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THE DISTRICT LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF DISTRICT NO. 18, U. M. W. of A.

Industrial Unity is Strength

Political Unity is Victory

Legislative Assembly AUG 12 1908 VICTORIA, B. C.

VOL 3 NO 50

FERNIE, B. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1908.

The J. H. Reid Co.

FURNITURE DEALERS AND UNDERTAKERS

Victoria Ave Fernie, B. C.

... *Workingmen's Store* ...

We still cater to the Workingmen's Trade. : : Come along!

LOCKHART & GILLESPIE

Shoes! Shoes! Shoes!

Out of business Saturday

Opened up business Monday

First in Fernie

W. F. Muirhead & Co.

We are still selling

FRUIT LANDS

D. W. HART, Baynes, B.C.

C. E LYON

Chartered Accountant and Insurance.

LET US FIGURE OUT HOW YOU STAND

Blundell's Saturday Specials!!

Hot Bricks

Regular price 3 for 25c.

Special 5 for 25c.

Pure Gold Butter

Regular 3 yds. 25c.

Special 6 yds. 25c.

GERMAN AIRSHIP BURNED UP

Friederischaven, Aug. 6.—The news that Count Zephelin's air ship had exploded at Echterdinen, and was a total wreck crashed like a thunderbolt over the festive preparations for a reception to the famous aeronaut at Friederischaven. Thousands of people had come from all parts of Germany to witness the return of the Count from his remarkable voyage in the airship.

The next message received from the scene of the disaster said that a thunder storm had upset a quantity of benzine which had ignited and caused a great explosion and that the balloon was destroyed.

WINNIPEG MARKET

Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 4.—The wheat market was quiet today with very little demand for cash. On the American markets the opening was weak with a slight upward trend but fell away several points towards the close

Closing Cash Prices

No. 1 Hard	105
No. 1 Northern	104
No. 2 Northern	101
No. 3 Northern	98
No. 4	95
No. 5	86 1-2
No. 6	77 1-2
Feed 1	60 1-2
Feed 2	60
Oats—	
No. 2 White	42 1-2
No. 3 White	39 1-2
Rejected	nil
Barley—	
No. 3	48 1-2
No. 4	46
Rejected	42
Flax—	
No. 1 N. W.	121 1-2
No. 1 Man.	120
Rejected	43

FIRE AT GAINSBORO, SASK.

Gainsboro, Sask., Aug. 6.—Fire broke out early this morning in Leslie's general store and spread to Glasser's store, carriage shop and dwelling which were completely destroyed. The loss is about thirty thousand dollars. Insurance small.

Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, is quite seriously ill with intestinal trouble at Baltimore.

It is officially announced that the control of the Toronto News has passed from the hands of J. W. Plavelle to a company, of which the editor, J. S. Willison, is president.

Montreal will vote $5,000 to the Fernie sufferers.

IN THE WAKE OF THE FIRE

Latest Local Notes of General Interest--Brief Summary of Fernie Happenings.

The Fernie Brick Co. are waiting for a bridge across the Elk to deliver brick as soon as the bridge is ready.

Contributions are coming in from all quarters, but an immense amount of money is necessary to feed and shelter the crowd.

Locals of the U. M. W. of A. are requested to forward whatever they can spare, as there is a large amount of money yet wanted,

Businesses are opening up every hour. Barbers, boot and shoe dealers, cigar store, grocery stores, and in fact all are rushing to open for business.

Absolute order prevails and no disturbances of any kind have occurred. Not even a case of pilfering has been noticed. The police and committees are all very active.

The committee for the U. M. W. of A. have a clockwork system of looking after their people. Every one is on a register, and upon presenting an order gets supplies.

Up to the hour of writing several members of the U. M. W. of A. have been burned, the bodies having been found. It is expected that many more will be found ere long.

The United Mine Workers have the following unmber of their men and families to look after, who were burned out: men, 492, women 271, children 709; making a total of 1,472.

The account that was very extensively published that the fire was a result of a Black Hand sympathizer is absolutely false and dastardly. The Black Hand prisoners did harder work to save the women and children than most other citizens, and deserve credit for what they did. The fire had been smouldering for weeks and was only waiting a strong wind.

The following is the official list to date of the victims who were burned, or supposed to be, as nothing has been seen or heard of some of them.

Fernie: Ellis Vernon Lane, supposed to be dead.

Frank Shaw and Alec. Border, left Camp No. 4, making road to Camp No. 7, and not seen since.

Body of girl at Waldorf Hotel, old town, aged about sixteen.

Magie Ford, Willie Ford, Theo Ford, Walter Ford, of West Fernie.

Mrs. Clara Barton, mother of Mrs. Turner, Fernie Annex.

Mrs. Turner, Fernie Annex.

Lena Bell, a woman from the restricted district.

FIGURING UP FIRE LOSSES

Fernie, Aug. 6.—Rough estimates of the losses sustained in the fire are being made, the insurance underwriters not having made any official statements. As nearly as can be ascertained the losses are:—

Elk Lumber Co., mills, 24,000,000 feet lumber, limits and camp, about	$750,000
Cedar Valley Lumber Mills	175,000
Fernie Lumber Co. (Macdougall's mills	150,000
Canadian Pacific Railway	500,000
Great Northern Railway	600,000
Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co.	150,000
Fort Steele Brewery	150,000
A. Macdonald Co.	45,000
Trites-Wood Co.	200,000
Fernie Drug Co.	20,000
P. Burns & Co.	15,000
Miners' Hall, under construction	25,000
Post Office, just completed	30,000
Court House	30,000
Opera House	9,000
T. W. Quail	25,000
L. Rizzardi	30,000
Forester's Mill, Sparwood	15,000
Black's mill	90,000

Besides five churches, public school (newly erected), two hospitals, jail, twelve hotels, from $5,000 to $50,000 each.

Three banks, Commerce, Hamilton and Home.

Two wholesale liquor stores.

Three printing offices.

Between seven and eight hundred residences of various values.

The total will probably reach between $4,500,000 and $5,000,000.

The statement of insurance carried has not been issued officially and the amount of the smaller policies will probably not be reported.

The Elk Lumber Co. carried $300,000; had just taken off $100,000.

