The District Ledger

Industrial Unity is Strength | The Official Organ of District No. 18, U. M. W. of A. | Political Unity is Victory

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VICTORIA, B. C.

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SITUATION | NEGOTIATIONS TO BE RESUMED ON MONDAY--MASS MEETING TO-DAY | UNCHANGED

The C. N. P. Coal Co. to Cut a Melon | Tom Lewis' Letter to John Mitchell

The Brains of the City in Conclave

Macarroni Factory People Want to Know Where They are Getting off on the Power

There was a special meeting of the City Council on Wednesday night last, when the report of the Works and Property Committe was received on the reports and recommendations of the Superintendents of the Water works and Electric Light Departments. The question of electric light extensions was referred back to the committee for their further consideration, and no action was taken with regard to the report of the Waterworks Superintendent.

A further hearing was given to Mr. Marinaro with regard to the charge made by the city in connection with his power consumption. The Council are evidently of the opinion that Mr. Marinaro is laboring under a misapprehension with regard to his understanding with the old Council, and were unable to comply with his request that the charges for such power should be made on the basis outlined by him. However, they have allowed Mr. Marinaro the opportunity of again airing his protest, and "electric light as applied to maccaroni" will again be the subject of debate at the next meeting.

PICK SPARKS AND EXPLOSIONS

One of the frequent subjects discussed among miners is the question of explosions being caused by sparks from a pick in places where gas exists and the following is reproduced as argument against the possibility.

MINERS' PICKS AND EXPLOSIONS
(To the Editor of The Science and Art of Mining)

Sir,—In answer to the question raised by R. N., in No. 12, Vol. 21, i. e., "Has an explosion been known to result through the sparks caused by a blow with a miner's pick on iron pyrites while mining coal?"

There was an enquiry upon this subject a few years ago, and various experiments were made to discover whether the sparks caused by a blow with a miners' pick on any hard substance were capable of igniting fire-damp.

The picks used were made of different kinds of metal, amongst them being one made of bronze. The sparks caused were in each case projected into an explosive mixture of fire-damp and air; but not once did they cause an explosion.

The conclusion arrived at, at the termination of the experiments, was: "That in no case is the spark caused by a blow with a miners' pick capable of igniting fire-damp."

I should like to add that, for my own part, I have neither heard nor read of anything that throws a doubt upon this conclusion.

Yours, etc.,
JAMES HEATH.

CHRIST CHURCH LADIES' GUILD

The regular Lenten Tea will be held at the residence of Miss C. I. Alexander on Wednesday, March 22nd. Everybody welcome.

TO ENLARGE CITY SCHOOL

Increased Attendance at Central School--To Spend $45,000

A special meeting of the school board was held in the city offices Friday night. Miss Brant tendered her resignation, to take effect at Easter.

It was decided, with the sanction of the ratepayers, to enlarge the Central school to a sixteen roomed building. Four more rooms are required already and it is expected that additional accommodation will be necessary after the summer holiday. The City Council will be asked to submit to the ratepayers, a by-law to raise by debentures $45,000 for building and equipping the enlarged school.

The matter of extending the school district boundaries will be threshed out at the next regular meeting and application will be made to the Council of Public Instruction for the boundaries wanted.

OH! LAY-EE-OH! OH LAY-EE-EE!

A party of four Alpinists consisting of Rob Alexander, Bert Pearson, Bert Bramley and E. J. Dicker left Fernie on Thursday morning about 7.30 and made the ascent of Turtle Mountain to its apex, having been over five hours on the journey, with a noon rest of 45 minutes. Beacon fires were lighted and left burning, but were not visible from town. The trail is a most deceptive one so far as travelling is concerned, in some places one can glide over with ease, while in others the snow is so soft that one sinks up to the knees; therefore, would urge that all mountain climbers who intend to make the ascent should do so before it becomes practically impossible. Bramley took a number of photos as that was all to take a shot at.

PRESIDENT FEHAN EXPELLED BY UNION

Head of Pittsburg Miners Said to be Mixed up in Graft Deal

PITTSBURG.—President Francis Feehan, of District No. 5, United Mine Workers of America, was last week expelled from the organization by the unanimous vote of the convention.

There were 118 delegate, representing 95 local organizations present.

Alleged graft was at the bottom of the trouble in the Pittsburg district, and an investigation and audit has been ordered in the accounts, especially those of the Irwin field strike benefits.

John Nelson, one of the striking coal miners of the Irwin field said there are persons in the district receiving $2.50 per week that are not entitled to anything from the union, as they are not members. He also said that there are persons in Greensburg that are now able to start in business from the money they have received from this source.

In speaking of the actions of President Feehan, Nelson said that as soon as immigrants left the boats at New York they were instructed to vote for Feehan.

A resolution was passed to appoint a committee of six to audit the books of No. 3 district, which comprises the Irwin Field, Columbus national Conention having brought out the assertion that there was a large shortage in No. 5 district.

It turns out that the dispatch sent broadcast by the Associated Press to the effect that a mass meeting at McAdoo, Pa., had denounced the action of the United Mine Workers in compelling John Mitchell to resign from the Civic Federation didn't tell the whole story. The mass meeting was engineered by employers and dominated by non-unionists. Not one union miner was permitted to speak. Three clergymen, two lawyers and an office-holder did the speaking. On the other hand, it is announced that every local in Panther Creek Valley, the strongest organized section of the anthracite region, endorsed the action of the Columbus convention as did locals in other part of the district.

CARDS OF THANKS

The members of the Imperial Veterans' Association desire to thank all who assisted at the funeral of their late comrade, B. H. Wilkinson, and especially the band of the Salvation Army who so kindly and freely rendered their services.

FRENCH CAPITAL FOR ALBERTA COAL LAND

The Montreal Star says: "A French company, which is intended to develop and finance mining and industrial propositions in Canada, has been organized in Paris under the name of Compagnie Francaise d'Etudes au Canada.

KOOTENAY CENTRAL CONTRACT IS LET

The Canadian Pacific Railway last week let the contract for four hundred miles of grading work on branch lines in the West. Messrs. Macdonnell and Co., of Calgary, Alta., will build the Kootenay Central, running south from Golden forty miles. Mr. Angus Macdonnell is a son of the Earl of Antrim. His firm is constructing the extension of the E and N Railway from Parksville to Alberni, on Vancouver Island.

Messrs Foley, Welch and Stewart will build two branches running out of Swift Current, Sask, eighty miles.

DISTRICT OFFICERS BUSY

During the past week the District Officers have visited all the Locals in the district affected under the Western Coal Operators' Association and thoroughly explained the position of the Scale Committee at the recent Calgary conference regarding the negotiations looking to a new agreement when the existing one expires on the 31st inst.

The action of the Scale Committee has been unanimously endorsed at every camp. There is no mistaking the fact that the officers have and will continue to have the undivided support of the men in the stand they have taken on the question at issue.

President Powell, Sec. Carter, Int. Board Member T. W. Russell, attended meetings in Fernie, Hosmer, Michel and Corbin, comprising Sub-District No. 1.

Vice-President Stubbs and District Board Member Jones visited Coleman, Hillcrest, Frank, Blairmore, Lille, Bellevue, Passburg and Burmis, comprising sub-district No. 2.

Int. Board Member Garner and District Board Member McNab were at the locals in the Lethbridge District, Sub-District No. 3.

Garner and Board Member Lees visited Bankhead and Canmore, which constitutes Sub-District No. 4.

COMMUNICATED

Michel, B. C.,
To the Editor of the District Ledger—

Dear Sir,—To give you and your readers an outline of the cause of dissension betwen the mineworkers and the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. at Michel.

In the first place, we are called upon (per agreement) to appoint a Grievance Committee to inquire into any grievances which the men or man may have. If such case deserves the committee's attention it is then placed before the local superintendent, together with the pit and fire boss, whose jurisdiction the complaint may arise under.

Now, sir, as right thinking men, we receive the report from our grievance committee, and what is the result, they are treated with the most downright form of contempt and ignored by the above officials.

Our latest grievance, which I am sure every right thinking reader will sympathise with, is as follows: On No. 5 side there are three sets of fan engines and fans. One man is allotted the task of looking after these three Now, our contention is that there should be one man to each fan, so that the lives of the mineworkers in each mine would be placed on a safer basis than formerly. On former occasions the man who looked after these fans, when he had oiled and seen one fan alright, he had to leave that fan house and proceed to the second, which is quite a distance, and go through the same process. Then he proceeds quite another distance to the third fan and so on throughout his 12 hour shift.

Our contention is that during the time he is going these rounds, one of these fans attached to the most gaseous mines may break down, without the knowledge of this or any other man, with the result that the lives of several hundred men are placed in immediate danger through the speedy accumulation of gas.

Now, sir, I quote as near as possible the finding and meaning of the Bellevue Inquiry and that was: "The miners together with the coal operators were to blame for not looking after their own interests regarding to the proper ventilation of a gaseous mine.

We sent our committee to the local superintendent with a view to having one man placed on each fan engine, but the superintendent told the committee that the men (the miners) were very unreasonable in their demands. Afterwards the local government inspector heard of the grievance, and the superintendent promised to place two men on to look after the three fans. We still deem this quite insufficient, and for our paltry life's sake (in the eyes of the masters. We demand what is just and right, together with the due consideration of our grievances and decent treatment of our committees.

I beg to remain,
One of the Aggrieved Miners of Michel, B. C.

It is but a short time ago when Dean Hart preached a sermon, in which he denounced the labor movement of the city of Denver, on the grounds that the membership of organized labor arranged a monster parade and a mass meeting, a protest against the sentences imposed on sixteen coal miners for alleged violation of an injunction issued by Judge Whitford. This preacher recognized the fact that his condemnation of such a parade and mass meeting would meet with the approval of the coal barons of Colorado, and other corporations of the state would pay a tribute to the clerical hypocrite who panders to combinations whose coffers have some of the "filthy lucre" that Judas accepted when he committed treason to Christ.

Hazelwood Ice Cream at the Palm.

DECLARE A DIVIDEND

Annual Report Best in the History of the Company

TORONTO, March 11.—Elias Rogers presided at the annual meeting of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. A dividend of one per cent., the third since last August, was passed.

The president stated that when analyized the report was the best in the history of the company with an inspiring outlook.

The company's payroll last year aggregated nearly $2,500,000 expended in wages The profit for the year was $324,950.28

The board of directors was elected as follows. Elias Rogers, president; E. C. Whitney, vice-president. H. M. Givern, hon president; Dr. Howland, J. G. Graves, W. H. Robinson and Col. Clough.

PROFESSIONAL MEN, RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS, AND OTHERS WILL MAKE THEIR HOMES AT BAYNES..

MONTREAL, March 14.—As the result of the lecturing and information spreading campaign in England under the auspices of the Grand Trunk Railway and White Star Dominion Line steamships, party arrived in Montreal this morning by the White Star Dominion Line steamer Canada destined to Baynes Lake. The party consists of retired military officers, professional men and university graduates with their wives and families, all being in charge of Mr. J. A. Tormey. On arrival at Baynes Lake it is intended that the party who are the first of several, and are bringing out capital to the amount of about $200,000, will purchase specially selected fruit farms.

"MANAGING MILDRED."

This company played a one-night stand in the Grand Theatre Friday last to a comfortably filled house. Those who failed to attend missed a treat both musical (vocal and instrumental) and histrionic. We can say that the audience was fairly enraptured if the volume of applause and the number of recalls be an indication. The contralto was especially good, rich, clear, mellow tones void of the slightest tinge of affectation; the soprano, though lacking in body, nevertheless was sweet and pleasing, in fact all the artistes possess that qualification so rarely found, of purity of pronounciation and clarity of diction.

We hope that the next time they visit Fernie that every lover of good music and high class acting will make it a point to attend, as they are most worthy of patronage.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Jos Buchanan wishes to thank the C. C. I. and A. A., the Michel Orchestra, and, in fact, all and everyone who helped to make the concert held for his benefit such a success.

BELLEVUE EJPLOSION RELIEF FUND

Amount previously acknowledged	$3976.18
A Muller, per George Nicol, Frank	50.00
Tom McDonnell, per G. Nicol	5.00
S. J. Watson, per George Nicol	10.00
A. J. Blais, per George Nicol	5.00
Crow's Nest Hardware, Co, per George Nicol, Frank..	10.00
W. A. Martin, per Geo. Nicol	5.00
A. W. Lang, per Geo. Nicol	10.00
J. H. Farmer, second donation per George Nicol, Frank ..	10.00
F. Demonstioz, per G. Nicol	2.00
C. V. O'Hare, per George Nicol	5.00
Bankhead Local and private subs.	115 00
Total receipts up to Mar 15	4203.18
Disbursements	1332.00
Balance	$2871.18

JAMES DUPRE,
Sec. Relief Fund.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Letters sent in to this office will not be published unless the full name of the correspondent is given, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Use any pen name you see fit, but always give name with address.

This rule must be adhered to in every instance.

AROUND TOWN

Hazelwood Ice Cream at the Palm.

Grand opening of the Roller Rink Saturday afternoon. Don't forget the date.

Hazelwood Ice Cream at the Palm.

Mrs. E. Tood's millinary opening was an unqualified success in every respect.

N. E. Suddaby was a passenger on Monday's eastbound for Moose Jaw to visit his brother.

The Roller Rink opens Saturday afternoon. Skates new, Music delicious, Floor perfect.

A. A. Gillespie, an old-time Fernieite, is registered at the King Edward Hotel from the City of Churches—Brooklyn, N. Y.

A. J. Tupper, and Helene Brunner, both of Hosmer, were united in holy Matrimony on Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m., by the Rev. J. F. Dimmick.

The Rev. Wilson, of Hosmer, will preach in Knox Presbyterian Church morning and evening, Sunday, March 19th. Sunday school at 12. 15 p.m.

Everybody in Coal Creek is sporting the green to day, and the program of artistes at the entertainment is sufficient to guarantee a real good time.

From present indications the entertainment at Bruce's Hall, under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus, in celebrating St. Patrick's Day will be one of the greatest successes of the season.

See J. D. Quail's window and note the model of the Hunnable Sash Lock Window Fastener. This useful household accessory is the invention of a Fernie citizen and should command a ready sale.

Nelson, of Ingram's Cigar Store, with his bodyguard "Boy" intends to take a couple of weeks vacation around Blairmore, Alta. It is hoped that both may return from their trip greatly benefitted.

Arthus Sampson, formerly Provincial Chief Constable in this district, but now officiating in a similar capacty in Vancouver, was in town this week and will return to the city by the sea accompanied by his family, there to take up their residence.

The Fernie Dancing Assembly held their usual meeting on Wednesday evening last, and although the attendance was not quite so large as previous successes undoubtedly called for, somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 couples took the floor and spent an evening that was enjoyable and excellent in every respect. The special feature of the evening was th "Moonlight Dance," and although we cannot claim an intimate acquaintance with this particular phase of the light fantastic, we can quite imagine that the graceful movements of the dancers under the mystic influence of a pseudo Cynthia would present a most attractive spectacle.

DIED

March 14th.—Isabella Bain, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Bain, of Howland Avenue, aged four months. Interred on Thursday morning, March 16th. Rev. D. Thomson officiating.

