—Good progress is being made to-day with rescue operations, and since last evening nine bodies have been recovered and brought to town for burial. The bodies which have been identified, list including: Wm. Morris, married; leaves widow and two children in Pennsylvania. Wm. Thorpe, also from Pennsylvania; leaves widow and one child. Jas. R. Wilson, Jr., son of the former underground manager. Joe Hubbs.

Preparations for the continuation of the funeral on Saturday are being systematically advanced, with indications that its sessions will be protracted, and through inquiry be made into the real responsibility for the disaster. The Miners' Union has retained the legal firm of Ross & Alexander, and are already getting together pertinent evidence.

The relief fund now amounts to \$7,400.

among the latest contributors being the town of Sydney, C. B., sending \$500; Ymba a similar amount, and Wm. Fernie, the only director of the company yet to contribute personally, \$500. Many intensely pathetic scenes are developing through the distribution of relief and the continuous funerals. Yesterday brought in a broken-hearted girl of 18 from Spokane, who had hoped to join her intended husband in this town and be married upon arrival. She reached just in time to see the body of her lover taken to the fast filling little cemetery. The Slavonic mother of M. Hubbs started for Fernie from her prairie home as soon as news of the disaster reached there. At Crow's Nest blockades interdicted further railway progress, and so across the blockading masses of gumbo, through the 35 miles of mountain and forest lying between her and Fernie, she plodded wearily, arriving this morning worn but still most bravely bearing up, her sole remaining hope being to dress the shattered body of her only boy for his last cradling.

THE RELIEF FUND. List of Contributions For Assistance to Fernie Sufferers.

The city official subscription list was circulated this morning for a couple of hours, and in that time the substantial sum of \$845 was subscribed in aid of the sufferers from the Fernie disaster. Doubtless by the time this paper reaches the street the amount will have been swelled to \$1,000 or more. In addition to the subscriptions to the Times list acknowledged yesterday there is a contribution of \$5 from Narcissus. On Sunday evening a collection was taken in the Metropolitan Methodist church in aid of the rapidly increasing fund, and the very satisfactory amount of \$107 was realized. The city list as furnished by the Mayor follows:

- Corporation City of Victoria \$250
Hon. Jas. Dunsmuir 250
Hon. E. G. Prior 50
Hon. J. D. Prentice 50
Mayor Hayward 25
Richard Hall, M. P. 25
Brackman & Ker Milling Co. 25
B. C. Land & Investment Agency ... 20
Dillard Hotel 10
T. N. Hibberd 10
W. T. Oliver 10
McPhillips, Wootton & Barnard 10
Robt. Ward & Co. 10

VICTIMS OF MINE DISASTER. (Associated Press.)

The original superintendent of mines here, has issued a signed statement in which he attributes the explosion to coal dust ignited by a blown out shot, and inferentially he holds the mine management methods seriously at fault, while James R. Wilson, former under-ground superintendent, who is now directing rescue work, positively asserts that safety was sacrificed to economy in the working of the mine. The miners ask for the appointment of a commission upon which the mine masters, government and men be equally represented, to fix the detailed causes of Thursday's disaster and suggest practical amendments to the mining law preventive of similar disasters in future in such mines. Up to last night 66 bodies had been brought to town. It is expected that many more are still within the mine.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT Was Issued To-day by Provincial Mineralogist Robertson.

Fernie, May 28.—Later.—Provincial Mineralogist Robertson, this morning made public a statement, which directly contradicts all statements as to the origin of Thursday's disaster put forward by Blakemore, Wilson and other experts on the scene. These are agreed that the explosion must have occurred through the use of a machine in the workings and injudicious practice in firing shots. Mr. Robertson declares that while holes had been drilled they had not been charged when the explosion occurred and consequently could be held in no respect responsible. There have been 76 bodies brought up to the town to date, among those last identified being Joe Schelding, Alex. Beattie, Steve Rasmussen, Andrew Patterson, Nota Rossario, Antonio Pietro, John Satarovich, E. Federico and George Tuka.

In connection with the inquest proceedings the Western Federation of Miners has to-day engaged S. S. Taylor, K.C., to act with Ross and Alexander, who represent the local union.

TELLS OF DISASTER. Interview With R. Frise, Who Was at Fernie When Explosion Occurred.

