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LABOR LEADERS ARE ARRESTED

CHARGED WITH INCITING TO REVOLUTION

French Government's Campaign May Lead to General Strike.

Paris, Aug. 3.—The determination of the government to crush what it terms the insurrectionary movement, which broke out at Vigneux last Thursday, and which continues actively in the form of preparations for new demonstrations, was evidenced when the police visited the offices of the General Federation of Labor, and took into custody the other leaders of the revolutionary labor party on a charge of inciting to disorder and rebellion.

Bosquet, Yvetot and Merrheim were arrested on Friday night. The men apprehended on Saturday included Pouget, secretary of the official organ of the Federation of Labor; Griffuelhes, general secertary of the Federation; Macoulin, secretary of the Laborers' Union.

The raid was witnessed by a great crowd, but there was no disorder.

There were frequent meetings of strike committees throughout Saturday, and plans for a gigantic strike movement were discussed excitedly. There are fears of further violence on the occasion of the funeral of one of the men who lost his life at Vigneux on Thursday.

May Be General Strike.

Toulon, Aug. 1.—The labor federation of Toulon has passed a vote of sympathy with the men arrested in Paris, and has agreed to go on strike if necessary.

POISON BY POST.

Modern Borgia Smiles When Given Life Imprisonment for Murder.

Kansas City, Aug. 3.—Life imprisonment was the punishment meted out to Mrs. Sarah Morasch on Saturday in the District court of Wyandotte county, Kansas, for the murder of four-year-old Ruth Miller, a niece of the woman by marriage. Mrs. Morasch sent poisoned candy through the mail to Ella Van Meter, 14 years old, a half sister to the murdered child. The older girl, for whom it was intended, did not die. The candy was sent in a spirit of resentment because the girl had laughed at the woman.

Mrs. Morasch accepted her punishment with a smile, and when asked if she had anything to say, turned laughingly and walked to her chair. The woman is 48 years of age.

CLOSE DOWN OF PAPER MILLS.

Consumption of Commodittwy Has Fallen Off Materially.

New York, Aug. 3.—A. W. Burbank, treasurer of the International Paper Company, said on Saturday there is more ado about the labor affairs of the company than the situation warrants.

"Our wage schedule terminates to-day," he declared, "but the men will continue to be paid at the same rate until the new scale is adopted. This matter of a schedule has absolutely nothing to do with the closing down of the mills this month. Glen's Falls, Fort Edwards and Berlin (N. H.) mills are the most important of those that will be closed down. Two other small mills in this state and the other in New Hampshire will also be affected, but these mills will be shut down, not because we have reduced wages, for we have not, but because the month of August is low water time and therefore the natural time of the year for making repairs and alterations."

Mr. Burdock said that the reduction of force in some of the mills was unavoidable, inasmuch as the consumption of paper had fallen off materially.

GORY DRAMA.

Manaical Murderer Shoots Two Persons and Then Ends His Life.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—A tragedy of suicide and attempted murder as a result of which one person is dead and two are dying, occurred on Saturday at Blackberry Centre, a village near Batavia, Ill., and will leave a blind woman, 90 years old, as the sole survivor of a wealthy farmer's household.

The probably fatal shooting of J. A. Morrill, a well known philanthropist, was swiftly followed by the attempted murder of his housekeeper, Mrs. May Balcom. After the shooting, John Larson, the manaical assailant, held the wounded pair sitting upright in the chairs for four hours, with a shotgun levelled at them. Then with a grim jest he blew off his own head.

The pathos of the gory drama was supplied by Morrill's aged mother, totally blind, whose life had been spared. When the final explosion, followed by a fresh scent of gun powder and blood, told her that Larson was no more, she groped for a quarter of a mile along a country road to the nearest dwelling, where she fainted, after gasping out her fearful message.

MOTOR RACES POSTPONED.

New York, Aug. 1. — Half a gale from the eastward that covered the Sound with white caps and sent an ugly sea for small craft rolling across the entrance to Huntington bay, was the cause of much disappointment to the thousands who had gathered to-day to witness the international motor boat races. The committee decided to postpone the races until Monday afternoon.

