DISASTER AT FERNIE.

(Continued from page 1.)

HARRY WILSON.
GEO. HOUSBY.
TONY MUTSEO.
WM. NEACE.
WM. M'PHAIL.
JOHN ZELONISKA.
T. FAIRFIELD.
JOS. WELSH.
AMOS BUCK.

The board of trade started a relief fund to-night. The members subscribed $1,100. There are many sufferers and outside relief will be required.

COAL CREEK MINES.

Inspector Dick's Report on Visit to Workings Last Month.

In a report received at the Department of Mines on May 8th, Arch. Dick, inspector, writing on April 22nd, 1902, says:

"I went to-day to the above mentioned mines, examined all about the outside and then went in

No. 2 Mine.

"This mine is worked on the separate split system, viz., High Level and East and West Districts. To-day I went into the High Level district and examined all the working places and much of the old workings. I saw that all the men here had safety lamps, yet I could not find a trace of gas. All the places were well timbered. Here I round there were 23 men working.

"Ventilation was good; only a short distance from the face I found that there was 16,800 cubic feet of air passing per minute, with the brattice as close to the face as it was convenient to have it. Barometer reading 28.85."

Under date of April 24th the inspector wrote: "I again went to-day to No. 2 tunnel, but this time to West district. I was in all the working places, which I saw were in good order and well timbered, although in some places the roof is very bad and full of slips. I put in much of my time in the old workings to see if there is any standing or accumulation of gas. I am pleased to say that in neither the working places or the old workings was there a trace of gas to be seen, but I saw that all the men were working by light from safety lamps. There were here 35 men working.

"Ventilation was good here. I saw there was 20,000 cubic feet of air passing per minute with brattice in all cases up near the face.

"East district—I then went into what is known as the East district. First went into all the old workings here. I saw that they were clear of gas, after which I went into the working places, which I saw were in good order and well timbered with brattice close up—in many cases under the circumstances too close to be convenient. In this district I saw that there were 34 men at work, all of whom had safety lamps.

"I failed to find any gas in No. 2 mine, which at one time it would show in the lamp nearly every place you could go.

"Ventilation is good near the face. I saw that there was 12,400 cubic feet of air passing per minute, while in the main intake there was 80,800 cubic feet per minute, thus leaving 31,400 to be accounted for, all of which escapes into the old works, where it is much required to carry off the gas which is given off there, as by having the old workings clear there is not so great danger of an accident with the workmen using safety lamps."

No. 3 Mine.

Writing on April 25th, Inspector Dick says: "I went into this mine to-day. here I saw that all the men were working with open lights on the heads." I examined all this mine—there were but few places in the old workings I was not in, as well as being in all the working places. I saw that all the working places were in good order, brattice close up and well timbered. I did not see any sign of gas in the mine.

"Ventilation good. I saw that there was 31,800 cubic feet of air passing per minute and conducted well into the face by brattice and otherwise. Here there were 35 men employed. This mine is very wet.

"I may here say that No. 2 and No. 3 mines are one and the same, by connections below ground and are connected in many places, and are both ventilated by the same fan, but are entered by two tunnels from the outside. The motive power for the ventilator of these two mines passes 112,200 cubic feet of air per minute and has yet 80 revolutions of the fan per minute in reserve before it gets up to its highest working speed."

According to the latest message from Coal Creek mines, near Fernie, the scene of the terrible explosion on Thursday night, the total number of men killed was about one hundred and twenty, in a dispatch from Mr. Armstrong, the general agent, the number of bodies recovered is placed at 40, and about 80 missing. He says 24 escaped alive.

The Times correspondent telegraphing on Saturday night reported that 46 bodies had been found, and that 40 or more were in sight, and were expected to be reached soon. He says it is thought the full number of victims will never be known, as possibly some were blown to pieces by the explosion.

Late last night a dispatch to the Times stated that 50 bodies had been reached, and that the work of rescue had been temporarily abandoned.

One of the greatest difficulties in obtaining news has been due to the limited telegraphic facilities at Fernie. The resident special correspondents of the Times at Fernie have hitherto kept the readers of the Times as well informed in regard to developments there as telegraphic facilities permitted.

