Lively Day In The House

Editor of "Daily Province" May Be Hailed Before the Bar.

Smith Curtis' Long Standing Motion At Last Withdrawn.

Concise Description of Devastation at Frank---Measures Advanced.

Although yesterday's business in the legislature was not especially important, it contained at least some interesting matter. Mr. Smith Curtis' resolution affirming the desirability of the immediate assenting of bill No. 16, was withdrawn at the suggestion of the opposition leader. The bill extending the provisions of the South African war land grant passed its second reading with appreciative comments from both sides of the House. Premier Prior read an interesting telegram from General Manager Tonkin of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company as to the situation in desolated Frank. And action was initiated in the direction of punishing the Vancouver Daily Province for alleged contempt of the legislature, and slander upon its members.

THE DISASTER AT FRANK.

Before the business upon the order paper was taken up, Hon. Col. Prior rose to remind the house that he had promised to lay before it such early and authentic information as he might obtain with respect to the terrible disaster that had occasioned such loss of life at Frank. Not knowing anyone at Frank, he had communicated with Mr. J. H. Tonkin, manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., from whom he had received the following despatch:

Fernie, April 30.

Hon. E. G. Prior, Premier, Victoria:

Visited Frank yesterday. Accident caused by mountain slide and mine completely covered and improvements swept away. Fifteen to seventeen men escaped from mine—dug their way out from inside, so I understand. One portion of town completely destroyed. Loss of life estimated from 75 to 100, almost entirely in their homes. Very few saved. Regarding aid required, am unable to state and respectfully refer you to McCarty, manager of company. Damage very heavy and traffic on railroad will be suspended I think for four from five to six weeks. Scene is indescribable.

JOHN H. TONKIN.

MR. CURTIS' WITHDRAWAL.

Upon Mr. Curtis moving, seconded by Mr. Hawthornthwaite, "that it is highly desirable in the public interest that the assent of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be given immediately to bill No. 16, passed this session."

Mr. McBride suggested that perhaps the mover in this matter would share his view, that the motion was in a measure ill-advised and withdraw it, as he proposed to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. Curtis was unprepared for such a suggestion and though perhaps it would be well to consider the reasons prompting Mr. McBride's course, in which event he would ask that the motion again stand over, although he had quite intended to proceed.

The Premier concurred in the view of the matter taken by the opposition leader, that the motion should never have been put upon the order paper, and certainly not allowed to stay there day after day. The government was forced to oppose such a motion. There was no necessity for it. He hoped to see the member for Rossland fall in with the suggestion of the opposition leader.

It was intimated by Mr. Curtis that he might withdraw his motion and resubmit it at a later date.

This was not satisfactory to the government leader. If the motion was not to be abandoned it should be disposed of without further delay.

Mr. Curtis proceeded, however, to discuss his resolution, which prompted the First Minister to inquire what he had decided to do—was he going on with the motion or was it his intention to withdraw?

"I can discuss my motion and then withdraw it if I so choose," observed Mr. Curtis. He had intended to discuss the constitutional question, he said, and show the unanimity of the House on this question. His motion had, however, been given notice of before the government had announced that bill No. 16 had been laid before His Honor, which made a considerable difference to the question. He withdrew his resolution.

THE PROVINCE'S OFFENDING.

To a question of privilege, Mr. Clifford, as chairman of the select committee investigating the Columbia and Western charges, stated that he had had delegated to him by that committee a task which he certainly did not covet. It was to draw the attention of the House to a publication on the first page of the Vancouver Daily Province of Wednesday, headed "A Huge Job," etc. This article, in brief, intimated that members of the House were guilty of gross corruption, and the committee was forced to request that the House take cognizance of this libellous publication, and have the party or parties responsible brought before the bar of the House and then treated as their offence demands. He hoped, however, that in such action as might be deemed necessary for the vindication of the honor of the House, due allowance would be made for the ardent desire of the press to give the news and serve the public, and not deal too harshly with the offenders. In other words, he hoped that in whatever action the House might see fit to take, justice would be tempered with mercy.

Mr. McPhillips thought that in this case a pronouncement of intention was demanded from the government. No question of party was involved. Both sides of the House were equally insulted. And although any member was quite competent to move in the direction of vindicating the honor of the House, it was more properly the duty of the government to take the initiative in such proceedings as had been suggested by the committee through its chairman, in which connection he cited the precedent of the famous Kennedy case with other historic authorities. He held that while all due liberty should be granted the press in commenting upon public affairs, liberty should not degenerate into license, and the papers of today were too prone to attribute dishonesty and corruption to public men, as in the present instance. To allow such an offence to pass unrebuked would be to injure the moral tone of the people, and he thought the government should move to have the editor of the Province summoned to the bar of the House to make his explanation, and receive his punishment. It was quite possible that he might plead that it had got in by inadvertence, and seek to make such atonement and apology as possible.