R. Frise and wife, of Fernie, arrived last night from the mining town. In conversation this afternoon Mr. Frise said that he was in Fernie on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock when the explosion occurred, and it was not until about a half an hour afterward that the news reached the town. Immediately a relief party set out with doctors, and the first work was spent in the recovery of seven bodies, all of which were burnt and badly mutilated, having been covered with debris. The second day's work brought to light about 25 bodies, all of which were found in one place. They were not in the slightest way injured, and the unfortunate miners had evidently died from suffocation.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER. Ottawa, May 27.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier returns on Thursday in time to vote in the provincial elections. Hon. Clifford Sifton will leave for Winnipeg after the voting.

not credited by the wives of those at work, and Mr. Frise says that a great many would not believe it until undeniable proofs in the shape of the recovered bodies arrived. The scene then Mr. Frise describes as heartrending. Mothers rushed about almost frantic with grief. A very sad feature of the accident was the death of a number of miners who had just arrived to work in the mines from Montana. They had brought their wives and families with them and had gone to work on their first shift about 3 p.m., meeting death about four hours later. One street in Fernie, says Mr. Frise, has on it exactly thirteen houses which on Thursday were inhabited by thirteen fairly well off, contented families. Every mother is now a widow, the husbands having met their deaths in the explosion, and that street is now one of mourning. The worst feature of it is that the families are in most cases large and were wholly dependent upon what was brought in by those who are among the dead.

Mr. Frise was employed by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company on a contract for the painting of some buildings, and having finished the work is in the city with the intention of settling here. In the meantime he is staying at the Dawson hotel.

THE RELIEF FUND. Large Amount of Subscriptions Received - Vancouver Corporation Donates \$500.

Mayor Hayward's appeal for aid for the sufferers by the disaster at Fernie has been liberally responded to, about \$1,150 having been subscribed up to date. The list of subscribers is to be found at the city hall, and those wishing to add their names to the list can do so either in person or by telephone. The Dominion Express Company have arranged to carry free remittances to the relief committee at Fernie. The corporation of the city of Vancouver have subscribed \$500 towards the fund.

Mayor Hayward has written on behalf of the Protestant Orphanage of Victoria, offering to take charge of some of the children left destitute by the accident. The offer is greatly appreciated in Fernie. On June 5th the Vancouver baseball team will play an exhibition match at Nanaimo for the benefit of the sufferers. The following subscriptions have been received at the Colonist office: Simon Duck, \$20; John Bryden, \$10; and \$2 from two other gentlemen. The following contributions have been received by the Mayor in addition to those published yesterday:

- Savoy Theatre \$50 00
R. P. Rithet & Co. 25 00
J. H. Todd & Sons 20 00
Henderson Bros. 20 00
Challenger & Mitchell 10 00
W. S. Fraser & Co. 10 00
Dixie H. Ross & Co. 10 00
L. Gooderich 10 00
P. Percy & Co. 10 00
Pitner & Lister 10 00
Dowell & Co. 10 00
P. McQuade & Sons 10 00
Helmstern & Co. 10 00
Victoria Book & Stationery Co. 5 00
Bishop of Columbia 5 00
Frederick Norris 5 00
The Canadian Press 5 00
E. B. Martin & Co. 5 00
S. J. Pitts 5 00
Thos. Shotbolt 2 50
Pope Stationery Co. 2 50
W. G. Cameron 2 50
An Allen 2 00

THE LATE AMBASSADOR. Remains of Lord Pauncefoot Will Be Carried to England on Warship.

London, May 26.—The British government has gratefully accepted the United States offer of a warship to bring home the remains of Lord Pauncefoot, late ambassador at Washington.

The Funeral. Washington, May 26.—It is evident from the preparations so far that the funeral of the late Lord Pauncefoot will be made a memorable occasion. All of the available military and naval forces in Washington and vicinity will take part in the procession. The services at St. John's church will be conducted by Cardinal Bishop McKay Smith, though Bishop Satterlee will attend. The President and his cabinet, the diplomatic body, the Supreme court, the members of the senate, committee on foreign relations, and the house committee on foreign affairs, Admiral Dewey and General Miles and their staffs, the bureau chiefs of the state department and the assistant secretaries from the other departments will attend.

Secretary Root has issued an order placing Major Hagen-Young in charge of the military arrangements. An equal number of army and naval officers shall act as ushers at the church with Major McCawley, of the marine corps in charge. An equal number of enlisted men from the army and navy will act as body bearers. The funeral escort will consist of a squadron of cavalry from Fort Meyer, a battalion of engineers, marching as infantry, from Washington barracks, a battery of artillery from Fort Meyer, and a battalion of marines from local posts.

