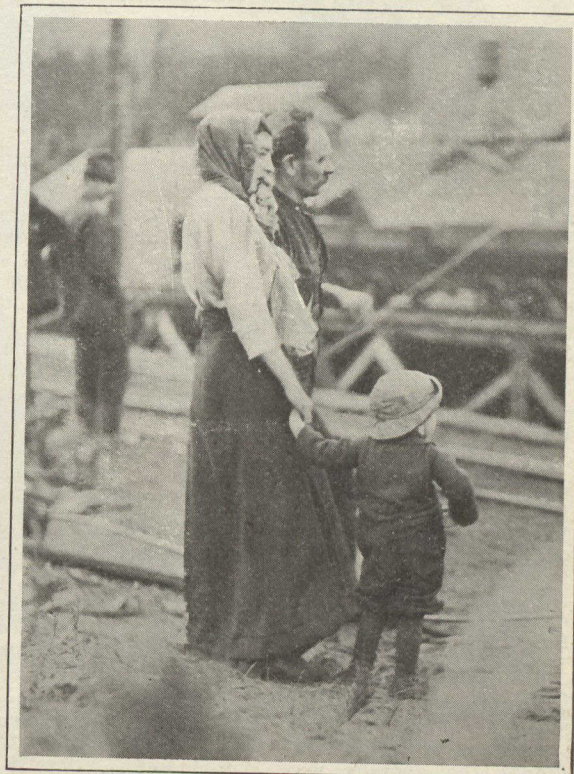


When Fire-Damp Made a Mining-Town Into a Morgue



On June 19 an explosion in the Hillcrest Collieries, in Alberta, entombed nearly two hundred miners.



Waiting at the mouth of No. 1.

The Hillcrest Horror

LESS than four weeks after the greatest marine catastrophe in Canada came the worst mining calamity that ever happened in this country. On the morning of June 19th two hundred and thirty men went down the shafts of the Hillcrest Collieries in Alberta, near the edge of the Rockies. Their workshops were more than a thousand feet below the level of the little town where, with their wives and families, they made up most of the population. Breakfast dishes in the little houses were scarcely washed, and the children just nicely settled to their studies at school, when something happened in the black caves of the coal down below. There was a slight tremor in the houses. Women went to the doors. Wives of miners never know when something may go wrong in the mines. In a short time the entire population of the town were hurrying to the mouth of the pit at No. 1. The wires were busy. Special trains with rescue apparatus were on the way from Fernie. Hillcrest, which since the strike of 1911 had minded its own business, and during 1913 turned out 30,000 tons of coal a month, most of it for use on the C. P. R., was suddenly the centre of the whole coal-mining area in that part of the Rockies. In the excitement nobody knew definitely very much of what precisely had happened all in about the time it takes a miner's pick to go up and down again. Fire-damp, the deadly gas of the coal mines, had mysteriously exploded, and the streets of the underground village were blown into a wreck. Nearly two hundred men were caught when the roofs and walls of the mine shifted. Forty were brought up alive; fifty-two dead that day. The others were buried alive with their shovels and picks. The little town of Hillcrest had become the scene of the worst mining disaster in Canada; a much greater calamity than the Fernie fire or the town of Frank, when the mountain slid down upon it.

Had such a thing happened a month before the whole country would have been roused to excitement. The sinking of the Empress, with her thousand dead, was still more than fresh in the public mind. The Hillcrest calamity was read as a news item and shudderingly passed over. The Dominion Government voted \$50,000 for relief of the families, whose fathers were buried down below. The rescue gangs did all they could and pulled away. No. 1 was for the time being out of business. And the management were unable to explain how the thing had come about. Hillcrest No. 1 was considered safe. Thus chapter after chapter in the book of the world's catastrophes is written. Monday's papers contained news of the assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince and his wife. So it goes on.

A New Baseball League

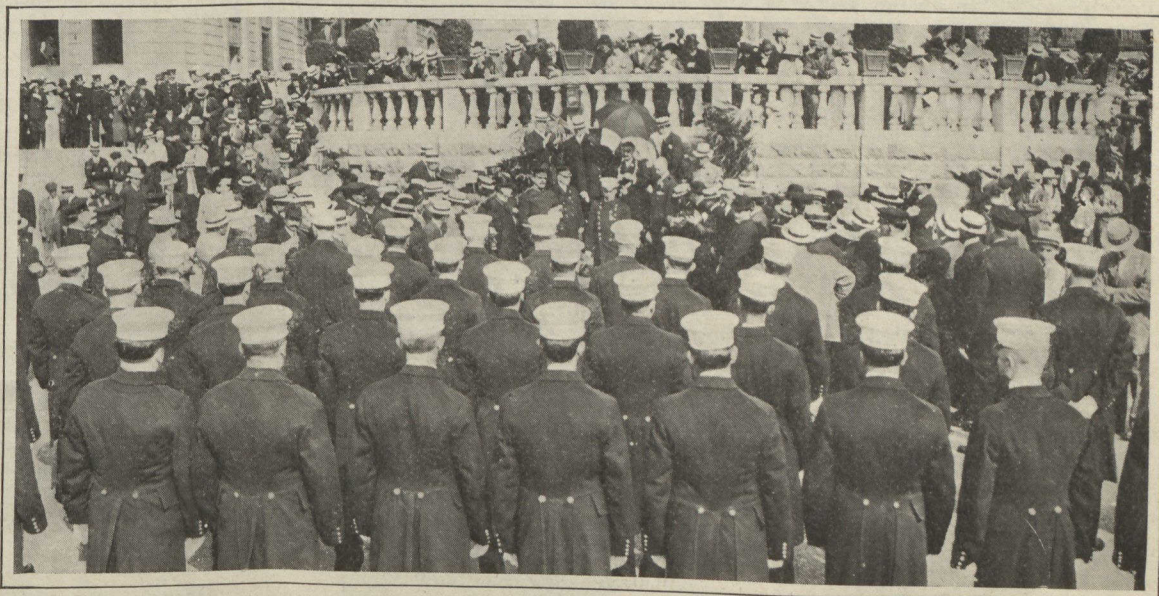
SOMEONE has been talking about a fourth Major League in organized baseball. What nonsense. The whole business is on the down grade. There would be one league less next year, if the newspapers stopped boosting this sport at the expense of others that are equally worthy, if not superior. Some day, the public is going to call this baseball bluff, and put its money in somebody else's cash box. Baltimore has given Jack Dunn and his team the cold shoulder—and there is more to follow.

CALGARY GETS A MEMORIAL TO HEROES IN THE BOER WAR



Public demonstration last week when Hebert's magnificent equine monument was dedicated in the City of Oil.

MONTREAL GIVES MEDALS TO FIREMEN LIFE-SAVERS



Last week Mayor Martin handed out forty-six medals to men who, in five years, never turned their backs to a fire ladder when lives were to be saved.