TERRIBLE FOREST FIRE LAYS FERNIE IN RUINS--MANY LIVES MAY BE LOST

Seething Mass of Flames Advances Through Crow's Nest Pass, Cutting Swathe of Destruction 30 Miles in Length--Fatalities May Exceed 100--Property Loss Is Close Upon $10,000,000--Refugees Taken to Cranbrook--Dominion and Provincial Governments Help the Sufferers.

Spokane, Aug. 3.—Almost the entire town of Fernie, B. C., has been destroyed by a bush fire which got beyond control on Saturday afternoon. Different estimates place the loss of life at figures varying between 70 and 150.

The whole of the Crow's Nest Pass country from Fernie to Michel has been destroyed, 100 square miles being a seething mass of flames at one time.

The damage to property is enormous and may reach $10,000,000.

Assistance has been rushed from all nearby districts, and by both the Dominion and Provincial governments.

ONCE PROSPEROUS TOWN NOW IN RUINS

Rich Tract of Country is Completely Devastated—Bodies Recovered.

Vancouver, Aug. 3.—A special dispatch from Fernie says:

"There is little left of Fernie now, only four or five isolated houses, the Crow's Nest Coal Company's office and the Western Canada wholesale grocery warehouse are standing amid the smoldering ruins of what was a prosperous city.

"The fire is still raging fiercely in the direction of Michel and it is feared that that town is doomed. The people of that city are moving out to the prairie, the open country in that district protecting them from the flames.

"It is impossible to estimate the loss of life. The death totals, as far as was known this afternoon, in this city reaches 100, but many people are missing and it is feared that they have been caught in the sea of flames, which seems to have swept the whole Elk valley.

Hell of Flames.

"The Elk river valley, which is now a seething hell, and where the loss of life may be the greatest since the San Francisco earthquake and fire, stretches from Fernie to Michel, and includes the towns of Hosmer and Sparwood, both of which have, at the time of writing, been spared from destruction, though both are in the gravest danger.

"Hosmer is already regarded as doomed, the Great Northern railway depot having burned down. If the fire spreads east from the Elk river along the C. P. R. nothing can be done to save the town. Two Elk river bridges are already destroyed. People are leaving Michel, which is at the end of the valley, and taking up positions on Michel prairie that seems to offer safety from the ravaging advance of the sea of flame, and a C. P. R. train arrived at the town early this morning in order to carry the townspeople to Crow's Nest if Michel also becomes devoured by the flames. Here is a town of 3,000 people, all desperate with the fear that at least their homes are to be lost.

Leaping Tongues of Fire.

"All around are the leaping tongues of flame that has already devastated a valley which was regarded as one of the richest stretches of country in the whole Dominion, overlaid with magnificent timber wealth and underlaid with immense coal and other mineral resources.

"W Carswell, assistant superintendent of the Great Northern, on his arrival here from Fernie reported that he had passed through several miles of the burning district on foot and on his handcar, and when he left the town on the previous evening at 7:30 it had been all burned down with the exception of the fireproof warehouse of the Western Canada Wholesale Grocery Company.

"Eighteen hundred people were taken out of Fernie in Great Northern cars to a large clear space three miles from the town.

"The Great Northern depot and all their buildings are lost and 100 cars loaded with coke were gutted.

Bodies Recovered.

"Three men badly burned were brought here from Sparwood by Peter Campbell. They had been endeavoring to save the Sparwood Lumber Company's mill half way between Michel and Fernie, and had been severely injured by the flames. They are now in the hospital and state that the whole country is blazing, the flmes stretching forward with frightful speed. Near the site of the same mills the incinerated bodies of Peter ("Scotty") Miller and Louis Fratin, an Italian section hand, were found, and they have been burned here. Four bodies have also been brought in by the Great Northern yard engine and these men are believed to have lost their lives in an endeavor to save the Great Northern bridge over the Elk river, fifteen miles away. Jules Gabrian, of Campbell's Siding, reports that Mr. and Mrs. Forester and twenty-five men arrived at his place during the night after a narrow escape from losing their lives."

BIG LUMBER COMPANY IS HEAVY LOSER

Winnipeg Says Dead Number 150—Fernie Now Village of Canvas.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 3.—Specials from Winnipeg and Spokane agree in the main on the loss of property in the Fernie district but very widely in reports of the death roll.

