

MC2465 POOR DOCUMENT

THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS



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The Way It Feels When the Valve is First Opened and the Chamber Fills With the Inrushing Air and Fog. Why You Don't Collapse or Explode.

As the lockkeeper turns the valve writes A. W. Bolker in Appleton's Magazine, there is a scarp raising screech as if your ear were next the safety valve of a locomotive blowing steam and as the inrushing air expands it fills the tiny chamber with fog so dense that you cannot see your hand before your eyes. Wider and wider the valve is opened, the fog becoming even denser and the racket increasing until the air fairly drones and your eyes and eardrums and your very scalp tremble with the air that is vibrating about you. For the first time in your life you realize that sound may inflict physical pain and that there is a possibility that it may kill.

No sooner is the big valve opened than you feel the pressure against your eardrums. A big wind of cotton seems thrust into each ear, and two big fingers seem to push the wads more and more firmly until each time when you swallow or blow into your nose the sensation disappears only to begin anew. Should you purposely delay swallowing, within twenty seconds the pain becomes intense and finally excruciating, as if a pair of knitting needles were being pushed deep into your ears.

Nothing short of the faith that others successfully withstand these sensations prevents you from becoming unduly excited, for actually you are in the throes of about as disagreeable a situation as you care to meet. For the eternity of half a minute the racket and fog and ear pains continue. Then the noise ceases as suddenly as it began. Out of the fog comes the voice of your guide:

"Feeling all right? Ears all right? No trouble to breathe? Or you'll be all right?" Again the valve screeches and the air drones, the top of your head throbs, and you are shaken with in and without.

Gradually, after the lapse of ten minutes, when the pressures in the heading and the lock become more equalized, the din ceases to slacken; then it falls more and more and fades to nothing, after which the lockman opens the heading door and you gaze upon another length of "tube" like that you left behind.

How does it feel to be under forty pounds pressure? There is no sensation to it—none whatever—which is the trouble, for in case your heart is going to give out there is no warning symptom until too late. Against every square foot of the surface of your body is a pressure of 5,700 pounds, and the only thing that prevents you from being squashed is the 5,700 pounds per square foot pressure inside of you, yet you do not feel this.

The pressure from without is so great that were it not for the necessity within you would be smashed flat as a toad run over by a steam roller, and the pressure within you is so great that were it not counterbalanced by the pressure from without you would explode to atoms like the shell of a dynamite cartridge.

Yet you have no means of realizing this. You feel perfectly natural. You breathe normally and without effort. You move about without being conscious of exertion. Only a feeling as of water left in the ears after bathing remains.

The noise of rumbling cars and scraping shovels from ahead sounds natural. So does the voice of your guide. Only your own voice seems strange to your own ears—far deeper in pitch than you ever have heard it and far off, not as if it came from your own mouth, but as if from ten feet behind; also, and this strikes you queerly until you have found the cause, all sounds are chopped off short, for in this heavy atmosphere there is little echo and carrying power. Even the explosion of a dynamite cartridge makes no more noise than a shotgun fired above in daylight.

In this dense atmosphere were you to try to whistle with your lips or to blow a cornet or a flue you might blow your lungs out without producing a sound, for the pressure would resist any sound waves of which your lungs were capable. Owing to the excessive supply of oxygen, were you to light a match it would burn with the rapidity of tinder, and volumes of smoke.

For the same reason an oil lamp or a lantern would burn itself out within a few minutes—emitting volumes of soot that would completely hide the flames. And for the same reason a lighted pipe or cigar will burn of itself without suction, and a single mouthful of smoke is all you would be able to get out of a cigarette. Were you to bring an empty cooked loaf into this pressure from the outside, the pressure against the cork, unbalanced by pressure from within, would be so great that you would be unable to pull the stopper. There are a few instances of what you find when under forty pounds of pressure.

Colonel di Vaco explored the Gila river country in 1835 and reported that

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**SYNOPSIS OF
CANADIAN NORTH-WEST
HOMESTEAD REGULATION:**

Any even-numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, excepting and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Land Agency or Sub-agency for the district in which the land is situate. Entry by proxy may, however, be made at any Agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

DUTIES—(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.

(2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of his homestead. He may also do so by living with father or mother, on certain conditions. Joint ownership in land will not meet this requirement.

(3) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in accordance with the above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention.

W. W. CORRY,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior
N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

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