Mr. Houston hoped that the government would not do anything of the kind suggested. He thought it would be more to the credit of the House and members individually if less attention were paid to newspaper articles. They were as a rule not worth serious attention. In the Kennedy case, which had been referred to by the third member for Victoria, he thought the House had gained no credit through the whole proceedings. Indeed the Kennedys had the best of it in the end. The members were just about as honest as the men who sent them into parliament, and the general public appreciated that fact. He thought that if the government showed any judgment at all, it would pay no attention whatever to anything appearing in the columns of the Province newspaper.

Hon. Col. Prior said that he had not as yet seen the article complained of, and had now for the first time heard, through the member for Cassiar, the complaint and request of the committee. It appeared to be a matter deserving the most serious attention, and he would therefore ask a little time in which to lay it before the executive. He quite agreed with much that had been said by the third member for Victoria, and if this case was found to be as it appeared, a gross abuse of press liberty and insult to the House, the government would take prompt action on the lines suggested to vindicate the honor of the House.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite deprecated the action proposed, and observed that if any member had been aggrieved, he had his remedy in the courts of law. In effect, the member for Nanaimo City contended that members of the House were on no pedestal, and just as liable to deserve criticism as other mortals.

Mr. Hayward regretted to hear such sentiments expressed, reflecting as they did small credit upon the speaker. He pointed out that the insult was to the members of the House, unnamed, and legal remedy was therefore difficult.

The matter was left in the hands of the government for action.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Questions of the day were asked and answered as follows:

Mr. Curtis asked the government:

1. Has the lawsuit entered on behalf of the province by the Martin government against the New Vancouver Coal Company to set aside Crown grant of foreshore and of land under the sea been discontinued?
2. If so, when and by whose order, and upon what terms?
3. Why was it discontinued?
4. Was it ever brought to trial?
5. Did the government ever have any independent advice that the province had no case?
6. If so, when, and whose advice was it?
7. How many acres were covered by the Crown grant in question, and was the land so granted supposed to contain coal?
8. Does the government consider it has any claim whatever to the foreshore and land under sea adjacent to the land granted as aid to the E. & N. Railway Company?
9. If so, does it intend to take any steps to determine what the province's rights are?

Hon. Mr. Eberts replied:

1. Yes.
2. Action discontinued on 7th September, 1900, each party to bear its own costs. The discontinuance was upon instructions from the executive.
3. On account of instructions received from the executive.
4. No.
5. No.
6. Answered by answer to 5.
7. The grant was made in the year 1890, a confirmation to the new Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, Limited, of the sole and exclusive right to mine the coal under that portion of the sea adjacent to the lands of the company, said portion of the sea being the area colored red on the plan annexed to said grant. The said area is, approximately, 140 square miles.
8. The foreshore outside of harbors certainly belongs to the province until granted away. The ownership of land under the sea beyond the foreshore is about to be made the subject of a reference for the opinion of the courts.
9. Answered by the answer to No. 8.

Mr. Curtis asked the government:

1. Has George S. Russell been granted a lease of foreshore on Beecher Bay?
2. If so, what was the date of his application and upon what dates did notice thereof appear in the official Gazette?
3. For how many years is the lease? What is the acreage leased, and what the yearly rental?
4. Does government recognize assignments or transfers of notices of applications made, or of applications already made, and will it in proper cases give leases to the transferees?
5. For what purpose was the lease to George S. Russell granted?
6. Do the leases of foreshore contain a provision preventing assignment or transfer thereof?

Hon. Mr. Wells replied:

1. Yes.
2. Application was made on 12th August, 1902, by George Schmith, in pursuance of notice appearing in the British Columbia Gazette of July 17th, 1902. Mr. Schmith transferred his interest to Mr. Geo. S. Russell.
3. Five. The tidal lands, approximately, two acres. $100.
4. Yes. Yes.
5. Salmon fishing.
6. Yes, unless the consent of the Chief Commissioner is first obtained."

Mr. Neill asked the Premier:

Has the Dominion government, since the visit of the delegates to Ottawa in January last, made any further proposition to the local government relative to:

1st. The readjustment of the boundaries of Indian reserves?

2nd. The working of minerals on Indian reserves, as alluded to in the report of the delegates recently laid before the House?

Hon. Mr. Prior replied:

1. No. The Hon. the Minister of the Interior promised to communicate with the provincial government in regard to the matter as soon as he consulted with Mr. Vowell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs; but his appointment as Canadian Agent in the Alaska Boundary arbitration has probably delayed his reply.
2. Same answer.