Spokane, which heard this morning from Michel, says only four bodies were found in Fernie up to 6 o'clock last night, all smothered in smoke. It is believed loss of life may be remarkably small in considering that the flames travelled faster than a man could run.

One frame building seventy feet long was carried across several lots and dropped in the middle of the main street by the force of the flames suction.

Michel and Hosmer are both saved so far by a falling wind. Fifteen box cars loaded with children were shipped from Michel to Coleman, Blairmore and other points, the men remaining to fight for the homes.

Already the men of Fernie are announcing plans to build a new and better town. This afternoon a village of canvas with many men but few women stands beside the red hot ashes of the old city.

Chicago sends an interview with E. W. Stees, of Caron, B. C., who says he believes Peter J. Seipel, Dubuque, Iowa, and H. D. Campbell, Stillwater, Minn., both big Fernie lumbermen, who are at Fernie with their families for the summer, have perished. Stees declared the Eastern British Columbia Lumber Company, his firm, lost fifty million feet of lumber. He had a report from Winnipeg that nine Elk Creek lumber men were burned, but this evidently is the same rumor emanated from Winnipeg last night. The latest from Winnipeg estimates the dead at 150.

LUMBER CAMP TURNED INTO HOLOCAUST

Sixty Men and Four Women Burn to Death—Escape Cut Off.

Fernie, B. C., Aug. 3.—Elk compny's lumber camp, No. 2, situated about five miles from Fernie, was surrounded by fire, and all roads of escape were cut off.

Sixty men and four women were in the camp. They have been burned to death. Not a single person escaped.

HOUSES DYNAMITED TO STOP FLAMES

Secretary of Fernie Miners' Union Places Fatalities at 170.

Vancouver, Aug. 3.—The wind, which fanned the flames that burned Fernie and spread ruin over 30 miles of the Crow's Nest Pass, went down on Sunday evening.

The towns of Hosmer and Michel, for which great anxiety was felt yesterday, are saved. In Hosmer buildings were dynamited to stop the flames. A powder magazine blew up late yesterday. It was at first reported in Cranbrook that forty men were killed, but this was denied in a dispatch from Michel, which declared that no one was injured, and that only one fatality occurred yesterday at Hosmer.

From Michel women and children were yesterday afternoon sent east to Blairmore and Frank, for it was believed that nothing could save the town. But the gallant fire fighters returned to their work and by 9 o'clock last evening tht town was practically out of danger. A dispatch dated at midnight is still more reassuring.

Various estimates are given of the loss of fire. Thomas Biggs, secretary of the Fernie Miners' Union, places the fatalities at 170 and the property loss at $8,000,000. A Michel correspondent, after interviewing survivors of the disaster, places the death list in Fernie at 100. This does not include more than 60 persons said to have been burned in a logging camp near Elk river.

The large wholesale houses of Vancouver last evening received rush orders from Fernie for carloads of food supplies. Several of the messages declared "there is no food here."

MOUNTED POLICE TO BE DISPATCHED

Sir Wilfrid Sends Sympathy of Federal Government to Premier McBride.

Ottawa, Aug. 3.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has telegraphed to Premier McBride the sympathy of the Ottawa government on the appalling loss of life and property in the Crow's Nest Pass conflagration. Col. White, commisioner of the Mounted Police, was instructed to send to Fernie and other points members of the force from Fort Macleod with tents and supplies to assist the provincial authorities and render what aid they can to the sufferers which will be done immediately on receiving Mr. McBride's reply to Sir Wilfrid's telegram.

AID TO SUFFERERS SENT FROM CITY

Government Gives Assistance—Church Contribution—Free Transportation.

The first information received by the local government yesterday was to the effect that the situation at Fernie was critical and that there was immediate need for relief. A little later word was received that the situation was not as bad as at first reported, that there were provisions for about three days and that the people were being rushed out of the place as quickly as possible.

Upon receiving this word the premier called a meeting of the executive, when it was decided to take immediate steps for giving relief. The government agents at Cranbrook and Nelson were instructed to give whatever aid was necessary.

Superintendent Hussey, of the provincial police, was instructed to proceed at once to Fernie and take whatever steps he deemed wise under the circumstances. He left last evening for the scene.

Church Gives Help.