STANLEY CUP GAMES

Tuesday, March 14th—Ottawa 7, Galt 4. Thursday, March 16—Ottawa 13, Port Arthur 4.

No more Stanley Cup games will be played this season. The historic mug remaining with the Ottawas' who have had an exceptionally good year.

BACK FROM THE KANGAROO COUNTRY

We have just received word that James Douglas has reached Calgary from Australia, and in compliance with request, we convey his best wishes to all and sundry friends.

CELEBRATES THE 17th

The Napanee Hotel is to-day (Friday) celebrating two events, evidence of one waves proudly to the breeze in the shape of Harp of Ireland flag, and the other is the house warming of the hostelry which is well furnished throughout and equipped in up-to-date style.

I. C. S. DISPLAY ..

At the present time there is an exhibition in the store next to the Grand Opera House of the work in the various subjects by I. C. S. students. The tables are covered with specimens of corrected answers, papers, drawings, etc., all the work of local students.

This display will be an eye-opener to many who have never seen what can be accomplished by home study under Scranton's tuition, and strongly recommend everyone interested in technical education to pay a visit and see for themselves.

Hazelwood Ice Cream at the Palm. 31-tf.

Does Not See Eye to Eye in Recent Step

Should Have Stayed on as Chairman of Civic Federation and Vindicate Position

Bridgeport, Ohio,
March 10th, 1911.

Editor, Fernie Ledger.

The recent International Convention of the United Mine Workers' of America amended its constitution so that any member of the United Mine Workers who joined or held membership in the National Civic Federation could not continue to hold membership in the United Mine Workers organization.

Was there anything remarkable about this action of the Miners' Convention? Is it possible that the United Mine Workers representatives have no right in a constitutional convention to decide who shall and who shall not be members of the organization? Was the action of the recent convention a new departure? Let us examine the record of International Conventions and constitutions.

It is well known that the International Convention amended the constitution so that mine managers and top bosses could not be members of the United Mine Workers of America. Later the constitution was amended to debar saloon keepers and those selling intoxicating liquors, and still at a later convention, another amendment was offered and adopted to prohibit operators' commissioners from holding membership. Then the recent convention amended the constitution so that members of the National Civic Federation could not hold membership in the United Mine Workers organization.

There was no protest from the mine managers or top bosses against the action of the International Convention. Neither was there any complaint from the saloon keepers or operators' commissioners, when the miners' convention decided that they could no longer hold membership in the organization, although several of the operators' commissioners have been international presidents and district officers of the United Mine Workers of America.

It was the action of the international Convention to debar members of the National Civic Federation from continuing membership in the United Mine Workers that caused the howl from a newly initiated members, disgruntled politicians and inactive district officers. The failure of the howl of those few individuals to produce any effect on the loyal union mine workers was disappointing to the howlers. The collapse of their efforts to produce a sensation before the attempt had reached the proportion of a respectable protest caused a complete change of front in the part of the supporters of the Civic Federation.

John Mitchell, chairman of the Trade Agreement Department of the National Civic Federation, suddenly resigned. This act of itself was an acknowledgment that the action of the Miners' International Convention was right. If John Mitchell honestly believed he was right in his position with the Civic Federation, the manly thing for him to have done was to stay with the Civic Federation and seek a vindication by fighting it out and proving that his work, as Chairman of the Trade Agreement Department of the National Civic Federation did any real effective work to establish trade agreements between employer and employe, or assisted in promoting those agreements that now exist. His resignation is the best proof that he has no confidence in his own ability to make his work effective. He knew that he did not succeed and he realizes that he could not succeed (probably through no fault of his) in promoting trade agreements. Rather than stay with the Civic Federation as chairman of the Trade Agreement and prove his own failure, he accepted the alternative and quit the Civic Federation.

The organized mine workers of the country are to be congratulated that they forced the issue and clearly established the dividing line as to who shal and who shall not be members of the United Mine Workers of America. Trade agreements or wage contracts should be negotiated with the employer in the open and direct between the representatives of the employers and employes. Third parties who seem or pretend to have some peculiar influence over the captains of industry have been the medium by which the mine workers of the country have lost many advantages that they had gained on the industrial battlefield.

It is well known that employers of labor do not willingly surrender to the demands of the laboring people. The wage earners must first be organized and then must understand what they are entitled to for their labor. In addition to understanding what rightly belongs to us we must be in a position to intelligently present our claims, prove our statements and then insist upon our rights being respected.

The Civic Federation has been organized ten years and it would be interesting to know what, and where a wage contract was actually established, put into force and respected by employers and employe through the influence of the National Civic Federation. We are generally judged not by what we intend to do but by what we have actually accomplished. This applies with equal force to every class, kind and character of men, and for the same reason applies to every form of society or organization, whether they be political, religious, fraternal, industrial or civic in their character.

The National Civic Federation and its leaders may have the very best of intentions with reference to the industrial situation in this country, but if we are to judge it by what it has accomplished in effecting or perfecting trade agreements between employers and employes we are inclined to believe there is nothing upon which to build the foundation of even a hope of its success.

Yours very truly,
T. L. LEWIS,
Pres. U. M. W. of A.

FUNERAL OF FRED SHAW

On Sunday last the funeral of Fred Shaw, who was killed at Coal Creek, took place. Prior to the arrival of the body at the Baptist Church, the edifice was crowded with friends and relatives of the unfortunate lad who was liked and respected by all who knew him, and their attendance at the church gave mute but positive evidence of that fact.

After Pastor Thomson had preached a most impressive sermon in which he spoke of the youth in the highest terms of commendation, and a special song service of familiar hymns had been sung, the procession, which was the largest seen for some time past, consisting of his coworkers from the mines, class mates from the Sunday School, and friends of the family, proceeded to the cemetery, where D. Rees, secretary of Gladstone Local, read the beautiful service of the dead at the graveside.

One of the noteworthy features of the sad event was the noble spirit of the tipple boys, who entirely of their own initiative subscribed their mite and purchased a most lovely wreath as an offering to the memory of their dead comrade.

The funeral arrangements were splendidly carried out, and the only cause for complaint was the inconvenience caused to those who came from Coal Creek being compelled to return afoot in consequence of the special train returning, despite the fact that assurance had been given that it would wait for the people who were attending the funeral to come down from the cemetery.

ROPE ROUTE FOR KELLY

Prisoner Decides to End His Earthly Career--Deliberate Suicide

Pat Kelly, an inmate for some time past in the City Bastille, who has been acting somewhat queerly of late, but not enough to create any particular anxiety, on Wednesday night committed suicide by passing the belt of his mackinaw coat through some strands of wire projecting from the wall and then evidently placed his neck in the noose choked himself to death. The deceased was about 40 years of age and a native of Cork, Ireland.

The funeral will take place at 10 o'clock, Saturday, from the undertaking parlors of Thomson and Morrison.

BOXING

"Packy" McFarland, the Chicago cyclone, according to the newspaper reports had the best of a 10 round go The two will probably meet again for 25 rounds.

"AT IT HERE SINCE 1900."

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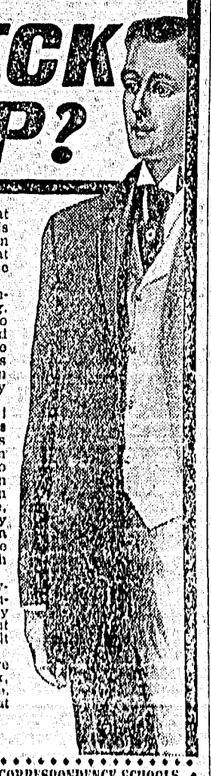
What Are YOU Worth From the NECK UP?



It is estimated that the average man is worth $2 a day from the neck *down*—what is he worth from the neck *up*?

That depends entirely upon training. If you are trained so that you plan and direct work you are worth ten times as much as the man who can work only under orders.

The International Correspondence Schools go to the man who is struggling along on small pay and say to him, "We will train you for promotion right where you are, or we will qualify you to take up a more congenial line of work at a much higher salary."

Every month several hundred students voluntarily report advancement as the direct result of I. C. S. training.

You need not leave your present work, or your own home.

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Civil Service Exams.	Contractor and Builder
Ornamental Designer	Foreman Plumber
Mechanical Engineer	Civil Engineer
Mechanical Draftsman	R. R. Construction Eng.
Foreman Machinist	Surveyor
Electrical Engineer	Mining Engineer
Electrician	Chemist
Power-Station Supt.	Bookkeeper
Architect	Stenographer

Name _____
Street and No. _____
City _____ State _____

CATHOLICS AND SOCIALISM

A meeting was held last Sunday week, under the auspices of the Catholic Socialist Society in the Co-operative Hall, Glasgow, at which the chairman, Councillor John Wheatley, said that information had been received that the Vatican authorities had instituted an inquiry into the spread of Socialism among Catholics, and had appointed a Jesuit clergyman to carry on the inquiry in Britain. So far he had sought his information among the opponents of Socialism, which procedure could only lead to prejudiced conclusions. Why did he not approach the Catholic-Socialist Society, which carried on its work in a public manner and would have been delighted to tender assistance?—Labor Leader, London.

Expert Evidence on Bellevue Explosion

By James Ashworth, M.E.

James Ashworth sworn.

Questioned by Mr. Campbell:

Q. Mr. Ashworth, you are at present living in Fernie?

A. Yes; my address is Fernie.

Q. And you have been connected, I believe, with mining matters for a considerable time?

A. Yes; a long time.

Q. May I suggest the number of years?

A. Oh, 35 years.

Q. And you are a member of the Institute of Mining Engineers of Great Britain?

A. No, I am not a member at the present time. I am a member of the South Wales Institute. I have been a member of that institute.

Q. And you can speak as a man of knowledge, of authority, on the subjects of mining?

A. I think so.

Q. And you have written about them, as a matter of fact?

A. Very often.

Q. Now, Mr. Ashworth, I understand that you were one of the gentlemen who came down to Bellevue on the night of this unfortunate accident at Bellevue?

A. I was.

Q. And on that occasion you went into the mine during the rescue work there?

A. I was.

Q. And was there for some considerable time. And that you also at a subsequent period, as has been given in evidence, went into the mine for the purpose of making an inspection, along with Mr. Stirling and several other gentlemen?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were also present at the last week of this inquest, and heard the evidence?

A. I was.

Q. You were not able to get here earlier on account of the delay in the train service, and have this afternoon had the salient points of the other evidence given to you?

A. I have.

Q. In the presence of all counsels including myself?

A. Yes.

Q. I am not going to ask you questions which I do not understand, but I would ask you to kindly tell the jury what you saw and what happened on the night you got there; and also what you saw in your inspection, and what deductions you formed then and from what you have heard in this inquest.

A. Yes. Well, I would just like to have my plan (Mr. Ashworth produced the plan referred to.) Shall I be in order if I refer to the first disaster here?

Q. You know about the first disaster too, and of your own knowledge?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were down here after that?

A. Yes.

Q. Then I think it would be in order if you would start right from that, and logically follow the matter out.

A. Well, I think it would be, as it would lead up to this matter. On the 31st of October last I received a telephone message asking me to go down to Bellevue as quickly as possible, as they thought they had got a fire in the mine here, and I came down the same evening. I went into the mine the next day, the 1st of November. Before going into the mine a party of us went over the surface and examined the outlet to the mine. We went to what I think they call number 45 chute, also to 81, and saw the amount of debris that had been thrown out, and what had been done to control the fire, supposing there were a fire. Well, now, we could scarcely state out of which chute the greatest force had been developed; a considerable amount of refuse had been thrown out of 45, and also out of 81. We tested the air, to see if it contained any explosive gases, and to make quite sure as to the temperature, and also as to the state of the air. We fastened Mr. Emmerson to a rope, and lowered him down a chute, so that if he lost his footing or anything we could pull him back again. He found the air quite clear of either explosive or any other gases, and the temperature of the mine was normal, though I don't exactly remember what the temperature was.

(Mr. Coulthard: It was around 40 degrees.)

Yes; somewhere about 40. I understand that was the normal temperature. Well, from there we tried 45 chute. That was bratticed over, but there was a small leak and we were able to smell the air and see if there was any trace of fire there, and we came to the conclusion that there was no fire in the mine at all. From there we came back to where there had been a cave in right to the surface, and met some electricians, who gave us their version of what they actually saw at the time the explosion happened. From their description the main force came out of chute 81, and followed a force out of 45, and later on by a blast of what they called smoke and dust out of the cave-in close by which they were working. They described the effect of this that it seated them out o' their wits, to fact, they ran out, and did not stop till they got to Bellevue. That was the information given us to the first disaster. Judging from what we had seen, we concluded to go into the mine, and see the latter for ourselves, and in the afternoon we went in and followed the road up the main gangway as far as No. 82 chute. The force along the gangway was all from about 70 to 75 outwards, and from 75 inwards, and the force was very clearly demonstrated by the way in which the stoppings were blown out, and the direction in which the loose material must have been blown, in fact, the amount of sludge must have been very, very great, as the props and the ends of the motors and cars were coated with about 2 inches of mud. While that indicated, of course, that there had been a force developed at some point about number 71 chute, it confirmed practically the opinion that had been given to us by the electricians on the surface. Well, then we went up number 82 chute for some distance to where the first party had already been, and where they thought there might be some signs of fire. When we got there the coal was still warm; I could not say very warm, as it was much cooler after standing for 12 hours since it had been previously inspected. On the way back, one of the party, or two of the party went up what was, I think number 71 chute, and found that the roof had caved there very, very heavily, and at this point, on the previous Friday—Friday or Saturday, Saturday, I think—there had been a mis-shot, and we were interested know whether this shot had been exploded by the fall of roof. However, no trace was to be seen of the shot, and the whole place was caved in and no examination could be made or any conclusion arrived at as to whether the shot had gone off or had not. The main point was that the roof had caved very, very heavily, and it was quite certain that irrespective of the shot the fall of roof was quite sufficient to create the whole of the damage that we found in the levels, that is, in the gangway.

Mr. Mackie: Pardon me, Mr. Ashworth, I did not quite catch your last sentence.