IMPROVED ACCOUSTICS.

Attention was directed by Mr. McBride to the great difficulty experienced by the members in hearing what other members had to say in the course of the House debates. The ceiling netting seemed not to have improved matters, and he hoped that the government, and more particularly the Chief Commissioner, would take expert advice in the direction of improving the accoustic properties of the Chamber, which should not be a work of any especial difficulty or any great expense.

Hon. Col. Prior promised that the matter would receive immediate attention, heartily endorsing the observations of the opposition leader.

"As the salmon net has not proved a success," suggested Mr. Neill, "perhaps a fish trap might prove more effectual."

SOUTH AFRICAN LAND GRANT.

In moving the second reading of the South African War Land Grant Act Amendment Bill, the Chief Commissioner explained that its scope and purpose was to bring the act into the position promised on the floor of the House, by extending the grant to those who had enlisted for service up to the declaration of peace.

The spirit and purpose of the bill was endorsed by the opposition leader, who cordially congratulated the minister and the government upon it, and assured them of the unanimous support of the opposition.

Mr. Neill, in passing, thought that the government might advantageously consider his suggestion of last session, that an option of $50 cash, or the 160 acres of land, presumably worth $1 per acre, should be granted. The history of the grant, as it had already been accepted, showed that the majority of the returned soldiers had no desire to take up land. Out of the 74 cases already dealt with under the act, 60 per cent. of the allotments were to substitutes. The soldiers were ready to sell an opinion as to the cause of it. He ridiculed the idea of a volcanic eruption, a limestone upheaval or an explosion of any kind. It is now the general opinion of those qualified to pass upon what occurred that the vertical walls of the coal seam squeezed sufficiently to give the tremendous weight above and that the side of the mountain simply slid away. This seems to be the proper solution of the disaster, as there is not apparently any indication of a seismic disturbance of any character.

Daniel M. McKenzie, one of the survivors of the disaster, gives a thrilling account of the experience of himself and companions who were imprisoned more than twelve hours in the mine, and who eventually escaped by digging their way to freedom. Mr. McKenzie is an educated man and a thoroughly experienced coal miner.

"Three other miners and myself were working in a crosscut off from No. 8 manway, when we were first aware that something unusual had happened," said Mr. McKenzie. "I was leaning against a chute just at the moment. Suddenly there seemed to be a falling in of the hanging wall, and I was imprisoned between a chute board and the coal. The coal fell from the roof in large quantities and I was badly squeezed. My companions helped me out, and believing that something had happened, but not knowing what it was, we started to make our way to the main entry. Reaching the entry, we started for the mouth of the tunnel. On the way we encountered the other men on shift at the time. They were running toward the mouth of the entry. On reaching that point, we found our way blocked as the entry was completely covered over. We turned to retrace our steps. The coal was falling from the roof and progress was difficult. We waited for an hour, debating what should be done, and finally came to the conclusion that we ought to try to get out by way of No. 8 manway, which would lead us to an air course, which we hoped would reach the surface. I found, however, that gas was accumulating when we reached the manway, and knew escape by that route was impossible. We therefore returned and attempted the lower entry. That we found to be rapidly filling with water. Sticking my knife into one of the timbers to enable me to judge as to the rapidity of the rise, we went back to the main entry. Some of the men were greatly excited and talked in the irrational way men will in such cases, but others with myself calmed them by telling them there was no danger. It was an occasion when a lie was justifiable, for had they been allowed to realize the danger they were in, there is no telling what might have happened. After a time I went down to the lower entry again to see how the water was rising. I found it quite alarming, and figured that at the rate it was coming up, we might expect it to flood the mine today at about 4 o'clock p.m. As we had nothing to eat but the five horses being worked in the mine, which were still alive, I proposed killing one of them when we should need food, and that in the meantime we should endeavor to dig our way out. We selected a place near the mouth of the main entry and started to work. We timbered as best we could, as we went toward the surface. We had worked, changing hands for something more than five hours, when I went in personally to do my turn. I was punching with a bar when suddenly it went through and there was a breath of air greeted me. I gave a few more punches and a rock big enough to have killed us all fell in. I ducked back to save myself, and looking up saw we had reached the surface. I called back to the others, and they literally went mad with delight. We were not long in getting to the outside."

When the miners came from the tunnel, scores of men were at work endeavoring to rescue them from the tunnel. They were trying to open up the entry. As the men who had rescued themselves stood on the rocks and waved their hats, the workmen at the mouth of the tunnel dropped their tools and rushed up to assist them down. They were speedily conveyed across the river on a raft to safety. The escape of the miners was little short of miraculous.

