

# TERRIFIC POWDER EXPLOSION

## Hamilton Powder Works, Near Nanaimo, Blow Up With Disastrous Results -- Twelve Men Killed -- The Presence of Mind of James Preston

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 14.—An explosion occurred at the Hamilton Powder Works at Northfield this morning. Twelve men were killed to atoms. Two were whites, the remainder Chinese.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 14.—Twelve men were killed by an explosion at the works of the Hamilton Powder Company, Departure Bay. It was the worst powder explosion ever known in British Columbia. The dead are:

James Fulford.  
George Simonetti.  
Ten Chinese.  
Fulford leaves a widow and three children. Simonetti was recently married. The body of one Chinaman was recovered. The other eleven victims were absolutely blown into fragments.

The cause of the disaster may never be known. The management of the works is unable to assign a cause and no witnesses survive. There was first an explosion in the gun cotton house, the concussion exploding the gelignite house, 400 feet away, where the greatest loss of life occurred.

The ground was excavated to a depth of six feet where the buildings stood, and all the structures were blown into kindling, while fragments of human flesh were scattered over several acres. The tramway was torn up and lengths of steel rails twisted around trees like whiploads.

The force of the explosion was so great that it broke windows in the town of Nanaimo, three miles from the scene of the disaster.

The only surviving employe of the powder works engaged at the place when the explosion occurred was James Preston, nitro-glycerine maker, who had a miraculous escape and who owes his life to his coolness. He was running his machine in a third building 500 feet from the scene of the first explosion. He was thrown on top of the machinery, and a window and a portion of the wall was blown in, but he kept the machine running in spite of the concussion, which almost stopped it. Preston did not leave

his post, preventing a third explosion.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.  
(Special to The Miner.)

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 14.—An explosion of gun cotton and gelignite at the Hamilton Powder Works near Nanaimo this morning caused the death of two white men and ten Chinamen. The first explosion was in the gun cotton drying room, about a carload going off with tremendous force. This was immediately followed by gelignite 400 feet away. Both buildings were wrecked.

Twelve men were killed, two white men, George Simonetti and James Fulford, and ten Chinamen, the bodies being blown to atoms.

Steel rails of the track were twisted around nearby trees like a corkscrew. George Preston was at work in the mixing room and did not stop, as a moment's cessation of the process would have caused a frightful accident. He remained at his post and finished his work while the windows and doors were blown out.

Simonetti, Fulford and the Chinamen were working in the gelignite room. It is supposed that one of them went into the gun cotton room to weigh some gun cotton and caused the explosion in some unknown manner, setting off the gelignite.

The loss to the works is about \$3000, exclusive of the stock.

WEST YALE ELECTION.

Application for a mandamus in the West Yale election matter was adjourned this morning on application of the attorney general until Friday.

The Atlin and Cariboo mining men met in convention this morning here with John Hobson as chairman. It is expected that a provincial miners' association will be the outcome on the lines of that which existed in California. Some of the Atlin mine owners present are understood to be in favor of importing cheap labor to Atlin, notwithstanding the trouble the same course caused last year.

# CITY NEWS

## CLEANING SNOW—

Foreman Philip Wade, of the Canadian Pacific maintenance department, has had an extra gang of fifteen men in Rossland all week cleaning snow from the spurs about town.

## AMONG OLD FRIENDS—

James D. Sword, an old and well known Rosslander, spent yesterday in the city renewing old friendships. Mr. Sword is en route to Oregon in connection with mining interests there.

## FAREWELL SERVICES—

Adjutant Nelson of the Salvation Army will leave the city on Thursday next for Spokane. The reason he assigns for leaving is his wife's poor health. He will hold a farewell service tonight at the barracks.

## NO CHAMBERS—

Although there were several chamber applications and other court business to come up Friday, Judge Forin failed to come over from Nelson. The cases have, therefore, been laid over until next Friday.

## GOOD HUNTING—

John Sinclair, a well known hunter and trapper, who has made his headquarters in Rossland, since the early days of the camp, has returned from a hunting trip to East Kootenay. During his trip this summer Mr. Sinclair killed nine mountain lions and ten bears.