But in order that the very fullest details might be furnished, the Times has dispatched to the scene one of the best special writers of the Coast. He reached Nelson yesterday morning, and was into Fernie in the afternoon. He has instructions to spare no expense in sending through a complete story of the disaster, and all the accompanying details, with daily developments. Times readers may therefore depend on the fullest details available of the gruesome event.

BURYING THE DEAD.

Sad Scenes at Fernie Cemetery When Bodies of Victims Were Interred.

Fernie, May 24.—So far 46 bodies have been recovered from the Coal Creek mines, Nos. 2 and 3. All have been got from No. 3, and also those from the higher levels of No. 2. Forty or more bodies are in sight, and will be brought out to-morrow morning.

Those in the lower levels of No. 2 will be harder to get at, as it is evident the explosion originated there.

As the timekeeper is killed and as his book was not made up for the shift in which the accident occurred, it is impossible to get a full list of the men still in the mine. It is thought that perhaps it may never be known, as it is possible that some may be blown to pieces.

Thirty bodies have been buried. Vehicles of all kinds were used to carry the dead to the cemetery, where long rows of graves were ready to received them. Several of the fraternal societies buried some of their deceased brethren in the afternoon. There were also a few private burials. At 6 p.m. there was a burial of the remaining dead.

Many pitiful and heartrending scenes were witnessed at the burial of so many dead.

The Coal Company have 12 men making coffins and a number of men digging graves.

To add to the horror of the situation there has been no transportation of freight, mails or express since last Tuesday. The relief fund has nearly reached the five thousand dollar mark.

It is doubtful if the remaining bodies will be viewed, as the heat of the mine is causing decomposition.

All religious services are being cancelled to-morrow on account of the burials, and the rescue work will continue as usual.

The foreigners are conspicuous by their absence in the rescuing of imprisoned comrades.

The relief committee is meeting daily to assist in alleviating want and distress.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

Nothing Definite Yet Known Regarding the Cause of the Explosion.

Fernie, May 24.—While everywhere throughout this grief-stricken little town the banners of mourning were sadly drooping from pole and flagstaff yesterday and every few yards walking in any direction brought in evidence the pathetic bow of crape that told of a father, a husband or a son gone to sudden and terrible death there was enacted at 11 o'clock last night a minor drama within the overwhelming tragedy, wherein only the match of an intemperate suggestion was required to cause the stern vengeance of the body of Fernie workingmen to burst in extinguishing flame. It was a situation without a parallel in British Columbia annals, and the taking into account the tense and overwrought feelings of the stricken community, the wonder is, not that it occurred, but that infinitely more serious consequences were not involved.

William Stevens is, or has been, one of the provincial police constables engaged in duty within the town. He is not a companionable fellow, if reports be true, and certainly he does not seem normal minded in view of a remark he is accused of passing yesterday evening when in a corner cigar store one had, in his hearing, deplored the tragedy that has plunged the whole community into unutterable sadness. "Just to think of those poor fellows, there," this someone had observed, "a hundred and fifty of them, and all their lives gone out in but the time it takes to think." "Yes, think of it," Stevens is quoted as having echoed with a sneer, "its a pity it wasn't two hundred and fifty."

How any sane man could have or would have made so inhuman a comment it is hard to understand. The fact that this police officer, who has not been at all popular with the miners of the community in the past, had done so spread quickly, and the youth to whom he had addressed the sneering insult was within half an hour escorted to the Union hall, where to a full attendance of union men he stated the facts of the incident. There were others to corroborate, and accepting the evidence as conclusive, the miners adjourned with portentous quiet, to march in force to the city lockup where Constable Stevens was demanded of Chief Constable Barnes. The latter loyally supported his subordinate to that extent that he urged reason and moderation, he promised that the complaint would be laid before headquarters, and ventured to predict that if the charge were established Constable Stevens would be dismissed. He offered to forthwith suspend the officer pending investigation.