Mr. Ashworth: I said that it was "quite sufficient to create the whole of the damage we found in the levels, that is, in the gangway." I did not make any further examination of the mine during my one visit at that time. The principal point that I was asked to come over here about was the question whether or not the mine was on fire, and the decision was that the mine was not on fire, and so far as that went my duties were at an end. That accounts, probably, for someone asking for my report while I did not make one, or at any rate, what I did make was made verbally. I went back back home again, and did not expect to hear any more of Bellevue, in that respect at least. Well, time went on, until the 9th of December. I was at Michel at the time, amongst other people I was roused up there to join the party coming down here with the Draeger apparatus. I think we have got it on record that the Draegar party did arrive here, also the time they arrived, and the time they went into the mine. After the Draegar party had gone in I joined Mr. Heathcote and went into the mine; also Mr. Fraser and Mr. Wilson, of Hosmer. On the way in we found the main separation doors were entirely undamaged, and I think a man was in charge of the doors at the time. We went further into the mine until, I think, we came to number 54 chute, and between the doors and the chute we found much the same indications that we had found on the first occasion. The amount of debris was about the same, and the effects generally were about the same; stoppings blown out, and so forth. I am afraid I will have to go back a little bit, to conclude the accident on the 31st of October. So as not to spend more time in making a more precise examination in the mine, it was decided that Mr. Emmerson, the late superintendent, would take details of what he found and the damage done, and I understand Mr. Emmerson has gone away and has not left any record of the notes he made, so we were at some disadvantage over that. But amongst other things he sent me two samples of dust that he had collected in the mine, one from the inside of number 82 chute, and the other from the 5th crosspitch, I think on 56 chute. It is a point which I think has been referred to quite recently—I think you have got that point, Mr. Mackie?—the point where the fifth crosspitch crosses 56 chute. It is rather an important point as later on it will be referred to again. Both of these samples that were taken by Mr. Emmerson were called coke dust. Now, to examine this dust, we put it under the microscope; no matter how small the particles, it is very easy to see under the microscope whether it is coked or not. Of course, everybody knows the feel of ashes, but you cannot tell the amount of coking from the feel of it, and under the microscope that dust showed very, very slight coking, and we had to judge that amount of heat that dust had been exposed to by the amount of coking found afterwards. I just refer to these two samples now, because I will have to refer to the other ones that were taken later on, and then you will be able to compare them. The main feature, however, is that they were what we call cinders; they were not real coke. Now we will go on again to the occasion of the 9th of December. I went in with Mr. Heathcote as far as 54 chute. At that point there was a large quantity of water dammed up by a fall of coal, and not being particularly well at the time, I did not feel inclined to go through this water without it be necessary. Mr. Fraser and Mr. Wilson and the other said they would go through, and I said I would wait with Mr. Heathcote until they came back again. They went through, and when they were gone we examined around, and one of the most remarkable things that we found while wandering around there was on the end of the motor (you have it in the evidence, I think, *exactly* where the motor was; I think about 45 chute). On the inbye end of the motor was a manhole, a depression in the boiler end, and the end of the boiler itself was plastered thickly with about 2 inches of mud, wet, sticky mud; but just inside the middle, in the centre of it, there was a mass of perfectly dry dust. I had nothing [illegible] the moment with which to take a sample of the dust, and I am sorry since that I had not, but it was a very remarkable thing to find wet dust all over the motor, with this particular patch of dry dust in the middle. I did not see anything at all to explain it at that time, but if you will bear the fact in mind it will probably explain itself later on. Well, I do not think I need to go into the matter of the exploration, or anything of that sort, except to say that the damage caused inbye was practically as you have heard it explained. The number of chutes blown and the damage done on the road agrees entirely, I think, with what I saw.

On Tuesday following I visited the mine again with Mr. Coulthard, Mr. Stirling and Mr. Heathcote; also Mr. Anderson and Mr. Stockett.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Powell, you mean sir, not Mr. Coulthard. Mr. Coulthard was not back then.

Mr. Ashworth: Yes; Mr. Powell, of course. On that occasion we made a visit right away to the far end of the gangway and then, coming back again, we went up 78 chute and across to, I think 76, and up above the chute we found a very heavy cave—a very heavy cave of rock. While the others were examining the roof above the rock, I took some samples of the dust lying around, particularly off a prop in 76 chute. Now that prop was coated with residuary matter, dust right away down, principally, of course, high up. There was a lot of dust lying about, and I took samples of that dust also. From there we came outside, along the gangway, and came back to chute 53. We went up 53 chute, and Mr. Stirling, Mr. Powell, and Mr. went up some place (I think it was 52 chute) where the ladder had been blown out, and where you had to go up a rope. I did not feel equal to the monkey climb, so I stayed at the bottom. However, they brought down with them a sample of the dust they had found at the corner of the crosspitch adjoining the chute where the men were found with the burnt hands. Of course, I did not take that sample myself; but I took a sample off a prop in 53 chute in the monkey gangway which was probably much in the same condition as the prop in 76 and was also coated, principally at the top part of it, with a kind of dust. Now, the chief point in finding out what happened in the mine is to take the evidence as collected in that way, and ascertain as far as possible whether there was any heat produced. Now, on the main gangway the amount of water and dirt and sludge taken up by the force of the air coming outward, discounted any chance of finding any trace of fire there, and I have listened very, very carefully to the whole evidence right through to see if there was any trace of fire found on any part of the bodies, or any trace of the fire in that gangway, and I do not know of a single instance where there has been any trace of fire found in the gangway about 76 and 45 chutes anyhow. Well, now, there has been evidence given as to four men that were found up in the fifth crosspitch. I must confess that I was very very disappointed that I was not able to see those bodies. I did not see any of them; they had unfortunately been removed before I came back into the mine. One man was described as having his hands very badly burned inside and out, and also his face. Then another man was found under the heap of coal; he was described as peppered right away up his chest, and all the front part of him, I think his face as well. Then another man was said to be burnt on one side of his face only. These burns seem peculiar and they are also very important, because it is evident, from the account given of these bodies that I heard in court, that none of them could have been burnt by an explosion of gas. For instance, their hair and moustaches, and those sort of things were not singed, and if they had been burnt by gas they would have been burnt all over, and not in any particular place. So I think on that point alone, if on no other, there is very distinct evidence that there was no fire damp explosion whatever. I have not the least hesitation in saying there was no fire damp explosion in the mine, that is, a mixture of fire damp and air, of course. Now the next thing that would be asked, of course, is how do you account for the heat. There was heat, because the sample of dust taken on the previous occasion that I referred to, at the top of 56 chute, showed practically the same signs of heat that the sample of dust taken from the corner of the fifth crosspitch out of 53 did on the second occasion. Do you follow me? The sample of dust taken on the first occasion was from 56 on the fifth crosspitch. The men were found on the fourth crosspitch, so that the second sample is compared with the sample taken on the pitch above.

Mr. Wood: Did the second sample show the same quantity of heat?

Mr Ashworth: Yes, the same effect.

Mr. Campbell: When you say the first occasion, the jury understand that you refer to the prior explosion; is that right?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes; the explosion on the 31st of October. Well to continue: that goes to prove, of course, that the amount of heat was practically the same on both occasions. I think I stated that so far as the men were concerned they did not show any signs of burning by an explosion of [illegible]. Now, I will refer to the bottom of 53 chute, and I think you have a witness here by the name of Harry Fisher, and I saw him after the inquest was adjourned the last time I was here, and he gave me a very graphic description of the heat which came down from the fifth crosspitch. Well, that heat was not sufficient to singe or burn any of the men there. When we got down here on the 9th there was the body of a man in the wash house, I forget his name, who was badly injured in the face. The appearance of that man's body was to me very striking, and from the information given there did not seem to be any accounting for it. He was not only smashed on the face, but all around the neck and shoulders, and away down here (indicating the chest) just as if he had had his shirt open, and was very red. I think it rather puzzled the doctor as to what was the reason of that redness, and I think he attributed it to carbon monoxide poisoning; but of course a man smashed as he was had no chance of living to imbibe carbon monoxide which would give that coloring. Of course, I may be wrong, but it appears to me that that man was at the bottom of 45 chute at the time the other four or five men were up the chute bucking coal down, and when the disaster occurred, he was probably on the car and received the full force right in the face. Assuming that he was up on the chute there, it probably hit him straight in the face, and the velocity of the material coming down there, coupled with the heat, was quite sufficient to cause the coloring. Then there was another body that I also saw very badly injured, I think with his thighs and pelvis broken, and various breakages. He did not look to me like a man that had been poisoned by carbon monoxide, and judging from the evidence that has been given, I should assume that he was an oldish man, and must have been cleaning the ditch out somewhere in the neighborhood of 45 chute, somewhere close by, and that he got his injuries somewhat in the same way as the other man did. Of course, the coal coming down that chute from above, with the force of the blast behind it, would be sufficient, and would be, I think, the only thing that would account for the injuries to those two men.

Well, now, at 76, where the big cave occurred. On the second occasion there was undoubtedly very great heat created, and it is possible that most people would think that a cave of rock would be in itself quite sufficient to cause heat, that is, appreciable heat, particularly in a naturally cold mine, and I think it is cold, is it not, Mr. Coulthard?

Mr. Coulthard: Oh, yes.

Mr. Ashworth: I shall have to give you an instance, I think, to enable you to follow up this matter a little bit. Some years ago, I think in 1902, there was a very similar accident occurred in a mine called Mount Kemble, in New South Wales, in which about 130 men were killed; and previous to that there was accident in in the old country at a mine called the Talk o' the Hill. I had been down this mine some years before, and had seen the mine, and it had a very feet thick. On one particular day the mine was standing idle; two men were working in the shaft, and one man was attending to a pump in the mine. A rumble was heard, but no particular notice was taken of it. Very shortly afterwards, to all appearance the mine blew up. Great force came out of the shafts, and in fact the mine seemed to have blown up from an ignition of fire damp. The two men in the shaft were unfortunately killed, and the man in the mine also. When they got down to explore, they found the mine speedily filled with after-damp, and it was an extremely long process to follow out before they could discover as to what was the reason for the disaster; but long before they had finished the exploration and opened up the mine again the jury met, the inspector had given his opinion, and all available evidence had been called, and the jury had come to the conclusion that it was the result of a coal fire, and that the gas had become ignited—it was a fiery mine—and in that way the mine had been blown up. So afterwards, in opening up the mine, great care was taken, the same as is taken in opening up any mine; but unfortunately for the theory of the affair which was given to the jury, they could find no fire, nor any trace of a fire, and the matter was left quite open as to what was the reason. Well, I had been down the mine for another purpose, I suppose about a couple of years or so before then, and at that time I came to the conclusion that if at any time the roof took a sudden weight and broke down in a mass, there would certainly be a disaster there. What happened was, I believe, what might have been expected. They found that the roof had given way, and had given way after the last visit to the mine, so I think it was a fair instance of the whole disaster being caused by this fall having caused enormous pressure underground. It is only during recent years that people have come to realize the possibilities of what is called the air blast in India, and the wind blast in New South Wales. They both come to the same thing, a tremendous fall of roof suddenly compressing the air. Well, now, the majority of people, at first sight, would consider that it was impossible to get an ignition heat, that is, a heat sufficient to ignite materials, simply from a fall of roof. There have been no instances that I could quote out in the West here, but in other parts of the world where they use air compressors great trouble has been experienced at times by explosions in these air compressors. I know one particular colliery, called Clifton Colliery, where, by simply increasing the speed of the engine from 45 to 50 revolutions per minute, they had unfortunately more than one explosion in their air receiver. Of course, the carbonaceous matter that was really the source of the explosion was supposed to be an oil that would not ignite under a heat of 640 degrees, nevertheless, the explosion happened, and in a very few minutes, simply following the increase in the speed. Following that, there was a very notable explosion at a mine called Ryhope Colliery, Durham. At the colliery the force of the explosion—mind you, they were only compressing air, and you would wonder how compressed air could explode at all—nevertheless, the small amount of dust taken in along with the air was sufficient to form an explosive matter, ripped the whole of the surface arrangements, and also burst the pipes a long way down the shaft, and at various points inside the mine, this proving that there

(Continued on page 3)

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D. REES, Secretary

Expert Evidence on Bellevue Explosion

(Continued from page 2)

was not only an explosive action, but more or less of a detonating action taking place. This was followed again by an explosion in the Transvaal. There they compressed the air in four stages. They thought, by adopting four stages, and obtaining the high pressure by four stages, they would overcome the difficulty of these explosions, but even there they had an explosion. I just quote these instances to show that if you have a fall of roof it is similar to what takes place in an air compressing engine; but the fall of roof is even more intense than the effect of an air compressor, because in the air compressor the pressure goes on more or less by degrees, and not suddenly, whereas if you have a fall of rock the whole pressure goes on at once, and the whole situation is equalled by the mass first of all, and by the total pressure that is created. Now, take this mine here. The outlets for the force created that way were at 81 and 45, and also at the cave; I don't know what the number of that is.

Mr. Wood: 27, I think.

Mr. Ashworth: Somewhere round there. Well, now, I have no doubt from the character of the evidence it has been thought that the ga that was found by Bovio and Cardle—I think in about 75, and somewhere in the 60's—that the two small amounts of gas that were found up in these districts had possibly become ignited by some means or other. Now, to take the question of the possibility of the ignition of this gas, the nearest men to these two points were the four men in the crosspitch of 53, and although they were found with matches in their pockets, I do not think they had anything to do with the disaster at all. If they had had a thousand matches, it would have been all the same. They had not been smoking, and it was not due to them that the disaster occurred. Taking 76 as a centre of the force, air driven in all directions by that force would cross these old workings, and would drive the gas before it. Now, the most dangerous point in that region is the end of the fifth crosspitch. The end of the fifth crosspitch is what is called a dead end. It is some considerable distance from the air, and the air has to be carried into that crosspitch by brattice, and brought out again and then through some rooms on the higher level there. I think witness Livett gave a description of the rooms on the higher side there. Well, with no outlet there, and the force being driven in that direction, and into that dead-end, a great heat would be created because it could not get through and expand anywhere It came to a dead end there, and simply smacked against the face, and the air would be charged with the dust along the level or crosspitch. There is no doubt that this very hot dust-charged air would produce much carbon monoxide gas by distillation, and also effect the dust lying in the crosspitch to the extent of the sample that has already been referred to as taken, and which was examined under the microscope, and taking that dust and comparing it with the dust that was taken in the case of the Mount Kembla disaster, which was submitted to Mr. Wingaye, the government analyst, it enables us to estimate the degree of heat. Mr. Wingaye gave a written report on the dust taken in the Mount Kembla accident, and anyone interested will be able to find the particulars in the reports of the Commissioners who made a special investigation of this particular enquiry, as the whole details are set out there. However, the main fact that I wish to call attention to is that, taking the loss of volatile matter in the dust from the Bellevue Mine, as taken in the sample I have named, this is represented by from two to three per cent, that is, in the Bellevue Mine. Under similar conditions, the loss of volatile matter in the Mount Kembla Mine, Mr. Wingaye states, indicated that in no case had the heat exceeded about 1140 degrees Fahr., and that heat was entirely insufficient to coke the coal, and it also indicated that there had been no explosion of fire damp in that mine, otherwise the coal would have been coked in a different fashion. Of course, all this dust is very, very small, and any amount of heat, even if only along transitory, passing along would coke that dust, absolutely coke it. For instance, I may just state that I had a sample of coke sent from the Whitehaven mine and it was perfectly distinct. No doubt at all about it That was acknowledged to be a fire damp explosion. So that the only way you can form any judgment as to whether there has been a fire damp explosion or otherwise, is the heat, and the effect it has on the dust of which we get samples. As I said before. I am perfectly satisfied that in the Bellevue Mine, in my own mind, there was not a fire damp explosion. Then you come to the point as to where the afterdamp, generally speaking, came from. Well, now, if you have a slight coking of coal, one of the first things given off is the carbon monoxide, and it all depends on the amount of heat as to what the gases found after an explosion are, of what the gases will be. Of course, afterdamp is a term found in reference books, and the books that students of colliery matters trust to. I suppose, when they go for their examination, and a student is not, of course, supposed to investigate all the possibilities of this sort of thing; the matter would be too big, and it is therefore necessary to follow the text book and rely on your text book as to what afterdamp is. Afterdamps are not all alike; they vary very, very considerably, and judging from what I saw here in Bellevue, and the effect on the men, and the disaster to the rescue party, I do not think myself that there could have been more than about one-fifth of one per cent. that is two-tenths of one per cent in that air, because otherwise, with a much larger percentage, not one of the men would have been rescued alive. Naturally, two-tenths of one per cent is quite enough to incapacitate a man, and to take the use out of his knees. That is where he generally suffers first; the use goes out of his knees. I think witness Matson described a feeling at the back of his neck. I was much interested in that, but I don't know anything about that myself. These men who have been got out, and who have described their own feelings, say they were alright until they could not think, and I think that indicates that their remembrance is very much affected, and Matson is quite right in saying it affected the base of his brain. There is another point in connection with the afterdamp that got these men down. I don't think it was entirely due to carbon monoxide, the effects they suffered from, and Spruston, who I think led the final rescue party, explained to me that he had examined for gas when going in. Well, he said he had examined for carbon monoxide as well, but you cannot find that on a lamp flame, that is impossible. He said he found a cap, and that the cap was 3-8 inch. I have particularly asked him since about that cap, and he is quite convinced that he found a cap; but the only effect is that it makes the flame burn brighter, and that would be perceived.