If they had been entombed a little distance either way from the place where they were, they would not have succeeded in escaping. While those endeavoring to work towards them at the mouth of the tunnel must have been days in penetrating, and in the meantime they could scarcely have escaped death between the rising water, the gas, and the rapidly diminishing supply of air.

Little less extraordinary was the escape of the family of Samuel Ennis, who occupied one of the houses destroyed. The home of Mr. Ennis was the second to be struck by the slide. Mr. and Mrs. Ennis, their four children and James Warrington were all in bed in the house. The building was destroyed and scarcely a trace of it could be found the next morning, yet every one of the occupants escaped with their lives, and although Warrington was terribly injured, all will live. Mr. Ennis remembers very little with regard to what happened, but Mrs. Ennis has a vivid recollection:

"I chanced to be awake," said she, "when I heard a strange rumbling sound which seemed to come from the mountain. I shook my husband and asked him what it was. He replied that it was the wind, and went back to sleep. I heard a still louder sound, which frightened me, and once more asked my husband, but he said it was a storm. Then I felt something strike the house, and remember nothing more until I was carried out of the ruins of our home."

All of the Ennis family were injured, but no one in the house suffered seriously except Warrington, who will in all probability be a cripple the rest of his life.

Trains from both East and West have brought thousands of people who came to view the scene of disaster. All were unutterably astonished that ruins so great could be caused by merely a mountain slide.

Alonzo Gebhardt, a rancher living 30 miles away, states that he distinctly felt the shock caused by the slide.

"I felt my house tremble and then shake violently. I thought it must have been caused by an earthquake. Looking at the clock I saw it was a little after 4 o'clock, I therefore think the disturbance must have been caused by the slide."

The Canadian Pacific is already repairing the damage done their road by the slide. Supt. Taylor is on the ground directing the work of repairing the telegraph line to the East and the building of a wagon road to carry the mail until rail connection can be restored. Mr. Taylor states that a temporary line will be built and later the permanent line will e built. Chief Engineer McKenzie is now on his way here to direct the survey, and work will start in a few days. It will require the services of 2,000 men, according to estimate, to rebuild the permanent line inside of three or four months.

The mountain is quiet tonight, and the police have the situation in hand. It is thought that numerous minor disturbances, which marked last night and today, will scarcely be repeated, as the Canadian fashion of enforcing order in this section is not notoriously good.

It was not a volcanic outburst which carried death and disaster to the little mining town of Frank in the early morning. The catastrophe was due to a great rock-slide which carried millions of tons of rock down the sides of Turtle mountain upon the town lying across the river, which flowed languidly past its foot, burying the mine buildings and the miner's houses beneath great mounds of fallen rock. The tunnel of the Canadian-American Coal Company's mine was also sealed up with great cairns of debris clattered down with thunderous roar from the sides of Turtle mountain, and horror-stricken people looked upon the mountain as the grave of the 71 miners of the night shift, who were believed to be shut in beyond all hope of escape.

The rescue party above gave their task up as hopeless, and the names of the miners were written among the dead, when, amid the hysterical shouts of joy, they emerged from the sealed up mine, having found an exit where there was less rock than at the tunnel mouth, and, after cutting their way through 30 feet of rock, they emerged after 12 hours imprisonment. Two died—being suffocated by the foul air which accumulated in the working, but the other 15 were uninjured.

One of these imprisoned miners hurried to his home across the Old Man's river to tell his wife and family of his miraculous escape, but he found a great hill of rock where his home had stood, and his wife and six children buried beyond all reach—dead beneath the thousands of tons of rock.

Yesterday the flood which threatened the town as the result of the damming fo Old Man's river by the thousands of tons of rock which fell into the stream from the sides of Turtle mountain, was found to have been averted. Volunteers were found to cut a new channel, that the dammed water of the river might be carried off. All night long they toiled unceasingly and yesterday they completed a cutting, which lessened the danger from the stream flooding its banks and bringing further trouble on the disaster stricken mining camp. Although little slides of rock were occurring at intervals, it seemed yesterday that the expected repetition of the calamitious slide was unlikely.

The cloud of smoke which was seen over the head of Turtle mountain, which lead to the belief that the disaster was the result of a volcanic outbreak, is now believed to have been the clouded dust from the falling rock, and the continued down fall of rock during the day was the aftermath of the original rock-slide, rocks dislodged by the great slide coming down at intervals. It is being demonstrated by investigation that the disaster was a great rock-slide, and no volcanic eruption took place. Scientists previously interviewed by the Colonist showed the improbability of such having been the case—the great thickness of the sedementary formation, and the uptilted nature of the great thicknesses of limestone, shale, coal, etc., to the thickness of 4,500 feet, being of such a nature that if volcanic action took place, in order to be strong enough to break through such a formation on eruption, would cause a tremendous earthquake, which would be felt over a most extensive area, instead of merely locally.