No such procedure satisfied the indignant gathering, however. They insisted upon taking the constable as their prisoner to the green, and then and there he was arraigned for insult to the whole community. His denial or qualification was virtually unheeded, and on Chief Barnes again interposing in his behalf he was informed that he had but two alternatives to make choice between. Either he, as representing law and authority in Fernie, might forthwith "Run Stevens out of town," or the party would take that task upon itself.

The chief's response was the request for the badge and weapons of his subordinate, with the addendu "I guess you'd better go, Billy." The articles were passed over and the miners thereupon assumed command. Stevens was placed at the apex of a flying wedge in which five hundred men had places, and with hoots and revilement sounding strangely discordant and malapropos along the avenues of death, Stevens was hustled through the streets of Fernie, driven as a wolf to the corporation boundaries, started along the railway track into the darkness beyond which lay Michel—and told to keep going and not to return to Fernie.

Aside from its dramatic termination, Sunday passed as an ever-memorable day of death. The silent crowds drifted backward and forth along the straggling streets and formed a little ever-moving group in front of the company's offices, where bulletins were displayed. The crape-draped funeral train puffed back and forth between the village and the mines. The flags hung drearily from their half elevated vantage point. The hearses, improvised out of delivery wagons and regular conveyances, passed to the little newly opened cemetery in almost continuous procession.

The community early in the day, indeed on the day of the intended festival so suddenly turned into a day of funerals, divided into two sharp contrasting bodies—the one composed of sorrowing friends and relatives who bore the forms of loved ones to the dreary site of the new cemetery, the other of the brave hearted, death defying veterans of the mine who warred with gas and fire damp and dust to snatch the bodies of those still clasped in the grimy arms of death. Through their efforts, directed by General Superintendent Stockett, Inspector Dick and Mine Manager Dinning, slope 2 was, early in the afternoon, cleared of all gas and the bodies of all who had worked therein or in the tributary chambers had been removed, after which the slope had been sealed in order to increase the air circulation on the other workings still holding their tribute of the dead.

Before evening it had become possible to penetrate almost the entire length of the slope, and unless the unexpected occurs all the rooms in the most distant workings will be safe to-day, when the last of the bodies will be recovered.

It will not be until the mine is clear of gas and thoroughly explorable, that an intelligent opinion can be formed as to the origin of the explosion, but certain it is that, with the emphatic views expressed upon this subject and their wide variety, the camp will not be satisfied without a thorough and full inquiry at which the facts will be disclosed without fear or favor for none. At first there was a very distinct inclination to ascribe the explosion to careless neglect of the prescribed precautions making the use of safety lamps imperative in a known gassy mine, in which connection Inspector Dick has had some very sharp things to say of this particular mine and the discipline prevailing therein in his annual reports. It is known, however, that the particular workings in which disaster came were gone over by this identical inspector two days before and pronounced clear and safe from gas, although gas might have been broken into at any moment in quantity sufficient to wreck the mine, if ventilation was not perfectly maintained.

There are, however, two other suggestions now put forward, each of which demands official inquiry. During the regime of James Wilson, underground manager, he is reported to have declared himself unsecretedly opposed to the machines heretofore in use for blowing out the coal, afterwards shattered with powder, claiming that the flash inseparable from the practice of such methods must always jeopardize the safety of mines and miners in so gassy workings. He also maintained that in the Coal Creek mines it was essential for safety that competent brattice men should be employed to see that the air circulation was not interfered with, and during his incumbency these men were kept on duty. Upon his resignation and retirement it is claimed that his successor in the direction of the underground work, Mr. Gresham, inaugurated an economical era, the fire bosses being required to add the care of the brattices to their duties, although they have claimed that they had no time to properly fulfil the requirements of the dual role.

This evening an official of the department of mines will arrive on the scene, and will probably decide when the official inquiry will be held and in what form, in addition to the formal coroner's inquiry, which, after taking a view of the bodies, has been adjourned for one week.

Meanwhile the work of rescue goes quietly and yet heroically on. An extremely careful check of all independent and dependable information gives one hundred and fifty-one lives lost as the total of the fatality in Thursday's tremendous tragedy, the full magnitude of which is only now beginning to be comprehended in this utterly broken hearted community. There were 151 safety lamps issued when the ill-fated shift went to their labor and their death, besides which it is commonly understood that in the workings known to be free from gas a number of others went with naked lights. Not more than 22 or 23 escaped. Although the mining company places the loss of life at 107, all told, it is generally agreed that this is much below the mark.