Rev. T. E. Holling, pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist church, after the service last night made an appeal to the congregation for the purpose of giving immediate relief to the sufferers of the Fernie fire. The congregation responded with the sum of $125 and a further contribution was also made by the church board, who held a meeting at the close of the morning service and subscribed the sum of $100 to the relief funds from the general funds of the church.

Will Carry Free.

The Dominion Express Company notified the Times this morning that they will carry free of charge all stores, food and clothing sent by local people and firms to the relief of the inhabitants of the ill-fated town of Fernie.

ONLY TWENTY KNOWN CASUALTIES

Story of Lumber Camp Holocaust is Discredited at Nelson.

Vancouver, Aug. 3.—The best information from Nelson places the total list of casualties in the Crow's Nest Pass fire at about twenty. The story of sixty being caught in a lumber camp is discredited in Nelson.

Four men were killed while fighting fire at Sparwood. Other casualties were: One woman who was dying, was carried out of her home, laid in the middle of the yard and covered over. She was burned.

One woman on the first train to cut bank (a train of box cars), died of fright when passing through the blazing timber.

One man was seen lying on his face on the side of the tracks where the flames were playing all around him.

One woman had her leg broken in a box car.

One child was born near the cut bank in a box car.

No names are available. These are all the casualties of which there is any reasonable certainty.

THIRTY-TWO HOUSES LEFT IN FERNIE

Trains Carrying Fugitives to Cranbrook Rush Through Blazing Forests.

Nelson, Aug. 3.—The Crow's Nest Pass is ablaze. Fernie is in ruins. Thirty-two houses only are left. The court house, the post office and all the stores, excepting the Trites wholesale warehouses, are burned.

The fire originated in a bush in the limits of the Cedar Valley company. The scenes defy description. Hosmer and Michel are reported on fire. The bridges have been burned. Ten houses were burned at Hosmer, and the powder magazine exploded, killing one man. The damage is over $5,000,000.

Trains leaving Fernie with people fleeing had to rush through the fire. Cranbrook is filled with people. Mayor Fink has organized a splendid relief committee. The prisoners have been liberated.

Nelson and Spokane sent train loads of provisions to Cranbrook. Five hundred people left on the train for Nelson, where relief committees are at work. Two thousand dollars are already subscribed in Nelson. Committees worked all night gathering and forwarding provisions and clothing. The Great Northern depot and Trites wood store and offices of the coal company are used as places of refuge for the sick and injured women and children. Families are scattered in every direction in Fernie. The fighting of the fire continued all along the Pass. Cranbrook and Wattsburg were threatened.

It is feared a large number were burned to death. Every one had a fight for life. The fire jumped hundreds of feet in all directions, fanned by heavy wind.

The Canadian Pacific railway loses one hundred cars and other property, valued at half a million. Lumber piles and buildings on the mountain side, and the whole surrounding country, is filled with fire and smoke.

OTTAWA GIVES IMMEDIATE HELP

Stores of Militia Department in B. C. at Service of Sufferers.

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 3.—The federal government is taking prompt action to give all possible assistance to fire sufferers in the Kootenay valley. The premier and the Hon. Messrs. Templeman and Oliver have each sent messages asking for details as to the extent of the disaster and how the best assistance can be rendered. The militia department stores in British Columbia, including all tents, blankets, etc., are already placed at the disposal of the sufferers.

A detachment of mounted police will be sent to-day from Alberta with tents, etc., to render all possible assistance. A cabinet council will be held as soon as the reports asked for are received by the premier, and a liberal federal grant will be made when the local relief measures are organized in the province.

INCENDIARIES MAY HAVE BEEN AT WORK

Refugees Believe Friends of "Black Hand" Prisoners Are Responsible.

Vancouver, Aug. 3.—A dispatch from Nelson says: "A rumor is persistent amongst the refugees that the fires were started in three separate places at once, and that it looked as if some one had lighted them intentionally. It is asserted that friends of the "Black Hand" prisoners, who recently broke jail and were re-captured, were responsible for the conflagration igniting the lumber to create a diversion and to liberate the prisoners.

"The story is doubted, but is persistent and is accepted by some prominent Fernie men."

COAL CREEK ESCAPES FROM CONFLAGRATION

Relief Organization in Cranbrook is Working in Perfect Fashion.

Nelson, Aug. 3.—A special from Fernie this morning announces definitely that Coal Creek, said yesterday to have been destroyed along with other towns in the Pass, is not seriously damaged.