Mr. Mackie: Do you mean to say that he would not have time to discover it?

Mr. Ashworth: It is impossible for him to discover it with a safety lamp. Well, to continue about the firedamp. Spruston is absolutely certain that he found that 3-8 inch cap, and that it was a firedamp cap. To make quite sure about the thing, he mentioned that Mr. Strachan, the nispector, who was also with him, and next to him, made a remark to him: "Oh," he said, "we have been in many a worse cap than that. That won't stop us." Now, I met Mr. Strachan last Saturday week, and at first he said he could not remember that they had found a cap, but when I mentioned to him what Spruston told me, he said, "That is true; we did find a cap." Now, the air that got these men down was, undoubtedly some mixture of afterdamp and some fire damp, which, by some means which nobody discovered, and which nobody seems to have noticed, had driven it down upon them. There must have been a further fall, I expect, in the cave, and that had driven the damp which was in the inside where the brattice had not been renewed, and had brought it down in the road, that is, between 104 and 124. I thought it somewhere in that region and that was what did the whole damage. I don't think the effect on that rescue party was entirely due to afterdamp. If the firedamp had not been there I don't think these men would have lost their lives. That is simply my opinion, of course.

Mr. Mackie: You were talking the man finding a cap. You said it is impossible to find a cap from carbon monoxide. Will you state what gas would produce that cap?

Mr. Ashworth: I am talking about a cap from firedamp. The cap they found was a firedamp cap. That is what I want to make clear.

Mr. Mackie: Now, you stated something about some of the gas being driven out from the region where the cave took place, is that it?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, the air compressed by that fall would drive into all that waste across here (point indicated on the plan, between 82 and 55, and 60), say betwen 64 and 75.

Mr. Mackie: I follow you now.

Mr. Wood: At the point of your story where you came to the conclusion that there was firedamp in the gangway, will you go on from there, I don't follow it, and I don't think the jury do, that it, as to the effect on the rescue party. I have it that this gentleman, the Inspector in B.C., found a cap in his lamp which was unquestionably firedamp and, therefore, the air that killed the men had some fire damp in it?

Mr. Ashworth: That is my opinion.

Mr. Wood: Had some firedamp in it as well as afterdamp?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Wood. And what, exactly, did you conclude from that? Was that caused by the subsequent fall?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Wood: Perhaps caused by a subsequent fall of roof exuding firedamp?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Wood: Will you say exactly what your deduction was with respect to the safety of the rescue party as well. I think that point refers more particularly to the men who were grouped around the charging station at 124.

Mr. Campbell: At 84, wasn't it?

Mr. Wood: No ,at 124. Those are the men you mean, sir?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes. these men had taken the boards and placed them around the pipe to sit on. When I refer to the firedamp it is particularly in respect to these men. When the last man was brought out, there were two men brought out under the Draegar helmets, that is, with the Draegar helmets on, Halliday and another man. Well, then, there were these six men and the Draeger man left inside. The next thing that happened Matusky went in with a Draeger two hour apparatus, and carried a half-hour apparatus, and he was supposed to bring out Alderson. Well, now, when he got inside he found Alderson collapsed on the floor, and every other man down except, I think, Hutton, who was standing. Matusky came back and said that none of the men could put the apparatus on, or could assist him in putting the apparatus on, and unfortunately he did not force it on to anybody, and instead of bringing the apparatus out in his hand, he left it there and came out himself, evidently exhausted, and told the rest of the people that every man inside was down, and that they would all lose their lives before help could arrive back from the outside with a further supply of oxygen. At a consultation that was held it was arranged to make up a party to go in, so far behind each other, and to lay hold of these men and pull them out. Well, that was carried out, and it was in connection with the carrying out of that plan that I mention the matter of the firedamp. But to go on further, these men that were at that station were assumed by the explorers that had been in before to be in comparatively good condition. They were around the pipe, which was blowing off fresh air ,and no harm could come to them; but when it was known that these men were down, it certainly appeared that the only way to save their lives was to make a rush for them. I don't think these men were suffering from afterdamp poisoning at all. I believe that gas was driven down from the higher workings by a second cave, just at that one particular spot. It was brought down right at the far end there, because all the bratticing was down, and it was found afterwards that there was a small quantity of gas close against these men, and therefore it was not afterdamp that got the party down. Nevertheless, the rescue party that went in were undoubtedly incapacitated by the amount of carbon monoxide that was in the air. It was not the afterdamp that got them down, but the carbon monoxide.

There is just one point that occurs to me that I have not mentioned in connection with the matter of heat. Witness Halliday, when he gave evidence, drew attention to the fact that in Number 82 chute he went up I think to the second crosscut in the pitch and found the coal was extremely hot. He could not bear his hand on it. That only bears out what was found after the previous disaster. In that same chute there was the same effect, so that what occurred on one occasion was repeated in the second occasion. It was a thing I did not know about until he happened to mention it in his evidence. I do not think it was a matter that was discovered any way, but there was his evidence that the coal was so hot he could not bear his hand on it. Now carrying out that same idea, it seems to me that the man who had his hand burned, and who was taken out of 53 chute, had possibly fallen down and got his hand on it. Also the men that were burned on the cheek, one on the right side and one on the left. I do not know that I can state that from my own knowledge; there may be other points that you legal gentlemen may be able to pull out.

Mr. Campbell: You mention, sir, the gas that was mentioned by Bovio and Cardle, and I don't think it was quite plain to the jury. You went on to explain the fall, and the air compression. If there was a quantity of gas, as explained by Bovio and Cardle, what, in your opinion, had that to do with what happened in the mine?

Mr. Ashworth: I don't think it had any influence whatever on what happened in the mine. There was no trace of it. There is no trace as far as I can see of an explosion of fire damp in the mine.

Mr. Campbell: To put it unscientifically, what you say, sir, is that this large quantity of rock falling caused such an intense pressure of air as to generate the heat which caused the disaster?

Mr. Ashworth: That is so. Another theory which you might have supposed applicable to the case would be that these rocks in falling would strike fire, and ignite any gas. If there had been gas there I have not the least doubt whatever that these rocks would have ignited it.

Mr. Campbell: You have no doubt the rocks would have ignited it?—the gas?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: Do you consider that it was the air pressure, and not the ignition of the gas.

Mr. Ashworth: That is so.

Mr. Campbell. I understand it, from a layman's standpoint, your reason for saying that is that there was no indication present of the degree of heat which would be caused by an explosion?

Mr. Ashworth: That is so.

Mr. Campbell: That there was a percentage of volatile mater which you found to be absent from the stuff which you analysed, and the percentage was not such as indicated a gas explosion?

Mr. Ashworth: That is so.

Mr. Campbell: And the burns on the men, on their faces, etc., as you say here, indicated the absence of such an explosion?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes; that is so.

Mr. Campbell: There is only one other point. You say that you think, or you have practically stated as a deduction in your own mind, a satisfactory deduction, that the men around 84, where the 21 men were, died of carbon monoxide?

Mr. Ashworth: I did not see the bodies, but from the doctors' evidence I should say that these men died from carbon monoxide.

Mr. Campbell: And also that the men going in with the Draeger apparatus after that; the men of the rescue party, were brought down, or partially put out of business, by carbon monoxide?

Mr. Ashworth. That is so.

Mr. Campbell: And that the other men they went to rescue in 124 or 125, whichever it was, while perhaps in the first place they suffered from carbon monoxide, were ultimately overcome by firedamp?

Mr. Ashworth: That is what I think

Mr. Campbell: And that that firedamp was brought down by a second fall in the mine. A fall that we have had no evidence of; something small, that was just enough to drive the gas onto these men, and the reason that it could be carried there was that the first explosion had knocked the brat to pieces?.

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: And you say that gas would exude after the first explosion?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: And that would be gas generated or exuded after the first explosion?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, about 12 hours after the first disaster.

Mr. Campbell For the purpose of the jury, then, do I take it, sir, that the primary cause of that accident was the fall of the large quantity of roof?

Mr. Ashworth. That is my opinion. There is just one point I would like to mention. You mention the gas in the old workings there. To show that that gas did not explode, I think it is absolutely proved by that little fact of the dry dust on the end of the motor. If any gas had been exploded in those old workings, the force of that explosion would have been the first effect. Well, now, it is quite clear from the dust on the end of the motor that the wet sludge was there first, and that the dry dust was the second effect; therefore, the hot air or dust coming down from the higher workings came down secondary to the first effect on the main gangway.

A Juryman: You say that the heat was generated by the compression of the air, the air below the rock? You called it concussion, I think, didn't you?

Mr. Ashworth: I used the word percussion. It has the same signification.

Juryman: You say the air would be driven across over the old workings there, through the crosscuts there and up into that blind alleyway in the sixth crosspitch over about 47 or 48, and back again, and that would be what would cause the heat in the fifth crosspitch over 52?

Mr. Ashworth: No, I don't think I stated it quite that way. The effect of that distribution of air would be general, all over that area. Well, then, the effect would be that all the air in that area would be compressed, and would be pressed forward to find an outlet somewhere, and it would not be any particular portion of the air, or any particular little deposit of gas, or anything of that sort that would be driven in one particular direction, because the whole thing would be mixed up, you see. It would all be mixed up; you could not drive one portion of the gas by itself.

Juryman: Why would it be particularly hot in that fifth cross-section over 52?

Mr. Ashworth: Simply because there is no outlet for it. The force goes in like a piston.

Mr. Campbell: There is just one point that I would like to get some knowledge on. Between the disaster on October 31st, and the one of December 9th, I am told that the mine was very much more dusty than it was previously. Well, you say that the dust is stored up along with the air?

Mr. Ashworth: It is rammed into the end, and not with an easy force, but all of a sudden, and that is where the percussive force comes in, and that is where you get heat. Take a tube closed at one end and place gun cotton or, under inside, and then suddenly compress the air inside by a tight fitting piston, and the heat produced will ignite the material. It is the sudden force that does the damage. There is no long pressure; it is the suddenness of it.

Mr. Campbell: Now, what difference of force would make it the same so that the heat would be generated in chute 82, this intense heat in chute 82

Mr. Ashworth: I am afraid I shall have to say there are a lot of things in colliery explosions that no one can understand. There are always some points that if you attempt to explain them will put you on the rocks, and I could not explain that. I can only say it is a fact because it is there on the first and on the second disaster. Of course you would have to examine the surropnding case; there might be a rock stopping, or something to pull the air up at that particular spot, but I don't know that I have sufficient knowledge of the mine to decide that. It is a suggestion, of course; I do not say any further than that. But something happened there, because Halliday said he could not get far up the chute because rock had fallen there. Now it is quite possible that the full spoken of there might be followed by another fall of roof, which brought down the gas that I spoke of, and which affected the men at 124. Of course, that is only a suggestion. You were talking about the end of that crosspitch, and that reminds me of another interesting point which occurred in connection with the previous disaster on the 31st of October. You will notice that the end of the fourth crosspitch there on the old plan apparently ends. Well, at the time of that explosion it ended there, but after the explosion was over there with a connection between that and the crosspitch further along. There was a piece of rock I think about 6 feet thick that was blown out, and it gives you some idea of the force concentrated on the end of this crosspitch. Whatever was the force that blew out that piece of rock, you can apply an equal force into the crosspitch above. It is rather an important point which I had forgotten.

Mr. Mackie: I understand very clearly the position that you take in this matter, and my understanding, as I have been able to follow you, is this; that the suddenness of a cave, and the magnitude of that cave taken into consideration, will at once remove a volume of air with such rapidity and velocity, combining in its course anything which it can pick up, such as dust, that it will create heat and cause this explosion, or create heat and cause the havoc which we have found here.

Mr. Ashworth: Yes; that is so. And you might add that it would cause an explosion in a mine where there was sufficient gas. I do not mind you putting that in.

Mr. Mackie: All right, then, we will put it in now. And could create sufficient heat to cause an explosion where gas would be found.

Mr. Ashworth: Particularly if there were dust about.

Mr. Mackie: No, the position is this. You have stated, if I remember rightly, that there must have been a subsequent fall which created this fire damp?

Mr. Ashworth: No, no, no. I did not create any firedamp with a fall. I suggested that, as firedamp was found in that gangway, at a later period, that the chances were that there was firedamp there at that particular period, but the disturbing effect was a possible cave somewhere else. I don't know where it was at all.

Mr. Mackie. Then, how would you really account for the presence of firedamp in the main gangway. We have your evidence as to what actually occurred at 76; the cave in, and that causing a wind and creating the havoc has been described, and that the heat really created the carbon monoxide that was present by the decomposition of certain particles of coal; but you say also that in the afterdamp there was firedamp.

Mr. Ashworth. In that particular case, you know.

Mr. Mackie: Would it be so in this case in the Bellevue Mine?

Mr. Ashworth: Right at that end at 124, I did not mention it anywhere else.

Mr. Mackie: You did not mention firedamp in any other portion than at 124?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, that is it.

Mr. Mackie: Well, then, what would you say there was in there was in that particular region where you have heard the evidence given about, the region where the men spoke of a wall of gas. There was a wall of gas through which they could not go. That is the way some witnesses described it.

Mr. Ashworth: There was no wall of gas.

Mr. Campbell: That was at 84.

Mr. Mackie: That would be composed of pure carbon monoxide?

Mr. Ashworth: I have not heard of a wall of gas before.

Mr. Mackie. It is my recollection that they could see a wall of gas; that three men said they could see a wall of gas.

Mr. Ashworth. Well, that is mist, you know. In a mine like that you would find that misty effect, under similar conditions.

Mr. Mackie: Then, at no place was there firedamp, except at 124?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, I didn't see it myself, you know.

Mr. Mackie: But that is the conclusion you reached?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: And that would be the result, you say, possibly of a subsequent small cave, or subsequent fall?

Mr. Ashworth: No, no. The firedamp you are talking about—the source of the firedamp you are talking about would be the natural exudation from the coal. The whole of the ventilation was cut off then, and had been standing for 12 hours, and quite long enough for gas to accumulate at that end.

Mr. Campbell: So you meant to say that the gas that overcame the men at 124 had been generating, after the explosion, during those 12 hours?

