

HORRORS OF MINE DISASTER TOLD BY SURVIVORS

Thrilling Stories Related By Those Rescued From the Depth of Hillcrest Mine

First Estimates of Number Killed Reduced Very Little by Count Made Today—Eighty-Six Bodies Taken from Mine and One Hundred and Seven Still Under the Surface—Survivors Tell of Terrible Experience When Explosion Occurred—Work of Rescue Still Going Steadily On—Mine is Blazing Fiercely and Task of Rescuers is Very Difficult One—Funeral of Victims Will be Held Tomorrow.

Hillcrest, Alta., June 20.—Thrilling tales are told by the survivors of the Hillcrest disaster. Some described themselves as being brought back from the dead, having fallen under the effect of black damp before reaching safety. Some heard the explosion and knew nothing subsequently till revived, while others dropped to their hands and knees and crawled to safety.

There are forty-four of these survivors, the latest official figures from the offices of the Hillcrest Collieries Limited, giving 237 as entering the mine in the morning, eighty-six bodies taken out and one hundred and seven still remaining in the mine. It is practically certain that every one of these latter is dead. Not a sound is heard in the mine save that made by the rescuers themselves and the presence of fire makes it almost impossible for them to conduct their gruesome but self-imposed task. But still the work goes steadily on.

Back from the Dead
"Yes, I was one of the lucky rescued party," said H. Yeaden last night, "and I just fasted, though I had been brought back from the dead. But the trouble is, I will have to go through it again and the second time it usually gets you. I was working in north 15 at the time of the explosion and that is about one quarter of a mile from the mouth of the mine. I can remember hearing the explosion and that is about all I know with the exception of dropping down to the floor of the drift near some water. Why I did that is more than I can tell, for I had no time to think. I suppose it was just common instinct that made me do it. However, it is possibly that to which I owe my life. The next thing I knew after that was when I was told that the physicians had been using a pulmotor on me for 45 minutes. They said they feared I would never come to, but I am here to tell the tale. You know it must be an easy death to be suffocated with gas, for I felt no pain and would never have known the difference had I never been brought to, I am glad to know that the poor fellows down there now suffered no pain. After being brought to I began to suffer, however and even

now I feel the effect of the gas while the skin on my face is all burned up." Immediately after his resuscitation Mr. Yeaden was among the group of rescuers and up to 2 a.m. was busily engaged in helping to lay out the bodies as they came to the surface.

HAD THRILLING ESCAPE
Wm. Guthrie, another of the few saved had a thrilling escape to safety. Rushing with the others to the mouth of the mine he suddenly felt himself grabbed by the foot and held firmly. His heavy mining boot had caught in a frog of the track, but quickly drawing his pocket knife he released the boot from his foot and walked to safety in his stocking feet.

Malcolm Link and Charles Jones had similar experiences in getting to safety. They were in No. 15 chute when the explosion occurred. They just heard the report as though it were a shot from a battleship; they dropped to their hands and knees and crawled to safety. Chas. Ironmonger was thrown from the mine by the force of the explosion and severely injured. He was removed to the hospital and died shortly afterwards.

Arnold Varley was another of the saved "I just heard the report," he said, "and then I rushed to safety. There were a number of others around me and I can remember stumbling over a dead horse on the way."

Charles Murray gave up his life in an attempt to save his two boys who were entombed in the mine. Hearing of this he rushed in but never came out again.

An inquest is being held this morning on the bodies of those already taken from the mine and the funeral will be held tomorrow. This inquest is but a formal matter in order to allow of the ready disposal of the bodies, but the inquest proper will be held two weeks later on.

Calgary, June 19.—What bids fair to rank as one of the worst mining disasters in the annals of western Canada took place this morning at Hillcrest, Alta., at 9:30, when a terrific explosion wrecked the mine into the workings of which three hundred men had just gone to work out their eight hours shift.

Of this number it is now practically determined that 225 are dead while of the 50 brought to the surface by the rescuers only forty are alive and many of these badly injured. Among the men whose bodies are still in the pit is Superintendent Quigley.

The scenes around the mine tell a terrible tale of the havoc wrought and the fearful force of the explosion. It is only with the greatest difficulty that gangs of rescuers armed as they are with the latest scientific devices for saving life in such cases can make any headway, men, horses, timber and rails and wagons are jumbled in chaotic mass and the path is strewn at every step with the debris so that only these men who were fortunate enough to have been working near the pit mouth have any chance of being brought out alive. In fact old time miners declare their belief that after such a holocaust no man now unrecovered from the innermost working of the pit can possibly emerge alive. Contrary to an earlier report there was no fire but the conditions prevailing in a mine after such an explosion were that any one below could scarcely come up. So great was the violence of the explosion that a fair sized concrete building located about ten yards from the mouth of the pit had the roof blown clean off.

