

# The Fernie



Library Legislative Assembly

# Free Press

VOL. I. No. 9.

FERNIE, B.C., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1899.

WHOLE NUMBER, 9.

## A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION

### Powder Magazine Blows Up, Killing and Injuring Many People.

## THE REV. DR. KING DEAD.

### Annual Meeting of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company—Treed by Wolves. New York Police Suspected of Murder.

Toulon, March 8.—The naval powder magazine of La Coubran, between Laseyne and Toulon, in the department of Var, Southern France, exploded at half past two o'clock Sunday morning. All of the soldiers on duty at the magazine were killed and a number of the inhabitants of the surrounding district. The buildings were raised and fell on the victims. Forty corpses have already been recovered. The cause of the explosion is not known.

Fifty thousand kilogrammes of black powder exploded (equal to one hundred and ten thousand pounds). It looks as if a volcanic eruption had occurred, the country being swept almost bare within a radius of two miles, houses destroyed, trees overturned and distorted, fields devastated and covered with stones and black dust. Some of the stones are enormous. One weighing fifty kilogrammes fell in the suburb of Pont De Las. Signs of the explosion are evident in all the suburbs of Toulon and in the city itself. Even at St. Jean Devar, five miles distant, windows were shattered and doors battered in. Later reports show that of the seven sentries, four were killed outright and the others severely injured, the corporal being literally scalped, and the scalp overhanging his face like a veil. A large number of soldiers are now employed in clearing away the debris, but the work is very difficult. It is impossible to ascertain accurately the number killed, but it is believed that no fewer than one hundred were injured.

Although it was a clear night, the explosion was so terrific as to produce a slight rainfall. Fortunately the neighboring magazines escaped. It is now believed that the explosion originated from chemical decomposition in the smokeless powder. There is no suggestion of foul play. The whole city is in mourning; flags are at half-mast, the theatres are draped and the casinos closed. Both the government and the municipal authorities are forwarding relief funds. M. Lockroy, minister of marine, has telegraphed 10,000 francs towards the maintenance of the families of the victims, and a public subscription has been opened here. Four of the injured have died. It is believed that fifteen are still buried in the debris.

## DEATH OF REV. DR. KING.

### The Head of Manitoba College Passes Peacefully Away.

Winnipeg Free Press.  
Rev. John Mark King, D.D., principal of Manitoba college, and one of the foremost educationalists of the province, is dead. The sad event, which comes as a personal bereavement to hundreds of friends and former students, and as a severe blow to higher education in the west, occurred yesterday afternoon at four o'clock. The life which has been so filled with activity ended peacefully, in the presence of his dearest relatives and friends.

Dr. King was taken ill with la grippe early in January, and about the middle of the month was obliged to take to his bed, having fought against the disease as long as he was able. Even after he was confined to his room, he continued to work. La grippe turned to pneumonia about six weeks ago, and at the time it was feared that he would not survive the attack.

## Police Suspected of Murder.

New York, March 7.—Startling developments were promised to-day in the mystery which surrounds the murder of Henry Knaus, a crippled Harlem undertaker, who was found dead in his little shop at 2428 Broadway last Saturday, his skull thrice crushed in with some blunt instru-

ment, while his watch-dog, close by, was dumb, and his wife upstairs claimed to have been asleep and heard nothing. It is now believed that one or more policemen may have had a hand in it. Several men are under suspicion. They include an officer attached to Chief Devery's office, two men in the bicycle squad and a roundsman attached to an uptown precinct, but not the one in which the murder took place. Some of the suspects are alleged to have latch keys to the Knaus home, so that they could let themselves in when the coast was clear.

The theory is that one of these uniformed admirers of the undertaker's buxom wife was in the house Friday night and that Knaus returned unexpectedly. The trapped caller, the police believe, fell ruthlessly on the cripple with his night stick and beat in his skull. That the big watch dog made no alarm is explained by the fact that he had become used to these visitors and did not look on them as strangers. Mrs. Knaus' alleged part in the terrible tragedy is yet to be explained. She has denied that she knows the men, who admit that they know her well and have been frequent callers at the house. She has not been arrested, but is kept constantly under police surveillance.

