

# THE FIRE FIEND RAMPANT

Sections of Four Blocks Swept by Biggest Fire in the History of Rossland---Many Thousand Dollars Damage Done in Two Short Hours--Breeze Helped to Spread Devouring Flames--Jumped Sixty Foot Roads and Carried Destruction in Its Path--Trying Period for Business Men.

Rossland witnessed the most disastrous fire in its history yesterday. The damage may be roughly estimated at \$75,000, with insurance probably not exceeding \$25,000. The burned area included sections of blocks 13, 16, 27 and 28, and it was almost providential that a much larger portion of the business section was not devastated. A breeze blew briskly as the fire gained headway and the efforts to control the flames were only successful when the streams of water were directed along carefully planned lines with a view to confining the fire within certain areas.

Precisely at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon an alarm of fire was sounded at the central fire station. At this hour there were many citizens on Columbia avenue, and the smoke of the fire could be seen ascending from the roof of the Burns building on lot 19, block 28. The fire department answered the call promptly, but found a serious problem confronting them on their arrival at the spot. The fire had already gained considerable headway in the upper story of the Burns building and had crossed the intervening space of 10 or 12 inches into Thompson's restaurant. Both buildings were afire on the second stories, and it seemed difficult to bring the water to play where it would accomplish the best results. Within five minutes it was seen that both buildings were doomed, and the firemen concentrated their efforts on saving the Blue Label block to the south of Burns' and the Anaconda saloon building to the north of Thompson's.

In both efforts they were unsuccessful. The flames mounted 20 feet above the blazing buildings, roaring in the most threatening manner and twisting in a wide radius at the sport of the brisk breeze prevailing. Ten minutes after the alarm was sent in the Anaconda saloon was blazing furiously, and the Blue Label block was also in flames. The wind was blowing from the southwest, carrying the conflagration toward the north and east. Twenty minutes after the alarm the fire jumped First avenue to the building occupied by Glazan, second-hand dealer, and the unoccupied premises owned by Mrs. E. G. Paulson. These had been smoking from the intense heat for some minutes, and although an effort was made to save the structures, they speedily succumbed and went up in flames. The Glazan premises were crowded with goods, making a fierce blaze. From there the fire spread to several shacks to the north and to the saloon building on the east.

Meantime the fire from the Anaconda saloon spread east to the Shirley bakery at the corner of the alley, intersecting block 28 from north to

south. Everything in the path of the conflagration was wiped out utterly. At this juncture the breeze changed, and with it came a new and equally alarming situation. The fire jumped Spokane street to the Eagle lodging house, Fraser's shoe shop, the Spokane saloon and adjoining buildings. Wrapped in soaked tarpaulins the members of the fire department endeavored to save the buildings on the west side of Spokane street, but the fierce flames, fanned by an increasing breeze, balked their efforts and drove the men off the street. From the business blocks the all-devouring flames swept up the hillside toward Earl street on the east and followed the draw of Centre Star gulch to the north. Practically the entire area bounded by Spokane, Second avenue, Earl street and the alley intersecting block 27 from east to west was wiped out. On Spokane street the buildings opposite the skating rink were not touched. On Earl street the residences facing the east were untouched, with the exception of that owned by Mr. Rugh, while on the alley mentioned several cottages and the premises occupied by Thomas Emberton were only scorched.

**PANIC REIGNED.**  
At one juncture, after the flames commenced to cross Spokane street and spread south toward Columbia avenue, there was grave danger that the city was doomed, or at least an important section of the business portion. Business men in blocks 27 and 28 made hurried preparations to remove their valuables. The stores on First avenue had already taken the initiative in this respect and practically everything portable had been shifted from that section. The Montana and Le Roi buildings were deemed to be in special danger as their buildings ran back to within a dangerously short distance of the blazing buildings. The live stock and other contents of the two big stables were removed to a place of safety within half an hour of the first alarm. The merchants along Columbia avenue were the last to take alarm, and in the majority of cases their precautions were confined to packing valuables and placing the boxes in such position that they could be moved readily. Toward Spokane street the danger was more imminent and several business men had wagons busily carting away valuables. In the southern section of block 27 it looked as though destruction was certain, and everybody south as far as Columbia avenue Hunter Bros.' big establishment would have been in danger, and the firm took the precaution of moving a large quantity of stock to a place of safety near St. George's Anglican church.