Mr. Ashworth: Certainly. I only say it was driven down on to them. But after all, it is only a supposition.

Mr. Mackie: Now, one thing that strikes me very peculiarly Mr. Ashworth, on the theory that you have expounded. I am informed at 76, for instance, where you found certain coking, and took samples which you analysed, and from which you discovered there must have been a certain amount of heat. I am informed that that particular place there is no coal, everything has been removed.

Mr. Ashworth. That would not matter at all. It is dust of coal, not coal. It is dust travelling in the air with great velocity.

Mr. Mackie: Of course, but it must have resistence in the air, somewhere to creat heat?

Mr. Ashworth: The fall of rock heats the air. The air is heated.

Mr. Mackie: You mean to say that merely the fall of rock is sufficient to heat the air naturally. The air is travelling along the passage, and against no obstruction, and the fall of rock, which, as you have shown to us happened as quickly as that (illus-

(Continued on page 6)

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A WORD OF ADVICE TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS

IN one of our editorials last week we urged that those who were contemplating emigrating should pause before doing so for the purpose of obtaining every possible information regarding the conditions that would confront them upon arrival in this country

The importance of doing this was fully exemplified by the experience of a party that recently arrived in Fernie from south-east Durham. This party consisted of three men, one of whom was accompanied by his wife and five children, had accepted as true the lying statements of both male and female agents for the shipping companies that there was so much work in Canada that workers were at a premium, the minimum wages paid to men being 16 shillings a day. Fearing that unless they took advantage of such remarkable opportunities on the assumption "that the early bird catches the worm," they sold up everything, lock, stock and barrel so as to provide themselves with the wherewithall to reach such an El Dorado only to find, upon arrival in Fernie, that they had been cruelly deceived. Perhaps many will blame them for being so easily gulled, and yet when we take into consideration the stories and moving picture illustrations that are being dangled before the British public, either openly or tacitly endorsed by the "honorable and respectable" element, complacent tools of capitalism, and the miserable outlook in the old country it is not to be wondered at that members of the working class are so easily gulled. As these people were practically penniless, the civic authorities were called upon and transportation purchased at low figures for these victims to the Coast, which was certainly the more economical way out of the present difficulty, at least, than having them become charges upon the community. This, however, is not fair to the citizens of Fernie, neither is it so to the city to which they have been shipped, not to speak of the disappointment and inconvenience worked upon the individuals themselves. Immediate action ought to be taken by the city authorities to prevent as far as it is practicable against repetitions of incidents of this character, and the question naturally arises how does it happen that these people were allowed to come into the country if they did not meet with the regulations regarding the amount of money that each is expected to have upon landing?

We would say in response that these laws, like many others, are observed in the breach more than in the observance when it best suits the convenience of those whose material interests are involved. There is another feature that is worthy of the attntion of the taxpayers of Fernie, and that is this: these drains upon the City Treasury are absolute losses and the custom of providing transportation once accepted as the best way out of a difficulty may result in further inroads upon the finances with disastrous results. To be candid, we will acknowledge that we are far more interested in the well being of individuals than we are in the dollars and cents question, therefore, point out these matters so that those whose pocket-books are affected may adopt such measures as they deem advisable to be taken for their protection, while we, on our part do our share by endeavoring to guard the interests of that class on whose behalf this paper principally exists for—the working class.

The specific case alluded to is by no means the only that has come to our notice; moreover, with the tremendous influx, that according to the press reports is assured, we may look upon this as merely a harbinger of what we may expect, and therefore we sound this note of warning early in the season so that those who run may read.

We intend to give this article the widest possible publicity, but in so doing would likewise ask the co-operation of everyone who has friends and relatives in this country and more especially those from County Durham, to send this back home, so that perhaps others may be saved the humiliation and discomfort of learning when too late that they have been basely deceived.

We realize that the depression that exists throughout Europe, and is more particularly pronounced in the United Kingdom compels many uncertain as to the future to look for some other country to escape to in order to avert the possible calamity, hence their minds are in a receptive state to swallow the fairy stories of the smooth-tongued agent. An abstract analysis backed up by a fat bank account is an enjoyable mental recreation, but a concrete contemplation of a fast diminishing exchequer and no signs of remunerative employment often impels one to speedy action without thought of "jumping out of the frying pan into the fire."

COTTON SPINNERS QUIT FOR THREE MONTHS

"MANCHESTER, March 13.—The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners, acting on the proposal of the American section of the trade, decided to-day to suspend operations on Saturday for three months."—Vancouver World.

HOW delightfully brief and businesslike is the above announcement!

Three months vacation for the carders, spinners, tacklers, weavers, overlookers, twisters, rrawers, etc., and this without any pay. Ample opportunity thus afforded for the improvement of their minds and to inhale the breezes of heaven unpolluted by the fluffy lint of the workshops, for which praises should be sung and probably would be were it not for the demands of that organ which insists upon something solid being placed with in its recesses. How beneficient are the masters that they did not cease operations during the winter months. Now, with the warmer weather approaching it will not be so hard to sleep outdoors with the blue canopy of heaven for a coverlid and the soft side of a stone for a pillow!

The above short paragraph will doubtless be read by many, immediately thereafter dismissed from their thoughts. Merely a piece of news that goes to occupy space in the daily papers. Still, it is an item for more serious reflection, because it discloses a fact standing out in bold relief as another of the irrefutable proofs of the inadequacy of present day methods to meet the requirements of human needs. In the days not long past we were told that "Competition was the life of trade," but with the development of labor displacing machinery, greatly increasing productivity, when there was a demand for cotton products the factories worked with feverish activity and each individual establishment fought for supremacy in strict conformity with the rule of "every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," with the result that the market became glutted and the weaker firms went to the wall; panics arose, and those who weathered the storm of "over production" had forced upon them the necessity of co-operation to the end that the supply of commodities should be approximated to the anticipated demand, thus precluding the possibility of over production. Remember that this was not an idea conceived in the fertile brain of an intellectual giant, but by the dominating influence of economic trend.

To survive, they, the profit takers must work out their own salvation in order to fulfil the theory of the survival of the fittest. The profit makers, i.e., the working class, did not figure in their deliberations, and they in like manner have the truth forced upon them that they must study the way out of the difficulty, hence the growing discontent noticeable throughout the world. Production has been socialized but distribution still is individualistic-with-all-its-concomitant-evils-weighing down upon the majority of the producers. To anathematize the individual capitalist for the existing state of affairs is the height of folly as he is simply the victim of environment but to close one's eyes and become apathetic is an evidence of crass stupidity on the part of those whose very existence is menaced.

Piffling reforms no matter how well intended they may be, soup kitchens and emigration will not solve the problem but rather tend to prolong the misery, even though in individual instances they may effect a slight mitigation.

If "a starving dog without the city gate" proclaims the downfall of the state," what may we expect when the arm ow cotton operatives (only a fraction of that ever increasing army of unemployed) are threatened with three months of idleness with all that follow in its train of starvation, suicide, want, prostitution and the many other evils so numerous to-day that the stoutest stands appalled as to what will be the outcome.

To attempt to gloss it over will not avail, but instead let each and every one give the subject attention with an honest intent of doing his or her part to remedy the evils of society's maladministrations, this can be accomplished by striking at the root of the evil, but to grasp the full significance, study is essential and they to whom this is imperative are the slowest to act and yet they are awakening, this betokens hope for the future even though the path be strewn with human shipwrecks who have gone down victims of the juggernaut Capitalism.

ARBITRATION IS NOT A QUESTION

IN the last week's issue of our co-tem the erroneous statement that at the conference held in Calgary between the representatives of District 18 U. M. W. of A. and of the Western Coal Operators' Association that "They (the miners) refused to arbitrate the matter of 'open' or 'closed' shops."

This is without the shadow of a foundation, as arbitration of this or any other question has not been mentioned by either party, furthermore, to do so at this stage of the game would be equally ridiculous as it would be for a customer who had wares to dispose of calling in an arbitrator to decide a question of the price of a given article.

It is true that an impasse was reached, but when the deliberations are resumed next Monday let us hope that more progress looking to a satisfactory solution may be reached, but trust that whatever transpires that the press will state the facts and not attempt to cloud the minds of their readers by misrepresentation or distortion. Those who live in coal communities do know and should know that the amount received by the miners is by no means commensurate to the risks incurred, and almost everyone will acknowledge that they would not be any coal mined if they had to do it themselves. In the vast majority of cases the meagre average earning of the past year are quite insufficient to supply a family with anything more than the barest necessaries.

There is a point beyond which forebearance ceases to be a virtue, and to arbitrate under such circumstances would be the veriest of humbug.

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LEDGER ADS PAY

News of The District Camps

COAL CREEK BY 174

We are pleased to report that Mrs. D. Martin was able to return to her home from the hospital last Thursday, and although far from being strong, she has made appreciable improvement considering the serious nature of her sickness.

As Fred Birchell was leaving the club premises last Thursday night he slipped odown on the ice outside and broke a small bone in his ankle. He was assisted to the hospital on the midnight train.

Mrs. Robt. Ewing left here last Saturday for a trip to her old home in Scotland.

Mr. J. Scott left here this week for Strathmore, Alberta.

Mr. Mutz, of the Fort Steele Brewing Company paid a visit to the club on Monday afternoon last.

Bob McPherson, of Michel, introduced his electric alarm clock up here last Thursday. This is certainly an alarming period in more sense than one.

On Wednesday afternoon, James Blakemore, employed as a driver in No. 1 north, was returning to the stable with his horse after working his shift when another horse and driver attempted to pass him coming down the narrow road, the result being that young Blakemore and his horse were knocked over the hillside and the horse fell on him. When he had been extricated from his precarious position it was found that his right ankle had been dislocated and he was removed to the Fernie Hospital by the 3.45 train.

District President Powell and Secretary Carter were up here in connection with local grievances on Thursday.

There were three accidents within one hour up here last Saturday night, but fortunately none of a very serious nature.

Joined the water wagon at 12.30 on the 13th. Still on it, and she's going with easy grace. (Guess you'll want a rope for to-night—17th).

LILLE

Dominico Di Giullo, still confined in the Lille Hospital owing to injuries caus by falling down the main chute, is progressing favorably.

Much disappointment was occasioned to the rink society, a masquerade skating carnival having been arranged for 1st Saturday for which a fair amount had been subscribed for prizes, but owing to eccentricities of the weather the ice was not in suitable condition for the long looked for event to take place.

A dance is being held at the Lille Hotel in commemoration of Saint Patrick on Friday, 17th, when no doubt a goodly number will avail themselves of this opportunity of indulging in the light fantastic, a privilege that the residents of Lille don't get very often owing to its geographical position.

The mine at present is working steadily, the miners being anxious to work all they possibly can this month as the prospects of a settlement of the new agreement do not look very bright.

Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Jones addressed a meeting of the miners at the Lille Miners' Hall on Tuesday night.

COLEMAN by 22

On Saturday last Clark's moving picture bills announced that the Frazer Cup would be presented to the champions of the Crow's Nest Hockey League and you can rest assured that the crowd was on hand to participate in the stirring event. Mayor Cameron occupied the chair and exprssed himself as highly pleased with the opportunity afforded him of congratulating the boys on their achievements. He mentioned the fact of three cups being held at the present time by Coleman and hoped that they would retain them and also spoke about another cups being put up for outdoor sports this season which likewise might be added to the rest as a tribute to the excellence of Colemanites in healthy sport.

Captain Gresack was invited to the platform to receive the prize but he did not show the same alertness that he displayed on the rink, and so Mr. Lyons presented it to the manager of the team, Percy Willmott, accompanied by the wish that success would attend their efforts in the future.

Mr. Willmott made a fitting reply. Mr. Clark then gave his exhibition, which was greatly enjoyed, likewise he placed in full view of the audience an enameled cup valued, so he stated at $1,000 to be presented to the person who could catch one of the cowboys on the picture.

Reggie James was successful in passing his examination at Frank, Good luck.

Friday morning when all good people were nestled neath the bed clothes that ought to be there, the firebell aroused them from their peaceful slumbers, when it was discovered that a house in West Coleman was supplying fuel to the burning element. Fifteen minutes after it started it was completely burnt to the ground. Luckily the wind was in the right direction, but had it been otherwise there might be a different story to tell as the hydrants in that locality are conspicuous by their absence. As this is a part of the incorporated city we hope the Council will make haste to remedy this defection.

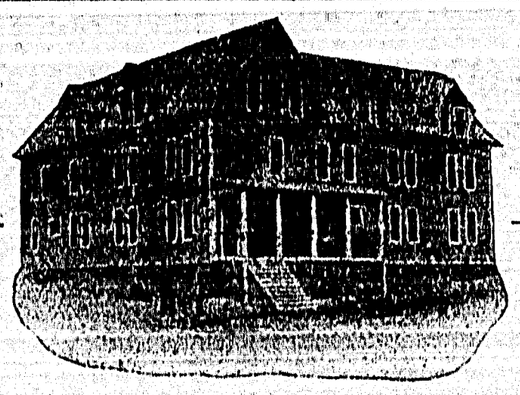
We regret to report that Jont. Graham, sec. of the Co-Op. and also of the Coleman Football Club, is at present lying in the hospital as the result of a terrific kick from a horse. To make matters worse the fractures are close to his vaccination marks, at present in the healing state.

The examination of the St. John Ambulance class will take place on the 24th of this month.

A good representative gathering of the Co-Op. shareholders attending a half-yearly meeting of the society in the Opera House on Monday. Mr. F. Leary, president, occupied the chair, and called upon the manager to read the balance sheet, which showed an appreciable profit over last half year's business which speaks louder than words in commendation of the management of officials and men. The trade returns for the past six months exceeded 50,000 dollars, and it was recommended that the sum of $1,500 be placed in a reserve fund for the purpose of meeting the obligations of those having shares who have left town or those against whom there are debts contracted that likewise have shares against which the debts can be charged. This course was approved of by the shareholders. The usual dividend of 5 per cent on all purchases and 6 per cent on shares was declared. F. Leary was re-elected president and Jont Graham secretary. Committee: W. Hayson, T. Haines, O. North, P. Kane, M. Bremmner.

SHEEP COMMISION COMING

Government commission consisting of Messrs. Fitch and Dryden has been appointed to investigate the sheep question in the western provinces, and will visit various points. Maple Creek, March 25; the week folowing will be spent in Alberta, reaching B. Columbia the latter part of April.



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COAL CREEK, B. C.

The Week's News for Our Foreign Brothers

BLAZNI SISTEM.

— Parletni otrok milionarja Vinson Walsh McLeana v Cincinnati že poseduje krasnal in dragaceni avtomobil, ki je nalašč zanj izdelan.

— V Brooklynu je pred par dnevi umrla vsled gladu Mrs. P. Sidel in njen mali rojenček ravno tako. Njen mož, delavec, leži napol izstradan v javni bolnišnici. Bil je celo zimo brez dela in zastonj je bil njegov napor, da bi ga dobil, dokler ni končno omagal.