Rev. Mr. Gordon, who knows the mine and men perhaps as well as any of the company's staff, and whose pretty little church is now doing sad duty as a public morgue, estimates the total dead at fully 150, with over 40 destitute and sorely stricken widows and quite 200 orphaned little ones, besides the many counted in the roll of death who had not yet laid aside the joys of childhood—for "boy" in connection with name of someone dead occurs with pitiful and affecting frequency.

Up to now it has been impossible to obtain an absolutely correct list of those known to have been in the mine when the explosion occurred, and even now there are 71 men dead whose names do not appear on the company's list, by reason of the fact that they were working on the contract system. Following is a list of the men whose bodies have so far been recovered:

Steven Morgan.
Joe Sengala (married).
William Robertson (boy), widowed mother.
Victor Johnson.
John Leadbeater (married), family at Lethbridge.
Frank Salten (single).
John R. McLeod (single), Nanaimo.
Thomas Fearful, sr., wife and family in Fernie, from Montana.
Thomas Fearful, jr.
Thomas Johnson.
W. H. Beasly, overman (single), from Stockton, England.
Joseph Tuka, Italian, wife in Italy.
John C. Korman.
Ronald Jones.
Water Wright (single).
Andrew Hoven (boy).
Thomas Clover, wife and six children in Fernie.
James Cartledge.
Owen Holmes (single).
William Ferguson (single).
M. J. Fleming, from Red Lodge, Mont.
Sam Hand (single), from Staffordshire, England.
James Stevens, wife and family.
John Kearney (single), from Nelson.
John Hughes.
James McIntyre.
Harry Wilson (boy).
Tony Mutzo.
William Neace.
William McPhail, father and mother in Fernie.
John Zalonica.
Joseph Welsh.
Amos Buck.
Antonio Frederico.
Edgar Reid (single).
Andrew Pietro.
J. Flora.
Philip Schroeda.
John Krats (boy).
Rennie McMillan (boy).
John Hawley (single).
E. A. Brown (single), father an engineer on the C. P. R., out of Kamloops.
Albin Carlsen.
George Rutledge.
Harry Hawkins (single), Cambridgeshire, England.
William Love, from Montana.
Joe Velgi.
Matto Frederico.
Unknown Italian.

In addition to the above list the management of the mine has the following names of men known to have been in the mine at the time of the explosion:

Robert Lamb, fire boss, married and one child, Nanaimo.
George Beach (single), Staffordshire.
Andrew Patterson (single).
W. J. Davis (married).
Joseph Houbous.
Steve Soface.
John Matulika.
Joe Mataga.
Mike Rakas (boy).
Steve Valeyti (boy), widowed mother.
Ed. Foley.
Clare Ellin (married).
Frank Ranaski.
Alex. Featherstone (single).
Matt Maughney (single).
Jesse Wheeler (single).
John S. Zederovich.
N. Hartley.
Wm. McDonald (boy), father and mother in Nelson.
— Jackson.
Thomas Craig.
A. J. Davis (married).
S. J. Marsh (single).
Alex. Bodi.
Steve Rasko.
Angus Gunn.
Mike Kurater.
N. Rosario.
William Marchant.
Andrew Gale.
F. Frederico.
Frank Lewis (single).
Malcolm McLeod, wife and eight children, Nova Scotia.
James Wilson, jr., son of former mine manager, father and mother now here.
John Stewart, from Nova Scotia.
John Owen (married).
William Owen, son of former.
George Beaver, wife and family in Fernie.
Alexander Walker (colored).
Jos. Shelling.
Aron Colcough.
Thomas Brothers (two).

LORD MINTO

Sends Message of Sympathy and Will Assist in Relieving Distress.

Ottawa, May 26.—Lord Minto has sent the following dispatch to the manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company at Fernie:

"Deeply grieved at terrible accident. Kindly send me any particulars as to possibilities of rescue. If you have started any relief to families I will gladly assist. (Signed) Minto."