Messages of condolence continue to be received at the embassy in large numbers. Among those received to-day was one from King Edward.

SHOWER OF ASHES. Roseau, Island of Dominica, B. W. I., May 27.—During the night of last night, a great shower of mud from the bed of the river Blanche.

The governor concludes that his latest visit to St. Pierre confirms the previous reports that the southern portion of the town was apparently destroyed by an inexplicable phenomena resembling a frightful hurricane, which swept from north to south. The fall of scoriae formed a layer a foot deep. The northern part of the town is buried under a bed of mud. It is impossible to imagine or describe the desolation of St. Pierre.

SPANISH MINISTRY. Madrid, May 28.—The Premier, Senor Sagasta, is hopeful of limiting the changes in the Spanish cabinet to finding a successor for Senor Canalejas, minister of public works. It is said, however, that the resignation of Senor Melet, minister of the interior, is irrevocable.

FOUND HUNDREDS OF SMALL VOLCANOS

A SCIENTIST'S TRIP TO AREA OF CRATERS

Professor Hill Tells of His Investigations in the Island of Martinique.

Port de France, May 26.—Prof. Robert T. Hill, United States government geologist and head of the expedition sent by the National Geographical Society, has just come in from a daring and prolonged investigation of the volcanic activity in Martinique. Professor Hill chartered a steamer and carefully examined the coast as far north as Port de Macoub, at the extreme end of the island, making frequent landings. After landing at Le Precheur, five miles north of St. Pierre, he walked through an area of active volcanism to the latter place and made a minute examination of various phenomena disclosed. Professor Hill is the first and only man who has set foot on the area of craters, fissures and fumaroles, and because of his high position as a scientist, his narrative is valuable. In addition to his work of investigation the professor rescued in his steamer many poor people of Le Precheur, who had ventured back after deserting their homes and who found themselves in a terrible danger.

The zone of the catastrophe in Martinique forms an elongated oval, containing on land about eight square miles of destruction. This oval is partly over the sea. The land part is bounded by lines running from Le Precheur to the peak of Mount Pelee, thence curving around to Carbet. There were three well marked zones. First: A course of sandstone, in which all life, vegetable and animal, was utterly destroyed. The greater part of northern St. Pierre was in this zone. Second: A zone of singeing, disintegrating and great superficial force, setting fire to all life, killing all men and animals and burning the leaves on the trees, scorching but not utterly destroying the trees. Third: A large outer zone, of destructive zones of ashes, wherein some vegetation was injured.

The focus of annihilation was the new crater, midway between the sea and the peak of Mount Pelee, where now exists a new area of active volcanism with hundreds of fumaroles or miniature volcanoes. The new crater is now vomiting black hot mud, which is falling into the sea. Both craters, the old and new, are active. Mushroom shaped steam explosions constantly eject from the old crater. The old ejects steam, smoke, mud, pumice, and lapilli, but no molten lava.

The salient topography of the region is unaltered. The destruction of St. Pierre was due to the new crater. The explosion had great superficial force, setting in radial directions as is evidenced by the dismounting and carrying for yards of the guns in the battery on the hill south of St. Pierre and the colonial state of the Virgin in the same locality. Also by the condition of the ruined houses in St. Pierre.

According to the testimony of some persons, there was an accompanying flame. Others think the incandescent cinders and the force of their ejection were sufficient to cause the destruction. This may be investigated at any moment following the nature of this hill. This is the first positive scientist statement based on observed facts. Prof. Hill is now started on horseback for the island. He will study the whole affected area and will try to get to both craters. He will surely visit Morne Rouge and the slope of Mount Pelee. The United States press dispatch announcing that a date of eruption of Mount Pelee occurred during the evening of Monday, May 26th, causing a great panic at Port de France. The cinders and scoriae, however, the governor adds, did not touch the town, falling entirely on the north of the island. Calm is now restored at Port de France. The governor has abandoned his proposed visit to the devastated places on the island owing to the torrential rainfall and rough sea.

Several craters, the governor further reports, were vomiting thick smoke. Another eruption of Morné Pelee occurred as the French cruiser Tage passed St. Pierre recently, resulting in a shower of mud from the bed of the river Blanche. The governor concludes that his latest visit to St. Pierre confirms the previous reports that the southern portion of the town was apparently destroyed by an inexplicable phenomena resembling a frightful hurricane, which swept from north to south. The fall of scoriae formed a layer a foot deep. The northern part of the town is buried under a bed of mud. It is impossible to imagine or describe the desolation of St. Pierre.