— Casopis "Despatch" v Columbusu, O., poroča, da sta pred kratkim prišla v tamošnjo kaznilnico dva obsojenca: bančni uradnik, kteri je poneveril oziroma ukradel $200,000 in navadni delavec, kteri je ukradel jedno klobaso, ki ni bila vredna deset centov, s ktero si je potolažil večdnevni glad. Bančnega uradnika, kteri je ukradel dvestotisoč dolarjev, so v kaznilnici posadili za pisalno mizo, kjer se počasi igra s peresom; a delavca, kteri je ukradel desetcentno klobaso so pa pognali na dvorišče tolč kamenje.

— Delavec Byron Argensinger v Jacksonu, Mich., se že od 1, 1905 toži z ondotno Commonwealth Power-kompanijo, pri kteri je bil prej vposlen in kjer ga je stroj polomil, da ni več zmožen za nobeno delo. Nižje sodišče mu je prisodilo $10,000 odškodnine. Kompanija je pa apelirala na vrhovno sodišče v državi in pravkar izrečen končni razsodek se glasi, da pohabljeni Argensinger ne — zasluži nobene odškodnine! O, yes — sodniki so so zelo naklonjeni delavcem! Nauk: Delavci naj izvolijo svoje sodnike.

Mayor Gaynor w mesazu swonn do aldermanow chwali sie ze za jego rzadow policya dalego lepiej obchodzi sie z publicznoscia: nie aresztuje za byle co, ani tez bez dowiedzenia przestepstwa nie pa kuje fotografil podejrzanych do galeryi zbrodniarzy, jak to sie praktykowalo dawniej. Dalej Gaynor zaleca policyi, aby jak najrzadziej uzywala palki i bez koniecznej potrzeby nie pladrowala po prywatnych mieszkaniach. Bardzo ciekawy jest ustep, przyznajacy otwarcie, iz czerwony—sztandar—ma—taka—samaracye do szacunku jak i gwiazdzisty, a socyalistom naleza sie takie same wzgledy jak i innym wielkim partyom politycznym.

Z tego okazuje sie, iz Gaynor chce byc przyzwoitym administratorem i chce aby jego podwladni dzialali jako ucywilizowani urzed nicy, — ale nie trzeba zapominac, iz Gaynor jest sluga kapitalistow i, ze przy sposobnosci kilku straj kow robil wszystko mozliwe, aze. by robotnicy wyszli z proznemi rekami; dosyc przypomniec sobie strajk szwaczek lub pracujacych w expresach.

LA FIEVRE TYPHOIDE

On a résolu d'instituer une enquete sur les causes de l'épidémie de typhoide qui sévit a Ottawa depuis quelque temps. Il est entendu que l'on fera cette enquete sur toutes les causes possibles de la maladie, en commencant par les plus proches, jusqu'a celles plus éloignées. Si c'est une entreprise sérieuse, louable, c'en est une aussi tres longue, tres difficile. Jusqu'ici, on n'a semblé s'en tenir qu'a la mauvaise qualité de l'eau et du lait. Ne se confinera-t-on pas encore trop dans ces limites, a Ottawa ? Les causes de la typhoïde, comme d'ailleurs, de toutes les autres maladies contagieuses, peuvent etre multiples; et, de fait, elles nous paraissent incalculables, puisqu'elles tiennent a toutes les circonstances du climat, de sa variété, de la nature de l'alimentation, de notre plus ou moins grande activité, de l'hygiene personnelle ou publique, de la voirie, des égouts, de la plus ou moins grande salubrité des maisons d'habitation, de nos habitudes de boire ou de manger, de notre prudence en tout, de nos dispositions physiques ou memes morales, enfin, de tout ce qui touche de pres ou de loin a la constitution humaine.

Mais, il y a des causes plus directes plus violentes, plus généralement répandues, a l'épidémie de la typhoide; d'autres sont purement locales, singulieres, accidentelles. C'est pourquoi il est si difficile, dans tous les cas d'épidémies, de remonter a la source véritable du mal. Souvent, on en reste aux conjectures, lorsqu'on n'accuse pas a tort, tel ou tel aliment, tel ou tel service, telle ou telle condition d'ordre public ou privé.

Pour notre part, nous croyons que les conditions hygiéniques et sanitaires, chez nous, en dépit du fait qu'elles sont infiniment meilleures qu'autrefois, et qu'on y porte davantage attention tous les jours, sont encore bien imparfaites. Sans doute que l'eau du St Laurent et de l'Ottawa n'ont pas la purete d'un produit de laboratoire; sans doute que le lait qu'on livre a la consommation nous arrive dans un état déplorable; sans doute que les services publics sont moins que parfaits. Mais la ne doit pas s'arreter l'enquete. C'est dans la fourmiliere des habitations des villes et des faubourgs que le danger existe constant; c'est la qu'a lieu la culture intensive des microbes de toutes sortes. Et qui dans une grande ville comme Montréal, par exemple, passant sur la lisiere du trottoir, n'a pas été suffoqué par les bouffées d'air empesté, puant la crasse, écoeurant, immonde meme, qui se dézagent des habitations mal tenues, mal aérées, grouillante d'habitants sales, et dont, par accident, on a laissé les portes ou les fenetres ouvertes?

C'est donc que l'assainissement d'une ville serait bien imparfaite, si on s'en tenait a la question purement publique. Le danger n'est pas disparu lorsqu'on a enlevé les immondices des rues, qu'on les a incinérées; il reste encore celui de l'empoisonnement de l'air par les habitations infectes, véritables foyer de maux de toutes sortes, non seulement pour ceux qui l'habitent, mais encore pour tous ceux qui vivent dans ce voisinage malsain.—"La Presse," lundi, 6 Mars.

(Ed.—Ce n'est pas seulement dans la ville d'Ottawa qu'on doit faire une enquete sur les causes des epidemies diverses cépendant la cause des causes est l'ignorance du peuple et quand nous réalisons que les remedes dont on se sert quoique fournissant des alleviations transitoires, sont inefficaces pour guérir les maux de l'humanite sous le systéme qui domine le monde aujour'dhui au lieu de ne lutter que contre les effets nous attaquerons la cause fondamentale—le capitalisme.

LES SOCIALISTES EN ALLEMANGE

A Berlin, les gouvernements s'inquietent, et non sans raison, des progres du socialisme parmi la jeunesse et meme dans l'armée.

S'il faut en croire la "Post," de Berlin il y aurait a l'heure qu'il est 375 organisations socialistes comptant 50 mille jeunes gens et distribuant annuellement plus d'un demi-million de libelles antimilitaristes a ses membres. Naturellement, le ministre de la guerge de dans l'armée. C'est ainsi qu'il vient d'envoyer aux commandants supérieurs l'ordre télégraphique d'intenter des poursuites contre les personnes qui sont soupconnées d'avoir fait répandre les pamphlets antimilitaristes récemment distribués aux soldats du 14e et 15e corps d'armée.

L'ACTION COOPERATIVE

L'action coopérative pousse les hommes meme s'ils ont la faiblesse de ne pas s'aimer, ou de se détester les force a collaborer a s'entraider et a s'emanciper, ensemble dans un effort continu et vaste . . . comme l'humanité, comme l'Eternité.

Collaboration, d'abord économique puis intellectuelle, puis morale et qui détermine de proche en proche entre tous les anneaux de la chaine humaine un sens social profitable a chacun et a tous et grace auquel les douleurs et les joies, les avantages et les mécomptes deviennent connus et créent une mentalité, une sensibilité communes et profondément humaines qui fait vibrer les individus.

Les mineurs de Glen Ayr, Ind., se sont mis en greve contre le Magasin de Compagnie, juste au moment ou l'on ne truvaillait qu'um ns deux jours par semaine. Le patron, pour se moquer d'eux est allé faire un voyage en Europe.

Les mineurs de Dugger, Ind., ont établi un Store Coopératif et durant ces derniers trois mois leur vente a monté a environ $5,000.

CAVALIERI D'INDUSTRIA

Stiano in guardia i lavoratori sparsi per l'America contro i seguenti, cavalievri d'industria. Uno risponde al nome di John Salasco, di professione cuoco e ladro, Questo tipo dopo aver percepito danaro dai pensionanti che aveva lascio Cle Elum per luoghi a noi sconosciuti, lasciando $400 e piu ....di ricordo della sua permanenza fra noi.

Gli altri due i cui nomi meritano di figurare a caratteri neri, accanto a quello del Salasco, sono: Purgatorio detto Terrore e F. Bartoletti sovversivi ed imbroglioni che mentre propagavano contro lo sfruttamento non si peritavano di spogliare il prossimo se avessero potuto sotto il fulgido mantello dell'anarchia. Stiano dunque cogli occhi aperti i compagni dell'est specialmente.

BETTASSA & DEONIGI,
DELLAROLE & DEONIGI,

LA FABRICA MARINARO

Una grande fabrica di Maccheroni nel Western Canada in Fernie, B. C., si fabricano maccaroni di primissima qualita superiori all'im portato, dovete provarli per crederci I proprietari della sopradetta fabrica ne sono i fratelli Marinaro gente esperti maccaronri venuti, proprio da Napoli dove i maccaroni sono originati il quale ne sono fabricanti anche nella Pensilvania é i loro maccaroni sono conosciuti per tutti i stati uniti ed e inutile descrivere la loro insuperabile esperienza il motivo di venire ad imbiantare una nuovva, fabrica nel Canada e stato prima di tutto per innalzare il nome italiano seconto di fare un bene al connozionali di farli mangiare robba fresca é levare l'inconveniente di usare robba vecchia ed aspettare, che venisse dall'Italia tutta sfumata ma favoririli non solto, in qualita ma anche in prezzi percio siete tutti pregati di domandare al vostro negoziante dove fare la spesa che vi fornissero di pasta locale della rinomata Columbia Maccaroni Factory Fernie, B. C., ogni cassetta della sopradetta fabrica porta una tichetta colla rispettabile impiema reale D'Italia sotto il nome di Royal Brand che vuol dire marc. Reale siete sicuro che vi sara fornito la vera pasta locale che si vende in tutti i negozii al prezzo di $2 la cassetta provate e trovate la verita.

Letters To The Editor

The editor is not responsible for articles that are sent in.

Fernie, B. C.,
March 16, 1911.

To the Editor, District Ledger:

Dear Sir,—As there are many throughout District 18 who are from the South Wales mining district, permit me to quote a few extracts from a letter recently received from a friend of mine on the spot which should be of interest to many of your readers.

"The Cambrian dispute is still on with no sign of settlement. This is costing the organization £30,000 ($150-000) per month. The men are debarred from getting work in the other collieries. The miners are paying levies to the amount of 3s. per month extra so that the funds of the Federation may not be drained too fast. The strike has now lasted over five months and already the gigantic sum of £150,-000 ($750,000) paid out should be a convincing reply to those who stupidly assert that the Federation is not of much value because if it were not for the unity of the men they would have been compelled to acept a price list which at best would have meant a starvation wage and later, as history proves conclusively, others would have been disastrously affected.

Personally I believe it would have been better if all had come out together until a reasonable price list had been obtained.

Another proof of the identity of interests between workers and masters is the fact that one of the leaders of the strike was brought up on two charges for intimidation and fined £10 ($50) or two month in "chokey"; the fine and costs, inclusive amounted to £30 ($150) and was paid by the organization.

I hope that your pending negotiations may turn out favorably for the miners."

From the above you can understand that the struggle for better conditions is world-wide, and we may expect it to contnue for years to come as the workng class are gradually becoming more enlightened, even though it may seem slow to some of us it is nevertheless increasing and as it does we may expect the discontent will grow apace.

Thanking you for the courtsey,
I, am, Dear Sir,
Yours truly,
CLYDACH VALE.

New-Michel,
Mar. 16, 1911.

Editor, District Ledger, Fernie, B. C.

Dear Sir,—Kindly publish the enclosed letter on behalf of the Michel Board of Trade.

Thanking you for the space,
I remain, yours, etc.,
The Michel Board of Trade
per A. KENNEDY,
Secretary.

PITTSBURG? — YES!

The Editor, Michel Reporter—

"In regard to a certain editorial published in your issue of March 11th, in which you make an effort to criticize the action of the Michel Board of Trade and in which it is considered there is personal malice on your part, we desire to refute each and every statement which you have made therein.

"In the first place you make a statement, that for months there could not be a quorum got together, this is an absolute falsehood as can be proved by the records in the Secretary's books.

"Then you go on and say some members got tired turning out to attend meetings, owing to absence or incapacity of some of the Trininty meetings had ben cancelled. As before stated our records show there were no cancelled meetings unless itwas unavoidable through severe weather; such conditions we submit are liable to arise and is a circumstance over which we have no control.

"The members to whom you refer as being tired of turning out are those who would not attend any meetings

(Continued on page 8)

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Do not Fail to C These Pictures

Expert Evidence on Bellevue Explosion

(Continued from page 3)

trated), say as quickly as the snap of a finger, that in itself it cokes the dust?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes. A calculation of the velocity of that air at Mount Kembla varied from 12 miles a minute to 120 miles a minute. That was the calculated speed, and the chances were that the speed of that air was nearer 120 miles than 12 miles.

Mr. Mackie: And is that the explanation you have to give of the heat that was described at 82?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, that is so. In these cases we have to take some previous case, or something that has occurred previously, we will say, on which to base a theory. Well, if the court would not think me too tedious, I would show you the plan of the Mount Kembla Mine, and then you could see for yourselves.

Mr. Mackie: Well, I did not gather that at all from what you first stated, that the air receives its heat in the twinkling of an eye, and is then distributed at points where it produces coking. If that is so, would it be wrong to draw the inference that coking would be found in every place where that air passed?

Mr. Ashworth: Not absolutely in in every place, but it is found in more places than I have told you of. I am satisfied that if we went into the mine again, we would find other places.

Mr. Mackie: You say, where suppositions exist such as you have given us now, with the air hot from its starting point and picking up dust and striking a blind room such as we have had described here this evening, it might create an explosion with gas there?

Mr. Ashworth: Let me just help you along there. In the South Wales steam collieries the mines are very gaseous. Now, you would think it a silly statement to make, or theory to state, but in one of the notable explosions in the South Wales mines the mine is divided into five districts, each with its own separate airways and return, and one theorist gave it as an opinion that the explosion happened in what we call the west section. Well, now, between the west section and the East there is an upcast and downcast. Now, would you think that an explosion in the west would simultaneously explode all the others? That is what happened. I cannot tell you how, but it happened. That is a thing that the mining scientists of the present day are trying to investigate, the theory of detonation.

Mr. Mackie: You will pardon the liberty I am taking in questioning a man of your reputation and knowledge but I am trying to get information.

Mr. Ashworth: Don't trouble about that at all. I will try to help you all I can.

Mr. Mackie: You stated that the initial heat would be sufficient to cause an explosion after it came in contact with firedamp?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, in an end the same as that crosspitch; and if the fourth crosspitch had not been blown through either of them would have been suitable.

Mr. Mackie: Could you explain to me how Bovio's and Cardle's gas did not get it at all?

Mr. Ashworth: What?

Mr. Mackie: The gas which Bovio and Cardle found at 53 and 75 or 74. Now, if the initial heat was great enough to ignite the firedamp by coming in contact with it, then what occurred to the gas which Bovio and Cardle found at these two points?