The accident, which is believed to have been due to gas, blew out both ends of the pit and instantly cluttered up the interior of the workings. Many of the men, in fact the great majority, were tucked away and could not by any chance escape almost instant

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RIVAL CANDIDATES TO BE ON SAME PLATFORM

Philadelphia, P.A., June 20.—A memorial meeting of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen is being held in this city today, which has brought together Boise Penrose, A. Mitchell Palmer and Gifford Pinchot, rival senatorial candidates appearing together on this occasion, as each will make an address in keeping with the occasion. This meeting is held annually to commemorate the deaths of trainmen during the year. The three candidates will not open their political campaigns until the fall, it is understood.

KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, NATIONAL CONVENTION

Five Hundred Members Will be Initiated Into Order.

Cincinnati, O., June 20.—Tomorrow will be the opening of the week's program arranged for the thousands of visitors and delegates who will attend the international convention of the Knights of St. John. A large reception will be held tomorrow, followed by initiatory exercises, when five hundred members will be taken into the order under the direction of the famous degree team of this city. Requiem high mass will be celebrated in memory of departed comrades on the morning of the session.

Rousing Reception Tendered Minister of Education at Big Gathering Held in Trades Hall

Brilliant Array of Deeds Accomplished by Member in Behalf of Brandon and His Record as a Brandon Citizen—Single Handed Fight to Save City's Credit, and the Lasting Advantage Which Had Ensued—Takes Liberals to Task Respecting the Grand Trunk—Defies Opponents to Show Where Government Has Not Employed Local Labor on Local Public Institutions—Flatly Contradicts Rumors and Street Talk—Liberal Candidate Severely Scored for Attack on Catholics and Attempt to Create Dissension with Protestants—Rousing Cheers for Mr. Coldwell At the Close of the Meeting.

Another splendid ovation was accorded the Hon. G. R. Coldwell, minister of education, at the Brandon, when he appeared before a crowded meeting of the laboring men of the city in the Trades Hall Friday night. As a demonstration of the loyal and solid support Mr. Coldwell will hold from the laboring classes, the meeting could scarcely have been exceeded. He answered every question put to him, contradicted rumors, urged for truth on the part of his opponents and at the close of his final address was cheered vociferously. The enthusiasm which greeted Mr. Coldwell's speech was all the more pronounced because of the wholesale failure of half a dozen or more Liberal heeled to put the Hon. G. R. Coldwell off his guard when giving an account of his past four years' stewardship and the record of the Roblin government. Both candidates gave long addresses and it is safe to say that never has such excitement reigned among a working men's gathering in Brandon. Mr. Coldwell gave his record of service and the record of the Roblin government, while Mr. Clement dealt with what he would do, if elected. The Liberal candidate was frequently interrupted, and it was evident that the few organized interruptions during the minister's speech were not to be tolerated and at the end three of the heartiest cheers ever given here were accorded Mr. Coldwell.

The meeting will go down in labor history here as the most exciting and enthusiastic ever held. Long before the time of meeting the hall was found to be totally inadequate to meet the needs of the crowd and many went away without even trying to gain an entry. The minister of education was given a rousing reception as he entered the hall.

Chairman Was Brief
President McClement briefly opened the meeting and announced that Hon. Mr. Coldwell would open the meeting. Mr. Clement would reply and Mr. Coldwell have the further reply. Without any preliminaries, he called upon Mr. Coldwell.

An Appreciation
The minister of education opened with an appreciation of the invitation to speak to the working men, among whom he had lived and worked for 29 years. He first touched on the single handed fight he had in 1891 when the repudiation of the city's debts was on hand. Had the city repudiated their debts they would have killed the city for years to come. The city of Hamilton had not overcome repudiation in 50 years. For 20 years on end he had served them as a councillor, refusing the mayoralty several times.

Brandon's Honor
The name of Brandon was a name of honor among western municipalities and he claimed a fair share of the honor along with the other members of the council. The last seven years he had been a provincial member, following the late Dr. McInnis, without any previous experience of the work. His record stood out before his fellow citizens and he asked for a fair

ENGLISH PLAYERS SAIL WITH POLO CUP

Lord Wimborne and Party Left New York Today on Board The Olympic.

GREAT RECEPTION IS SURE.

New York, June 20.—The West Chester Cup the International polo trophy, left American shores today in the possession of Lord Wimborne and the British polo players, who were sailed for England on board the Olympic.

In the party were Lord Wimborne, Lady Wimborne, the Duke of Penmar, Major and Mrs. Barrett, Captain Chépeau, Captain Tomkinson and John Trull. A great reception is assured the players when they reach Southampton.

ANOTHER NON-PARTISAN URGES PEACEFUL TERMS IN ULSTER SETTLEMENT

London, June 20.—(C. A. P.)—Following the Archbishop of York's letter demanding, as a non-partisan citizen, a peaceful settlement of the Irish question, there comes today an equally noticeable appeal from Lord Blyth, who has done a vast amount of beneficial work for the United Kingdom generally, in various directions.