Port de France, Martinique, May 26, 9 p.m.—The volcano is again in eruption. Great heavy black clouds are rolling over Port de France in huge masses and there are peculiar lightning flashes in the clouds. The inhabitants are now flocking into the great square of the town. If the demonstration increases a panic is imminent. A very heavy surf has been beating on the shore for the last two hours, and an enormous greyish-yellow cloud at a great height is dimly visible in the direction of Mount Pelee.

The night is intensely dark and the greyish-yellow cloud reach here and ashes and stones begin to fall. There are no noises from the volcano at present. Inhabitants Fled in Terror. New York, May 28.—Mount Pelee, France, which there was another violent eruption on Monday, was quiet again on Tuesday night, according to a heraldic dispatch from Port de France. But, the dispatch adds, the inhabitants of the islands, and in a terrified state. The volcano is puzzling all the scientists, some of whom say the mountain has thus far made only a beginning.

Morne Rouge was saved from destruction last night only by a miracle, says a priest who was there. Two correspondents, believing the volcano had, for a time at least, subsided, planned an expedition to the mountain for the purpose of securing photographs. Several natives were employed as guides. After a weary march, which took most of Monday, Morné Rouge was reached about half-past seven o'clock in the evening. The correspondents were welcomed by a kindly disposed priest, who gave such information as was in his possession. He refused upon a pause being made for refreshments, and in his humble home food was prepared. It was this generous courtesy of the priest that saved the expedition from destruction.

The original plan was that the visit should be made to the crater, if possible, and a quick return be made to Port de France to avoid all danger. The evening meal was being prepared when the priest pointed out the work of ruin that had been accomplished. He said he had refused to leave his post, though he was not at all certain Morné Rouge would not be swept from existence as St. Pierre. It was with him talking that the explosion came. From their homes the inhabitants of the village ran in a panic. Some did not wait to see what was happening, but hurried off over the mountains in the direction of Port de France. Scores went into the church and fell upon their knees, but by the time the lumber ran without daring to look behind. The display of lightning was terrific and awe-inspiring.

When the start was made on the return trip to Port de France the guides and several of the party were killed. The hills as best they could. Behind Morné Pelee continued to belch forth fire, ashes, mud and mud. The detonations were of sufficient strength to make the ground tremble. It seemed to the weary travelers as if the mountain tops swayed above their heads. To add to the horror now and then a fer de lance deadener of all snakes. Scattered specimens of these serpents, of which thousands have been killed by the eruptions, were seen amid the glare from the volcano and the flashes of lightning, gliding from the rocks and hurrying away as if they, too, had feared that their mountain home was no longer a safe place.

On all sides were natives praying and cursing in turn. Many, exhausted, fled by the way and were unable to continue. From Morné Rouge to Port de France, by the shortest path that was travelled, were almost 40 miles. This was covered before dawn on Tuesday morning. Later arrivals reported that Morné Rouge had not been destroyed, as the force of the explosion was exerted in the direction of the sea.

Robt. T. Hill, of the United States geological survey, who left here for Mount Pelee, on Monday afternoon, has not yet returned, nor has he been seen from here. He planned to try the crater from Morné Rouge. George Kennan, the noted explorer, has been absent in the north five days, and has not been heard from. The Governor's Message. Paris, May 28.—The governor of Martinique cables from Port de France under a date of to-day, confirming the Heraldic press dispatch announcing that a great eruption of Mount Pelee occurred during the evening of Monday, May 26th, causing a great panic at Port de France. The cinders and scoriae, however, the governor adds, did not touch the town, falling entirely on the north of the island. Calm is now restored at Port de France. The governor has abandoned his proposed visit to the devastated places on the island owing to the torrential rainfall and rough sea.

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J. Bull—'Well, well, well! And you criticize my policy in South Africa, Sam.'—Montreal Star.

NOTHING DEFINITE YET MADE KNOWN

THERE ARE RUMORS OF HITCH IN NEGOTIATIONS

The London Daily Mail, However, Takes a Hopeful View of the Situation.