Mr. Ashworth: I think the way to explain that is this. Take South Wales as an instance again. Now, in one explosion there, at Llanerch, the room on the higher side of the level are what we call wide work, just the same as they were at Bellevue in the case in question. On the lower side of the levels they are narrow rooms, and the levels are narrow places. Now, all the men in wide work were able to walk down form their places down into the level. The men in the narrow places, at the lower side, were all killed and burned where they were. They were burned by the effect of compression. They showed signs of burning. That is the best instance I can give you of that. Now, in Cardle's place, that is represented by a wide room, like this one for instance (room indicated). You cannot get that sort of compression in a place like this. You must have a place like a wall, for instance, and the air coming along drives straight into it. And it is not only the air. If it was only the air it would not be so easy; but it is the air charged with dust.

Mr. Mackie. But there is some evidence here that the roof is composed all over of hard gritty stone?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: Would it not be possible, or just as likely, that when this momentary fall takes place that the air is not directed in any particular channel, that it would take an upward course, as well as a side course.

Mr. Ashworth: It would go every way.

Mr. Mackie: And there would be just the likelihood that the upward force would catch any gas that would be situated in any of the crevices in the upper portions of the workings?

Mr. Ashworth: If it were in a sufficiently confined space.

Mr. Mackie: Particularly if there were any dust?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: And the air which is compressed so suddenly does not necessarily remove itself or tear itself from that particular locality in the twinkling of an eye, in the same time that it takes the rock to fall. It takes different channels, and the part of your proposition that does not apply where the air courses are in large open spaces, where you could not get a pressure to start with. Otherwise, if you could confine that in small enough room, you would get pressure. There is evidence in these old working places that there is a large amount of coal dust, and it strikes me that unless the force of air is created by the fall, then, when the rock strikes the dust it would naturally create a tremendous dust, and if there was any gas there at all there would be a high incentive to an explosion.

Mr. Ashworth: Supposing the gas had been brought down by a fall of rock, which in many mines would be quite likely, the whole evidence of the explosion of that gas would be at the foot of that fall.

Mr. Mackie. You would find evidence of that at the foot of the fall?

Mr. Ashworth. Yes.

Mr. Mackie. And you don't know if any person has investigated to see if there was such a thing?

Mr. Ashworth: From what I saw myself I would say distinctly that I did not see any indications of a gas explosion. I looked for it. I had expected that the gas would have been brought down there. I first thought it was gas that had been brought down by the fall that was at the foot of it.

Mr. Mackie: Assuming that there was gas there, as reported, you would state also that it might be possible to ignite that gas from sparks produced by the falling rock?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: By reason of the fact that you did not find any evidence of it at the foot of the fall, you reach the conclusion that that did not occur?

Mr. Ashworth. Yes; but you are mixing up the fact of Cardle finding the gas with the fall. They were too far apart. There was a great space between them.

Mr. Mackie: Well, there is some space, but 73 is a rather near point.

Mr. Wood: There was none at 75 at all.

Mr. Mackie: 73, I said.

Mr. Wood: Well, but there was none at 75. Absolutely none at 75.

(Inquest adjourned until 7.30 p.m.)

Court re-convened at 7.30 p.m., January 13th, 1911.

Mr. Mackie: Mr. Ashworth, I am going to ask you to repeat one part of your evidence. You say that you came to the conclusion that there was no explosion through the ignition of gas, in this last disaster, by reason of a personal inspection which you made at the base of the cave. Now, if there had been an explosion of gas, what would you find?

Mr Ashworth: Some violent effects in the way of heat. As it is there is no particular heat effect there at all.

Mr. Mackie: would you find a greater degree of heat?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: Now, would it be a positively sure thing that you would find evidence of greater heat at the base, such as you speak of, in the case of an explosion by gas, or is that purely theoretical?

Mr. Ashworth. I would say positively so.

Mr. Mackie: There is no possibility of a doubt?

Mr. Ashworth: No.

Mr. Mackie: Because the theory that you advance is purely theory, and is one that is gaining ground, but has been rather slow to be accepted by other scientists?

Mr. Ashworth: I don't quite follow you as to which theory you are referring.

Mr Mackie: The percussive theory.

Mr. Ashworth: In so far as the percussive theory is concerned I think it is pretty old.

Mr. Mackie: You referred to one mine in New South Wales, I think. What is the name of that mine? One mine in particular that you referred to I forget the name of it. Mount Kembla. Did you express any opinion in that particular case.

Mr. Ashworth: No; the theory that was advanced by one set of experts out there was based upon an article I wrote in the Colliery Guardian, in [illegible] accident, and it got its name of the "Wind Blast Theory" from that.

Mr. Mackie: Well, was your theory discussed at all?

Mr. Ashworth, Yes, very largely.

Mr. Mackie. And very largely criticised?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: Now, you heard the evidence, Mr. Ashworth, this afternoon, which is practically a repetition of the evidence given by Mr. Livett in connection with this blind room, that the pillar underneath that room had slid away, and bratticing—new bratticing—was put up to the corner of that room?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: In your opinion would that be sufficient bratticing to clear the gas out of that place?

Mr. Ashworth: I would not like to give an opinion, because I have not seen the place.

Mr. Mackie: Nor have I; but the evidence is there that the bratticing—the first bratticing—did not come to the face, but owing to the sliding of the pillar underneath, the bratticing was torn away. Now, the next thing they did was to put up another bratticing across the corner to the corner of that room. Now, would that have the effect of throwing sufficient air to the face of that room to remove all noxious gas?

Mr. Ashworth: I would not like to give an opinion; but if I did I would base it on Hallsworth's evidence when he examined that room on the afternoon shift, and that is: "No gas." I would have to fall back on that, because he was responsible on the afternoon of that day.

Mr. Mackie: On the 9th, the last worked shift? And if you found it was clear at that time you have every reason to believe that it was clear at the hour of the disaster?

Mr. Ashworth. Quite so.

Mr. Mackie: Then that prevents me asking you any further questions about gas explosions.

Mr. Ashworth: Well, I cannot go any further than that.

Mr. Mackie: You were requested to make an inspection of that mine after the disaster on October 31st, were you not?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, in respect to one thing, that is the fire.

Mr. Mackie: And you made your report verbally in that matter?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: Did you on that occasion express to the Company, or to any of the officials, the theory which you are advancing this evening?

Mr. Ashworth: No.

Mr. Mackie: Never said anything about it?

Mr. Ashworth. No.

Mr. Mackie: So far as this is concerned, it is the first time it has been associated in this matter?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: The company had no knowledge of this percussive theory in regard to the accident that took place on October 31st?

Mr. Ashworth: No; I did not examine the mine except for the one thing, and to give an opinion of the mine without having seen the pillars is an absurdity. This accident happened before I had ever got the report from Mr Emmerson. Mr. Emmerson was collecting the facts on which other things might have been based.

Mr. Mackie: You say you made no recommendations at all to the company?

Mr. Ashworth: No; it was no business of mine, and I could not volunteer it.

Mr. Mackie: I quite appreciate your position, but I wanted to know what the company were advancing as to what might prevent a repetition of the disaster.

Mr Ashworth: I can tell you this, that Mr. Coulthard had mentioned to me that he had taken precautions after the 31st of October.

Mr. Mackie: That he had taken precautions?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes; and I take it from the evidence that I have heard here that he did take precautions, and the special examinations that were made of this broken area were in connection with that.

Mr. Mackie. You take that Bovio's and Cardle's examination was in consequence of extra precautions?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes; I don't know, but I think so.

Mr. Mackie: If I sin evidence that that region was visited once a week, and that it was only the practice to visit it once a week. Mr. Anderson said they visited it every week, but Mr. Anderson did not tell me that they took any extra precaution.

Mr. Wood: He told you that stoppings were put in, extra stoppings, and that there was 25 per cent extra air coming through.

Mr. Ashworth: I might say, Mr. Mackie, that there is one point in connection with that disaster of October 31st that I do not think there has been much notice taken of, and that is, when that accident happened it was known that there was a miss-shot in the pillar, I think number 71. I believe 71 is the number of the chute. And it has never been cleared up whether that shot went off or not, and it was certainly an impression in my mind at the time that that shot had gone off and that that shot was really the origination of the accident on the 31st of October. If it had not, then it was a natural cave of the roof. It makes all the difference in the world if that shot were the cause of the first fall.

Mr. Mackie: This miss-shot, I am informed, stayed there from Saturday to Monday?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, you cannot tell.

Mr. Mackie: Then what would you say .....?

Mr. Ashworth: What was called the explosion was on the Sunday night, No, Monday noon;—yes, that is right, Monday noon. But that is assuming, you see, that the ignition of this shot was caused probably by a small cave cutting the fuse. There would be a detonator in, at any rate, and actual crushing of the coal might start off that detonator. This might be just the little thing that would turn the scale altogether. At any rate, that has never been traced out.

Mr. Mackie: Then, would you have a fair comparison; if in the last explosion, that was due to the miss-shot?

Mr. Ashworth. That was October the 31st, where the miss-shot was.

Mr. Mackie: Yes; but if I am not mistaken, you stated that the same causes that existed in the disaster on the 31st of October, as existed in this case?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, in the last case they were rather worse, because the roof was already broken, and this is a continuation of the 31st of October break.

Mr. Mackie: But if the last explosion, or rather the last disaster—not to use the word explosion—had its origin in that miss-shot, then, actually, you must have had an explosion there, mustn't you?

Mr. Ashworth: No, not exactly.

Mr. Mackie: Not exactly?

Mr. Ashworth: No; I take it there is just the one disturbing element wanted to turn the whole thing over.

Mr. Mackie: We are not taking exception to your theory. We hope it is true, that is all, because it will certainly have a very revolutionizing effect in this place. Now, having enunciated that theory—and your theory is rendered practically absolute by the evidence which you have given that you are positively sure, from your examination at the base of 76 or 77, where this last cave took place—you are positively sure that there could not have been any explosion of gas?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: Consequently, as far as one region of the mine is concerned we must accept your theory. Now, that leads us up at once to the question how, and by what means, is this company or any other company operating mines where there is likely to be caves, how and by what means are they going to prevent a repetition of these disasters through caves?

Mr. Ashworth. Well, now you are asking my opinion.

Mr. Mackie: No, I am not asking your opinion in this case. You have given your opinion, and we are not in a position to disprove it except by saying it is a theory; but this goes further than theory, because you state that you are positively sure that there could not have been a gas explosion, and we have no alternative but to accept your theory as a fact?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: Then, that being a fact then, I say, how are you going to prevent these caves, entailing as they do disasters of this nature?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, I have no doubt in saying that dangerous caves of this nature can be prevented.

Mr. Mackie: How and by what means, that is what we want to know?

Mr. Ashworth: That I would not like to give an opinion on, without very careful thought. In the first place I am not sufficiently acquainted with the mine at the present time to express an opinion and I would not like to say anything without very, very serious thought. The remedy will vary according to the circumstances in the mine.

Mr. Mackie: You say you are not familiar with this mine?

Mr Ashworth: That is so. It depends on the pitch of the mine. There is a great deal of difference between a mine with an angle of this sort, and a flat mine.

Mr. Mackie: Well, you state there is a remedy that could be applied?

Mr. Ashworth. I believe so—yes.

Mr. Mackie: Not knowing the condition of the mine, how do you arrive at that conclusion?

Mr. Ashworth: From the facts as they stand at the present time.

Mr. Mackie: And as you find the facts at the present moment, would you even venture an opinion as to how you can prevent further caves entalling disaster?

Mr. Ashworth: You must really excuse me, I would not venture an opinion at the present time. There are many ways of working coal, and you would have to assume, according to your question, that it was intended to work the coal on the present system, whereas you might have to alter the system entirely.

Mr. Mackie: I understand they might have to leave enough coal in there to keep the roof up. In one system you would have to leave more coal than you could afford to do?

Mr. Ashworth: Precisely.

Mr. Mackie: What system would you suggest of excavating coal which would remove the cause of caving, without making it impracticable from a commercial point of view? You must excuse my persistence.

Mr. Ashworth: I must ask you to excuse me. At the present time I decline to give an opinion on it.

Mr. Mackie: You will pardon me for pressing you on this point, but I know that Mr. Coulthard is anxious to re-open the mine, but the mine will not be opened until certain remedies have been suggested.

Mr. Wood: That is just what Mr. Ashworth will direct his attention to.

Mr. Mackie: Am I to understand that you are to give this matter your attention, and report at a future period?

Mr. Ashworth. I believe. I have been in consultation with Mr. Coulthard and possibly an engineer or two, on this subject, but it has not been thoroughly discussed up to the present.

Mr. Mackie: Am I to understand that you have been retained by the company to look into this matter?

Mr. Ashworth: I am not retained at all.

Mr. Mackie: Then your further investigations with regard to remedies would be purely from a philanthropic point of view?

Mr. Ashworth: It is quite possible that Mr. Coulthard may request me to take up that point, but at the present time I am not his advisor.

Mr. Campbell: Pardon me, if I am pressing, but from a broader point of view, say outside of this particular mine and this particular pitch, has mining science given thought and direction to the different systems which would prevent dangerous caves?

Mr. Ashworth: There are many different systems.

Mr. Campbell: Would it be asking you fairly to tell us some of these systems?

Mr. Ashworth: When you commence to work a mine of this class, you commence to work it according to the customs of the district. This condition has obtained, I take it, with this mine, and the customs of the district has been to develop mines along these lines. If you alter that system it effects the whole of the mines in that district, and what you have got to do is to find a combination of systems that would enable you to work that mine commercially, and as well as it has been worked in the past, and at the same time work it safely. But it is a very difficult proposition.

Mr. Campbell: What I mean is with regard to the future system of working the coal commercially, and at the same time safely on behalf of the men, as to that old caved area, or that old disused area. Is there any system thought of yet such as blocking off, or barring off, or shutting off, or anything of that kind, these old areas from the workings?

Mr. Ashworth: No; I should not care to block off, with the idea of blocking, an area of that sort, which might cave. I don't know what sort of blocking in would make it safe, because you would still have the same heat generated, and I do not know what would hold it exactly.

Mr. Campbell: So that ,knowing what you know now in regard to this mine, and with regard to the occurences on the 31st of October and the 9th of December, you would say there would have to be something done beyond the ventilation?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, there wants to be something to be done in connection with that particular area. It is the only part of the mine at the present time that we might call an unsafe factor. Supposing that part of the mine caves in as much as it should cave in, the mine would be as safe as ever it was. There is no dangerous area in the mine except that one. It is generally assumed, in a rock roof, that it arches over, if it is not an absolute cave to the surface. It depends on the cover; if the cover is not too big, it may cave right to the surface.

Mr. Wood: Now, there is only one other point that I would like to clear up. The point was raised—of course it has been nearly eliminated by the fact that you are satisfied that there was no explosion—but the point has been raised, if there was gas over 61, and a little gas found over 73, then for that reason the probability would be that there might be a body of gas right between these two points. I forget for how far.

Mr. Mackie: From 66 to 73.

Mr. Campbell: 540 feet in area.

Mr. Wood: Had there been a body of gas of such dimensions in that mine and had that exploded, what would have been the result?

Mr. Ashworth: It would certainly cleared the main doors out of the gangway and have done an enormous amount more damage than was done.

