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LOSES LIFE IN G.N. YARDS

A sad fatal accident occurred in the Great Northern Railway yards on Tuesday afternoon when Paul Gjyensk, a miner, while returning from work at the close of the shift and travelling towards his home in the Annex Extension, was struck down and instantly killed by an M. F. & M. switching engine.

An inquest was held on Wednesday at which Coroner A. C. Murray, of Michel, presided. The evidence given by members of the train crew was that on returning from the south end of the G. N. yards after delivering a trainload of coal, and pushing a box car and car of fence posts ahead of the engine towards the transfer to the city yards the first intimation of the accident was when the engine passed over the body of a man. At the time snow was falling and being driven by a heavy wind from the north, making it difficult to see any distance ahead on the track, as well as giving rise to conditions which would make it difficult for the victim of the accident to hear the approaching train.

Within a few feet of the spot where deceased is supposed to have been first struck a cut-off path leads from Wright street across towards the Annex Extension, and it is assumed he was travelling this way to his home which is in the vicinity of the Fairy Creek cable bridge. Two G.N. section houses are located immediately to the south of this path where it crosses the tracks and in approaching the tracks a pedestrian's view southward would be obstructed by these buildings, and he would be right on the main line before a train approaching from that direction would be noticed. This travelling way, which is used more or less extensively by residents of the Extension, is, nevertheless, not a public thoroughfare, and those using it are trespassing on the railway property and subject to penalty therefor.

Deceased was 55 years of age and has been employed as a miner at Coal Creek for a number of years. He is survived by a wife and six children, all of whom reside here. The funeral will be held on Sunday under the auspices of Gladstone Local.

The verdict of the jury was as follows:

We, the jury empanelled to investigate into the death of Paul Gjyensk, find that the deceased came to his death Jan. 8, 1918, about 4.40 p.m., by being run over by an M. F. & M. Ry. train while switching in the G. N. railway yards. From the evidence no blame can be placed upon the train crew or the R. R. Co.

(Signed) L. Walker, Foreman; Wm. Perry, J. Graves, P. R. Lundie, D. McVannell, N. Lott.

NEW TEST METHOD MAY ADD TO SAFETY OF COAL MINERS

What it is believed by those experts who are carefully watching the experiments, will revolutionize existing methods of testing air in coal mines and will prove of the utmost importance in safeguarding the lives of thousands of workmen engaged in underground work in the mines of the Province, is now being put through its final tests. The Burrell gas detector is an instrument which is expected to produce the results looked for. If it does the work it is claimed it will, it will give immediate warning of the presence of smaller percentage of methane in the ventilating current in coal mines than can be detected with the safety lamps now in use. If the final tests now being watched by the officials of the Provincial Mines Department bear out expectations, no time will be lost in introducing the detector in the mines of the Crow's Nest Pass district, where the prevalence of gas in the mine workings has in the past proved such a serious problem.

Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, is not satisfied with the method now in use of testing the air for smaller percentages of the deadly methane, it being necessary to forward air samples to Ottawa for analysis and await the return of the examination, a process which involves a delay of ten days or more before results are known. It was proposed, as a result of the recent expert investigation made of the Crow's Nest field by George H. Rice, chief engineer of the United States Bureau of Mines, to place a competent chemist, with necessary equipment, in that district to take and analyze the daily samples of air, but this course, it is stated, may not be necessary, and, in fact, may prove en-

tirely superfluous should the Burrell detector prove all that the tests so far indicate it will. And if the results are satisfactory, it will not be long before the mines at Coal Creek are equipped with the necessary number of detectors whereby the mine officials will know from day to day just what percentage of gas is present in various parts of the mines.

From a series of tests made with analyses, gas samples taken at the same time in reasonable velocities by the Burrell detector and those taken and dealt with in the ordinary way, the two have checked out very closely, within three-tenths of one per cent. In high velocities the results were not quite so satisfactory; but further tests are being made under these conditions, and it is these results which have yet to come to hand. Some of the comparative figures taken at the Coal Creek Colliery, which speak for themselves, are interesting:

	By Analysis	By Detector
No. 1 East Mine		
(Sept. 25, 1917).....	3.62	3.2
No. 1 East Mine		
(Sept. 25, 1917).....	3.12	3.2
No. 1 South Mine		
(Sept. 27, 1917).....	2.17	2.1
No. 3 Mine		
(Oct. 11, 1917).....	1.83	1.1
No. 1 East Mine		
(Oct. 13, 1917).....	3.04	3.4
No. 1 East Mine		
(Oct. 23, 1917).....	2.81	3.1
No. 1 South Mine		
(Oct. 23, 1917).....	2.20	2.0
No. 1 South Mine		
(Oct. 23, 1917).....	2.58	2.9
No. 1 East Mine		
(Oct. 23, 1917).....	3.38	3.6
Totals.....	23.75	24.60
Average percentages.....	2.64	2.73

AMALGAMATED PATRIOTIC FUND—FERNIE DISTRICT

Collection for December, 1917—
Ferne and Coal Creek.....\$302.75
Corbin.....117.00
Bull River.....62.00
Jaffray.....265.50
Waldo, Ross-Saskatoon Lr. Co. 501.00
Gateway.....6.50

Distributions—
I.O.D.E., Fernie Red Cross.....\$300.00
I.O.D.E., Baynes Red Cross.....50.00
Red Cross, Jaffray.....15.00
Tobacco Fund.....15.00
Military Y.C.C.A., Calgary.....100.00
C. P. F., Victoria.....77.75

\$1254.75

A. Cummings, Sec.

PROVINCIAL PATRIOTIC FUND; WRITES DECEMBER REPORT

Contributions to the patriotic fund for the month of December from points in the province exclusive of Vancouver and Victoria amounted to \$35,284.45. The following contributions from points in the district were received:

Cranbrook.....	\$1642.48
Creston.....	242.79
Fairview.....	9.65
Ferne.....	627.40
Grand Forks.....	1073.45
Greenwood.....	899.91
Kaslo.....	228.80
Kelowna.....	392.00
Kamloops.....	1000.00
Nelson.....	1000.00
New Denver.....	159.55
Trail (town).....	632.63
Trail (Smeltermen's Fund).....	2000.00

Total contributions for the province of British Columbia, including the city of Vancouver, to November 30, are approximately \$2,452,000 and disbursements during the same period about \$3,538,000. The difference between the receipts and disbursements of \$1,086,000 was supplied by the Central Fund at Ottawa.

During the month of November assistance was rendered to 6899 families with 11,484 children—a total of 18,383 individuals.

His Excellency the Governor-General has issued a New Year appeal for the continued support of this Fund by the public. Its importance has been generally recognized and the Executive at Ottawa, composed of representative men throughout the Dominion, feel assured that there will be no lack of this generous support so long as necessity demands.

Pearl White in "Pearl of the Army" at the Orpheum, Monday and Tuesday,

"The Secret Kingdom," a superb serial of romance and adventure, first and second chapters at Orpheum, Friday and Saturday.

COUNCIL HOLD LAST MEETING

At last night's meeting of the city council, which was the final chapter for the present civic administration, the mayoralty candidates recorded a perfect attendance as His Worship Mayor Uphill and Aldermen Thomson and Marsham, who are all understood to be seeking election to the mayor's chair, were right on the job last night. Aldermen Beck and Brooks were absent from the official gathering. The minutes of the previous regular meeting were adopted formally and the communications were considered.

Secy. Martin wrote on behalf of Gladstone Local for permission to erect a private notice board, complaining that the public boards now in use were sometimes covered with notices and important union notices not properly exhibited. The council unanimously consented to Gladstone Local having a board of their own provided they supplied same and obtained permission of the property owner on which it was proposed to erect same.

The Department of Finance, Ottawa, transmitted a copy of a recent order in council for the information of the city council, setting forth that municipalities are now prohibited from selling certificates or debentures without first obtaining the approval of the federal department to negotiate any such loan. This was regularly received and filed.

The finance committee tendered two lots of accounts to be sanctioned for payment, one lot covering goods purchased and received during the latter part of 1917, and the other covering supplies, etc., ordered in 1917, but received during the present year. With regard to the latter bunch, Ald. Marsham rather strongly objected to passing them for payment, claiming that by so doing the old council was usurping the duties of the incoming council. Others present took the stand that inasmuch as the old council had contracted these obligations it was certainly up to them to O. K. them for payment. Everybody had something to say on the subject and after it had received reasonable consideration His Worship demanded that a motion to dispose of same be presented, otherwise the accounts in question would be held over. There was no motion forthcoming so there will be no checks issued for the accounts on this list until after the next council meets at least.