## CROW'S NEST PASS COAL CO.

### Annual Meeting in Montreal—Senator Cox Absent.

Montreal, March 8.—A special annual meeting of the shareholders of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company was held last week at the head office in the Canada Life building. Among those present from Toronto were Robt. Jaffray, Elias Rogers, W. T. Murray and E. Strachan Cox. Owing to the illness of Mrs. Cox, Senator Cox was obliged to go to New York, and was unable to attend the meeting. By-laws were placed authorizing the increase of capital to \$2,000,000, the increase, \$500,000, to be allotted to shareholders at par in proportion of one to three, and transferring the head offices to Toronto. The transfers of shares will be made there forthwith. No further business being done in Montreal, E. Strachan Cox and D. W. Baillie were appointed scrutineers, and the following gentlemen were elected directors: Hon. Senator Cox, Messrs. Robt. Jaffray, Elias Rogers, H. M. Pellatt, Thomas Wamsley, J. W. Flaville, of Toronto; J. A. Gemmill, Q. C., Ottawa; David Morrice, Wm. Hanson, S. Finlay, of Montreal; Wm. Fernie, of Fernie, B.C.; and K. D. Chipman, of New Brunswick. The statements of the manager and treasurer were of the most auspicious character, 54,000 shares out of a capital of 60,000 being represented at the meeting.

## TREED BY WOLVES.

### Thrilling and Perilous Experience of Two Men Near Otter Lake.

Pembroke, March 8.—John Burke, of Mattawa, left Mackey's Station for Otter Lake, on the Dumoine, last week, and when about half way, and about forty miles above Des Joachims, he was chased by a large pack of wolves. He says he managed to get up a white birch tree, which was soon surrounded by wolves. Mr. Burke happened to have matches in his pocket, so he stripped the bark from the tree, ignited it and dropped the lighted pieces of bark down amongst the wolves. This kept the ravenous animals away from the tree, but did not drive them off; they merely kept out of reach of the falling bark.

Mr. Timothy Tomeny, a resident of Sheenboro, was in a camp about three miles distant, where Mr. Burke was to remain over night, awaiting the arrival of his friend. At last he shouldered his rifle and went out to meet Mr. Burke. He had not gone far when he heard loud shouts for help and hurried to the scene. He found Mr. Burke up the tree and the wolves surrounding it. Mr. Tomeny did some effective work with his rifle, and while the wolves were devouring those he shot dead, Mr. Burke escaped from the tree, and both set out with all haste for the camp. The wolves soon followed, however, but a shot from the rifle would bring down a wolf; then the other wolves, as is their custom, would stop to devour the dead animal; then go on in pursuit of the men. In this way the men reached camp in safety.

Mr. G. W. Grimmett, of Sandon, B.C., is in town looking for a location for a jeweler's store.

## STILL FIGHTING AWAY

### Americans Lose a Few Men Every Week, but the Rebels Lie Low.

## OTHER TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

### A Big Coal Miners' Strike in Arkansas A Writ Against Senator Cox for \$400,000—Voluntary Advance in Wages.

Manila, March 5.—It is reported here that Spain authorized General Rios to offer the Philippine republic \$500,000 for the release of the Spanish prisoners. The offer was indignantly declined, and the insurgents ask \$7,000,000. General Rios threatened to expose the Philippine republic as a lawless set of bandits, whose idea of government is the destruction of life and property, if they refuse to accept his conditions for the release of the prisoners. The report that the rebels are offering to treat for peace is untrue.

About twenty English subjects, including some women and children, are within the rebel lines north of Manila. Nothing has been heard of them since Feb. 5th.

Manila, March 7.—At daylight General Wheaton's outposts discovered a large body of rebels attempting to cross the river for the purpose of reinforcing the enemy at Guadalupe and a gunboat advanced under a heavy fire and poured shot into the jungle on both sides of the river and shelled the enemy's position at Gualaloupe, effectually scattering the rebels. The enemy's loss was heavy.

Private John T. Olz, of the Third artillery, was killed. On board the gunboat Privates William Wheeler and Louis Barries, of the California regiment, were wounded.

Admiral George Dewey raised his flag as an admiral on board the Olympia on the 4th inst., and was saluted by the guns of the forts, of the foreign war ships, the British cruiser Narcissus and the German cruiser Kaiserin Augusta, and by the American ships in port.

