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SIX HUNDRED MINERS REPORTED DEAD AS RESULT OF A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION IN THE MINES AT HILLCREST, ALBERTA

Causes Leading to the Tragedy Are at Present Unknown to the Officials... FALL OF SMOKE HANGS OVER MOUTH OF THE PIT... Scores of Bodies Have Been Recovered But Many Still Lie in the Mine... STRENUOUS EFFORTS AT RESCUE... Best of Appliances Are Available and Everything is Being Done to Save Life

Calgary, June 19.—Probably one of the worst mining disasters in the history of the Crow's Nest Pass district occurred this morning, when 200 men met death in the Hillcrest mine. The details of the calamity are still meagre, but from official stories given out at the Canadian Pacific Railway offices here, that is the number of the dead. Up to noon 50 bodies have been reported as recovered, but as there were 500 or 600 men at work underground, there is reason for the fear that the death list may reach an even higher figure than at present anticipated. Immediately following receipt of the explosion a rescue car was rushed from Blairmore, while a special left Calgary at 1.30 for the scene, carrying doctors, nurses, medical supplies, and newspaper men. As black smoke is issuing from the pit mouth, it is believed that the situation below is serious.

EXPLOSION SUDDEN AND A TERRIFIC ONE

Winnipeg, June 19.—Later information received at the C.P.R. office here states that a terrific explosion shattered the interior of the Hillcrest mine at Hillcrest, Alberta. Six hundred miners are reported killed. The report states that a terrific volume of smoke is coming from the mine's mouth accompanied by flames.

TURKEY SENDS PEACEFUL REPLY

Constantinople, June 19.—The reply of the Turkish Government to the note of Greece is conciliatory, and expresses the hope that Greece, like Turkey will take steps to restore order, but it evades the specific demands of Greece for the reinstatement of Greek emigrants, and the restoration of the property of Greeks in Turkey.

Met Much Ice To The North

Capt. Mercer, of the Neptune, Says There is Still a Great Deal Hanging About... Capt. George Mercer, who commanded the Neptune on her recent trip to Labrador leaves for his home at Bay Roberts by this evening's train.

WEATHER REPORT.

Toronto (noon)—Fresh Southerly winds to-day; showers on Sunday.

SIXTY-FIVE MEN TAKEN OUT ALIVE

C.P.R. Officials At a Loss to Understand Just How the Explosion Occurred... Montreal, June 19.—The following statement dealing with the disaster at Hillcrest collieries was issued to-night by J. M. MacKie, managing director: "We received a wire here this morning advising us of the explosion in the mine and stating that the extent of the damage was unknown at present. "We have 377 men on our pay roll including office help and outside labor and it is probable that 250 men were in the mine at the time of the explosion. "A wire received at the C.P.R. office here states that 65 men have been taken out alive, but at this writing we have no direct report. Our men, doubtless, are too busy at rescue work to communicate with us. "In planning our mine we constructed two distinct entries about half a mile apart, which are connected underground. Great precautions has always been taken ventilating the mine. Our engineers weekly report just received states 'Ventilation good in all parts.' We are at an utter loss to understand how such a catastrophe could have occurred." Later in the evening Mr. MacKie received a wire as follows: "Where it Occurred "The explosion was in No. 1 mine. This is the mine where most of the men were at work; No. 2 mine is where our new development is going on. "Two hundred and thirty-two men went in to the mine this morning at seven o'clock. The explosion occurred at 9.30 o'clock. At four o'clock in the afternoon thirty men had been taken out alive and thirty-two bodies recovered. The missing at present number 170. "The work of rescue is progressing steadily and artificial respiration is constantly and vigorously applied to those brought up. Excellent order prevails and the best equipment is available for rescue work."

ADVENTURE'S REPAIRS FINISHED BY TUESDAY

Messrs. A. Harvey & Co. had a cable gram this morning that the repairs to the Adventure will finish on Tuesday night probably, she will load Wednesday and leave Philadelphia on Thursday for St. John's.