Ald. Jackson at this time intimated that he had a special motion to present with respect to some local "sleight of hand" enterprise, but first desired to know if the operative was paying a license to the city. He was promptly informed that the necessary license had been paid and thereupon stated his motion was not necessary at all. Bill then wanted to know positively who were on the delinquent list for water and light, and was informed that the consumers' ledger was considerably more free from accounts in arrears than it had been for some time.

Adjournment was then taken shortly after 9.00, but just before this it was arranged to engage the Grand theatre for Tuesday evening, Jan. 15, for the purpose of holding a grand rally when the electors will have the opportunity of hearing the policies with respect to civic government as advanced by the respective mayoralty, aldermanic and police commissioner candidates.

I.O.D.E.

The following articles have been made from I.O.D.E. materials and sent in by:

- 6 towels, Mrs. Hilton.
- 3 towels, F. Townsend.
- 3 towels, M. Wallace.
- 4 towels, E. Hesketh.
- 12 handkerchiefs, M. Foster.
- 3 towels, F. Braithwaite.
- 12 handkerchiefs, E. Davis.
- 12 handkerchiefs and 5 tails, G. Foster.
- 3 towels, J. Davidson.
- 3 towels, G. Davidson.
- 10 tails, F. Billsborough.
- 6 towels, J. Mawson.
- 5 tails and 2 towels, G. Corner.
- 12 pillow cases, Mrs. Wallwork.
- 11 personal property bags, Mrs. Phillips.
- 5 tails, J. Kennedy.
- 6 pillow cases, Mrs. B. Birtwhistle.
- 6 face cloths, Mary Hughes.
- 12 handkerchiefs, G. Black.
- 3 towels, R. Black.
- 12 personal property bags, Mrs. H. Whalley.
- 6 personal property bags, Bertha Whalley.

- 12 personal property bags, Mrs. J. Bough.
- 12 face cloths, Ina Bunch.
- 6 towels, Gladys Jennings.
- 6 towels and 5 tails, Minnie Cairns.
- 6 handkerchiefs and 5 tails, Mrs. McVannell.
- 12 face cloths, Edith Davis.
- 6 face cloths, Mary Hynds.
- 12 personal property bags, Mrs. Bateman.
- 12 handkerchiefs, Alice Haigh.
- 6 face cloths, E. Parker.
- 6 handkerchiefs, Margaret Fawcett.
- 6 face cloths, F. Billsborough.
- 12 face cloths, J. Beck.
- 2 suits pyjamas, Mrs. S. F. Wallace.
- 1 suit pyjamas, Mrs. Kuske.
- 1 suit pyjamas, Mrs. Nelson.
- 3 suits pyjamas, Mrs. Reed, Coal Creek.
- 2 suits pyjamas, Mrs. Birkett, Coal Creek.
- 1 suit pyjamas, Mrs. Byrom, Coal Creek.
- 1 suit pyjamas, Mrs. Ekersley, Coal Creek.
- 1 suit pyjamas, Mrs. J. W. Dobson.
- 1 suit pyjamas, Mrs. Cowper Stevenson.
- 1 cap, Mrs. Prentice.
- 2 caps, Mrs. Woods.
- 1 cap, Mrs. Whalley.
- 2 caps, Mrs. Stirrett.
- 1 pair socks, Miss Jenkins.
- 2 pair socks, Mrs. Bunch.
- 1 pair socks, Mrs. Page.
- 1 pair socks, Mrs. Vansacker.
- 1 pair socks, Mrs. Murphy.
- 4 comfort bags, Mrs. H. Wilson.
- 6 comfort bags, Mrs. Spence.
- 4 comfort bags, Mrs. Bell, Michel.
- 4 comfort bags, Mrs. J. Kirkpatrick.
- 4 comfort bags, Mrs. E. Kirkpatrick.
- 6 comfort bags, Mrs. H. Liphardt.
- 6 comfort bags, Mrs. J. Greenwood.
- 10 comfort bags, Mrs. Kastner.

Two cases ready for shipment, one containing 36 suits pyjamas, and one 37 filled comfort bags.

The following socks have been sent: Six 7 lb. packages to the 54th Batt. Six 7 lb. packages to C. M. R. Six 7 lb. packages to 13th Field Amb. Corps.