ANOTHER APPEAL.

Hon C. Sifton Asked to Collect Funds—Minister's Contribution.

Ottawa, May 25.—The minister of the interior has received the following telegram from Fernie asking for aid for the sufferers from the mine explosion there:

Fernie, B. C., May 23rd, 1902.

To Hon. Clifford Sifton, Ottawa:

The Fernie board of trade would urgently call the attention of all people that a great calamity has overtaken the town. By a mine explosion 150 men have been killed, and much destitution prevails. Kindly collect subscriptions and forward same to Bank of Commerce Relief Fund, Fernie.

Hon. Mr. Sifton sent the following reply:

Ottawa, May 24th, 1902.

I am shocked and distressed beyond measure at the terrible calamity which has overtaken your town. Am wiring $250 as a small contribution to relief. Can I do anything to help you?

(Signed) CLIFFORD SIFTON.

FIFTY-ONE BODIES

Have Now Been Taken From the Mines.

Fernie, May 25.—With all experienced miners available for rescue work intelligently utilized in four hour shifts, the clearing of the ill-fated workings at Coal Creek mine advance apace to-day, and No. 3 slope was penetrated to its furthest extremity, and all remaining bodies therein removed. No. 2 slope and workings, are being quickly cleared, and it is expected that to-morrow or Tuesday at the latest will see all bodies removed. Fifty-one have now been recovered, and the estimates of those remaining vary from 60 to 105.

There is also a great diversity of opinion as to the cause of the explosion and a formal investigation will be necessary. There were 22 funerals to-day, the majority being conducted in public from the Anglican church.

NOVA SCOTIANS AT FERNIE.

Halifax, May 26.—Forty Nova Scotians were employed in Fernie, B. C., collieries at the time of the disaster.

BRITISH SYMPATHY.

The High Commissioner Making Inquiries—A Mansion House Fund Suggested.

The disaster to the little town of Fernie has awakened sympathy outside of Canada. The Times Ottawa correspondent wires this morning that the High Commissioner, Lord Strathcona, has cabled the government asking for particulars regarding the colliery explosion.

E. C. Smith, M.P.P., intends communicating with Hon. J. H. Turner, British Columbia's Agent General, asking him to see if it is possible to have a Mansion House fund started for the relief of the miners' families. He points out that the various contingents which have gone to the war from Canada have been largely swelled by miners from this particular locality, and that consequently their sufferings will not be a matter of unconcern at the heart of the Empire.

THE RELIEF FUND.

Generous Contributions to the Relief of Widows and Orphans.

Prompt steps are being taken to alleviate the suffering, and by Saturday night the relief fund had swelled to $5,000. The C.P.R. generously donated $3,000, while Hon. Clifford Sifton gave $250, W. W. Tuttle, of Fernie, $100; Nelson News, $100; S. M. Proctor, $100; A. McDougall, $100; D. Spencer, Victoria, $100; and Wm. Eschaig, $100.

E. C. Smith, M.P.P. for the district in which Fernie is located, had all his preparations made to leave on Friday night for the scene, together with the provincial mineralogist, W. F. Robertson. At the last moment Mr. Smith concluded he could render little assistance and that it would be a more practical way of showing his sympathy to add the expense of the trip to his contributions. He accordingly forwarded his cheque for $200.

Mayor Hayward has made arrangements to receive subscriptions towards relieving the distress caused by the terrible disaster at Fernie, and a regular canvas will probably be made to-morrow among the principal offices and business firms in the city.

Subscription lists have been opened at the Times and Colonist offices.

The subscriptions to the Times list follows:

Times Printing & Publishing Co.	$15.00
H. Dallas Helmcken, M.P.P.	10.00

IN THE LEGISLATURE.

E. C. Smith Moves Resolution of Sympathy—Government Aid.

On the House resuming this afternoon E. C. Smith moved that the rules of the House be suspended in order to move a resolution re the Fernie disaster. This was granted, and he then moved, seconded by Mr. Hawthornthwaite, a resolution setting forth that whereas a disaster had occurred that the House express its sympathy and urge the government to take prompt measures to relieve the distress.