Crow's Nest Coal Co., $100,000.

Fernie Lumber Co., about	100,000
A. Macdonald Co.	33,000
Trites-Woods Co., estimated	150,000
Cedar Valley Co., well covered.	

Until safes are opened and papers examined the amounts of insurance carried will be unknown. The great majority of the residences were uninsured and the total amount will not likely exceed a million or a million and a quarter dollars.

THE NEW CITY IS RISING

(From the Lethbridge Herald.

Fernie, Aug. 5.—The Fernie of last Saturday and Sunday is being rapidly transformed into the Fernie of years ago when it was a frame shack town. Merchants are erecting frame storehouses and people are putting up shacks to take the place of the tents or to allow them to vacate the coke ovens of the Crow's Nest Pass Company's office.

From the very first the afflicted city was well organized. As soon as the flames had spent themselves in the city and were rushing farther up the Pass, Mayor Tuttle called a meeting of the council and citizens and a complete organization was effected. Committees to take charge of transportation, telegrams, supplies, tents and bread, were named and all got into line behind the Mayor's untiring and energetic leadership. No sleep was there for these men all Saturday night and only a few short hours of respite gave relief to tired bodies and weary minds on Sunday night,

On Monday morning when the Herald correspondent arrived on the scene everything was in fine running order. Cranbrook had sent a car containing a number of stoves with pipes and utensils as well as provisions. The Western Canada Wholesale Company's warehouse had been drawn on and P. Burns & Co. in fulfillment of their telegram saying they would supply all the meat needed had already a supply on hand. Cooks had been chosen and were busy at work. Long tables had been built and guard rails put up. By seven o'clock breakfast was ready and under the direction of the chief of police hundreds of homeless, hungry men lined up and took their plates in turn, each containing two slices of bread, a piece of meat, some crackers and cheese. A tap nearby supplied all the water for drinking, the fire not having affected the water supply beyond its being pumped out by the fire engine. Every man was served and none complained.

During the day some degraded specimens of humanity came from surrounding towns to take advantage of their afflicted brothers' necessity, to get some free food and clothing. At frequent intervals, this whine could be heard: "Bread, more bread, me family, hungry," or "Me want blankets, family me, three, four blankets." It was not long, however, before the authorities got wise. The eagle eye of President Sherman who knows every miner in the Pass or the chief of police would spot them and they were told in no very polite terms to get to "a place hotter than even Fernie had been" out of there. Two carloads were rounded up by the police and driven out. Miserable creatures, lower than the birds of carrion, wolves whose carniverous maws are satisfied only with the life blood of their fellows, they were fortunate that the people of Fernie thought more of their city's fair name than of handing out the justice they deserved at the end of a rope.

At the request of the chief of police the railways have issued orders that no tickets be issued except to parties giving satisfactory explanation of their business there. Gangs of police and special police meet every train and every stranger in attempting to get off is kept on until he explains his purpose in coming. The authorities will care for their own but they will not abuse the generosity of their sister cities by feeding all the parasitic bums in the country.

And the outside cities were good. On Saturday night Mayor Tuttle telegraphed his appeal for relief and in a few hours relief was on the way from Spokane, Nelson, Medicine Hat, Calgary and intervening points. The neighboring city of Cranbrook open-ed its doors as wide as its heart. It took in two thousand of the homeless people and sent two carloads of provisions and clothing for those remaining. As the people of Fernie speak of this exceeding kindness and sympathy, tears come to the eyes and choke the voice of the stoutest of them. By Monday night there was a sufficient stock of food on hand to feed the city for several days, until they would be able to get in their own goods and the people with money will be able to buy and those without money will be supplied by the funds so generously being donated from coast to coast.

Fernie in her affliction is the favorite child of Canada and the petted cousin of Uncle Sam's children. In every province and in many states her name is being spoken with the utmost tenderness and deepest sympathy. Nor are the tenderness and sympathy barren, for with the words and thoughts come deeds of charity and kindness and all regardless of nationality or distance, they are pouring in the oil and the wine to heal up the wounded city, are parting with their garments to give to him who has not, and paying the price of its nursing with many a promise that if more is required they will pay it. The people of Fernie feel deeply grateful.

The Ogilvie Milling Co. offer to contribute a carload of flour or $1,000 to the Fernie sufferers.

The American National Red Cross has given $1,000 to assist the Fernie sufferers.

We are not PIKERS!

We stay with Our Town

STILL WAITING TO PLEASE ALL COMERS

Trites-Wood CO.

W. R. McDougall

Dealer in Boots & Shoes : : : Trunks, Valises, Suit-cases

Single and Double Harness

Home Bank of Canada

WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR SURPLUS CASH AND PAPERS

W. C. B. Manson, Mgr., Fernie

THE

Bank of Hamilton

FERNIE, B. C.

Are prepared to do business with you

We're here because we're here.

Are we Building ?

Well, rather !
Better than ever, too.

PHILIP CARDSELLA

Deposit your Papers

WITH THE

Canadian Bank of Commerce

AT FERNIE

ALL MONEY IS SAFE HERE

Elk Drug & Book Store
LIMITED

Watch this space for next week

FERNIE, B. C.

Kefoury Bros.

FERNIE, B. C.

Will be doing business in a few days.

Watch for our space.

FERNIE WIPED FROM THE EARTH

FIRST NEWS OF THE FIRE

Michel, B. C., August 1.—The worst forest fire in the history of this town is raging on the hills south and north of it, fanned by a terrific wind.

The fire was carried for miles at a time.

No damage has yet been done to buildings. This fact is due entirely to the northwest wind.

People are moving out to Michel prairie or any place that might possibly afford a place of safety.

The worst danger now is the fire raging near Sparwood and following the mountains along the C. P. R.

No communication from Hosmer or Fernie.

At Hosmer the G. N. Ry. depot was burned this afternoon and the town is reported doomed.

If the fire spreads east from the Elk River along the C. P. R. nothing can save this town.

Pete Campbell just here from Sparwood with three men badly burned trying to save the Sparwood Lumber Company's mills half way between here and Fernie. The injured men were at once taken to the hospital. Two are in a precarious condition.

Mr. Forester, manager of the mill with his wife and about thirty men were last seen trying to save the mill. These men state that the whole country is a seething hell of fire everywhere which spreads so rapidly as to make it impossible to escape.

