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COBALT PROSPECTORS HEMMED IN BY FIRE LOSS OF LIFE FEARED

Whole Townships Swept By Flames and Prospectors Are Forced to Abandon Supplies and Run For Their Lives.

FIRE TRAVELS 5 MILES IN LESS THAN AN HOUR

LATCHFORD, June 19.—(Special.)—Bush fires which have swept over a large area during the past few days and which are still raging, have endangered the lives and property of hundreds of prospectors.

It is feared that lives have been lost. One prospector who just arrived today from up the Montreal River reports that the flames have surrounded the Bear River and Elk Lake districts and that some of the men in that region will never be able to get out in safety, as their retreat has been cut off.

It is already definitely reported that two men have been burned to death—some of the men who were on the shore of the lakes and rivers.

Dozens of canoes have been burned along the shores of lakes and rivers. People here think that the fires have been deliberately started through spite, so that parties who staked out "wild-cat" claims and "snow-staked" in the winter will be unable to locate their claims.

The fires started in Smyth township and burned heavily all over James Township, which adjoins to the south. They then jumped across the Montreal River, a distance of about 250 yards. The flames traveled five miles in less than an hour.

The Gilles Limit has been scorched and about 20 miles of the Temagami reserve are stated to have been swept by the flames.

There is great anxiety being felt for the country to the north, and that there will be a rainfall the week there will be totally destroyed.

CAMPS BURNED OUT.

Great Damage Reported—Prospectors Lose All Their Supplies.

Dr. J. W. Brien of Essex is a guest at the King Edward, having just come from the north country. The doctor came down to Latchford last Monday from James Township and reports that the recent fires have wrought frightful havoc in the Township of Smyth and the Temagami reserve has also suffered severely.

The fire started near the upper end of the third lot, of the section concession of the Township of Smyth, and rapidly spread down to James. Then a second fire, which originated in the concession of James, which spread both north and south, and these fires were still raging on Monday when the doctor left.

The Munroe-Saville Company has two camps—the Brien-Mahon and the Hartock and the May camps were burned to the ground and the men narrowly escaped.

Three hundred prospectors were huddled together at Bear Creek on Sunday last, having rushed to the river banks for safety, and many of them were reported to have been completely wiped out. The loss of buildings and supplies, the loss of which had in many cases been got in the country at the risk of life, were completely wiped out and the entire Elk Lake district is desolated.

At the May camp a thousand dollars worth of camp supplies were destroyed.

It is not known for a certainty that any lives have been lost, but five men are reported missing Sunday night from the Munroe-Saville camp. They may have sought and found safety, however, further up the river.

Dozens of prospectors are now coming down for fresh supplies. Everything in that part of the country has been staked and no claim-jumping has been reported as yet. There is a strong determination on the part of the early locators in the Elk Lake section to run out any men who come in to jump claims where the early stakers are trying to do their development work. Dr. Brien states that many good discoveries are being made in both James and Smyth townships and Barber and Tudhope are also showing up well.

The fires will make prospecting easier and neither a mosquito nor a fly could be found in the burnt district on Monday, but when the south end of Elk Lake was reached they were fierce.

Dr. Brien is a Larder enthusiast and predicts wonderful things for this new gold camp of the north, but new roads are an absolute necessity to enable the mines to get in their machinery.

BUILDINGS ARE SAVED.

Fire at Green-Meehan Was Held in Check by Hard Work.

The bush fires in the neighborhood of the New Ontario mining camps are causing much havoc. A wire received on Monday stated that the buildings of the Green-Meehan property were in danger, but by good generalship and assiduous efforts everything except a few loads of cordwood was saved to.

Continued on Page 7.

FURNISHES RACE FEELS DEAD IN CANOE

Benjamin Buckel Seized With Heart Failure and is Upset With Racing Partner Into the Bay.

First-Class Wagon Trail to Be Built by Government at Once.

After making a hard race for third place in a single-blade tandem canoe race last night, Benjamin Buckel, 23 years of age, succumbed to heart failure in front of the Toronto Canoe Club's float at the foot of York-street.

At the close of the race, in which Buckel and H. W. Parker, 300 Lippincott-street, finished fourth, Buckel collapsed upon the canoe. Both men were thrown into the water and immediately some had down paddlers who had followed the race in the club's war canoe, dived into the water.

Parker was drawn to the surface and a frantic search for Buckel, in which about 20 members took part, followed.