## SHUT UP SHOP—

Hotel and saloon licenses were renewable on Thursday and yesterday five saloons drew down their blinds and suspended business. They were the Strand, the Florence, Bank, Grand Union and Grand. One or two of the places will probably reopen shortly.

## LADIES TO PLAY—

The young lady skaters of Rossland have determined to organize a hockey team; in fact, the club is now a reality, although the captain and other officers have not been selected as yet. The fair hockeyists will have their first practice this evening at the rink from 6:45 o'clock to 7:45.

## MUST QUIT NOW—

A report is in circulation that the new civil administration will put a quietus on the alleged practice on the part of civil servants of purchasing goods in Toronto which can be bought from local merchants. The report has it that the city employes will be required to enter into an irrevocable undertaking not to transgress this rule, and that the first breach of the agreement will be immediately followed by the discharge of the offender.

## LEAVING ROSSLAND—

The numerous friends of Father Welch in this city will learn with regret of his intended departure for the coast. Father Welch has expressed his intention of leaving for the coast within a week. He has long been a resident of this city and has made many friends, both as a citizen and also as the rector of the Sacred Heart parish. His departure has not been appointed as yet.

## VELVET'S GOOD ORE—

The London Financial Times contains the following under date of January 2: Velvet, Rossland—The manager cables: "Shipments have now been resumed. Have received the following returns from smelter: One hundred and thirty-five tons yielded 117 ounces gold, 15,000 pounds copper; net proceeds from smelter \$2250, or an average of 23 1/2%.

## LEAVE FOR VANCOUVER—

Several Rosslanders, among whom were Frank Nichols, R. Budgeman, Thomas Tredred, Frank Stevens, Frank Sweeney and John Hender, departed yesterday over the C. P. R. for Vancouver. It is understood that they have a contract to do certain work in the tunnel that is being constructed near Vancouver by the Vancouver Power company, tenders for which were opened here last summer.

## PING-PONGERS PREPARE—

A preliminary meeting of the ladies was held in the public reading room yesterday afternoon to discuss the question of holding a ping-pong tournament for the benefit of the library. It was determined to hold the tournament the first week in February, the place to be determined later. A large committee was appointed with Mrs. Clute as convener. Another meeting will be held in the reading room on Wednesday, January 21st, at 3:30 to arrange the details and appoint sub-committees.

## HIS NEW MINE—

J. F. Wardner, the well known mining operator, is in the city on his way to the claims controlled by the Cherry Creek Gold Mining company, in which he is largely interested. The properties are located in the Monashee mountains, about midway between Revelstoke and Vernon and nine miles west of the famous McIntyre mine, which was worked extensively in the early days and long before the discovery of the mines of Southern Kootenay. Mr. Wardner is running several tunnels to open up the property and thinks he has the making of a great mine.

## OFF TO TACOMA—

William K. Esling, proprietor of the Trail Creek News, was in the city for a short time yesterday bidding his Rossland friends farewell. Mr. Esling is about to depart for Tacoma and states that it is his intention to abandon the newspaper work. For the past three years his scintillating wit has gleamed forth in the columns of the News and flashed into flame at the various banquets held in Rossland. Truly part of Trail's glory will depart when his editor leaves for Uncle Sam's land.

## PASSED AWAY—

William R. Jean, aged 30 years, passed away last night at the Sisters' hospital of typhoid fever after having been ill only three days. Deceased was a native of Sherbrooke, N. S., and had resided in Rossland for the past five years. He was a member of the Royal Arch and Blue Lodge Masons, the Encampment of the I. O. O. F., the Order of Rebekahs and Rossland Miners' Union, No. 38. Among the scores of friends he had earned since coming to the Golden City and among his brethren in the various fraternalties, the late Mr. Jean was esteemed for a host of sterling traits, and his sudden demise will come as a shock to all. The funeral will take place at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon and will be conducted by the Royal Arch Masons.