Four Men Dead

The body of Pete Miller, generally known as Scotty Miller was found lying on the C. P. R. tracks. He evidently received wounds trying to flee from the holocaust covering hundreds of square miles.

The bodies of four men were brought in by the Great Northern Yard Engine. These men lost their lives trying to save the large Great Northern bridge over the Elk river fifteen miles from here, which is totally destroyed.

Hosmer and Fernie are reported to have burned to the ground entirely.

From Michel west to Fernie everything is destroyed.

It is feared that the loss of life will be the greatest since the San Francisco disaster.

The situation here is unchanged.

The hills surrounding the town are a seething furnace.

A C. P. R. engine is here ready to take the people to Crow's Nest if it comes to the worst.

The situation is almost beyond description, only an eye witness can picture the horrors of a town of over three thousand souls hemmed in on all sides by walls of fire. It will take days to fully ascertain the extent of the loss of lives and property.

Fernie Wiped Out

W. Carswell, assistant superintendent of the Great Northern just arrived here from Fernie after an exciting trip, several miles of the distance being made on foot, through the burning district. The rest of the way was made on a handcar.

Mr. Carswell left Fernie at 7.30 last night. The entire town has been burned to the ground, including the entire business section, excepting the fireproof warehouse of the Western Canada Wholesale and the coal company's square.

The Great Northern depot and all the company's buildings were lost.

Eighteen hundred people were taken out on G. N. cars to a large clear place three miles from Fernie.

No details are obtainable as to fatalities, it being impossible to get to the business section.

Hosmer Still Intact

Hosmer was still intact when he passed but the fire has crossed the river and there was no hope of saving the town.

Two Elk River bridges totally destroyed.

Jules Gabrian, timber boss at Campbell's Siding three miles from Sparwood reports that Mr. and Mrs. Foreste and twenty men arrived at his place at midnight, having escaped from the fire by escaping to the burned ground.

Three men were killed and many more not accounted for.

Many of the destitute people of Fernie will be brought here to be cared for unless this town will also meet the fate of Fernie.

Special efforts are being made by the Trites Wood Co. to hurry provisions here as fast as possible. Strenuous efforts will be required to care for the homeless and destitute.

Bush Fires to Blame

Bush fires are responsible for the Fernie and Hosmer holocausts. Fires have been raging in the mountains about Fernie most of the summer and Saturday's windstorm in all likelihood carried the flames from the mountains to the towns in the valley. Once the frame buildings in Fernie and Hosmer were ignited all the fire brigades along the line could not have prevented the progress of the flames as the wind must have been blowing a hurricane through the mountain passes. As all travellers know the towns in the Crow's Nest Pass are situated in a narrow valley, surrounded by forest covered mountains. Our despatch from Michel indicates that town is completely surrounded by flames but that the town has not yet suffered any damage.

Two Hundred Lives Lost

At eight thirty o'clock last night the Herald had a talk with Coleman on the telephone. At that town various reports were in circulation, one being that the number of lives lost was two hundred. Two thousand of the inhabitants of Fernie had been moved to Cranbrook. Coleman also said that Hosmer and Michel, while totally surrounded by bush fires, were still standing, though in danger of destruction if the wind changed.

Train No. 22 due here last night was held at Fernie and used to carry the homeless people of that city west to Cranbrook.

Trains Nos. 7 and 21 were held at Frank last night.

Corpses Along Track

Herald reporters interviewed the train officials and learned some additional facts. The fire it appears started four miles west of Fernie and inside of an hour Fernie was ablaze. It is estimated that the loss of life in the woods and Fernie will reach two hundred. A number of corpses are to be seen along the track between Fernie and Hosmer. Fernie is totally destroyed and it is a mystery how most of the people escaped. People escaped with their clothes only and little barefooted children were running about trying to get out of reach of the flying embers.

Aid from Outside Points

The C. P. R. is doing all in its power to rescue those in danger.

Macleod and Calgary have sent cars of provisions.

A crowd of people forced a yard conductor to take ten box cars filled with people to Hosmer.

Cranbrook sent ten cars of provisions.

The C. P. R. reports that Michel is asking for relief. The town is in danger of destruction.

Heartrending Scenes

Mr. Norton, of Spokane, who came through Fernie today, told the Herald that the scenes in that city were most heart-rending. He says that twenty or thirty buildings are all that are left in the entire city. Everything was ablaze in half an hour and practically all the city was wiped out in two hours.

Twenty or thirty Hindoos working in a saw mill were seen lying dead near the ruins of the mill.

Horses, with hair all burned off, were lying dead in water.

Many families are separated.

People in Coke Ovens

The new coke ovens at Hosmer are being filled with people from that town and Fernie.

The fire is raging as far as the eye can reach.

In Fernie groups of people are to be seen huddled together. Some have their clothing burned, hair and eyelashes scorched.

A new track had to be laid at Fernie to get the Flyer through.

150 box cars were burned at Fernie.

Cranbrook in Danger

Cranbrook was threatened with destruction for two days. All that saved that town was the fact that the wind changed.

Mr. Norton says that he saw one man with $3 in his hand, all he had left in the world, who was worth $5,000 a few hours before.

The people at Michel are frantic and are fighting hard to save that town.

Terrible Wind

The fire travelled at the rate of twelve miles an hour. A terrific wind was blowing. One block was turned broadside by the wind.

The first building destroyed at Fernie was the brewery.

Dead on the Track

Two men were found dead at Olsen said Mr. Linklater. They were lying on the track and apparently had been surrounded by the fire and then suffocated. Twenty-four men and two women, is it stated, were in a lumber camp outside of Fernie and have not been heard from and the gravest fears are felt for their safety.

At least two hundred lumber men have met death throughout the district, it is thought. It is estimated that between ten and fifteen people, belonging to Fernie, have lost their lives, mostly children, who have succumbed to the effects of the terrible fire. The country is devestated wherever the fire visited. One thousand people of Fernie spent the night on a switch back. In Fernie there is nothing left but a cluster of houses, the lumber company's office and a general store. The houses which escaped, belonged to the Lumber Co., and were saved because of the city park which was between them and the fire.