Mr. Smith, in earnest tones, dwelt on the pathetic features of the case, and of the distress which the disaster had occasioned. About 150 men he said had perished and 40 widows and 200 children had been bereft. He appealed for a government donation of $50,000.

The Minister of Mines, speaking for the government, read the telegrams he had received and the responses of the government instructing officials to do all in their power to relieve the disaster.

Manager Stockett had telegraphed that there would be great destitution, and government aid would be necessary.

The government he said had met this morning and telegraphed $5,000, to be immediately available, and would forward $5,000 more if required.

Col. Prior then read other telegrams which had passed in reference to the number of bodies recovered, etc.

The Minister paid a high tribute to Inspector Dicks, whose last report, already published in the Times, he read. This showed three times as much air in the mine as required by law.

Concluding his remarks upon the steps taken by the government and the owners for the safety of the mine, Col. Prior also mentioned that nine men had been found with tobacco in their possession and five with matches. The latter had been punished, and he suggested that the explosion was due to the carelessness of the employees.

This met with a heated rejoinder from Mr. Hawthornthwaite, who said that the government was trying to shield themselves and the owners, and mentioned that he had had an intimation that 35 of the miners who had been refused certificates by the board of examiners had been sent to work on the face by the company, and it was more than probable that the unauthorised workmen had been the cause of the trouble.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

New Summer Suits and Pants

High-Class Ready-to-Wear "20th Century Brand" and "Royal Brand," in tweeds, Flannels and Worsteds, $5.75, $6.75, $7.75, $8.75, $10.00 Upwards. . .

B. Williams & Co.

Clothiers and Hatters, 68-70 Yates Street.

LORD PAUNCEFOTE DIED THIS MORNING

The Distinguished British Ambassador Passed Peacefully Away at His Residence at Washington.

Washington, May 24.—Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador, died at 5:30 o'clock this morning.

About 2 o'clock this morning he suddenly developed a very weakened heart condition and a consultation of his physicians was called. They were unable to rally him and he died peacefully, not having regained consciousness from the sleep he fell into during the night.

Baron Pauncefote, who was 73 years of age, was a most distinguished diplomatist and administrator, and held numerous important administrative and legal posts. He was first British delegate to the peace conference at The Hague, introducing the scheme for a permanent tribunal of international arbitration. He was ambassador to the United States for the past eight years.

QUESTION OF HOURS.

London Message Says Proclamation of Peace May Be Made Shortly.

London, May 26.—Those persons expecting a definite announcement regarding the peace situation in South Africa at the reassembling of parliament this afternoon were disappointed, for the government leader of the House of Commons, A. J. Balfour, declined to make any forecast as to when the government would be able to make a statement.

Better informed people did not anticipate that the government would be in a position to-day to give out anything of importance in this connection, but possibly after tomorrow's cabinet meeting Mr. Balfour may be able to communicate the eagerly awaited news.

Although Mr. Balfour declined to commit himself publicly, there is no doubt whatever in government circles that a definite proclamation of peace is only a question of hours.

It was reported in the lobby of the House of Commons to-day that the proclamation of peace may be followed by an abandonment of the tax on grain.

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

Majunga, Island of Madagascar, May 26.—Nine cases of bubonic plague have been found in Majunga. Majunga is a port on the northeast of Madagascar. It has direct communication with Antanarive, the capital, by means of the Ikopa.

LITTLE BUT SEARCHING.—Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets are not big nauseous doses that contain injurious drugs or narcotics—they are the pure vegetable pepsin—the medicinal extract from this luscious fruit, and the tablets are prepared in as palatable form as the fruit itself. They cure indigestion. 60 in a box, 35 cents. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—56.

FEARFUL OR CHEERFUL?

Whether a woman is tearful or cheerful depends not on what she has materially, but what she is physically. Many an indulgent husband is driven almost to despair by the tearful outburst of a wife who has "everything she wants." He wants to know what's the matter. But the wife can't tell. She only knows that she is depressed and despondent.