Lord Blyth has just returned from Ireland and declares that while we are within measurable distance of witnessing the whole nation under arms there are also unmistakable signs that a fervent desire exists among the bulk for a peaceful settlement. Lord Blyth says that if an independent opinion of the whole population of the United Kingdom were obtained probably not one in fifty would favor a prolongation of the strife. It is right, therefore, he asks, that the people should be allowed to hear of extremists should be allowed to hinder a compromise.

PORTION OF FAMOUS LIBRARY TO BE SOLD

London, June 20.—The Earl of Pembroke has decided to sell a portion of the Wilton library at Wilton House, Salisbury, that great collection which Dibbin, the renowned bibliophile, considered as one of the oldest in existence. The sale will be conducted in London under the hammer at the end of June. The portion to come under the hammer was acquired principally from 1656 to 1722 by the eighth earl. The library is rich in illuminated manuscripts, block books and early printed books, a copy of the "Poor Man's Bible," a block book of the fifteenth century, which now only rich men can acquire, being among those listed for sale. Altogether 211 lots will be sold separately, a portion of which however, may be sold in lump by private treaty. The first folio of Shakespeare was dedicated to the third and fourth Earls of Pembroke.

Mr. John Rodick, of Brandon Hills, is one of the successful winners, in the Farm Boys' Club, of a free trip to the Winnipeg exhibition.

HUNGARY PEACEFULLY AWAITS EQUAL SUFFRAGE

London, June 20.—"We shall never forget what the women suffrage movement in England has done for us," said Dr. Schwimmer, president of the Hungarian section of the International Women's Suffrage Societies, who is on a visit to England.

"This suffrage movement in Hungary is progressing slowly but surely. No, we do not resort to militant tactics. Everything we do is perfectly law-abiding. The working people are our greatest friends, and we have been helped enormously by the work done by non-militant suffrage societies in England. Your country has influenced the whole continent in that respect."

MILITARY CAMP THIS YEAR WILL SURPASS ANYTHING ON RECORD

Such is Opinion of Military Experts of the Canadian West.

MANY TROPHIES FOR COMPETITION

First Unit from Brandon Left by Special Train

MEN FIT AND READY

First Duty on Arrival at Sewell Will be to Establish Hospital.

The first unit of the Brandon garrison to go under canvas for their annual training was the XXI Cavalry Field Ambulance, which left Brandon at 10 a.m. Saturday by special train, for the military camp at Sewell. This will be the regiment's second camp, and last year, though only recently organized, it was specially mentioned, in general orders, by Colonel Steele at the close of its first camp for all-round smartness and efficiency. At this year's camp the Twenty-first will have full control of matters medical, and will have the hospital care of over 7,000 men. As was the case at last year's camp, the ambulance boys will undoubtedly be among the most popular of the many hundred soldiers who will be assembled at Sewell from all parts of the prairie provinces and under the capable command of Major Templeton will uphold their reputation for smartness and soldier-like qualities.

The men as they marched to the C.P.R. depot this morning, accompanied by their ambulance and transport wagons, looked extremely fit and ready for any amount of hard work, and all being specially picked by a commanding officer who insisted on having the best that was to be had,

the regiment will not take second place to any unit that may be in camp during the next twelve days.

The 21st has gone into camp sixty strong and their first duty on arrival at Sewell will be to establish a 100 bed field hospital. This number could have been very much augmented, if Major Templeton had taken a small percentage of the men who applied to be put on the strength of the corps, but as only picked men were wanted, many applicants were disappointed.

The special troop train was made up of two box, three flat and two stock cars in addition to a couple of passenger coaches, and carried in addition to the sixty officers and men of the regiment, three four-horse ambulance wagons, two transport wagons and a water cart, as well as some thirty horses.

The following officers and non-commissioned officers formed the regimental staff: Major Templeton, in command; Capt. Vesey of Canora, Sask., Adjutant Maybee, Brandon; Lieut. Carmichael, of Strassburg; Lieut. Cammell, Austin; and Lieut. Woodward of Ford William. The non-coms. of the staff were Sergt. Major Kerr, Q. M. S. White, orderly room Sergt. Bowen, transport Sergt. Shields, Beaver Sergt. Sutherland, and Signalling Sergt. Gregory.

Best on Record
Winnipeg, June 20.—That the military turn-out this year from June 22 to July 3 will surpass anything ever yet seen in a military camp in the Dominion of Canada is the opinion of military experts of the West. Certain it is that the part of Western Canada comprising military district No. 10 and commanded over by Col. S. B. Steele, C.B., M.V.O., will send to the big camp a greater number of men and more efficient soldiers than ever

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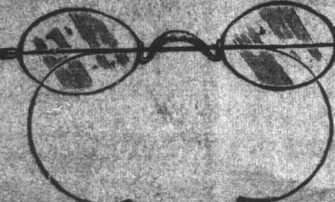
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