MINE DISASTER: Joy and sorrow mingled at the scene of one of Canada's worst disasters following an explosion which occurred November 1 in the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company mine at Springhill, Nova Scotia.

Eleven mine workers were killed in the explosion, and 112 others were trapped far underground. In the rescue operations which started immediately, 2 draegermen were victims of the gas which filled the shafts and tunnels of the mine.

Two days after the explosion, 36 survivors were brought to the surface, and emotion ran high as their families' grim vigil at the mine entrance came to an end.

But 88 miners were still below.

On November 5, an additional 52 survivors were brought safely through the gas-filled tunnels of the mine. The remaining 24 had succumbed.

The final reckoning: Dead 37
Rescued 88
Injured 7

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CANADIAN MEDICAL MISSION: As part of Canada's Canadian Colombo Plan contribution, a Canadian Medical Mission is to visit India to present lectures, give clinical demonstrations and discuss professional training in Indian medical colleges.

The Mission will consist of a medical teaching team and a tuberculosis team of noted medical men, under the leadership of Dr. Wilder Penfield, Director of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Professor of Neurology and Neurological Surgery at McGill University.

The medical team will spend three months in India, one month at each of three leading medical colleges. The tuberculosis team will similarly visit three teaching institutions over a period of approximately six weeks. Tentative arrangements are for the tuberculosis team to leave Canada on December 27 or 28 in order to represent Canada at the 14th International Tuberculosis Congress, to be held in Delhi from January 7 to 11. The medical team is expected to leave Canada early in the new year, arriving in Delhi about January 10 and embarking on work which will occupy their section of the Mission until late March.

Dr. Penfield, the leader of the medical teams, will lecture in Karachi, Pakistan, and Colombo, Ceylon, as well as in India.

Progress of this further Canadian contribution to international economic and technical co-operation under the Colombo Plan is expected to be observed at first hand by the Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, who is to visit various Colombo Plan countries in South-East Asia on his way home from New Zealand, where he is representing Canada at the meetings of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee.

TO EASE ENGINEER SHORTAGE: An educational experiment that may help relieve a future shortage of engineers and technicians will be inaugurated soon at Waterloo College, Ontario.

The plan was announced by Ira G. Needles, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Associate Faculties of Waterloo College and President of B.F. Goodrich of Canada Ltd., at a Kitchener Rotary Club luncheon.

Highlights of the plan are:

A six-year engineering course with admittance after Grade 12 standing.

A technical diploma after three years for students not proceeding to an engineering degree.

A co-operative plan with industry under which students spend alternate 13-week periods in college and in industry.

Further research must be carried out before the plan is adopted. It has been estimated that the course will begin in the fall of 1957.

In making the announcement, Mr. Needles began by pointing out that of all those in Canada eligible for university, only 7.5 per cent are taking advantage of their opportunities; but this proportion will, it is estimated, double in the next 10 years.

This raises two major problems, he said: (1) the provision of university buildings, equipment and instructors to meet the increased demand, and (2) the direction into the technical field of more of those who have the ability to procure and make use of a technical education.

The answer to the first problem is money, he pointed out, to make possible the needed buildings, equipment and instructors. "But this expansion of our universities does not provide the complete solution to the vital education problem, expecially in the field of technology," he added.

Mr. Needles gave this explanation of the plan which bears the title, "Co-operative Plan of Education for Engineers and Technicians".

"We propose to admit students who have successfully completed Grade 12 in either vocational or high schools. For the next two years the student is given a course that includes the equivalent of the Grade 13 subjects required for university admission, some first-year university subjects and at least 12 hours a week instruction and lab work in technical subjects.

"At the end of two years, students who qualify in their academic subjects may then proceed towards a four-year engineer's degree course. Students who fail to qualify in academic subjects but who show definite aptitude towards technical subjects would be encouraged to proceed with third-year course for technicians....

Mr. Needles also pointed out that the College will operate its facilities for a full 12 months each year, thus educating double the number of students with the same space and equipment.