A Hurricane Blowing

A hurricane was blowing and it looked as if nothing could save the towns in the track of the fire. The coke ovens which have lately been built at Hosmer and which have not yet been used, were utilized for the protection of hundreds of the destitute.

Mr. Linklater further stated that nothing could save Hosmer and Michel according to present indications. Of the railways the Great Northern is the greatest loser, having lost numerous large bridges and much rolling stock. All the railway running through that part of the country lost heavily in cars and utilities of the road. The C. P. R. will have little difficulty in repairing their damages and will not likely be inconvenienced to any great extent in regard to their service. The C. P. R. Calgary sleeper was burned.

Nelson Gives Aid

Nelson, B. C., (Supplementary Despatch sent out at midnight, Saturday night).—The dreadful disaster in the Crow's Nest Pass has proved to be even worse than at first reported. Not merely has the fire fiend obliterated Fernie but Coal Creek as well, it is feared, and other Pass towns have gone out of existence, swept clean by the devouring element. Over six thousand people are homeless and the fatalities are growing hourly.

In one case alone five families at Fernie were hemmed in and every soul perished.

Bush fires are responsible for the whole horrible affair.

Mayor Tuttle of Fernie, at 3 o'clock this morning sent Mayor Taylor, of Nelson the following appeal: "Our city entirely burned out. Six thousand are homeless. I appeal to you for relief.—W. W. Tuttle, Mayor."

The following reply was sent: "W. W. Tuttle, mayor, Fernie—Carload supplies leaving this morning. Nelson sincerely sympathizes and will do all possible to assist. Am coming with supplies.—S. C. McMorris, acting mayor."

THE NEWS IN LETHBRIDGE

Nothing else was talked of on the streets yesterday but the terrible catastrophe at Fernie. Very little information was obtainable but the fact that the city of Fernie and possibly the town of Hosmer had been completely wiped off the map was known and naturally such a devestating disaster occupied the mind of every person.

Who said Fire ?

We did. We are firing away at the old business.

CREE & MOFFATT

Royal Hotel

FERNIE

C. W. Davey & Co., Props.

We may be a little up-set but just smile.

Hotel Fernie

Fernie's leading commercial house. :: A little bent but still in the ring.

S. F. Wallace, Prop.

King Hotel

We will do the best we can for you

JOHN PODBILLOUCIK

Wm. Scott

Undertaker

Fernie's pioneer Funeral Director and Undertaker

Pictures Framed

B. C. FURNITURE STORE

H. W. Terry, Prop.

Will be doing business in a few days.

COME AND SEE US FIRST

W. Stan. Terry

Painter and Decorator

Give us a chance on your work.

DEPOT RESTAURANT,
Macleod, Alta.

J. E. ROGERS, Prop.

Drop in and see me.

L. P. ECKSTEIN
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR
Fernie, B. C.

SHERMAN HERCHMER
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR
Fernie, B. C.

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FATALITIES AT FERNIE MAY NOT REACH ONE HUNDRED

Impossible To Secure Names of Victims – Thrilling Tales of the Fire Told By Eye-Witnesses – Every Saw Mill But One From Michel West Was Destroyed – Very Few Buildings Are Left in Fernie

(From Monday's Despatches.)

Michel, B. C., Aug. 3.—The Alex Black sawmill and the Hosmer Lbr. Co. mills are a total loss. All the mills are burned in this district except the Wood McNabb mill west of Fernie, which is in danger. The situation at Hosmer is unchanged. Fire just started in flat near the business block of the new town of Michel. Wind from west may save the town. Situation critical.

Michel, B. C., Aug. 3.—Loss of life at Fernie is unknown. But at least 18 are known. Waterford and two children found dead. Two women of the Red Light burned. Mrs. Turner, bedridden woman burned after being carried out. Six men of Elk River Lumber Co., 4 missing. Many others unknown found dead and many others missing. Creek miners organized searching parties and are scouring the country. Death roll is likely to increase.

Cranbrook, B. C., Aug. 3.—Having seen the results of the calamity at Fernie, I must say that it is more entirely extensive than any report gave reason to believe. The damage cannot fall short of five million dollars, the greater losses falling upon the C. P. R., which lost the coal tipple, coal bunkers, depot, freight shed, water tower and over one hundred cars. The Trites Wood Co., lost its magnificent store and stock and the lumber companies lost mills, limits and stock being wiped out. Fully twenty-five million feet of manufatured lumber is gone."

The extent of the disaster can be measured better by the recital of the few buildings left standing than by a detailed list of the widespread destruction. There remain out of what was Fernie, that housed a population of about seven thousand souls, ten or twelve small cottages and five or six residences all situated near the park. For the rest, not a store, bank, hotel or business concern of any sort or description is left standing except the offices of the Coal Company. The Great Northern depot and water tank and the big concrete warehouse of the Trites Wood company still stand.

Need for Help Urgent

Fernie is wiped off the map and is not as it remains of sufficient importance to justify the maintenance of a flag station. It is a disaster unparallelled in the interior of British Columbia and one that calls for prompt action on the part of the public. Some three thousand people, mostly women and children, have to be housed and cared for until they shall have time to look about them. These are being sped by thousands to Cranbrook where all private houses are being used as temporary quarters for the homeless and in many cases, naked refugees. The relief committee organized by Mayor Fink has got away two trains filled with provisions of every kind, blankets, flour and all the staple requirements. There are many mouths to feed and every one here is taking a practical hand at trying to alleviate the sufferings of those who have come to us in their dire necessity.

Sixty Lost In One Camp

In the face of such a crushing calamity one feels more inclined for action than for words. But it must be recorded that according to reports sixty-one men and two women have been burned to death at the number 4 camp of the Elk River Lumber Co. Four men were found burned to a crisp on the C. P. R. tracks near Hosmer. The number of deaths surmised will run to about a hundred, but this may be the suggestion of the terror.

Hosmer and Michel

Hosmer had the new C. P. R. tipple destroyed and part of the town swept out. The business portion is reported to have escaped. No hope is entertained for the escape of Michel. One man who came down from there this morning says it must go. The fire originated in a bush fire that has been burning for the last month in the limits of the Cedar Valley Lumber Company to the west of the city.