MARVELOUS ESCAPES.

While one whole row of cottages of the Mining Company—the Canadian-American Coal and Coke Company—were destroyed by the falling rock, together with everybody living in them, it is noticeable that many houses directly in the line of the dread avalanche, have escaped. The family of Mr. Sam Innes had a most miraculous escape, their cottage being the second from the end where the crash began. By an about for what they could get—$10, $15, $25 and up to $50.

Both Hon. Mr. Wells and Mr. Curtis thought the member for Alberni had been sadly misinformed. In Rossland district, the latter observed, up to $150 had been paid the returned soldiers by purchasers of their holdings. He himself had paid $160.

Mr. Neill thought that he had paid an uncommonly high price. The fact was that but a small proportion of the soldiers were farmers or had any desire to become settlers. The general opinion was that the government was giving away what was of no use to itself, and still less to the recipients.

Mr. Semlin did not agree with the cash option proposition. He thought the present arrangement encouraged desirable settlement.

The motion and the bill were debated appreciatively and the second reading passed, after an explanation had been made that timber lands could not be taken up under this legislation, such lands having been withdrawn from purchase at $5 per acre, whereas settlers' lands were rated at $1.

The bill was considered for a time in committee.

ROUTINE BUSINESS.

Included in the other business of the day was the reading and reception of the petition of 5,000 British Columbians for legislation in the direction of a better observance of the Lord's Day. The Mutual Insurance Company bill was introduced by Hon. Mr. Prentice, and received first reading. The Special Surveys Act Amendment Bill was slightly amended upon report, to remove an ambiguity, and the third reading followed by the adoption of the report. Mr. Curtis and Hon. Mr. Eberts again exchanged compliments when the Supreme Court Act Amendment Bill came into committee; the bill was reported complete with amendments. The Companies' Winding-up Act Amendment Bill went through committee, and had third reading. Mr. Rogers' Land Act Amendment Bill received second reading—it being explained that it is to provide for advertising in the nearest paper—and went through committee. The Port Simpson Hospital Incorporation Bill, and the bill to amend the New Westminster Act of 1888, had second readings also, and went through committee. Hr. Houston proposed the second reading of the Synod of Kootenay Incorporation Bill, which was agreed to, the bill being forthwith committed. The Quatsino Railway Bill passed its second reading and the committee; and the S. P. C. A. Act Amendment Bill (Helmcken) was introduced and received first reading. Just prior to the rising of the House, Mr. Wells presented the return asked for by the House in respect to the prosecution of Joseph Collinson for an infraction of the Steam Boilers' Inspection Act.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Prentice—To introduce a bill to amend the Mutual Fire Insurance Companies Act, 1902.

Mr. McPhillips to move, in committee of the whole on bill No. 46, intituled An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act, to add to section 2, sub-section (2), the following:

"except it be reasonably assured that some irreparable damage will ensue."

Hon. Mr. Prior—To introduce a bill to amend the Bureau of Mines Act, 1895.

Mr. Munro—To introduce a bill "for the preservation of the Lord's Day as a day of rest."

Mr. Garden—To ask:

Have any complaints been lodged with the government against Mr. J. A. Russell, police magistrate of the city of Vancouver? If so, what action does the government intend taking?

Mr. Hayward—To move in committee of the whole on bill No. 12, intituled "An Act to amend the Game Protection Act, 1898, the following amendments:

That chapter 24 of 1898, being the Game Protection Act, 1898, be amended by adding the following section immediately following section 10 of said Act:

"10a. It shall be unlawful for any butcher, fishmonger, store-keeper, hotel-keeper, restaurant-keeper, or keeper of any public eating-house, or any company carrying on any of the said businesses, to deal in or have any kind of pheasants, quail or grouse (the term 'grouse' shall include prairie chicken and except blue grouse) in his, her or their possession at any time, under a penalty of not less than two hundred and fifty dollars and not more than five hundred dollars at any one time, to be recovered in a summary manner before any justice of the peace; provided, always, that nothing in this section contained shall prevent any of the persons above mentioned from having any game birds in this section mentioned in their possession during the unprotected season, and for the thirty days mentioned in section 13.

GAMEY CHARGES INVESTIGATION

Hon. Mr. Stratton's Private Secretary Gives Important Evidence.