**MINER MOVED OUT.**  
The fire was within 50 yards of the rear of The Miner office, and it seemed certain that its progress would not be stayed. In this emergency The Miner's staff was hurriedly assembled and steps taken to remove such portions of the plant as could be transferred quickly. Enough material was taken out to issue a paper this morning had the office been destroyed. Fortunately the fire was stepped ere The Miner block was reached and its course diverted to the east.

**INTERNATIONAL IN DANGER.**  
The International music hall and hotel easily had the closest call of any of the buildings which escaped destruction. The fire in the Blue Label block was within 20 feet of the immense wooden structure, and had the wind not changed the premises certainly would have been wiped off the town-site. As it was the north elevation of the building smoked vigorously and seemed on the point of bursting into flames half a dozen times. All the windows on the north and east were smashed, including the big plate glass lights, and the interior of the liquor store, saloon and hotel was seriously damaged by water and heat. The International owes its existence today to the splendid efforts of its private fire department. Headed by Manager Morgan the employees of the institution handled a line of fire hose to excellent advantage and saved the building. Alderman Harry Daniel and John Stussel also took a prominent part in saving the International. They took up a position behind a telegraph post that was blazing furiously on the other side, and from there threw water on the side of the building that was exposed to the tremendous heat from the burning Blue Label block. Dave Morgan was overcome with heat about this time, but recovered quickly and was able to direct his men in their operations across the street after the International was out of danger.

**GUTHRIE INJURED.**  
Chief Guthrie arrived at the fire a couple of minutes after the fire brigade, having come on foot. He immediately assumed charge of the fight and ordered his men inside the Thompson and Burns buildings, leading the way himself. While in the second story of the Burns block the flames broke in and he was forced to take French leave via the window. Hanging by his hands the chief dropped, encountering some wires in the descent. These caused him to lose his equilibrium, and he landed heavily on the ground. The concussion rendered Chief Guthrie unconscious and he was taken to the fire hall,

where he soon recovered his senses and once more assumed charge of the battle, with a badly marked face. The theory that he was burned by a live wire does not appear to be tenable, in view of the fact that the West Kootenay Power & Light company's charts demonstrate that the current was shut off all over the city before the accident took place. Another member of the department was overcome during the fight, but was brought round by Dr. Reddick.

**VOLUNTEERS APLENTY.**  
The magnitude of the conflagration was such that no small fire brigade could have hoped to cope with it. There was, however, no lack of volunteers, and the work done by citizens taking a share in the fight deserves the highest encomiums. Most of the streams playing on the fire were manned altogether, or in part, by volunteers and the work of these men was magnificent. It is impossible to give a list of the citizens who thus distinguished themselves, but their assistance was invaluable. When it was seen that the fire had assumed serious proportions, the War Eagle and Centre Star companies immediately offered their well equipped and thoroughly manned fire department to the city. The offer was gladly accepted, and thereafter the firemen from the hill took an active part in fighting the flames. The work done by the firemen from the hill was admirable, and tonight's city council should be recognized by the aldermen. Miners came off shift at the various mines while the fire was in progress and these gallantly threw themselves into the fight.

**TRAIL TO THE RESCUE.**  
Shortly after 4 o'clock a special Canadian Pacific train steamed in from Trail with the Trail fire brigade aboard. The trip had been made from the Smelter City in 35 minutes, and this addition of trained fire fighters was most welcome. The Trail department was 30 strong, had a thousand feet of hose and four nozzles along and was prepared to take all risks to assist the Golden City in its dire strait. Mayor Binns and James H. Schofield were along with the party, while Chief J. E. McCarthy was in command of the brigade.

**WATER SUPPLY GOOD.**  
It was indeed fortunate for Rossland that the water supply was excellent. The water has been carefully conserved of late as a safeguard against exactly what happened yesterday, and at no time was there danger of a shortage. During the progress there were ten or twelve streams of water playing continuously on the flames, and the pressure and supply was maintained

throughout. Most of the night, also, streams were kept playing on the fire, which smoldered in the piles of embers that marked the sites of the destroyed buildings.