O. Elliott, who, with Alan Keith, had finished first in the race and was still lingering about the finish line, dived to the bottom about 25 feet, and thrust his arms to the bottom into the same at the bottom of the bay several times. He, with Keith, felt the bottom of the spot, but failed to locate the body.

Mate Akroyd was notified 10 minutes after the race and after the man struck the water and he brought him to the surface 25 minutes after he had fallen from the canoe.

Efforts to revive Dr. Edmund E. King had been notified and was on the float when the body was brought in. He directed the work of the club's force of rubbermen and others who strove for an hour to resuscitate the lad in the belief that his unconsciousness was due to exhaustion.

When hope was abandoned Dr. King found that no water had been drawn into the lungs and he concluded that death was due to heart failure induced by over-exertion.

Henry Buckel was the son of Henry Buckel, proprietor of the Cyclone Woven Wire Fence Company at Toronto Junction. He was employed with the company a few days ago. He lived with his father at Hamilton's Point in the summer months and was "The Marlborough" on Jarvis-street. His mother and another brother are survivors. He was a graduate of St. Michael's College.

The father was notified and was on the scene before hope of resuscitating the young man was given up. He had the body removed to Dr. Murphy's undertaking establishment.

As Buckel collapsed he threw back his head and uttered a loud cry and sank. He did not come to his senses and was standing upright in the slime when struck by the hooks.

Good Swimmer. Buckel was a good swimmer, according to members of the club. Every precaution is taken at these races, as the boats are followed in every direction by the big war canoe and a dinghy manned by expert swimmers. In this instance the war canoe was over the spot where the man sank 10 seconds after he struck the water.

The chief coroner was notified, but an inquest is not likely to be held. A meeting of the committee of management of the club was called after the fatality, and after a resolution of condolence was passed it was decided to postpone the club's annual regatta from June 22 till July 23.

There appears to have been considerable trouble in locating life-saving appliances, and it was not until 7 minutes after the immersion that grappling irons were obtained, they being furnished by Mate Akroyd.

Property Corridor. When asked last night whether he considered the waterfront was amply equipped with rescue appliances, he said he was quite satisfied that the supply was sufficient. There were about thirty sets along the waterfront, and distributed to good advantage. One set was installed in front of the Cobalt factory on Lake-street, and he thought there were other appliances in other places.

Mr. Robinson of his department. Mr. Harris expressed surprise that none of the aquatic clubs appeared to be supplied with emergency equipment.

TORPEDO BOAT EXPLODES.

Was Engaged in Trials—All the Crew Escaped.

TORQUAY, Eng., June 19.—Four torpedo boat destroyers were engaged in steam trials off Torquay this afternoon, when an explosion was heard on board one of the vessels, and soon her crew, numbering twenty men, were struggling in the water.

The torpedo gunboat Dryad picked up all the men who were in the water and took them to Plymouth. The destroyer sank 20 minutes after the explosion occurred.

CHATEAU MANAGER ILL.

QUEBEC, June 19.—J. H. Phillips, manager of the Chateau Frontenac, was suddenly taken ill this morning. He was operated on at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Mr. Phillips has been alling for a while and, but recently returned from a trip for his health.

CHECKING STAFF STRIKE AND LOSE POSITIONS.

LONDON, June 19.—A part of the checking staff of the Grand Trunk car shops walked out this morning as a protest against what they allege to be a breach of promise upon the part of their employers. Their places were immediately filled.



PREMIER OUT TO MORE TROUBLE FACING BOND DEFEND JUDGE

Issues Statement Disproving Misstatements Made About a Recent Mining Case.

Justice Britton has given the lie direct to the report that in his summing up in the action between the Florence Mining Company and the Cobalt Lake Company, he stated that the special act seemed to imply confiscation, and further that there were valid grounds for the disallowance of the provincial statute.

In the following statement of Premier Whitney yesterday, with respect to the matter, he is anxious that it should be understood that his only wish is to vindicate Justice Britton.

My attention has been called to an editorial in the Globe of June 12, and to what purports to be a report of the proceedings on an order made by Mr. Justice Britton, in the negotiations between the Florence Mining Company and the Cobalt Lake Company.

The Standard, after paying tribute to Bond's energy, comments strongly on the question, and says Ambassador Bryce is as a child in the hands of Secretary Root. It compares the attitude of the British government with that of the Japanese government in the negotiations with the States, and concludes that it does not harmonize with the franchising policy of Liberalism to distribute liberty with both hands in South Africa, while holding Newfoundland in the columns of the Globe. In order that the true inwardness of the situation may be ascertained, occasionally, I have been enabled, occasionally, to express the interests of my clients through the columns of the Globe. In order that the true inwardness of the situation may be ascertained, occasionally, I have been enabled, occasionally, to express the interests of my clients through the columns of the Globe.