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NOVA SCOTIA LOSES THRU' THE DISASTER

Halifax, N.S., June 20.—Nova Scotia has been hard hit by the Hillcrest disaster. Probably 75 miners from this Province worked in the colliery, and until the official list of the dead is available there will be grave anxiety in every colliery town in the Province. There were forty to fifty men from Glace Bay and surrounding districts and twenty or so Stellarton and Westville men at Hillcrest. NO SERVICE TO-MORROW AT COLLEGE HALL... Members of Cochrane Street Church congregation are reminded that there will be no service in the College Hall, to-morrow, owing to the Hall having been put in readiness for examinations which take place on Monday. The Sunday School will meet at the usual hour in the Institute room of the College.

TO FREE OCEAN OF DERELICTS

U. S. Government Commissions the Revenue Cutters, Miami and Seneca to Patrol the North Atlantic.—One Will Likely Make Her Headquarters in Newfoundland. Washington, June 19.—To free the North Atlantic of derelicts, the revenue cutters Seneca and Miami, early in July will establish an international patrol in these waters, as authorized by the international marine conference in London last year. At present the two cutters are working out of Halifax to warn vessels against icebergs. As soon as the dangers of icebergs is passed, they will search for derelicts which imperil shipping. One of the cutters will make her headquarters somewhere in the Azores, and confine her duty to the European and trans-Atlantic routes. The other will make her headquarters either in Newfoundland or Nova Scotia, and limit her efforts to the American end of well-travelled courses.

Old California Volcano In Action With Fatal Result

Read Bluff, Cal., June 15.—Lassen peak, the old Californian volcano which looms up 10,437 feet above the sea in the Sierra Nevada range on the boundary between Plumas and Shasta Counties, and has always been believed to be extinct, came into action again yesterday. There were three distinct eruptions, and clouds of smoke, fire and ashes were flung two thousand feet in the air. The old volcano got its first victim yesterday. Hugh Graham, of Viola, was terribly mangled by a shower of rocks from the crater and was buried in clinders and ash. He died of his injuries. A jagged rock sawed him nearly in two, cutting off his arm and exposing his heart. Went Mad... Lloyd Stripple, of Monton, was caught in the same hot downpour. His skull was fractured, his chest crushed and his arm broken by rocks. His companions on a trip to and the captain gave them information as to ice conditions. The Neptune goes north again shortly to the Straits with another full cargo of supplies for Mr. Grant's crews in the Straits and she will be commanded by Capt. Mercer

TIMES THINKS THAT CANADA IS JUSTIFIED

In Her Action in Preventing Hundreds of Hindus From Landing On Her Coasts as Settlers... LABOR MARKET OF WEST IS ALREADY SWAMPED... Glasgow Herald Says The Hindus are British Subjects and Should Be Allowed In... London, June 17.—The British newspapers are paying a great deal of attention to the case of the shipload of Hindus who were refused entry to Canada through the port of Vancouver. The London Daily News says: "Canadian opinion, as is emphatically against admitting the Hindus to the shores as is South African opinion. In South Africa the claim to immigrate freely has been abandoned, and the recent struggle has been over the treatment of those Indians already settled in South Africa. Under these circumstances it is difficult to see why the claim should be pressed, and with not obscure threats, to immigrate freely into Canada, particularly as Canada did not import Hindu coolies to develop her resources under a system of quasi-slavery." East and West... "Behind the Imperial aspects of the case, whether all subjects of the British Empire should be allowed freely to move about from one portion of the Empire to another, lies the wider question of the mixing of East and West," says the Times. "The problem recently assumed acute proportions in South Africa, where thousands of Indians under Mr. Gandhi endeavor to enter the Transvaal from Natal and struck work as a protest against the levying of the yearly residence tax. "For a long time the labor market in British Columbia has been swamped. Hundreds have been endeavoring in vain to procure work. This state of things is partially due to the immigration of unfit white people, but also to the numbers of Orientals who have secured entry into the country—according to the Census returns in British Columbia. The Japanese threaten to absorb the fisheries; every small shop is held by a Chinese. As the Times correspondent at Victoria says, it is felt that Asia is knocking, and knocking persistently, at the door of Western America. May Checkmate Themselves... "By forcing an issue the Indians will probably impel Parliament to pass more drastic legislation against Orientals. The British Columbian members of the House of Commons are united in favor of the absolute exclu-