**DYNAMITE CONTEMPLATED.**  
At one juncture it was believed that the only method of checking the conflagration was to dynamite certain of the doomed blocks with a view to forming a gap which would give the firemen another fighting ground--with the frame structures crowded as closely as possible against each other it was next to impossible to accomplish anything in the direction of checking the flames. There was, of course, no powder with the War Eagle and Centre Star mines were again appealed to. Manager Edmund B. Kirby had a number of cases of powder loaded on a truck and sent down town, where it was taken charge of by Chief of Police Ingram. The explosive was stored at the corner of Columbia avenue and Earl street, and would have been used in that vicinity had it been necessary. At this juncture, however, the flames ceased to head toward the business section and took a route that obviated the use of giant powder.

**APPROXIMATE LOSSES.**  
At this date it is possible only to approximate the losses sustained through the fire. Roughly speaking the items are as follows:  
Blue Label Building, Spokane st. \$ 2,000  
P. Burns & Co., building . . . . . 2,000  
P. Burns & Co., stock . . . . . 1,600  
P. Burns & Co., fittings and machinery . . . . . 1,000  
Employees P. Burns & Co., chattels and personal effects . . . . . 2,000  
J. W. Thompson, buildings, stock, cash, books . . . . . 18,000  
McDonald & McPhee, stock . . . . . 500  
McDonald & Murchison, saloon and shacks . . . . . 3,000  
Martin Salmon, Metropolitan Saloon . . . . . 2,500  
Henry Schmidt, stock and shop . . . . . 1,000  
Mrs. E. G. Paulson, building . . . . . 6,000  
John Glazan, store and contents . . . . . 8,000  
E. M. Rumble, unoccupied store . . . . . 500  
Mrs. Yates, three residences . . . . . 1,500  
Shacks on east side Spokane . . . . . 1,000  
W. S. Hugh, residence . . . . . 1,500  
A. E. Paulson, two residences . . . . . 400  
Mrs. McGaughey, two cottages . . . . . 700  
W. L. Lawry, two cottages . . . . . 300  
Con Lowney, two cottages . . . . . 800  
Mrs. Owens, rooming house . . . . . 300  
Hattie Hastings, residence . . . . . 500  
Columbia Brewery, unoccupied . . . . . 750  
W. H. Carboull, residence . . . . . 1,000  
People's Store, etc . . . . . 3,000  
Mrs. L. Nadeau, Spokane saloon . . . . . 500  
Adam Hundon, plumber . . . . . 500

**JETS FROM THE NOZZLE.**  
There was some petty pilfering by youngsters of establish left exposed on the streets. The loss from this source was trifling, however. The carters certainly made hay while the sun shone and the fire raged. No instances of extortion are reported, which is a tribute to the humanity of the carters as a whole. Rossland's water service stood a trying test splendidly, and when the new conduit is completed, a week or two hence, the system will be able to withstand a fire like yesterday's every day. The War Eagle and Centre Star department saved the big city bridge and prevented the spread of the flames up Centre Star gulch. The Nickel Plate mine crew was mustered for emergency service as firemen, and did splendid work. Preparations for fire fighting were made on a large scale, and had the fire spread toward the Rossland Great Western and Nickel Plate buildings it would have been stopped there. This is the second time The Miner office has moved to avoid destruction by fire and escaped unscathed on each occasion. Arrangements had been completed for the regular issue of the newspaper even had the office been wiped out. The International had another close shave. This is the fifth or sixth time the big building has narrowly escaped going up in smoke. The spectacle of a hearse loaded to its fullest capacity with bottled whiskey and other spirits was one of the novel features of the spectacle enacted on Columbia avenue during the panic. The incident of throwing crockery out of the windows and carrying mattresses downstairs was enacted over again in several instances.