There was not a word of truth in the story, which this other solicitor published through the province, and when brought to book, he merely said: "I knew the petition, asking him to number his consent, had been served upon his honor. I assumed that his action would be as described; I also assumed there would be a council, and thereupon I wrote the story."

The detailed history of this whole matter would afford both instruction and amusement. The brazen attempt to use unconstitutional methods, and the threats which have been made, among others, that the disallowance by means of a political pull at Ottawa, will afford interesting reading one of these days.

The attempt to put the learned judge in a false position before the public is my reason for making this statement, and an article read in the Globe that The Globe was imposed upon."

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'STOP THAT CASE' IS LAURIER'S COMMAND

But Editor Crockett Pleads Justification and Wants Evidence—Second Man in Case?

FREDERICTON, N. B., June 19.—(Special.)—If yesterday the Crockett forces seemed to waver, to-day Mr. Emmerson and his supporters are in headlong flight. They fairly begged this morning for delay, and it is doubtful if they can be forced to trial tomorrow. It is known that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is calling a peremptory command to stop the case and that the call is received by a third party in Montreal, who repeats it to Fredericton.

The plea filed this morning by the defendant to the indictment, in addition to a general denial, set up in justification that the charges made by Mr. Emmerson were in fact ejected from the St. Lawrence Hall in company with two women of ill-repute.

"And," reads the plea, "the said James H. Crockett further says that before and at the time of the publication in the said indictment mentioned, the said Henry R. Emmerson was minister of railways and canals in the government of Canada, and that the personal morals and conduct of members of the government of Canada were and are matters of public interest, and had been discussed in parliament and in the press, and it was desirable and proper in the public interest, and for the benefit of the public, that facts of a disgraceful and degrading character in the lives of ministers of the crown should be made known and published, so that the government of Canada might be purged of men whose personal character rendered them undesirable and unfit ministers of the crown, by reason whereof it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged in the said indictment should be published, and this the said James H. Crockett is ready to verify, unless the facts contained in the plea do not constitute a defence to the indictment. This demurrer will be overruled, but it is not likely that the trial can go on, as Judge Landry has empaneled a jury and is hearing a civil case."

Another Man in It. Mr. Crockett is demanding immediate trial. He will make no pretence and he will agree to no compromise. The crown must absolutely back down or face the case.

One very sensational bit of testimony to be provided by the defendant is to the effect that there was another man in the party ejected from the St. Lawrence Hall, and that the four went to the Albion Hotel, where they registered as William Harding, the Misses Harding and Jack Harding, of Estero-boro, Ont.

Hardings Are Not Known in Peterboro. PETERBORO, June 19.—(Special.)—Enquiries were made here to-day in the interests of the defence in the Emmerson-Crockett libel case. They failed to reveal any residents of Peterboro by name of William and Jack Harding, or the Misses Harding, or any persons of the name of Harding, who were in Montreal at the time that the Albion Hotel register shows the booking of the "Hardings" at that place.

Belleville Loses Engine, Reel and Hose in Flames—Second Blaze Occurs.

BELLEVILLE, June 19.—(Special.)—Dorland Foot, a lad about 11 years of age, has started in his career as an incendiary at a very early age.

When the town's fire station was destroyed on Thursday last it seemed evident that the fire had been set, but for the time being no one was suspected.

When the firehall was destroyed this afternoon, however, the police got busy, and the young fellow was arrested this evening.

He admitted having set both fires. The fire at No. 1 fire station was discovered at about 4:30 this afternoon. The caretaker was absent and when the fire was seen the flames had gotten such headway that getting but the teams of horses could be saved.

The fire engine, hose reel, six or seven hundred feet of hose and a lot of other apparatus was lost. The building was completely gutted. Total loss between \$5000 and \$6000.

There was insurance on the building of \$1000, but the contents of the building were not insured at all, so far as any records can be found.

About 7 p.m. another fire was discovered at the premises of the Belleville Hardware Company, of which Sir Mackenzie Bowell is president. Before it was subdued the entire flat, which comprised the storage and packing department, was completely destroyed, together with most of the manufactured goods the company had on hand, consisting of locks, keys, etc.

The loss will be in the neighborhood of \$15,000; covered by insurance.

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