# OUR VAST COAL RESOURCES

## Results to Follow if U. S. Admits Coal Free.

## Will Give Employment to Thousands of Men.

The probability that foreign coal will be admitted to the United States for a time at least free of customs duties has broached a new line of thought in connection with the vast coal resources of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. If the market for the product of Western Canadian coal measures in the border states of the Union were thrown open the fuel industry would attain proportions now undreamed of, while the effect upon the industries of Washington, Montana and Idaho would be equally far-reaching.

From the international boundary line north to the latitude of Great Slave lake are territories, east and west of the Rocky mountains, that possess almost limitless coal measures. The actual area of coal land is unknown, but thousands upon thousands of acres have been staked, and it is admitted that only the choicest locations have as yet been reserved. This area, developed in its infinitesimal extent, would be the probable available coal land, yet the coal industry has attained considerable proportions and is already among the lustiest infant industries of the west. Development has been restricted in great measure by the limited market available north of the boundary line and the customs barriers which prevent the marketing of the product in any large measure south of the border.

True it is that production of coke is just now below consumption in the Kootenays and Boundary, but this is explained largely by the rapid growth of the smelting industries and various vicissitudes encountered by the Crow's Nest Coal company, the only producer of steam coal and coke in large quantities. Given its natural markets in the states bordering on Alberta and British Columbia and the coal industry will almost immediately rise to the occasion. What is required to ensure the prompt development of known coal measures of immense acreage is an assured market, and this would be assured if the output could be sold in the states mentioned without the infliction of a protective tariff.

It is an anomaly that with such vast coal deposits at their back doors consumers of Montana, Idaho and Washington import no small proportion of their fuel supply from eastern collieries, paying a high protective tariff and through other devices it is impossible to arrange the play for that time. "Jane," the play to be produced, is a three-act farce comedy that has proved a success wherever produced. It has been on the boards for the past ten years and has a long record of crowded houses.

The play, as cast by Mr. Nelson, is considered the best of the Rossland Dramatic club productions. It is as follows: Charlie Shackleton..... J. C. Wilson Mr. Kershaw, the uncle, Jackson Rigby Wm. Tipson, the valet, John Hooper Claude, the page boy, E. Simpson Mr. Fixton..... Thomas Gray Jane..... Mrs. Thos. Corson Mrs. Chadwick..... Miss Billings Lucy Norton..... Miss E. Shrapnel Mrs. Pixton..... Mrs. C. E. Simpson

Mrs. T. B. Linton, who was originally cast for the part of Mrs. Chadwick, and Mr. Harold Ellis, who was cast for the part of Mr. Tipson, were forced to withdraw from the cast, the former on account of illness in her family and the latter on business reasons. Mr. Roscoe R. Leslie also had to decline because of his inability to leave his duties at the Le Roi.

It is the intention of the club to repeat the performance at the principal towns in the Kootenays.

## BAD BLOOD.

The Root of Most Troubles That Affect Mankind.  
Bad blood is the mother of fifty diseases. It causes disease wherever your body is weakest. Perhaps you suffer from pimples, pale cheeks, indigestion, neuralgia, rheumatism or general decline. In each case the cause is the same—bad blood. Strike at once at the root of the trouble by renewing and enriching your blood supply with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Every dose helps to give you new, rich, red blood that will carry healing to every part of your body. Among the thousands who have proved the truth of these statements is Mr. Nell E. McDonald, Estmore, N. B., who says: "I have found Dr. Williams' Pink Pills all that is claimed for them. I was completely run down, my appetite was poor and I suffered much from severe headaches. Doctors' medicine gave me no relief so I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. A few boxes have restored me to good health and made me feel like a new man. Give the pills a fair trial and you will find new health and strength. Don't take a substitute or anything else said to be 'just as good.' See that the full name 'Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People' is printed on the wrapper around the box. Sold by all druggists or sent by mail, post paid, at 50c a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont."