Toronto, April 30.—In the afternoon Gamey investigation, the cross-examination of Myers, Hon. Mr. Stratton's private secretary, was taken up. He said the letter which Aylesworth gave Gamey to sign was dictated to him by Mr. Stratton, September 10. This letter was apparently a general endorsation of the government's policy, especially with regard to New Ontario. He could not remember whether he knew at that time that it was to be signed by a member of the legislature. He knew at that time that the government's majority was small, and that Mr. Gamey was a New Ontarion representative, but it did not impress itself on his mind that the person to sign it was a New Ontarion representative. After typewriting the letter, he gave it to Mr. Stratton. About six weeks later Mr. Stratton gave him a copy of this letter made on some other typewriter, and told him to mail it to Gamey. Questioned about the days when Gamey said he had interviews with Mr. Stratton at one of which he received the $3,000, Myers said he did not see Gamey about on any of the days in question, but he may have called on the minister without his (Myers) knowledge.

RAILROAD DIVIDEND.

Philadelphia, May 1.—The directors of the Pennsylvania Railway Company today declared the usual semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent.

The action of Carter's Little Liver Pills is pleasant, mild and natural. They gently stimulate the liver, and regulate the bowels, but do not purge. They are sure to please. Try them.

DEADLY WORK OF AWFUL AVALANCHE

Devastation at Frank Now Conceded to Have Been the Results of Huge Land Slip.

Miraculous Escape of Imprisoned Miners Who Tunnel Their Way Through Many Feet of Debris.

Exhumed Worker Returns to Find His Wife And Six Children Buried Under Tons of Rock.

Frank, N.W.T., April 30.—The minds of the people of Frank, what remains of them, are blank in consequence of the awful, the appalling disaster of yesterday morning, when a great portion of Turtle mountain slid across the valley of the Crow's Nest Pass, handing death to sixty-three, for the total has now grown to that number, of the residents of the community, and doing damage so great that it cannot yet all be told.

Throughout yesterday and at intervals during the night and today the slide continued, with the result that Frank has been practically depopulated. Many residents went to Blairmore, a village two miles distant, where they obtained shelter, while many more left the country altogether, going to distant points. Few of those are expected to return. Those who remained were principally persons in business who could ill-afford to desert their interests, or were possessed of that spirit which prompts men to remain where life is in danger for the sake of their fellow-men, or to do the work which must be done in the interests of the relatives of those who have been sacrificed. But two residences in the town were occupied last night, and they by people not their owners, but who were of the stuff which does not desert so long as a duty remains to be done. Hotels out of the range of danger were filled, but all others had fled.

Today the scene has been one of desolation hard to be realized except by comparison with the recent volcanic eruptions in the West Indies, though on a much smaller scale. Those who had not taken the precaution to preserve their epidermis by placing distance between themselves and harm, continued the search for victims of the disaster, but with poor results. But two bodies have thus far been recovered. One was that of F. Farrington, a miner; the other was mangled beyond recognition. This makes the total number of bodies recovered nine, as one more body was today identified as that of Francois Rochette, a laborer in the employ of the coal company; but one of the bodies recovered remains unidentified. The dismembered portion of one body has been found, but the rest of the body could not be found.

The death list, by information proving that Abe Dixon, miner, who lived at the home of William Warrington, which was destroyed with every occupant, was among the lost, and that two halfbreed brothers named Johnson, who were staying over night with the family of Alex. Graham, were buried. John Gustafson, Ed. Cruse, Dave Johnson, Jacob Tommi and Jacob Sorri, who cannot be accounted for, are likewise reckoned among the persons dead.

One person reported yesterday as among the killed has been found to be living. He is John Leonard, an employee of Poupore and McVeigh, rail road graders, who was supposed to have been lost with the rest of those in camp, but who, it is learned, left the camp before the slide, for the prairies. This places the total of those known and believed to be dead at 62.

The injured are reported at the hospitals as doing as well as could be expected, owing to the serious nature of their injuries, although small hopes are entertained for recovery of the boy found with the feathers embedded in his intestines, and Mrs. John Watkins, whose injuries were of the most frightful character.

A special train arrived at the eastern side of the slide this morning, bringing William Pearce, who was sent here in response to an appeal from the local Board of Trade to the Dominion government for assistance to do what could be done to prevent further destruction of life and property, and render aid to those in distress. The train also brought a large detachment of North Western Mounted Police sent by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of the Dominion, and F. W. G. Haultain, premier of the Territorial government, to police the district, a measure which had become urgently necessary, as ghouls had already commenced depredations. On the arrival of Government Agent Pearce, the Board of Trade, which has assumed control of affairs in the absence of civic authorities, held a meeting, and steps were taken to begin the work of raising the blockade of the river, which was filled to a depth of 150 feet in places and for a distance of a mile, to avoid a flood, which would have undoubtedly have occurred.