The total death list is said to be between 70 and 125, but details are lacking, and it will be some time yet before anything definite can be ascertained.

Nelson's representative sent to Cranbrook has returned. He says the organization there is most perfect, but that more help is needed, as practically all the homeless ones are encamped there. Passengers of the east over the C. P. R. line left here as usual this morning, and will go straight through, the line being clear.

(Continued on page 5).

B. C. MAN KIDNAPS YOUNG GIRL

THEN LOSES NERVE AND LETS HER RETURN HOME

Twelve-year-old Captive Tells Story of Abduction.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—Veronica Cassidy, the 12-year-old girl whose mysterious abduction last Thursday caused unusual police activity in this and other cities, returned to her home on Saturday night from Cincinnati, whither she had been taken by her abductor, F. J. Blair. She told her parents that Blair had placed her aboard a train immediately after leading her away from home and that they had been in a rooming house in the Ohio city until Saturday morning, when the man gave her a ticket to Chicago and told her to go home.

The unexpected return of the child turned a house of mourning into a place of joy. Her mother and sister, sleepless since Thursday, when they discovered that Blair had given a fictious address in taking Veronica from her home to "be a companion of his wife," became prostrated to-day. Mrs. Catherine Cassidy, the mother, became hysterical late on Saturday and only the sudden appearance of the missing girl saved her from serious illness, according to the physicians. Anna May Cassidy, Veronica's sister, had spent all of last night with detectives who were seeking traces of the younger girl, and worn out by her grief and labors she too became so ill that medical attendance was necessary.

Their grief was heightened by the belief that Blair was identical with Charles B. Hadley, who kidnapped Eleanora Fuller in San Francisco six years ago and later strangled her. Comparisons of photographs, descriptions and hand-writings seemingly established this as a fact. Both men came from British Columbia, and the police descriptions of the fugitives tallied almost exactly.

Later, however, this supposition was abandoned. A search of the room which Blair had occupied revealed several letters tending to prove that he had been a contractor at Moyie, B. C. One of the documents was a receipted bill for $215 worth of lumber. The epistles proved, also, that Blair had been in the town as late as June 22nd.

Another letter discovered was from the Union Tailors, 513 Third avenue, Seattle, Wash. It was addressed to George F. Blair, Moyie, B. C.

Another curious development in the search of the rooming house where Blair stopped was the discovery of eight sheets of writing paper, on each of which was written in blue lead the words, "I must go to Duluth to-night." The man who went to Mrs. Cassidy's house and took little Veronica away with him used a blue pencil in writing his alleged name and address for the mother of the child.

Miss Casper, the landlady, described her roomer as follows:

"He appeared to be a workingman. He said he was from British Columbia, and came to Chicago to 'see the sights.' Although he was not well dressed, he appeared to have plenty of money. I saw little of him after he took his room, although he slept there every night. He carried a valise and a leather violin case."

That Veronica Cassidy escaped a fate similar to that of the San Francisco girl was largely due to the publicity given to the case, according to the police. This theory was borne out by the story of the girl, who said that after Blair had read the newspapers on the morning after their arrival in Cincinnati he became nervous and appeared worried.

The girl could not remember the name of the hotel to which Blair took her in Cincinnati. Neither could she recall the name under which Blair registered. The hostelry was near the railroad station, she said, and once they ate a meal at a small restaurant in the neighborhood after Blair had asked a policeman to recommend an eating place. Blair, it was learned today, received about 125 answers to his advertisement for a girl companion for his wife. Some of these answers were found in his room.

Many baffling circumstances were discovered by the detectives, but it is thought that few of them will have any bearing on the final disposition of the case.

The following is the police description of Blair: Height, 5 feet 8 inches; about 46 years old; dark hair, sprinkled with gray; clean shaven, but wore false mustache when he left Chicago.

DESTROYS CONSTRUCTION CAMPS.

Missoula, Mont., Aug. 3.—Had the wind been blowing from a different direction on Saturday the town of Taft would have been wiped out by a forest fire that started at 11 o'clock in the morning.

The fire destroyed over 4,000,000 feet of lumber, besides burning three large construction camps. The blaze stripped 1,000 acres of choice timber land before it was checked.