## mining industry of the Pacific Northwest states.

Incidentally it may be stated that the subject is of prime importance to Rosslanders, for the Northport smelter would be one of the smelting plants to be benefited by the withdrawal of the coke duty. A saving of 80 cents per ton would be effected on the coke required for the works, but, equally important, is the certainty that the stimulus to be administered to the coal industry in the Crow's Nest country would result in the production of coke in such quantities that not only would the Northport smelter be guaranteed a continuous and adequate supply of coke, which they are not securing under present circumstances, but the competition would undoubtedly be such as to reduce the cost of the product, thus increasing that net gain to the smelter, of which the abolition of the duties would form the principal item.

## LIVE ISSUE IN EAST.

The question in reciprocity in coal between the United States and Canada has come to the front in Eastern Canada as well as in the west. This is indicated by the appended Associated Press dispatch received by The Miner last night, and is of special interest in view of the attention devoted to the subject in this issue:  
MONTREAL, Jan. 18.—Prominent Montrealers strongly favor Canada's falling in line with the United States and removing the duty on bituminous coal. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy said that it would save the C. P. R. \$400,000 per year, and at the same time he did not believe Nova Scotia miners could lose a dollar. Looking at the question in its broadest light, Sir Thomas did not think that, as a company, they had any right to pick and choose such items of tariff as would be to their own advantage. They were bound to consider the question as bearing upon the Dominion and its industries. The proprietors of the Nova Scotia mines and manufactures were better able to judge of the effect than he was, but he still believed it would open a large new field for Nova Scotia coal.

## F. D. Monk believed the duty should be removed at least for the present.

## "JANE."

A Laughable Comedy to Be Played by Local Amateurs.

Arrangements for the production of the opera house of the first of the winter theatrical entertainments have at last been completed. The date of the opening production of "Jane," the play selected by the committee, has not fully been decided upon as yet, although it is understood that it will take place within the next two weeks. Friday evening is the night selected for the opening production. The cash receipts will go toward the construction of the "Father Pat" memorial monument. The day following a matinee performance will be given in the interests of the Church of England fund.

Mr. W. J. Nelson, who has kindly consented to take charge of the affair and superintendent of its production, has selected an admirable cast which, he believes, will do itself and the play justice. The first production this winter by the club was to have been around the Christmas holidays, but owing to the fact that the script of "Jane" failed to arrive in time, and through other delays it was impossible to arrange the play for that time.

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# CONGRATULATE MAYOR DEAN

## He Receives Many Flattering Messages From Old Friends.

## The New Mayor Will Adhere Strictly to His Platform.

Mayor-elect John Dean will take the oath of office on Monday next, when the new council formally takes over the direction of the city's business. The initial session of the council of 1903 takes place under statute at 10:30 a. m. on Monday. After the perfunctory proceedings are concluded an adjournment will be taken until the following night at 8 o'clock, when the regular business of the year will be taken up.

"I note with pleasure," said the new chief magistrate when seen at his office yesterday by a representative of The Miner, "that The Miner this morning has expressed the cordial support of the community as a whole for the new administration, and sincerely trust that this will be the keynote of the public's attitude toward myself and my colleagues throughout our term of office.

"It is my intention," Mayor-elect Dean continued, "to adhere strictly to my platform as announced, and in the order in which its clauses were promulgated. The whole matter will first be taken up by the new council in committee of the board and out-spoken way in which Mayor Clute expressed himself in this morning's Miner with regard to desirable economies, and am also happy to state that he has evidenced a desire to give me all the assistance in his power, of which I shall not be slow to avail myself when the occasion requires.

"Until the new council is sworn in nothing can be accomplished, but I hope to have the hearty support of the board of aldermen in my effort to carry out the platform which has been so well endorsed by the electorate. With regard to the naming of the standing committees of council, I am now giving this question serious consideration, but am not as yet in a position to state how the committees for 1903 will be constituted. With reference to the appointment of a board of police and license commissioners, I may state that their appointment rests with the provincial government and of that I am not prepared to speak at the present moment.