The weather conditions of today have been the occasion of much anxiety. Immediately following the slide yesterday morning the temperature fell to zero, a change of more than forty degrees in forty-eight hours. The weather continued very cold throughout the day, and this morning a heavy snow fell, completely shutting off all view of the mountain. As the roar from the mountain continued, and at times grew in intensity, none dared to venture close to its base, and in consequence little was done toward attempting to recover bodies until the atmosphere cleared late this afternoon. As the roar from the mountain continued, many feared that another slide might wipe out the rest of the town.

The question as to whether the disaster was the result of an eruption, a limestone upheaval or simply a slide, is believed to have been definitely settled as the last mentioned. Government Agent Pearce walked across the scene of destruction this morning. He is a geologist of good standing in the West, and his opinion is therefore the first of an expert character obtained. Mr. Pearce expressed without reserve the opinion that the calamity was the result of a mountain slide, but declined to venture

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GEN. MILES.

Head of the U. S. Army Whose Report on the Awful Atrocities Practiced on the Filipinos Has Created a Great Stir.

Grand Forks' Call For Aid

Unless Silver-Lead Bonus be Granted Industry Will Perish.

Steady Decrease in Tonnage Treated Indicates Ultimate Extinction.

Grand Forks, B. C., April 30.—The following resolutions were unanimously passed at a joint meeting of the Board of Trade and citizens, last evening:

Moved by Mayor Durrel, seconded by L. P. Rekstin, that whereas, the mining industry of British Clumbia in general, and of the silver-lead mines in particular, has suffered grievously during the past few years from the depreciation of the value of silver and lead, and from other causes, be it therefore resolved that this meeting urge the Dominion government, if they do not find it possible to remedy the existing grievances by a readjustment of the tariff to grant such a bonus as may place the silver-lead mining industry on a satisfactory basis; and tend to its rapid and profitable development, the prospect being otherwise that this industry in British Columbia especially will be crushed out of existence as appears by the production of lead in 1900 being 33,000 tons, and subsequently decreasing, year by year to a production of 17,000 tons and this meeting suggests that the following would be a bonus suitable to the necessities of the case, viz: $4 per ton on lead in ore mined in Canada and exported in the ore, substituting a bonus of $8 per ton on lead in ore which has been both mined and smelted in Canada, and exported as bullion; a substitute bonus of $10 per ton on lead in ore mined, smelted and refined in Canada, such bonus in each case to be payable to the miners or mining company producing the ore, supported by such declarations from purchasers, smelters or refiners or others satisfactory proof as may be considered desirable; and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Finance.

SENATE TAKES RECESS.

In Spite of Government Objection Upper Chamber Adjourns.

Ottawa, April 30.—The motion of Senator Dandurands for the Senate to adjourn from tomorrow until May 26 was carried by 27 to 23, notwithstanding that it was opposed by the government. Hon. Mr. Bowell asked Senator Scott if the government would resign, and the minister replied somewhat warmly that he, in future, would leave all such matters to the House.

J. A. Christie, W. S. Moore and F. A. McHugh are seeking incorporation as the Stewart River Development Company and the Canadian Yukon Western Railway Company, the latter application to cover the construction of a line from Dawson westerly to the international boundary along the Yukon river.

AGAINST BOYCOTT.

Hamilton Concern Objects to Toronto Journals Assisting Strikers.

Toronto, April 30.—Two separate suits against the Globe and Mail were entered today by the Kingston Locomotive Company who are seeking an injunction to prevent those journals from publishing an advertisement in words to this or similar effect: "Machinists keep away from Kingston, strike still on."

The death occurred this afternoon of Thomas Bright Taylor. Mr. Taylor was a prominent Mason, 45 years old, and leaves a family.

FIRE DESTROYS TOWN.

Bradford, Pa., April 30.—The town of Mount Jewett is reported to have been destroyed by fire. Forest fires are raging on all sides and the outlook is threatening.

RANCHER.

Winnipeg, April 30.—H. C. McDonald, a wealthy rancher of Russell district, was drowned yesterday while attempting to swim across the Assiniboine river. He had recently received a large sum of money through the death of a relative in Scotland. He was a widower and leaves several young children.

REVEALED BY SKELETON.

Fate of Sol. Roberts, Missing Thirty-Three Years.

Sioux City, Iowa, April 30—A thirty-three-year-old murder mystery was cleared up today when the skeleton of Sol. Roberts, who disappeared in March, 1870, was unclothed up near this city. The dimensions of the skeleton coincide exactly with the description of Roberts. The community has already believed that Roberts and a German girl were murdered by a homesteader who sold all his property and left. Roberts was employed by the homesteader and the skeleton was found near his old employer's place.