How the Fire Started

The wind started early in the morning with the force of a cyclone and revived the fire that was supposed to have been quenched. By about 11 in the forenoon it had spread till the goat ranch was reached and from there to the old town. Then the brewery got alight and inside half an hour the entire business section was in flames owing to the high wind scattering the burning shingles in all directions and for long distances. When at its worst the fire was taking springs of over a hundred yards in length and seizing in all directions. The bridges are burned out between Fernie and Michel and traffic will be hung up for a time.

Another Story of Disaster

Cranbrook, B. C., Aug. 2.—Fernie lies in ruins, five thousand people are homeless and all that remains of a prosperous and progressive city are thirty houses in the south end and the coal company's office in the centre of the town. The citizens are scattered far and wide hundreds fleeing to Cranbrook, and many to Hosmer and it will be some time before the scattered members of families can locate each other. The fire started from bush fires in West Fernie and spread so rapidly to the town that there was no time to save anything and everyone sought safety in flight. The brewery was the first place to fall a victim to the flames and the hurricane that was blowing carried the sparks to the old town and in a few minutes nothing was left of that section. In the meantime the Cedar Valley and Elk River Lumber mills and the whole of West Fernie except the brick works were a seething mass of flames, and residents were fleeing for their lives. It is impossible to say at the present time whether any lives were lost in that section as the bridges are consumed and there is no communication. The fire fiend jumped the river near the bridges and in a few seconds the town was ablaze. Dozens of houses and stores were burning at the same time and street after street was licked up by the blaze. On Baker avenue and the park a determined effort was made to stay the conflagration and to the heroic work of the residents and the firemen the few remaining houses owe their preservation. About three hundred men, women and children fled to the Coal Company's offices. The fact of this building being isolated and surrounded by spacious lawns, suggesting to the panic stricken people as the only place in town that offered the slightest hope of refuge. Willing volunteers ascended to the roof and fought the fire like heros for hours amid the scorching heat and suffocating smoke. The water pressure remained good and several lines of hose poured tons of water on the structure. The large new court house, and the new postoffice and customs buildings were directly opposite and it was while these were burning that the greatest danger existed. Again and again swirling masses of sparks found entrance to the attic and a bucket brigade did yeoman work in quenching the fire. Store after store and hotel after hotel caught despite the efforts of the fire fighters and they fell one by one, until not a building of any description or kind remains standing north of Walmesley St., save the residences of W. R. Ross, M. P. P., D. V. Mott, the Catholic priest, the Coal Company office the residence of J. F. Telfer and the Western Canada wholesale company. The scene at night was awe inspiring, the lumber piles in West Fernie blazing fiercely, the mountains on every side a mass of flames and the town itself lighted up by the smouldering ruins. Hundreds are sleeping in the open without blankets or covering of any sort. Relief committees have been organized and food is being supplied to all. Special constables have been sworn in and the town, or what is left of it, is orderly.

Frank, Alta., Aug. 3.—A special with seven hundred people just arrived at 3 o'clock from Michel. Wires are down to Fernie.

Macleod Station, Alta., August 3.—Andrew Neidig's wife and children are safe and are coming down tonight.

A fire started at Frank today but was stopped. No wind blowing.

Fires at Coleman are reported. Relief trains have started from Macleod and Calgary.

Michel, B. C., Aug. 2.—More details of the news regarding the terrible disaster at Fernie are being received here by fugitives from the stricken city. The report from there last night is corroborated a thousandfold. Ten cottages of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and offices and the big new warehouse of the Western Canada wholesal grocery company are all that remains of the prosperous town of Fernie.

Fanned by a wind like a cyclone the fire swept down the canyon towards the river. After reaching the river it spread like flash lightning to the yard and mill of the Elk River lumber company enveloping the entire town in a sheet of flames, within a few minutes spreading across the river to the park and the beautiful residential portion of the town.

Blocks at a time the flames leaped towards the business section and continuing destruction towards East Fernie and McDougall's mills. Within fifteen minutes the entire town was a seething mass of flames. Many willing hands responded to the call for help from the west and were driven back by

The Tornado of Hell

unable to render assistance to the struggling mothers and babes in a flight for their lives, only to be called to their own homes and another part of the city to save their own loved ones from the fiery fiend of destruction, rushing to the only places of possible safety.

At the C. P. R. and Great Northern depots, many heroic deeds were done to save the multitude of fleeing humanity, passengers, baggage and freight cars were rushed to available places. Men, women and children had to be packed in the cars within the space of a few seconds. Two thousand or more were taken to Cranbrook by the C. P. R. and nearly that many were taken below Fernie to a tract of land burned over in former years and the clearing afforded a temporary place of safety.

Cranbrook's Big Heart

The city of Cranbrook opened her arms to the fleeing sufferers and before midnight made up a trainload of provisions to send to those who were unable to get far away from the destroyed town.

Loss of Life

It is feared that many lives were lost especially in the west end where the flames spread so rapidly as to make it almost impossible for a man to outrun the creeping, roaring furnace, with much less chance remaining for the women and children.

It is impossible to make any accurate statement of the number of lives lost, but when the ruins have cooled down and search for the unfortunate ones begin the number may be a hundred and the country will mourn the loss of many fathers, mothers, wives and babies.

Can't Get Names

It is impossible to even make the faintest attempt to find the names of the victims at the present time, and it will perhaps be days before even a partial list may be obtainable.

An Awful Wind

An idea of the force of the wind may be gained form an incident that occurred during the fire when it picked up a two story frame building seventy feet long taking it across several lots and dropping it in the middle of the main street.

Many incidents of daring and heart rending scenes of despair were witnessed during the rush to the cars to relief and safety.

The town of Hosmer was apparently doomed, but owing to the gallant fight of the citizens and the shifting of the wind at the moment when the flames were reaching for the nearest buildings, the main part of the town was saved.

Hosmer Safe

Shortly after the heavy timber above the Hosmer mines caught fire soon spreading to many of the company's buildings. One man lost his life here whose name could not be ascertained.

Before any efforts could be made to save the powder magazine it was also in flames, blowing up with a terrific explosion. No one was injured. Again the town was threatened by destruction only for the prompt action of the officials of the company who ordered many buildings blown up to save the large machine shop and powder houses and in consequence, the town.