"I am fully prepared to bring before the city council, in addition to such other matters as may arise, the three principal matters referred to in my platform, namely, retrenchment, reciprocity between the mines and the townships and the suppression of gambling. In view of the endorsement of that platform by a majority of the electorate after a keen and earnest contest in which I was, when analyzed, is really stronger than appears on the face of it, I am prepared to press for its fulfillment. It should be considered that both papers were opposed to me—The Miner very mildly, the evening paper very strongly—together with the fact that no effort was being made by myself or my supporters to see that my friends were placed on the voters' list it transpired that many were not eligible to vote, the entire absence of any campaign fund whatsoever, taken with the fact that my opponent held the reins of power and was, therefore, more in the public mind, we think the victory, in view of all these facts, was a great one. Another factor against me in the campaign was that I did not announce my candidature until after the registration of voters had closed. I hope in the best interests of the entire city that everyone eligible to vote will be registered before the next election.

"In order to cultivate public interest in civic affairs, the prescribed rule for introducing new business, namely, that of giving notice of motion, will be followed in the best interests of the city. I hope the interest of public attention and reform them from time to time of what is going on. Questions pertaining to the material welfare of our people will have chief consideration, and prominent among these questions is that of supplying water to the mines and endeavoring to induce the mining companies to allow the business men of the community to provide for all the requirements of miners.

"In the matter of improvements it is not anticipated that we shall be able to do very much. The maintenance of those conveniences and utilities we already have will require to be attended to, however. The up-keep of the public schools will be one of the heaviest expenditures the corporation will have to face, and I hope the school trustees will be reasonable and moderate in their demands."

## GOOD WISHES BY WIRE.

Mr. Dean was, of course, the recipient of congratulations by friends and supporters in the city. In addition various congratulatory telegrams were forwarded to him and among the number the following:

- Victoria, Jan. 16.  
Mayor Dean,  
Rossland, B. C.  
Accept my hearty congratulations on becoming mayor of such an important city as Rossland.  
(Signed) E. G. PRIOR,  
(Premier of B. C. and Minister of Mines).
- Nelson, Jan. 16.  
John Dean,  
Rossland, B. C.  
Congratulations.  
WILLIAM DAVIS,  
(Engineer of Mines).

Trail, Jan. 16.  
John Dean, Mayor,  
Rossland, B. C.  
Congratulations. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."  
J. BURTT MORGAN.

Victoria, Jan. 16.  
John Dean, Mayor-elect,  
Rossland.  
Have just heard that you are the newly elected mayor. Shake!  
(Signed) A. G. McCANDLESS,  
(Mayor-elect of Victoria).

Victoria, Jan. 16.  
Mayor Dean,  
Rossland.  
Heartiest congratulations upon your success from myself and family.  
(Signed) GEORGE H. MAYNARD.

Sandon, Jan. 16.  
John Dean, Mayor,  
Rossland.  
Congratulations.  
SANDILANDS AND FINGLAND.

# Fraternal News

During the past week two of the local fraternal organizations once more took up the proposition of another meeting hall. A hall in which the different fraternal organizations can meet and which is centrally located is what they are after. Little, outside of informal discussion, has been done, although it is expected that the matter will be taken up shortly and pushed to a successful conclusion by at least one of the most prominent secret societies in this city.

The Rossland Hive No. 5, Ladies of the Macabees, held a private installation of officers last Tuesday night at their hall on Second avenue. The installing officer was Mrs. Edith Morrison. The officers installed were as follows: Lady commander, Ellen Malcolm; lieutenant commander, Catherine A. Curphrey; recorder, Josephine Desilets; finance keeper, Rachel King; chaplain, Mary E. Post; sergeant, Clara G. Vaughan; mistress-at-arms, Mary I. Laughan; sentinel, Eliza A. Sharen; picket, Edith Bergeon. After the installation the Sir Knights paid a friendly visit to the sister lodge.

The installation of Red Mountain Camp No. 4, Knights of the Macabees, took place at a meeting of the society held last Tuesday. The officers installed are as follows: Commander, Shadwell Curry; lieutenant commander, Samuel Glazen; recorder and finance keeper, W. R. Beatty; sergeant, Samuel McCoy; chaplain, A. Johnston; first master of the guard, A. Desilets; second master of the guard, R. M. Thompson.