AFFAIRS AT SIDNEY.

Vestry Meeting of Holy Trinity Church —New Ferry "Victorian" In Port.

Sidney, April 30—The annual vestry meeting of Holy Trinity church, North Saanich, was held April 26. The church wardens reported a very prosperous year, both in regard to congregational and financial matters over $300, having been subscribed by the members and collections, besides improvements to the church yard and in the church. Then through the kindness of church friends a new organ has been secured, which will very materially aid the choral part of the service. The rector, Rev. F. Wimberley will have as church officers rector's warden, Mr. R. E. Knowles; people's warden, Mr. Allan Downey; lay delegate to Synod, Mr. Geo. A. Freeman; organist, Mrs. Critchley; choir master, Mr. Monk. Thanks were voted to those ladies and gentlemen who in the choir and other ways have aided the church work.

The Victorian, the new ferry steamer, has been in port for several days. During her stay residents had the opportunity of inspecting the steamer, her officers kindly allowing access to every part.

The Colonist premium albums "Views of Victoria," are beautiful souvenirs.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

Declarations of St. Petersburg's Position Received With Interest.

London, April 28.—The officials of the British Foreign office today read with much interest the despatch to the Associated Press from St. Petersburg of yesterday giving the views of the Russian Foreign office on the eight alleged demands made by Russia on China regarding Manchuria. It was the first intimation they had received of the Russian official attitude on the subject of the Manchurian agreement. The officials here, however, declined to comment on the Russian statements, pending further advices from the British representatives at St. Petersburg and at Pekin. Replying to a question put by Earl Spencer, the Liberal leader in the House of Lords today, as to whether he could lay on the table the despatches in regard to the communications reported to have passed between the Russian and Chinese governments, Foreign Secretary Lansdowne said: "The question is now engaging the most serious attention of the government. There was some doubt regarding the actual fact of Russia's proposal in regard to the evacuation of Manchuria, and he hoped the silence he was bound to maintain at present will not be of long duration."

Montrealer's Work Blackmail

Giddy Woman Captivates Elderly Grocer and Injured Husband Appears.

At Pistol Point Made to Sign Papers for Thirteen Thousand.

Montreal, April 30.—C. A. Barber and a woman giving the name of Sarah S. Allison, and claiming to be Barber's wife, are under arrest on the charge of having obtained checks and notes to the amount of $13,000 from D. C. Brosseau, grocer, Montreal, by a blackmailing scheme.

The victim of the game met the woman one day a short time ago, and after a chat she asked him to go to her flat at No. 21 Chesterfield avenue. When the pair arrived at the place the woman threw her arms around the aged man and kissed him, calling him pet names. In the midst of this scene the door of a closet opened and a six foot man with a knife and handcuffs in one hand and a revolver in the other, appeared. With a roar of rage he denounced the grocer as a scoundrel, and accused him of alienating his wife's affections. Handcuffs were put on the victim and, flourishing the knife, the man cut his prisoner slightly on the leg, and said, "That's what I will do to your throat."

After a while the alleged husband cooled off a little and finally told his captive that he would call the threatened exposure off if a full confession were made and signed. This was consented to, and Barber is alleged to have written a confession which Brosseau signed, and the woman witnessed.

The document was also an agreement to pay $13,000 by giving three checks of $1,000 each and two promissory notes of $5,000 each. This was done, and Brosseau was then stripped of his clothes, locked up and left alone.

Tuesday morning he managed to break out of the place, and after dressing, jumped ten feet off a gallery and ran hatless and as speedily as possible from the place.

He stopped payment on the paper and then went to Chief Detective Carpenter with his story. Arrests followed. On being taken before Judge DeNoyers, the woman said she had done what she did under compulsion by Barber. Today at the inquiry, which was private, the man pleaded not guilty.

STOLE THIRTY THOUSAND.

Two Masked Men Grab Valuable Package and Escape.

Desmoines, Ia., April 30—Two masked men grabbed a package containing $30,000 from Agent Peterson of the United States Express Company, while a train was standing at Britt this afternoon. They secured the money and escaped after a struggle. Two suspects have been arrested.

"CRAPS" WAS POPULAR.

Winnipeg Gambling Raid Results in a Full Net.

Winnipeg, April 28.—The police made a big raid on the Hotel Du Canada, one of Winnipeg's gambling joints, early yesterday, and found two hundred in the crap game. Seventy-two names were taken, the balance of inmates making their exit through windows and down the fire escapes.

The Northwest legislature has adjourned until June 8.