Bodies on Track

Four bodies were picked up this morning along the railway track between Hosmer and Fernie, in most instances burned to a crisp. These bodies have been identified.

The G. N. depot was burned together with two of the large truss bridges across the Elk. This company also lost every building in Fernie together with over two hundred freight cars.

C. P. R. Depot at Fernie Gone

The fine new depot of the C. P. R. in Fernie built last year at a great expense was burned to the ground. Nothing is left of any of the C. P. R. buildings and one hundred cars were burned in the yards including two sleepers.

Body at Sparwood

Another charred body was found today near the Sparwood lumber mills. A gang of men were sent down from here this afternoon on a hand car to bring it here and search the ruins for other victims that are supposed to be in the ruins.

Michel in Danger

No damage has yet been done to property in Michel, but the situation is becoming more critical every moment. Numberless fires were started on houses in the east end and as often they were put out by watchful men. Fires are raging on all sides of the town.

At present the most danger is in the new town; fires spreading from Sparwood are close to the town. Hopes are faint for the safety of the place for should it jump across the river it will be impossible to save the town. Not alone the new town but the coal company's buildings and the old town will be doomed. General Superintendent Brownlee of the C. P. R. at Calgary arrived here at 21 o'clock with large repair gangs going west at once to clear the track for the trains. Two hours later the eastbound Soo-Spokane Flyer arrived here over twelve hours late with many of the homeless of Fernie on board seeking shelter with friends in other cities. A message was received here today to all C. P. R. men to sacrifie everything else in aid of the stricken thousands, from the general manager of the C. P. R.

The mayor of Medicine Hat wired this morning that a carload of flour would be dispatched at once for the relief of the suffering.

Michel Safe Now

Later: Michel is quiet. There is no wind, the fires surrounding the old town have burned out and could be started again by a heavy wind only. A fierce fire is still raging near Sparwood and four miles from here. At intervals the flames leaped up hundreds of feet. This is owing to the cedar. The fire is not making much progress. People have been leaving all day. The majority by teams. Many have gone to Michel prairie.

People Leave Michel

A relief train was made up tonight consisting of fifteen box cars and loaded mostly with women and children and was taken to Coleman, Frank or Blairmore, or any place where a sufficient food supply can be obtained for the crowd. Only a small number of men are left here to guard the place. Michel is practically safe unless a heavy wind starts.

Fire has again broken out near Hosmer but no immediate danger is feared.

Calgary Gives Aid

Calgary, Aug. 2.—At a special meeting of the city council held here this afternoon it was decided to despatch provisions to Fernie sufferers at once. Aldermen were busy during the afternoon and had a trainload of goods ready which left by a special train. The goods included fifteen tons of flour, half a ton of oat meal and corn meal, a ton of potatoes, 5,000 pounds of shoulder, bacon, 100 tents, cooking utensils, 25 camp stoves. Tomorrow they will send by express 1,000 loaves of bread.

Supply of Coke

Nelson, B. C., Aug. 2.—It is impossible to get any details as to the actual scope of the fire in Crow's Nest Pass beyond the fact that at least four towns are totally destroyed. Boundary Mine and Smelter managers are greatly concerned over the fuel supply but the Consolidated company at Trail report that they have a good supply of coke on hand so do not anticipate any very serious results from the loss of supply from the Crow's Nest Pass.

EXPERIENCES IN THE BIG FIRE

(From Monday's Despatches.)

So quick and without warning did the fire burst upon many of the people of Fernie that in their hurry to escape they lost all possessions. Travellers lost their chattels and other transients nearly all their belongings. In the wild rush for a place of safety a dilemma reigned. One commercial traveller lost his valise containing railway ticket and two hundred dollars. An Englishman with his family was left destitute, having lost over two hundred dollars and provisions for a journey across to the Old Country.

It is said that numbers of people took refuge in cellars in their underdrum—sought refuge in this way and perished.

An Amusing Incident

A rather comical incident occurred when the fire broke out. It is amusing because of its absurdity. Three Italians were seen hurrying down a street, one carrying a feather bed half ablaze, another carrying a rocking chair, and the third leading a goat. The Italian with the goat could not be parted from his companion and retained his company. They both put up at the coke ovens.

Staid with Cows

A story is told of a sixteen year old girl's fidelity. She was herding cows outside the city of Fernie and refused to leave the dumb beasts which had grown to know her, and she had a fond affection for them. To leave them to their fate was too much, she preferred to try and save their lives if possible or perish in the attempt. This true heart remained with her loved herd until she was forcibly compelled to leave them through the efforts of friends.

Exaggerated Statements.

Baggageman Macdonald, who came in on the delayed No. 8 this morning gives a very rational statement of the effects of the fire. It is true he says that the scene is a most appalling one and that Fernie is a heap of ashes, but many things have been exaggerated. The line of talk that the train porters were handing out to the people on the platform yesterday was stretched to the limit. The colored gentlemen talked of dead people being strewn all along the railway tracks and pictured harrowing scenes of distress and mutilated bodies, all of which was true only in a small degree.

Mr. Macdonald says it is true that mothers are taking care of children who do not belong to them and cannot get any trace of their own ones. He says unless it rains or the wind changes from the course it has been taking for the last two days, nothing can save Michel and Hosmer.

Spokane Sent Relief

Spokane was quick in sending relief. A number of tents were despatched over the C.P.R., also a carload of provisions. It is stated that Spokane was one of the first to send aid.

Fire in Washington

A rumor is current that a forest fire of great magnitude is raging in the state of Washington.

THRILLING STORY BY YOUNG LADY

(From the Lethbridge Herald.)

Miss H. Beninger came in from Fernie on the Flyer last night. Miss Benninger lived at the Dallas Hotel a year ago and until Saturday was employed at the Fernie House. Seen by the Herald this morning Miss Beniger made it plain that she had not been leading the simple life during the last two days. She has had an experience that she will not soon forget. The horrors caused by the fire fiend paint pictures that remain vivid for a life time.

Miss Benniger was very conservative in her statements and when asked would not venture an answer to anything she did not personally witness. The following is her story in brief.