Donation from Patriotic Fund re care of sick by I.O.D.E., \$25.
Donation from Geo. Thomson for patriotic purposes, \$25.
Donation from Mr. Daniels for Red Cross, \$5.00.
Donation from Mrs. Suddaby for Red Cross, \$5.00.
Collected from box for cents at the Orpheum, 50c.

The following shipment has been received from the Red Cross, Jaffray: 13 suits pyjamas.

9 laperotomy stockings.
16 surgical socks.
36 many tailed bandages.
13 pair socks.
3 day shirts.

A parcel from Flagstone containing caps and socks.
Acknowledgement of Xmas Socks have already been received from the following:

Gunner G. R. Dudley, St. Lucia.
Sgt.-Maj. W. R. Ferguson, Bramshott.
C. B. Anderson, France.
Pte. J. T. Bough, Shorncliffe.
Sgt. G. W. Pollard, Frank.
Sgt. T. Mitchinson, Frank.
Pte. W. Cheslyn, Balfour.
Pte. Ed. Jackson.
Pte. G. Rogers.

ANNUAL CIVIC MEETING

On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock a public meeting will be held in the Grand theatre to discuss civic affairs. The Mayor and Aldermen and all the new aspirants for office are expected to be present and address the electors. A warm time is anticipated.

The mayoralty fight, which is the first three-cornered fight for this position in the history of the city, gives evidence of being a hot one. Mayor Uphill says he is confident of success. Ald. G. B. Thomson says there is nothing to it but the shouting, and Ald. Marsham claims to have a lead pipe cinch on the job. Time will tell.

Up to date there are only seven candidates for the position of aldermen, but more may put in an appearance at any time. Those mentioned to date are Aldermen Beck, Jackson, Brooks, Dudley, ex-Ald. Robichaud, William Hunter and Dan Alton.

For the position of trustees there are three names mentioned, viz., G. F. Johnson, Wm. Ramsay and J. S. Irvine.

For police commissioners the following are mentioned: R. Dudley, W. Jackson, Wm. Dicken and S. Graham.

Don't fail to see "The Amazons" at the Isis, Friday and Saturday.

MINERS GET AN INCREASE

A further increase of 14c a day, retroactive to Dec. 1, has been granted all the miners in District 18, as a result of the most recent enquiry into the cost of living, periodically conducted by Commissioner Harrison and his assistants.

This will make a total of 34c a day increase that the miners have received under the new arrangement which provides for these periodical enquiries and increases accordingly as the increase in prices of necessities takes place.

DECREASE IN FERNIE'S TRADE

Following are a few figures in connection with Fernie's business for 1917:

The collections by the customs department here indicates a decrease of \$18,078.75 from the collections for 1916. The figures are: Collections for 1916, \$80,634.96, and for the year just closed the collections were \$62,556.21. The decrease was not confined to any particular line of imports, though those of mining supplies perhaps were the largest proportionally.

The decrease in customs was more than off-set, however, by an increase of \$25,580.33 in inland revenue collections. The collections in this department were \$79,805.73, for 1917, and for 1916 they were but \$54,225.40.

In exports, nearly every article which goes across the international line shows a decrease from the figures for 1916. In 1916 there were cleared through the U.S. consulate here, 585,187 tons of coal, and the figures for 1917 stand at 341,581, a decrease of 243,606 tons and a shrinkage in value of \$76,977.

Being 42,273, which fell last year to 13,116 tons and the value sank to the extent of \$96,975.

The strike of last summer and the April explosion were chief factors in these reductions, and the decrease shown in the export of metals has for one cause, this shortage in production of coal and coke.

CITL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Owing to soft ice the two scheduled games for last week were postponed but will be played off at some future date.

Last night the people witnessed about as good an exhibition of hockey as has been played this season. The opposing teams were the Commercials and Bankers and the result was a win for the Commercials by a score of 6-3. Good combination was played by both teams but the Commercial goal tender either had a horse shoe in his pocket or he is all there as a goal tender because he was attacked by the Bankers all the time.

Scott and Wallace were the stars for the Commercials.

Next Tuesday the High School plays the Commercials, and on Thursday the Bankers play the Knights of Gladness, provided the curlers do not use the skating rink for the bonspiel.