London, May 27.—Just before parliament rose after midnight last night, a rumor reached the lobbies that a hitch had occurred in the peace negotiations. Nothing official concerning this rumor could be ascertained, but the dispatch to the Associated Press from Pretoria in which it was said that the prevalence throughout South Africa of the optimistic feeling in regard to the peace negotiations was hardly based upon the solid facts, may be regarded as an indication that such a hitch had occurred. Little information from Pretoria has been able to pass the censor there recently. That the government yesterday fully anticipated a speedy conclusion of the present negotiations, and the postponement of yesterday until Friday or later, of the budget bill in the committee stage, with the view, as is frankly admitted on the government side, of recasting, in the event that peace is secured, the tax on grain has proved so unpopular throughout the country, and has had an unexpected effect in reuniting the Liberal party with a most effective election cry, that there is little doubt the government will welcome an excuse to drop it.

The Daily Mail this morning says the cabinet council to be held to-day will decide upon points of details, mostly of a financial nature, which have been raised by the Boers in the peace negotiations. Great Britain's decision in the matter will then be communicated to the Vereeniging conference by delegates on Thursday or Friday of this week, probably on Friday, the day upon which King Edward's birth is celebrated. Peace is quite certain, says the Daily Mail, and the delegates at Pretoria are only engaged in endeavoring to glid the pit for the Vereeniging conference to swallow.

The Daily Mail says further: "Our dispatches from Pretoria assert that numerous communications are passing between Lord Kitchener and Lord Balfour in South Africa and London. Lord Kitchener, although he is still full of energy, is much aged in appearance as a result of the severe strain which he has undergone. The consensus of opinion is that the recent negotiations have proved Lord Kitchener to be a great diplomatist, as well as a great soldier. It is difficult to appreciate the magnitude of the difficulties Lord Kitchener has had to contend with. On the 11th of April he shot and killed Ella Jarden, by whom he was employed as a servant, and her two daughters, aged 12 and 7 years. Lane had stolen money from his employer and fanning the consequences of his theft he deliberately shot the woman and her younger daughter in the upper room of his home, and then called the elder child from the street where she had been playing and shot and killed her.

Discussed Messages. London, May 27.—The British cabinet was in session for two hours to-day discussing the communications received from Pretoria since the meeting of the ministers on Friday last. It is understood that the inner committee of the cabinet will telegraph the result of the deliberations to Pretoria this afternoon. The Boer delegates at the Transvaal capital will then probably return to Vereeniging and report to the burghers who are still assembled there. A. J. Balfour, the government premier, made no statement in the House of Commons to-day in regard to the peace negotiations, but he announced a postponement of the communications received from Pretoria since the meeting of the ministers on Friday last. It is understood that the inner committee of the cabinet will telegraph the result of the deliberations to Pretoria this afternoon. The Boer delegates at the Transvaal capital will then probably return to Vereeniging and report to the burghers who are still assembled there.

NEGRO HANGED. He Shot His Employer and Her Two Daughters. Philadelphia, Pa., May 27.—William Harmon Lane, colored, was hanged at 10:05 o'clock this morning. The crime for which Lane paid the death penalty was particularly atrocious. On the 11th of April he shot and killed Ella Jarden, by whom he was employed as a servant, and her two daughters, aged 12 and 7 years. Lane had stolen money from his employer and fanning the consequences of his theft he deliberately shot the woman and her younger daughter in the upper room of his home, and then called the elder child from the street where she had been playing and shot and killed her.

feeling in regard to the peace negotiations is hardly based on solid facts. The postponement of the conference at Vereeniging is not necessarily a hopeful sign. The delegates to the conference, although they have abandoned their hopes of securing independence, still have some points of difference with the government. An obstinate minority continues to regard the resumption of hostilities as the best outcome of the present situation, and at any moment these points of difference may be accentuated into a refusal to continue the negotiations. It is most unlikely that those who are in favor of peace will throw up the sponge so long as a decent minority is desirous of continuing the struggle, and all the elements must be taken into account before it is possible to give any sort of prediction as to the issue of the present negotiations. Forty-six Boers with their wagons and cattle surrendered at Balnoral, Transvaal, yesterday.

From The Hague. The Hague, May 26.—It is stated in Boer circles here that the peace proposals made to the conference at Vereeniging, Transvaal, include the condition that the Boers in the field be allowed to consult with the Boer delegates in Europe before a definite settlement is reached. It is declared also, upon the same authority, that the British government refused May 23rd to accede to this request. Discussed Messages. London, May 27.—The British cabinet was in session for two hours to-day discussing the communications received from Pretoria since the meeting of the ministers on Friday last. It is understood that the inner committee of the cabinet will telegraph the result of the deliberations to Pretoria this afternoon. The Boer delegates at the Transvaal capital will then probably return to Vereeniging and report to the burghers who are still assembled there.

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