The fire started at the Brewery, west of Fernie, about 2.30 on Saturday afternoon. The people of Fernie did not suspect danger until the fire was upon them. The fire reached the city about 3.30 and came so suddenly that none had time to plan or think. The Fernie house caught fire first and soon the whole town was ablaze.

In State of Confusion

Confusion reigned. There was no time for systematic action. All rushed for the depot. A yard engine and eighteen box cars were hastily secured and there was a scramble for a place on the train.

The uproar and chaos can only be imagined. Children became separated from their parents, husbands from wives, brothers from sisters. There was a cry raised to give women and children first place in the cars. The men acted the part of true Canadians.

Lost in the Smoke

During the loading of the cars nothing could be seen for the dense smoke. People were confused and lost in the smoke. The train pulled out for Hosmer amidst the cries of women and children with about 650 on board. This train passed over the Crow's Nest line. About 1,500 people were taken over the Great Northern to Hosmer. The sick in the hospital at Fernie were conveyed to the Canadian Western Warehouse and were saved. Large numbers could be seen running to the river for safety. The fire seemed to approach the town from all sides. A terrific wind was blowing.

The train reached Fernie at six o'clock. It returned toward Fernie and four miles out was again filled by the crowd who had left the burning town. The train was unable to return for another load but later was used to convey the Fernie people west.

Frantic at Hosmer

At Hosmer the people were frantic. Reports were current that the culverts east of the town were burned. About 700 people passed the night in the new coke ovens. About 1,500 were on the river bank. One man was killed by a quantity of dynamite exploding. Of the sixty men at the lumber camps near Hosmer, only four came out. The rest are thought to have perished. Saturday night was a regular purgatory for the people at Hosmer. The flyer reached Hosmer at ten o'clock. The conductor asked all who wanted to go east to get aboard. A work train had gone out and found the road intact. When the flyer left Hosmer there was another rush for the coke ovens. At Michel there was great anxiety and the people were endeavoring to save the town.

Miss Benninger was the only person to come to the city last night. Six others went further east. Miss Benniger is now staying with Mrs. Eckstorm at the Dallas.

THREW DYNAMITE IN RIVER

J. M. Agnew of Nelson, B. C. came through on No. 22—the regular east-bound last night. This morning he told the Herald about conditions along the burned area when he passed through.

His train stayed at what was Fernie for half an hour.

There were between one hundred and two hundred people in Fernie at nine o'clock last night. The town was a smouldering mass of ruins. The three large lumber mills around the town were burned. The cars of coal along the Great Northern were burning.

He reached Hosmer at 10 o'clock, a few buildings were burned. A ton of dynamite had exploded leaving not a half dozen whole windows in the town. Four tons of dynamite were dumped into the river at Michel. At eleven o'clock the mountain sides were all aflame. The citizens then hoped to save their town if the wind did not rise. The mill at Sparwood was wiped out.

One of the Elk River Lumber Co.'s employees at Fernie stayed in the river for on hour and a half with a pail over his head. Large numbers found shelter in the river. One horse was seen grazing in an untouched spot. His mane and tail were burned off.

Another horse was blind—had his eyes burned in the fire.

Mr. Agnew was unable to tell of conditions east of Michel as he went to bed. Very few people of the doomed or endangered towns boarded the train.

Regina Assists

Regina, Sask., August 3.—Appeals for assistance for Fernie sufferers reached the mayor at 11 a.m. this morning and at 4 p.m. this afternoon the city clerk wired the mayor of that city, authority to draw on Regina city for five hundred dollars and expressed the most sincere sympathy and hope that the suffering would be somewhat alleviated by the sum which was most cheerfully given.

REMOVED FROM THE HOSPITAL

(From the Lethbridge Herald.)

John Arnold, of the Lethbridge power house, who, accompanied by Wm. Davies, of Liverpool, Eng., was returning from a trip up the Kootenay Lakes, arrived at Fernie at 4 p.m. Saturday, but of course, could come no farther, and in the evening their train backed to Cranbrook, arriving there at 4 a.m. yesterday. During Mr. Arnold's stay in Fernie he witnessed many scenes too horrible to depict, hair-breadth escaps taking place all round him, of falling buildings and flying embers, while bare-footed children endeavoring to pick their way through the burning debris, made the blood fairly curdle in his veins.

Heart-rending scenes were also enacted on board the specials returning to Cranbrook, children crying for their parents who were not on board and parents running frantically to and fro for children who had become separated. In many cases the worst was feared, as no tidngs of separated ones could be had.

A Sad Spectacle

was the removal of the patients from the hospital at Fernie of a number who were so seriously injured at the cave-in at the mines on the day previous. One removal was accompanied with no serious results and the patients were safely conveyed to Cranbrook.

When traffic was resumed on the C. P. R. late Sunday Mr. Arnold with other passengers proceeded on the eastbound pasenger train passing through Fernie about 18 o'clock. The town presented a sad spectacle, practically nothing but the charred remains left of what was once a thriving and hustling mining town.

While en route east from Cranbrook two more specials were passed, having on board the remnants of the people who had not been previously removed, their numbers being distributed among the various Pass towns, Moyie accommodating 250.

When passing through Michel Mr. Arnold states that the women and children were all being entrained there, as the place was then considered untenable.

Anxious About Friends

Enquiries have been made at the Herald regarding the list of names of those who were victims of the sad catastrophe. Miss Kathleen Farrell is anxious for two school friends who lived in Fernie, a son and daughter of W. J. Baynton, a wealthy lumber dealer of Fernie.

Irene Hanrahan, twelve years of age, daughter of Mrs. T. W. Hanrahan, had just been a week in Fernie on Saturday and was visiting her uncle, H. J. Cunningham. Nothing about the girl and her uncle and family's safety has been ascertained. Mr. and Mrs. Hanrahan are in a nervous state over their daughter's welfare and the fate of their other relations. Mr. Hanrahan will go west tonight in search of his little girl.

F. Law A. F. Fisher
LAW & FISHER
ATTORNEYS
Fernie, B. C.

H. W. HERCHMER
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR
Fernie, B. C.

Gee Whiz !
What's the matter with this Town ?
NOTHING
Can't burn us out of Business
J. D. QUAIL, *Hardware and Furnisher : : :*

ALTHOUGH
We are Burned out
We are not done out
Come right along
We can serve you
Whimster & Co.
HARDWARE

The District Ledger

$1 a Year in Advance.