Demonstration Of British Sea Power Suggest'd

English Paper Suggests This In Connection With the Imperial Conference... London, June 20.—A demonstration of British Sea Power by an Empire cruise of the Imperial Conference next year is suggested by The Daily Telegraph as befitting, because of the problem of naval defence, will form one of the main subjects of discussion at the conference. The Telegraph anticipates that, owing to the general improvement in the international situation and the early delivery of ships, the Admiralty will be able to accelerate its plans for sending a battle squadron of dreadnoughts to the Mediterranean. In view of the accession of strength in ships of the swiftest class, it is hoped that the Admiralty may determine to base on Gibraltar the three of four battle cruisers now in the Mediterranean, together with the gift ship New Zealand, as the nucleus of an imperial squadron, also these ships would cruise in the Atlantic or Pacific as required. The Imperial Conference will undoubtedly be marked by a great awakening of imperial sentiment, says the Telegraph. The readjustment of our strength in the Mediterranean and the improved international outlook, it continues, offers the Imperial Government an unique opportunity of illustrating the ubiquity of British sea power, the unity of overseas forces and the strategic principles which the Admiralty recommends as the foundation of Imperial security and the desire of the Mother country to do honor to the statement of self-governing Dominions. Foxes on Farms of P.E.I. Worth \$15,186,158... Ottawa, June 20.—That foxes held in captivity in connection with the fur farming industry of Prince Edward Island alone are worth \$15,186,158 is information contained in a Census Department bulletin issued to-day.

SAID EMPRESS ZIGZAGGED DOWN ST. LAWRENCE

Course Steered Was Erratic, Owing to Some Fault in the Steering Gear... WHEEL BECAME JAMMED ON NIGHT OF DISASTER... Wreckage Picked Up Proves Correctness of Testimony of Captain Kendall... Quebec, June 20.—The alleged defective steering gear of the Empress of Ireland and the rapidity with which she went to the bottom after being struck by the collier Storstad, formed the two most conspicuous details connected with the calamity as enquired into yesterday. On the first of these two points, evidence was submitted by a number of sailors and pilot, Napoleon Lapierre, who were on the collier Alden, which was passed by the Empress around the time that she was said to be steering badly by James Galway, quartermaster, who claimed yesterday that the liner's helm jammed for three minutes on the night of the disaster. Erratic Course... These witnesses all agreed that the Empress, as the pilot put it, zig-zagged down the river, though they all had to confess that while a still good distance away, she showed red to red, in conformity with the navigation laws and passed more than cable length away. A piece of small but substantial evidence corroborating the conclusion of Capt. Kendall that his ship was struck amidships, will be put in as an exhibit to-day. It is a first cabin door number with 328 on it and was picked up by the Storstad. The only cabin side of the ship near the first funnel, and some fifteen feet from the skin. NEW STOCK ORDERED... The Martin Hardware Co. cabled for a new stock, Thursday night, and the next English steamer which leaves is expected to bring the first installment. Mr. Martin is a hustler and is losing no time in getting his business running again.