The United States transports Senator and Ohio have arrived here with reinforcements of troops.

The rebels in the village of San Jose fired on the United States gunboat Bennington and the warship shelled that place and other suburbs of Malabon.

## ARKANSAS COAL STRIKE.

### The Biggest Strike in Years Now on and Both Sides Will Fight to a Finish.

Little Rock, Ark., March 5.—Reports from the coal mining district in Western Arkansas indicate that the wholesale walk-out of the miners has begun, and that the biggest strike of recent years in the southwest is on. Both operators and miners refuse to budge an inch from the position they have assumed, and there is no prospect of settlement in the near future.

At the mines of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf railroad in the territory the 1,500 union miners heretofore employed are out, and their places are being filled as near as possible by 200 non-union men. The contest promises to be a long and stubborn one, and nothing but the advent of warm weather will lessen the severity of the strike on the general public as regards an inevitable coal famine.

The strike is largely a sympathetic one, to the miners it is a welcome finish fight to determine the merit of the complaints they have long preferred against the operators, and upon which they have appealed to the Arkansas legislature for relief.

## A Writ for \$400,000.

Hamilton, March 6.—On behalf of the Canada Life policy holders a writ has been issued in the name of Wm. Lees, of the legal firm of Scott, Lees & Hobson, against Senator Cox, claiming \$400,000 from him, alleged to have been received illegally in his capacity as agent of the company while also a director. The company is joined as a defendant, to meet the legal requirements, and the plaintiffs also ask for an injunction.

Toronto, March 6.—Byron E. Walker, general manager of the Bank of Com-

merce and a director of the Canada Life, spoke on the matter as follows: "Mr. Scott is, if I am well informed, interested in the Canada Life to the extent of one share, transferred to him just before the annual meeting, and is, I believe, not a policy holder. Even if there was anything in their contention, the amount of money sued for is preposterous, and the writ undoubtedly represents the personal animus of certain persons in Hamilton, and not the genuine interests of the policy holders. Senator Cox has only been a director for five or six years, and before entering the board the question of his right to be both manager of the eastern district and a director was doubtless duly considered."

## ADVANCE IN WAGES.

### Glad News for Workmen Announced by Several Eastern Companies.

Toronto, March 6.—Employees in all the factories of the Massey-Harris Company have been notified that their wages will be increased ten per cent., the increase being now operative. It will amount to about \$10,000 monthly and be divided among 2,000 employees.

Lebanon, Pa., March 6.—The management of the Pennsylvania Bolt and Nut works have announced a ten per cent. increase in wages in the puddling and rolling mill departments, to take effect April 1st. The Lebanon rolling mills also gives notice of a similar increase in the wages of employees of that establishment. The employees of Swede's furnace at Norristown have received a ten per cent. advance.

Cleveland, March 6.—Within the past two days fully 8,000 workmen, largely employed in the various mills controlled by the American Steel and Wire Company in this city, have been notified of an increase in wages ranging from five to ten per cent.

Fire at Qu'Appelle, N. W. T., Saturday last, destroyed J. McEwen's blacksmith shop and a frame dwelling occupied by Mrs. Winters. McEwen held \$500 insurance, but the dwelling house was not insured.

At a meeting of the Rossland city council last week Donald Guthrie, captain of No. 1 fire hall in Montreal, was chosen chief of the Rossland fire department, at a salary of \$125 a month, with room, light and fuel.

Because nineteen-year-old Casson Wood, of Woodhill, N. Y., resented the insulting treatment accorded his mother by his grandfather, the old man drew a pocket knife and fatally stabbed the boy at the dinner table.

Vately Alexandrovich Dudinsky, alias Carl Russell, alias Taylor, a fugitive from Russia, having embezzled some 27,000 roubles in 1896, was arrested by the chief of police of Winnipeg, in the Manor house in that city, last Monday.

At Marshall, Ill., last week, Miss Lillie Marvin, a prominent young lady of that city, shot and probably fatally wounded Wm. A. Vaughan, her brother-in-law. Bad feeling had existed between them for some time. Miss Marvin is under arrest awaiting the result of the shooting.