Address all Communications to the "Manager" District Ledger, Fernie, B. C.

Rates for advertising on application.

W. S. STANLEY, MANAGER.

EDITORIAL

We need not apologize for the reduced size of our paper this week. It was hardly expected to appear, but realizing the fact that the subscribers would be anxiously awaiting their Ledger, we were able through the courtesy of the Lethbridge Herald to issue from that office, until our new plant arrives. Dad Simpson courteously offered us the use of his plant, but we were under the impression that the Free Press was to be printed there so we made arrangements as above, and trust that our efforts will be appreciated.

THE RISING CITY.

Fernie is arising out of her grave once more. This is the fourth very disastrous fire that has occurred, but she is going ahead already, and will be the City of the Pass again as she was in the past.

No words can depict the awful calamity that has befallen our beautiful city, just at the height of her summer adornment. But the citizens one and all are getting right down to work to rebuild in some way.

The council has given licenses for the building of temporary buildings, for a period of ten months so that all will have an opportunity to get their affairs settled.

We wish to thank the various towns, and especially Cranbrook for the loyal and generous way in which they have all responded to the needs of our people. It will require thousands of dollars yet to put some of the unfortunate ones on their feet, and with a shelter for their families.

The Ledger will be pleased to receive any subscriptions towards this fund, which will be handed to the proper channels for disbursement, all of which will be acknowledged in the paper.

Proper responsible committees should be appointed to look after this relief work, who will exercise care that only those who have lost will receive help, as many, even now are on the lookout for help who have lost nothing, and are mean and contemptible enough to take some other person's share.

LOOTER SENTENCED

Fernie, B. C., Aug. 6.—A large search party of Elk Lumber Co. employees was formed yesterday with Constable Chas. Bulger in charge to search the woods for the missing men.

Frank Shaw and Alex Borben could not be found.

These men were working a mile from the river and it is supposed that they must have been burned while making an attempt to reach it.

A great deal of looting is being done. Yesterday a Jap was found helping himself to other people's belongings and was arrested. An impromptu trial was at once held and the magistrates sentence was six months with hard labor. The verdict was read with cheers from the crowds assembled and within fifteen minutes the unfortunate man was on his way to the Nelson gaol.

The Trites-Wood Company with characteristic energy were the first merchants open for business after the awful conflagration.

W. A. CONNELL
Pioneer Builder and Contractor of Fernie
ESTIMATES FURNISHED

M. A. KERR & CO.
Builders and Contractors
Estimates Furnished

E.A.Kummer L.O.Kummer
KUMMER BROS.
Builders and Contractors
Estimates Furnished
FIBRE PLASTER KEPT IN STOCK

CLUB CIGAR STORE
Fernie
The only spot in town for choice pipes and tobacco
W. A. INGRAM • • Fernie

POLLOCK WINE CO.
Wholesale Liquor Dealers
A full stock in a few days.

PHILIP COROSENA
General Merchant and Wholesale Liquors
Fernie, B. C.

MARSHALL & ROSS
Builders and Contractors
ESTIMATES FURNISHED
Fernie B. C.

Blundell's Specials !

Every day is Bargain Day with us.

Still in Business.

W. J. Blundell

Don't go elsewhere to be cheated, come right here.

TOM BECK

An Old Face in the Right Place

A. W. Bleasdell, Druggist

NOTICE

We hereby give you notice and require you to make payment of the sum of $1,080.00 with interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum from the 1st day of June 1906 until payment, being two instalments of principal of $540.00 due on the 1st day of December in each of the years of 1906 and 1907, by virtue of an agreement dated the 1st day of June 1906 and made between yourself, W. H. Collins of the one part and John Mott of Elko of the other part, by which you agreed to purchase portions of lot 321, group 1, Kootenay for the sum of $3,000.00.

AND we further give you notice, that if you fail to carry out the said contract by making said payment within one month from this date the said agreement will be cancelled and all payments hitherto made shall be forfeited to the undermentioned vendors as provided by the said agreement.

Dated at Elko, B. C., this 16th day of July, 1908.

ROSS & ALEXANDER,
Solicitors for John Mott, the Vendor.

To:—
William Henry Collins,
of Elko, B. C., Farmer.

P. KENNEDY
LUMBER DEALER

All kinds of rough and dressed lumber
Victoria Avenue, - North Fernie

RED HOT BREAD AND BUNS
at
MR. EWING'S
Pioneer Baker of Fernie

KING EDWARD HOTEL
We still have some hot stuff
Waiting for Ice.
J. Gates, Proprietor • Fernie

J. BARBER, D. D. S.
Dentist
Fernie, B. C.

W.R.Ross, K.C J.S.T Alexander
ROSS & ALEXANDER
Barristers and Solicitors
Fernie, B C. Canada

M. A. KASTNER
Customs Broker
CUSTOMS BROKER AND INSURANCE
Fernie B. C.

Some one to love and cheer you sometimes when things go wrong.

That's all
We're still here

Rochon
That's all

NAPANEE HOTEL
Whelan Bros.
The old reliable firm will be glad to see you
Tom Whelan, Mgr.

Queen's Hotel
ROSS BROS., Props.
Doing business in the same old place.

FORT STEELE BREWING CO.
Fernie, B. C.
LAGER ALE PORTER
AERATED WATERS
PLACE YOUR ORDER WITH US

FERNIE LUMBER CO.
A. McDougall, Mgr.
Will be cutting in twenty days.
Save us your orders

Crow's Nest Trading Co. Ltd.

We are pretty badly bent but still doing business

DON'T FORGET US

Crow's Nest Trading Co.
LIMITED

Blow the smoke away
You may be only dreaming!
We're here to help and cheer you
So Come Along!
P. Burns & Co. Meat Merchants

Hammond & McIntosh
ELECTRICIANS
A full stock of fixtures in a day or so

Dominion Meat Co.
Dealers in all kinds of
Fresh and Salt Meats
Fish and Poultry in Season
Victoria Ave. - Fernie

Andy Hamilton
Tinsmith and Plumber
We can furnish you with estimates in anything in our line.