The Weather

Following are the local temperature readings for the past week:

	Max.	Min.
Friday.....	41	20
Saturday.....	33	19
Sunday.....	34	30
Monday.....	38	31
Tuesday.....	39	—2
Wednesday.....	12	—11
Thursday.....	2	—6½

MOSTLY BRITISH NOW

Nearly one-fourth of the earth's surface is comprised within the continent of Africa, and it is as far around the coast of Africa as it is around the world. Every eighth person in the world's population lives in the dark continent. The blacks double their number every 40 years and the whites every 80 years. There are 843 languages and dialects spoken among the blacks of Africa but only a few of them is written.

RETURNED SOLDIERS CLAIM THEY WERE POORLY TREATED

Pte. R. J. Cornish, who enlisted with the 242nd Batt. in Cranbrook and left for overseas in September, 1916, found the streets of England to be quite as dangerous to him as the battlefields of Flanders. On June 8th

Pte. Cornish was walking peacefully about a certain quiet place in old England, when the world was suddenly blotted out and he woke up on a stretcher.

"It was one of those air raids," he told a reporter for the Sun soon after his arrival with the crowd of 54 men who have arrived in Vancouver.

One of the party made a decided protest as to the treatment of the men who returned with him on the steamer to St. John. He said they were fed principally on bread and jam, while the officers lived on the "fat of the land." The men also complained that they were refused the use of the piano on board, though there were among them several who could play, and this would have helped pass the time away.

Of the crowd which arrived recently, none was especially daly "done up," the majority having been on the road to recovery for a considerable time. One of them, Pte. H. A. Lamb, who joined the Strathcona Horse at Lethbridge in August, 1914, soon after war was declared, and who was hit in the shoulder at Dickebusch, Belgium, in October, 1915, was in the hospital practically all the time since that date up to the time he was sent back to Canada. He has not fully recovered yet.

FERNIE LOSES FLEISHMAN CUP

Wm. Cameron and Arthur Ward, two of Cranbrook's most expert skips, came down to Fernie on Wednesday evening and succeeded in carrying off the Fleishman Cup after a hard battle with two of our local rinks. This is the fourth effort that Cranbrook has made to lift the cup and their rinks went home feeling very happy at their final success. Cameron's rink, which was composed of Henderson, Brown and Bowness, played A. C. Liphardt's rink composed of Stewart, Henderson and A. P. Liphardt. The score standing 11-10. Ward's rink, composed of Campbell, Wallinger and Hill, lined up against F. C. Lawe, playing T. Prentice, Guy Johnston and F. Greenwood, Cranbrook winning by a margin of 6, the score standing 8-14. The combined score was 18-25 in favor of Cranbrook.

It is expected that two Fernie rinks will go to Cranbrook tomorrow in an effort to regain the trophy.

APPEAL TO PUBLIC FOR HALIFAX RELIEF FUND

Mount Fernie Chapter I.O.D.E. has been requested to make an appeal to the citizens of Fernie for subscriptions for Relief Work.

The I.O.D.E. of Halifax have established a home for orphans and unclaimed children and are asking for our help in this cause.

The Regent and members beg to remind the citizens of Fernie that this is an occasion to make return for help received by them when suffering from similar disaster.

Any monies so subscribed and sent to Mrs. A. B. Trites, Secretary of Mount Fernie Chapter, I.O.D.E., will be acknowledged in subscription list published in the Fernie Free Press.

Subscriptions already donated: Mt. Fernie Chapter I.O.D.E., \$25.00 Mrs. G. G. Moffatt, Regent, 25.00 Mrs. Suddaby, 5.00

The following local skips have entered rinks in the District Bonspiel which opens in Fernie on Monday: T. Beck, F. Greenwood, F. C. Lawe, A. C. Liphardt, Jas. Johnston, W. Baldrey, S. Herchmer, J. R. Wallace, R. M. Young, A. Macneil, J. McLaren and W. Lancaster.

Chiefs of police over the Dominion have received circular letters from the department of justice to arrest all men who come under the Military Service Act who are unable to produce a receipt from the postmaster either for a report for service or an allowance for exemption. Failure to have the receipt in their possession is sufficient grounds for incarceration so all men are asked to keep their receipt convenient for inspection if stopped by the police authorities.

Methodist Church

Sunday, Jan. 13—
11 a.m. subject, "Citizenship."
2.30 p.m., Sunday school.
7.30 p.m. subject, "Can God Be Known?"

Monday, 3.30 p.m., Mission Circle.
Wednesday, 8 p.m., C. S. E. T. meeting.

Thursday, 8 p.m., Meeting for prayer and praise in the Parsonage.
Friday, 8 p.m., Choir practice.