**ESTIMATED TOTAL.**  
The loss will be heavy, as the insurance carried was comparatively light. The International is fully protected, the premises occupied by Adam Hundon were insured for \$700, Salmon's saloon for \$1000, the Shirley bakery for \$300, Mrs. Paulson's block for \$2000, Glazan's establishment for \$1000, Mr. Hill's residence for \$1800, J. W. Thompson for \$2500, and various other property was protected to some extent. It is probable that \$15,000 will be nearer the aggregate insurance than any amount specified in opening. The Phoenix of London, Sun, Phoenix of Brooklyn, Manchester, Arch Union and Phoenix of Hartford are the principal insurance companies interested.

**RESCUES.**  
The Nickel Plate mine crew was mustered for emergency service as firemen, and did splendid work. Preparations for fire fighting were made on a large scale, and had the fire spread toward the Rossland Great Western and Nickel Plate buildings it would have been stopped there. This is the second time The Miner office has moved to avoid destruction by fire and escaped unscathed on each occasion. Arrangements had been completed for the regular issue of the newspaper even had the office been wiped out. The International had another close shave. This is the fifth or sixth time the big building has narrowly escaped going up in smoke. The spectacle of a hearse loaded to its fullest capacity with bottled whiskey and other spirits was one of the novel features of the spectacle enacted on Columbia avenue during the panic. The incident of throwing crockery out of the windows and carrying mattresses downstairs was enacted over again in several instances.

**COMMERCIAL SITUATION.**  
The fire has caused a general suspension of business in the city. The International music hall and hotel, the Blue Label block, the Burns building, the Anaconda saloon, and the Thompson restaurant are all destroyed. The damage to the city is estimated at \$75,000. The fire department and volunteers worked hard to contain the fire, but it was too large for them to handle. The fire started at 3 o'clock and spread rapidly. The wind was blowing from the southwest, carrying the fire toward the north and east. The fire department arrived at 3:30 and worked until 5:30. The fire was finally extinguished at 6:00. The fire caused a general suspension of business in the city. The International music hall and hotel, the Blue Label block, the Burns building, the Anaconda saloon, and the Thompson restaurant are all destroyed. The damage to the city is estimated at \$75,000.

## THRUST SHAFT BROKEN

The Report Signaled That Steamer Fuerst Bismarck Was in Distress--Kruger to Resign Leadership of Boers--Botha His Successor

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—The German tank steamer Diamantor, from Shields for this port, while passing Fire Island this afternoon signaled: "Passed disabled steamer Fuerst Bismarck with thrust shaft broken." No particulars were signalled.

LONDON, Aug. 26.—Cabling from Brussels the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says he hears that as a result of the conference between former President Kruger and the Boer generals, DeWet, Botha and Delarey, Mr. Kruger is to resign the leadership of the Boer people. General Botha, adds the correspondent, was unanimously designated the future leader of the Boers.

## COMMERCE OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 25.—The insular division of the war department has just published its last summary of the commerce of the island of Cuba. The summary shows that the total value of imports into Cuba during the military occupation was \$225,437,135 and the exports were \$45,000,000 less than the imports, a fact attributed to the destruction of property and damage to agriculture by the war.

The United States furnished 43 per cent of the imports and took 75 per cent of the exports. Practically all the sugar went to the United States. The balance of the trade was decidedly in favor of Cuba, though not so great as in former years, and it is remarked that the trade of the United States has not kept pace in any of the Latin-American countries with its wonderful strides in other parts of the world.

## NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN THE COAL SITUATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Today a committee of three young men from the mine regions called at the office of J. P. Morgan & Co. Mr. Morgan had not arrived there and the committee left without seeing any member of the firm. None of the young men would speak of himself or the purpose of their visit. It is understood that they are the committee of the People's Alliance of Hazleton, Pa., which is said to have a plan for the settlement of the strike.

There was no appreciable change in the coal situation today. Hard coal continues to be sold by the retail dealers to their customers at the rate of \$10 a ton, which is the highest general price so far. Exceptional cases, however, show that coal has been sold wholesale, as high as \$11.50 a ton and that the retail price has reached \$12.50.

## ILLITERACY AMONG MEN OF THE VOTING AGE

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 25.—The census office today issued a preliminary report on illiteracy among men of voting age in city and country districts for the census year 1900. The report includes under the term "illiterate" those who can neither read nor write and also a small number who can read but can not write.