William M. Clemshire, formerly a Chinese inspector for the northern district of New York, stationed at Malone, on the Canadian border, was Saturday held in \$1,500 bail for his appearance for trial on a charge of aiding and abetting in bringing into the United States a number of Chinamen not legally entitled to admission.

The board of supervisors of Westchester county, N. Y., have offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest, dead or alive, of Harrison Howard, the negro who shot and killed Groceryman John Ledwith, of Tarrytown, on Feb. 18th. The bullet which killed Ledwith was intended for his companion, Charles Smith, colored. The bullet passed through the collar of Smith's coat, hitting Ledwith in the breast as he emerged from the door. The police have no clew.

A late despatch from Bolivia says that a thousand Indians recently surrounded the Coroco Mining Works, which are the property of the Chileans, and sacked all the houses. The manager and his wife and an official tried to make their escape. On the refusal of the Indians to accept their offer of \$5,000 to spare their lives, the manager shot his wife and the official and then committed suicide. The incident is likely to cause difficulty between the Bolivian and Chilean governments.

## THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

### Trustees Elected at the Meeting Held on Tuesday Evening.

The citizens' meeting called for last Tuesday evening was but poorly attended, about fifteen being present.

The meeting was called to order with Mr. H. Bentley in the chair. The chairman spoke of the small representation present and explained that the government had made a grant of \$2,000 for school purposes for Fernie, which would go a short way for the purpose, as by next October there would be at least two-thirds as many more children. He thought that more should be demanded from the government and that trustees be appointed and a district defined. A building had been donated and we should have teachers at once. The speaker then stated that the committee had named as provisional trustees Messrs. Blakemore, Johnson and Levasseur, and the meeting was called for the purpose of confirming those named or others. Mr. Bentley explained, in answer to a question, that the trustees could engage teachers and the government would pay for their services.

Mr. Blakemore was of the opinion that the trustees could show the government that we were in earnest, and they would have power to choose a site for the school building. The government would allow temporary trustees to be appointed and they could take energetic and vigorous action; temporary arrangements should be made at once.

At this juncture Mr. Cody moved that Mr. G. G. Henderson act as secretary of the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Blakemore and carried.

It was then moved and seconded that those named by the committee as provisional trustees be accepted. Carried.

The limits of the school district was then talked of, and after some discussion it was moved, seconded and carried that the limits should extend three miles north, three miles south and six miles east from Elk river.

Mr. G. G. Henderson presented the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the government grant of two thousand dollars for a school building in Fernie is altogether inadequate, inasmuch that within a year there will be at least three hundred school children in the town; and we hereby request the board of provisional trustees to do all in their power to have the grant increased to at least six thousand dollars.

After the business of the meeting had been gone through, Mr. Bentley spoke of the good work a board of trade could do for Fernie. Considerable discussion was had in regard to the matter and it was decided to call a meeting for Thursday evening, March 16th, for the purpose of perfecting such an organization.

## Fatal Lamp Explosion.

Chatham, March 7.—Miss P. Clarke, a young Thamesville lady, while visiting her aunt, Mrs. James Bell, at Blenheim, had contracted pneumonia. During the night a lamp left lighted in the room exploded and the curtains and bedding were entirely enveloped in flames. The invalid jumped from her bed and attempted to put out the fire. Her night-dress became ignited and before assistance came she was severely burned. Miss Clark is in a precarious condition.

## The B. C. Alien Bill.

London, March 8.—The Daily Mail's report that the Japanese ambassador may ask Mr. Chamberlain to secure the disallowance of the British Columbia alien bill excites no attention here. The impression which prevails among well informed circles is that Chamberlain's policy is one of non-interference with self-governing colonies.

Provincial Constable Barnes brought two men up from "the loop" on Monday last, charged with selling liquor without a license. One of the men, named Carr, was let go on account of some flaw in the warrant, and the other, Bob Turkton, plead guilty to the charge and was asked to contribute \$108 to the provincial treasury.

At Montaville, a suburb of Portland, Ore., last week, Mrs. Laura Browning, aged 30, blew out her brains after taking a dose of laudanum and forcing her three children, aged 10, 11 and 2 years, to drink the drug. The two older children will probably recover, but the two-year-old child is likely to die. It is said that poverty drove the mother insane.