Such a condition is usually related to some form of womanly disease. The mental depression has its corresponding womanly weakness.

Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription changes tearful women to cheerful women by curing the diseases which cause physical weakness and depression of spirits. It establishes regularity, dries unhealthy drains, heals inflammation and ulceration, and cures female weakness.

Mrs. Alice Adams, of Laboratory, Washington Co., Pa., says: "With many thanks I write to let you know how I am. I can say by God's help and your help I am well. I have taken six bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and two of his 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and I can do all my work. I can't praise your medicine too highly. I will recommend your medicines as long as I live. If any one doubts this give them my address."

"Favorite Prescription" makes weak women strong and sick women well. Accept no substitute for the medicine which works wonders for weak women.

Keep the bowels healthy by the timely use of Doctor Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

LOVATT'S SCOUTS SURPRISED BOERS

AND CAPTURED MOST OF THEIR SUPPLIES

Peace Regarded as Assured in South Africa, but Official Declaration is Still Lacking.

London, May 23.—Peace in South Africa is regarded as assured, but an official declaration to that effect is still lacking, and there is nothing official to indicate when an announcement may be expected.

Opinion is divided as to whether a statement on the situation will be issued to-night after the cabinet meeting called for to-day or whether it will be reserved for meeting of the House of Commons on Monday. It seems, however, at the best that only the basis of peace terms will be before the ministers, and that if they are accepted the discussion of the details may still occupy some time during which, it is presumed, an armistice will be declared.

In the meanwhile, outside the Boer commands immediately connected with the peace negotiations, fighting continues. Lovatt's Scouts surprised Fouche's command in Cape Colony on Wednesday last, and captured most of the Boer supplies.

Interesting references to peace are contained in a letter from Klerksdorp, Southwestern Transvaal, dated April 25th. It says: "Seventy to eighty thousand British troops are here waiting for General Delarey's answer from the peace conference, and every hour we are expecting them (the Boers) to march in and surrender. We have actually sent out wagon loads of clothes to enable them to come in to-day. There is every prospect of peace. Lord Kitchener comes here from Pretoria every other day and seems to be in particularly good spirits. He actually smiles, and that's a thing he not often does. We attach great importance to these smiles in regard to peace."

Majority Favor Peace.

London, May 23.—The cabinet meeting adjourned at 5.10 p. m.

The Associated Press has ascertained that the government regards the war as practically ended.

Advices received by the war office indicate that whatever decision the Veereniging conference may arrive at, most if not all, the Boer leaders who went to Pretoria will not continue the fight. The present negotiations are merely for the purpose of enabling the Boer leaders to "save their faces."

ANOTHER ISLAND DEAL.

Big Transfer of Mineral and Timber Lands on the West Coast.

It is reported from Tacoma that the Tacoma Steel Company has purchased 180 acres of copper and iron lands on Vancouver Island for $60,000. It is further stated that the company has obtained options on 112 square acres of spruce timber lands on Quatsino Sound, where paper mills are to be established for foreign shipments. A number of Victorians were interested in this latter property, and the establishment of a mill there through local enterprise has long been contemplated. That there are immense timber resources available for the purpose in the district has long since been demonstrated, and when it is remembered that there are no paper mills in the province now in operation the market for the home product will undoubtedly be large. The Pacific Steel Company is all altogether different corporation to the Pacific Steel Company of which Homer Swaney is manager. This company, as is well known, has vast mineral rights situated on Barkley Sound.

TAKE A TRIP.

Miners Who Are Out on Strike Going to Visit Former Homes.

New York, May 22.—In the steerage of Auguste Victoria, which sailed to-day for Hamburg, were about 100 Hungarian and Polish coal miners from Pennsylvania. Several of the men said they had quit work in obedience to the strike order and believing the strike would be a long one, decided to visit their former homes.

BURNING FEET.

Feel feet all on fire, hot and burning up!

How cooling and soothing Foot Ease is for such feet—takes out the fire and heat, allays the inflammation, brings rest and comfort. Price 25c. a box at druggists or by mail. V. Stott & Jury, Bowmanville, Ont.