The figures indicate that illiteracy among adult males is less than half as prevalent in the large cities as it is in the rest of the United States. The difference, the report says, is due largely to the fact that the urban population of the country is massed in the North-western states, and illiteracy is less prevalent there than in other parts of the country.

## ISTHMIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

They Are Designed to Strengthen the Garrison at Colon.

COLON, Aug. 25.—The first batch of Isthmian reinforcements, numbering 600 men, which arrived here yesterday from Savanilla on board the British steamer Bernard Hall consists of three battalions of Santander troops under the command of General Rafael Rodriguez.

General Gonzales Velencia, commander-in-chief of the army of the interior, is expected at the isthmus with the next reinforcements. The reinforcements are destined to strengthen the garrison at Colon.

## DEAD BODY FOUND.

Z. Bordenau Was Drowned in Loon Lake, Near Eholt.

(Special to The Miner.)

EHOLT, B. C., Aug. 23.—The dead body of a man named Z. Bordenau was found yesterday in Loon Lake, situated about a mile from Eholt on the road to the B. C. and other Summit Camp mines. Deceased was a woodcutter, a miner, and a Canadian about 28 years of age. The circumstances attending his death are being investigated today by the district coroner, Dr. G. M. Foster, who came up from Greenwood this morning for the purpose of holding an inquest. A jury was empaneled and the lake visited but no verdict was returned today, the inquiry having been adjourned until next Wednesday to allow time to secure the attendance of a witness who has left the neighborhood.

Mayor Binns of Trail and the genial James H. Schofield came up with the fire boys yesterday.

## BOOKKEEPER DISMISSED.

Lorenzo G. Warfield Is the Man Who Was Decapitated.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 25.—Secretary Shaw today ordered the dismissal from the treasury department of Lorenzo G. Warfield, a clerk in the division of bookkeeping and warrants. The attention of the department was called a few days ago to a circular said to have been issued by an organization of which Mr. Warfield was treasurer. The circular gave the plans of a proposed association by which stockholders could possibly reap large returns from a scheme to place the races. One Warfield held an important position in the treasury department and gave this as an evidence of the respectability of the association. The dismissal was based upon the use of the department's name, etc.

## EASTERN BASEBALL.

American.

Boston—Boston 8, St. Louis 0.  
Baltimore—Baltimore 21, Chicago 6.  
Philadelphia—Cleveland 3, Philadelphia 7.  
Washington—First game—Detroit 6, Washington 8. Second game—Washington 10, Detroit 7.  
National.

Pittsburg—Pittsburg 3, Brooklyn 6.  
Cincinnati—Cincinnati 3, Philadelphia 2.  
Chicago—Chicago 5, Boston 4.

## FINED \$50.

TORONTO, Ont., Aug. 25.—F. B. Hayes, secretary of the Toronto Carpet Manufacturing Co., was fined \$50 or thirty days in jail today for an infraction of the Allen Labor Act. Hayes attempted to replace the striking carpet-makers by French-Canadians from Lowell, Mass., seeking in this way to evade

## FAVORS HALIFAX.

MONTREAL, Aug. 25.—Senator Drummond, who has just returned from England today, said that although a

**Root Compound**  
Used monthly by over 100,000,000 people. Ladies seek all Mixtures, pills and Creams. Price, 50c per box. No. 101 of price and two-cent sample free. Write to Rossland Drug Co., Rossland, B. C.

**THE FIRE FIEND RAMPANT**  
Sections of Four Blocks Swept by Biggest Fire in the History of Rossland---Many Thousand Dollars Damage Done in Two Short Hours--Breeze Helped to Spread Devouring Flames--Jumped Sixty Foot Roads and Carried Destruction in Its Path--Trying Period for Business Men.

**NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN THE COAL SITUATION**  
NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Today a committee of three young men from the mine regions called at the office of J. P. Morgan & Co. Mr. Morgan had not arrived there and the committee left without seeing any member of the firm. None of the young men would speak of himself or the purpose of their visit. It is understood that they are the committee of the People's Alliance of Hazleton, Pa., which is said to have a plan for the settlement of the strike.