The Young Men's Institute held their third annual banquet at the Institute last Monday night. The banquet proved to be a very enjoyable one to the members of the lodge. Speeches were made by Father Welch, the officers of the order, and several of the members. This is the last meeting that Father Welch will be able to attend, as he leaves for the coast shortly.

The Rossland Aerle No. 10, Fraternal Order of Eagles, met last Monday for a few brief minutes and then adjourned until tomorrow. The installation of officers and the probable coming of the worthy president of the order has aroused considerable interest among the members.

# THE RAZOR STEEL, SECRET TEMPER, CROSS-CUT SAW.



We take pleasure in offering to the public a Saw manufactured of the finest quality of steel, and a temper which toughens and refines the steel, gives a keener cutting edge and holds it longer than any process known. A saw to cut fast "must hold a keen cutting edge."

This secret process and temper is known and used only by ourselves. These saws are elliptic ground thin back, requiring less set than any saws now made, perfect taper from tooth to back.  
Now, we ask you, when you go to buy a Saw, to ask for the Maple Leaf Razor Steel, Secret Temper Saw, and if you are told that some other saw is just as good ask your merchant to let you take them both home, and try them and keep the one you like best.  
Silver steel is no longer a guarantee of quality, as some of the poorest steel made is now branded silver steel. We have the sole right for the "Razor Steel Brand."  
It does not pay to buy a saw for one dollar less, and lose 25 cents per day in labor. Your saw must hold a keen edge to do a large day's work.  
Thousands of these saws are shipped to the United States, and sold at a higher price than the best American saws. Manufactured only by SHURLY & DIETRICH, Galt, Ontario.

# FRUIT GROWING IN

(Special to GREENWOOD.)  
Cunningham, proprietor, after having the Boundary, left en route to the Okla. him it was ascertained to see that the provincial regulation of the law in this country forced, so that the more particularly cases such as exist in Ontario and the Early last month in provincial government was something in the interior, so that Mr. Cunningham various quarantines into matters gene growers' interests.

He has now visited, Cranbrook, Nelson, Grand Forks, and also cross boundary lines to discussing matters vision with the fruit at the several viewed merchants fruit in every town object of encouraging British Columbia ed and sold in these districts supply. He expressed gratified at finding met altogether a lumbia fruit in ported from south, and that the outcomer is most prom a question of supp taneous conditions.

It was freely ad been an "eye-open Ashcroft, Lytton, non, Kelowna and in the upper count to most of the Washington, Idaho. The excellent w R. M. Palmer in the fruit-growers touch and of securi is now bearing goo the C. P. R. has considerable concessio provincial governm Palmer to devote h to establishing mar of the orchards o is thus doing val fruit-growing indus the Boundary for Cunningham stated been an "eye-open placed him in a m important informati tiers desirous of g growing business.

(Special to GREENWOOD.)  
Honor Judge Leam, cupied during the pr the county court w and the day before was the occasion o of excitement that the otherwise quiet tain, distant about Midway. There is a thriving section—the and when it comes a court of law the witnesses on the on for its unanimity, a side equally so, with the general agreem ance with that of the too, the district is u tunity, so that the to hide its time unt and irrepressible of told their story in pared details, and conclusions as a w man nature shall di. The latest excite quiet and discord. Mountain commu brought by Stepho Williams' law was an estate of Lucian T circumstances leadi tion are these: T owned a valuable f cared for, at Ana 1901 first Mrs. Ted children, and then year, typhoid claim er as a victim, h Greenwood hospita Lawless had one. Tedrow family had same neighborhood, ingman, in good r and in the capacite the Tedrow estate agreed, carried ov and with advantag ly. Another neig agreed to care fo child and the rest chervish provided have the use of ce horses. The matte the parties, theref remuneration for and for goods su family and on the te and horses, an applied, etc. Plis and defendant pu for \$26.07.

After hearing el address of H. C. S A. M. Whitfield f allowed plaintiff defendant \$66 for side to pay its own W. A. Aldridge, the Trail smelter yesterday.