Finish Cathedral After Centuries

Many Buildings In Italy Have Never Been Completed... Florence, Italy, June 18.—The picturesque little town of Arezzo, on the way from Florence to Perugia, recently celebrated the completion of its cathedral which was begun more than five centuries ago. There are many buildings in Italy begun many centuries ago, which never have been finished, and never will be, since such an attempt might spoil the artistic harmony of the whole, gained through centuries of wind, weather and changing tastes. Instances of such unsuccessful attempts have recently been seen at Florence and Milan, where new facades have been added to the old cathedrals. They were greeted with derision by the citizens who described them as sugar decorations on a wedding cake. The architects have had more luck at Arazzo and what was already a fine specimen of Italian Gothic architecture, whose cornerstone was laid in 1277, is now complete. Arezzo was the birthplace of Clinius Maccenas, the patron of Virgil and Horace.

ENGINEER HAD NARROW ESCAPE

Witness at the Empress Disaster Inquiry Testifies That He Was Working Almost in the Very Bottom of the Ship When the Disaster Took Place... Quebec, June 20.—At the Empress disaster inquiry this morning Geo. O. Donovan, engineer, Empress, said he was in charge of the steering gear and inspected it every day, but had never found anything wrong with it, never heard any complaints. He was in the stokehold when the ship was hit, and after the impacts in about twenty seconds, water rushed through the stokehold number two bunker into the stokehold. "Lund Mersey—"How far below the water line was that?" "Twenty-two feet six inches." "Why, bless my soul, that must be near the bottom of the ship. Was it coming in a great body?" "Oh, a great volume; the full size of the door; all that could come through. The stokehole was soon flooded and the men fled for their lives."

Too Much Ice; Kyle Forced South

The S.S. Kyle is coming south, having been unable to get north of Emily Harbor owing to heavy ice. The R. N. Co. had the following message from Capt. Parsons, last night: "Left Emily Harbor 2.45 a.m. Thursday returning. Unbroken jarm of ice from there north; ice quite tight all along the coast; wind S. W. fresh and clear. Left Frenchman's Island at noon to-day; heavy open ice close to land."

THE CITY'S HEALTH

There have been no new cases of infectious disease in the city during the week. There was one case of diphtheria in the suburbs. The patients undergoing treatment at the hospital are all doing well. DIPHTHERIA AT BELL ISLAND... Diphtheria has appeared at Bell Island. Three cases were reported to the health authorities yesterday. Two cases are in one house and one in another. Dr. Lynch is attending the patients. ELECTRIC POLE BREAKS... An electric pole on Watre Street opposite J. W. Taylor's store, broke, but was kept up by the wires. Supt. Grimes was informed and the damage was soon rectified.

Fifteen foxes, two of them black, were taken here last week from Newfoundland, and on Saturday were shipped to Charlottetown, P.E.I. The animals were shipped in charge of D. Hodgson, who belongs to the Island. —N. S. Herald.

Foxes on Farms of P.E.I. Worth \$15,186,158

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SETTLE STATUS NO MAN'S LAND

Nine Nations Will Be Represented At the Remarkable Conference... CASE OF SPITZBERGEN ISLAND... There is No Form of Government There and Crimes Are Unpunishable... A remarkable conference to establish the status of Spitzbergen, which until now has been a noman's land, assembles in Christiania, Norway, this week. Spitzbergen is the only land on the globe of known value to mankind which is not definitely in the possession of some nation. The mineral wealth of Spitzbergen is so great that in recent years men and capital have been sent there to begin its development. As it belongs to no one there is not even the most shadowy form of government. Anyone could take what he could get. The claims and mines held by individuals and companies are not actual possessions, as there is no tribunal to establish ownership. Even crimes committed in Spitzbergen are unpunishable. Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Germany, Holland, France, Great Britain, the United States and Norway will be represented at the conference. It is not likely that any of these nations will be given possession of the islands although both Norway and Great Britain have advanced indefinite claims. It is more probable that some form of international control will be devised, which will give assurance of protection of person and property in the remote region. The United States is included in the conference because American miners have for some years been prospecting and even working in Spitzbergen.

FOOTBALL MATCH OFF

The Feildian-Casual football match set down for last evening was postponed owing to the wet weather.

EXPRESS AT 2.30

The express arrived at 2.30 p.m.