Mr. Mackie: I would like to ask another question. The mines in the Pass here are all about the same as the Bellevue Mine, that is, it is the same seam, and the same quality of coal?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, I understand the pitch is much the same, and the rock formation is about the same, as you have heard; but I think they vary to some extent. I am not sufficiently acquainted with them, except in a general way.

Mr. Mackie: As far as the cave is concerned it would not make any difference really, as far as the quality of the rock is concerned?

Mr. Ashworth: The volume of rock is really the only thing.

Mr. Mackie: Does this only occur where there is a very hard rock and a considerable thickness of it?

Mr. Ashworth: If you had a very hard rock, and a softer rock on the top of it, you would not have any trouble, because it falls in small pieces. You see, Mr. Mackie, it would be a great advantage to have caving and continuous caving, because the cave at the time would only be equal to the amount of coal taken out.

Mr. Mackie: Could you suggest any way of inducing a cave so that it would take place as fully as possible at one and the same time, without danger and destruction to the men?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, I think that might be helped along by firing a shot in the roof.

Mr. Mackie: Has this been advocated at all, or is it merely an idea of your own?

Mr. Ashworth: I know it has been done in some places, because it might do away with concrete walls. I think if Mr. Carter had been here he could have given you instances from Yorkshire where they actually do fire shots in the roof to help it down, and it would be safe to do that.

Mr. Wood: I just want to get one thing clear, Mr. Ashworth. This cave that happened on the 9th of December has been described to us as being from 75 to 79. Now, looking at the map or plan I find that 79 is the last of the old working places?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Wood: In the working places, in from 79, the pillars are still there, with the exception of 80, and in 80 they are only very partially taken out?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Wood: So that this would look like the last cave in that old working place of this mine. Am I right?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, I take it to be so.

Mr. Wood: Then, going upwards, and as you know the roof, is it not a fact that when rock caves it fills up a greater area in large broken pieces than it does when it is in the roof?

Mr. Ashworth: That is so.

Mr. Wood: So that, when a large cave of rock like this happens, the rock that has split, and is now down below, arches over high up in that cave?

Mr. Ashworth: It does.

Mr. Wood: And, *necessarily, if any* other caves happen, they would have a much smaller distance to fall?

Mr. Ashworth: I should anticipate so.

Mr. Wood: Until the whole area was choked. That is the way these things would happen, is it not?

Mr. Ashworth: Probably.

Mr. Wood: Now, we have not any definite knowledge, so far as I have

(Continued on page 7)

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Expert Evidence on Bellevue Explosion

(Continued from page 6)

been able to follow the evidence as to how high this cave is. We have a definite knowledge as to how wide it is, that is, from 75 to 79; but it has been variously described here with regard to the height. I think Mr. Heathcote described it as 300 feet up. That would take it pretty nearly to the top if it were that far up—I mean it would take it pretty nearly to the top of the old working places, would it not?

Mr. Ashworth: I think that was the estimate.

Mr. Wood: That was the estimate made at the time you and he were there?

Mr. Ashworth: That was the amount figured on.

Mr. Wood: Then there would not be very much left up above, then?

Mr. Ashworth: Oh, there would be a lot left.

Mr. Mackie: This is most remarkable evidence. Mr. Ashworth has just stated that he was not acquainted with this mine.

Mr. Wood: He said he and Mr. Heathcote were there.

Mr. Ashworth: That is applicable to any mine.

Mr. Mackie: Mr. Ashworth was speaking of this particular mine, and I think that was most remarkable evidence to give.

Mr. Wood: Then we would not have any reason to anticipate any further caves like this one, in the future, Mr. Ashworth, having in mind that this is the last of those old working places?

Mr. Ashworth: You mean to say in the present position of the mine?

Mr. Wood: Yes.

Mr. Ashworth: Well, of course, I don't know that there is any other area of anything like that size from which the coal has been extracted.

Mr. Wood: I am just taking it from the plan, Mr. Ashworth (of course, that is the only thing I have got to judge by) showing where the coal has been extracted, and where it has not, and at present it takes it up to the limit of the plan where it has been extracted, so I am asking you to tell the jury whether, under these conditions, it would be possible for another cave to happen like this?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, that is only a matter of opinion, you know.

Mr. Wood: I see.

Mr. Mackie: You cannot work that point. Nothing doing.

The Coroner: Don't interrupt, Mr. Mackie.

Mr. Wood: Now, the roof of this mine. What is the character of the roof of this mine, from a mining standpoint? Is it good roof, or strong roof, or what?

Mr. Ashworth: It is very hard indeed, from what I have seen of it.

Mr. Wood: Well, how about its composition, so far as supporting a large area is concerned?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, I should think it a very strong roof.

Mr. Wood: Have you any knowledge of the leaving of seams?

Mr. Ashworth: None.

Mr. Wood: To break the fall of any rock?

Mr. Ashworth: None.

Mr. Wood: You have no personal knowledge?

Mr. Ashworth: None at all.

Mr. Wood: Well, I think we have it in evidence that there were seams left in this old area, in fact, they show to some extent on the plan. What effect would that have, as a means of precaution in avoiding any concussion caused by falling.

Mr. Ashworth: Of course, that would depend on their size, as to the effect, but assuming that the pillars were large enough—I would not like to say how large they should be—then of course they would steady the roof. I suppose that was the object in leaving them in.

Mr. Wood: They would prevent the roof from coming down?

Mr. Ashworth: I was not saying they would prevent it, but they would let it down easily.

Mr. Wood: Will you tell me, just for our information, what is the temperature point at which an explosion of gas occurs?

Mr. Ashworth: About 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. That is the ignition point.

Mr. Wood: That is the ignition point of what?

Mr. Ashworth: Of a mixture of fire been exposed, having regard to the damp and air.

Mr. Wood: Can you give me any idea of what the temperature caused by an explosion would be?

Mr. Ashworth: Somewhere about 3000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mr. Wood: About 3000 degrees Fahrenheit?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Wood: Well, now, to complete that, will you give me an idea of the temperature that the coking, or caking, I forget exactly how you expressed it; the cinders, I think you called them, which you analysed, will you give me an idea to what temperature they had been exposed, having regard to the volatile matter?

Mr. Ashworth: The one we found in the Bellevue Mine? I think I estimated that, from Mr. Wingaye's details, as 1140 degrees.

Mr. Wood: Will you give me an idea of what a gas burn looks like, that is, a burn caused by a gas explosion, as far as the skin is concerned?

Mr. Ashworth: Of course, it all depends on how long the hand, or whatever it may be, is exposed to the gas. The difference that I have previously referred to was that the gas would have singed the hair, and caused a general scorching, instead of a scorching in one particular place.

Mr. Wood: Instead of a purely local one?

Mr. Ashworth: Instead of a purely local one.

Mr. Wood: Then what would your conclusion be in connection with a hand that is not burned higher up than the wrist? Would a gas explosion have the effect, speaking generally?

Mr. Ashworth: The burns as described would not be the result of a gas explosion.

Mr. Wood: In connection with the first explosion, and in connection with the miss-shot, you have told us that you thought that was the primary cause of it at first. Can you tell the jury whether it would have been reasonable, from what you saw of the October 31st disaster, to anticipate another disasters like this, from caving, without some external agency like a miss-shot, or like the explosion of a shot?

Mr. Ashworth: You mean to say, under like conditions would a similar thing be likely?

Mr. Wood: No, not under like conditions, but under conditions without external agency, such as the explosion of a shot causing the roof to fall?

Mr. Ashworth: You mean to say, did the roof fall without a shot?

Mr. Wood: No; is it reasonable to suppose that it would?

Mr. Ashworth: That the roof would fall?

Mr. Wood: Yes.

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Wood: Then the natural conclusion you arrive at is that the roof will fall, sooner or later. It is only a question as to the amount of roof that will fall. Of course, in the course of time roof is always falling?

Mr. Ashworth: Always.

Mr. Mackie: Mr. Ashworth, not one single officer of the company was able to swear to this plan. Evidence was brought forward in several respects that the plan was not correct. From that evidence, and looking at that plan would you reasonably say what my learned friend wants this jury to believe, that no caves would occur in the future, and that this is the last of the Mohicans?

Mr Ashworth: (Answer not heard.)

Mr. Mackie: Then you heard the evidence repeated by my learned friend?

Mr. Wood: That was not what I said at all. I was speaking about the old workings.

Mr. Mackie: Well, I am speaking about the old workings, that is, between 64 and 75, and beyond 78 and 79. Out of the whole of the witnesses that have been examined—and there are 43—not a single individual has been able to swear to the actual condition of the old workings. Then I say, Mr. Ashworth, on the top of that evidence, are you prepared to say that what you told my learned friend, that you have reasons to believe that there will not be future caves of this magnitude?

Mr. Ashworth: So long as the mine is in that condition, that is my opinion. You had proof from Bovio and Cardle that the roof was caving up there.

Mr. Mackie: Yes, in a certain area.

Mr. Ashworth: Well, that is part of the area you refer to.

Mr. Mackie: Yes, But I say no witness has been able to come here and give a correct account of the old workings in their entirety, consequently you could not have knowledge of the entire field of those old workings.

Mr. Wood: My learned friend is quite wrong. We have it in the evidence from 62 right to 79 it is caved. That is a thing that every body has said.

Mr. Mackie: The evidence of Bovio and Cardle swears that they could not see, at a certain point, how far the thing was up, and my learned friend made a great point that as they could not see anything beyond there would not be an accumulation of gas. Now if he does not know what is beyond the place where they stood, how can he reasonably ask you an opinion on the top of the evidence that is before the jury. Mr. Wood did tell you the truth, and the whole truth, Mr. Ashworth, about a large number of seams being left in the particular region where there is a cave, and your opinion is that the cave will be slow where the seams are left, so where did you get the compression that effected this mine in the way it did?

Mr. Ashworth: You have proof on the face of it that these seams are too small.

Mr. Mackie: Yes, but there is evidence of seams being left, and your evidence is that there would be slow caves in that case. Then, in that case, what about the percussive theory that has been put before this jury, that you would have warm and hot air that would coke dust in the return air shaft, when you have got a slow movement by the language he has put in your mouth?

Mr. Ashworth: It is absolutely correct. I tell you that the whole thing the giving of the roof depended on the size of the pillars, and the distance below, I might add. It is not necessary in a theory of that sort to assume that all the pillars are out, or that the whole of the roof falls between 79 and 76, not at all.

Mr. Mackie: I am not going to dispute you on that point, Mr. Ashworth. Now there is another thing, he says this is the last big cave, nobody says so but Mr. Wood himself. If they are going to continue mining coal as they have been doing, are there not going to be more caves in of the roof?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, they won't have to mine it in the way they have been doing.

Mr. Mackie: Well, but if they do?

Mr. Ashworth: Then they run the same risks.

Mr. Mackie: It is in evidence here by several people, by Mr. Powell, the manager of the mine, that a man is a fool to go in that cave portion to-day, because it is dangerous; because of the probability of another cave. We have it in evidence before this jury also from several witnesses that that region is dangerous by reason of the overhanging roof. Then I say, is this the last cave?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, you see, caves are of comparative size. Now, we are used to caves; and we want caves; and if these caves are continuous we have the safest mining.

Mr. Mackie: And particular if the rock is soft, it will cave in smaller bodies?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Mr. Mackie: And it is possible, by a smaller cave, to have what has occurred at the Bellevue Mine.

Mr. Ashworth: Is it possible to have it?

Mr. Mackie: Yes. Could you get that effect by a smaller cave?

Mr. Ashworth: That is a problem of the future.

Mr. Wood: In connection with a cave, what happens to the roof after the first cave? What form does it take?

Mr. Ashworth: It arches.

Mr. Wood: Well, then, tell me what effect the arch of a roof has upon subsequent caves?

Mr. Ashworth: It simply means there is a limit to the height.

Mr. Wood: And how about the quantity of rock that would fall, generally speaking, after the first cave. By reason of the arch of the roof, would it be a large or a small quantity?

Mr. Ashworth: The volume would become less and less.

Mr. Wood: They would become less and less?

Mr. Ashworth: In volume.

Mr. Wood: Then what is your opinion as to there being any difference between the small cave of rock and the large cave of rock, upon the amount of percussion caused?

Mr. Mackie: I didn't ask that question at all.

Mr. Wood: I want to know.

Mr. Mackie: Then you are re-examining Mr. Ashworth.

Mr. Wood: I am trying to get facts. Did you understand my question, sir?

Mr. Ashworth: Will you repeat it?

Mr. Wood: We have it that the first cave leaves the roof arched. You have told me that the result of that is that the caves there afterwards are smaller, and that they got smaller and smaller. Then what is the effect of a small quantity falling? Is it the same in effect? Does it create compression, as in larger quantities?

Mr. Ashworth: Certainly not.

A Juryman: You told us this afternoon here that this was a very cold mine?

Mr. Ashworth: It is what I should call a cold mine. It is about 40 or 45 degrees.

A Juryman: Assuming that your theory to be correct as regards the air being the cause of the trouble in this mine, I would like to know what it would be in a mine that is a dry and warm mine?

Mr. Ashworth: Well, the heat would be increased in proportion. The hotter the initial air, and the more easily, of course, the heat is increased by compression.

Juryman: Then, in that sense, it would *not require such a large fall* of rock to create as great an amount of damage in a hot mine as in a cold mine?

Mr. Ashworth: That is a reasonable supposition.

Second Juryman: Mr. Ashworth, you were present with the rescue party, I believe, on December the 9th?

Mr. Ashworth: I was, part of the time.

Second Juryman: And also on the 10th of December, I believe, you were there?

Mr. Ashworth: Yes.

Same Juryman: On December 9th you came down with the Draeger apparatus party.

Mr. Ashworth: Yes, with that party.

Same Juryman: Do you think that the Draegar apparatus was a success in that mine?

UPOZORNENIA ..

V statnom sudobnom dome vdbivanom v Pondelek dna 16hi Januara, 1911, Pompei Cheilli bol dosnani o krades miner v Coal Creek a odsudeni na 3 mesace zalaru tvidy prace.

AVVISO

Nella corte provinciale di Fernie Gennaio 16, 1911, fu arrestato Pompei Cheilli, per il latroniggio dei carri dei minatori, a No. 5 e No. 1 Nordo. mina, Coal Creek. Il quale fu condannato a tre mesi di lavoro forsato.

WARNING

In the Provincial Court held at Fernie on Monday, Jan. 16, 1911, Pompei Cheilli was convicted of the theft of miners' cars at No. 5 and No. 1 north mines, Coal Creek, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labor.

Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co.

Mr. Ashworth: Well, it was a success up to a certain point. Yes, a decided success.

Same Juryman: Do you think it possible that more lives could have been saved in that mine had there been a Draegar station in the Crow Nest Pass in Alberta.

Mr. Ashworth: No, I don't think there would. The difficulty with the Draegar apparatus is that it is overestimated. The Draeger apparatus that is most written about it what is called the two-hour apparatus. Well, this Draeger apparatus weighs from 40 to 42 lbs. It proved in the case of Alderson that a man, when he has got 40 lbs on his back, and is carrying another 40 lbs. or so in his hands, can only go at a certain pace, and if he goes fast he has absolutely done for himself and there is only one remedy, he must sit down and wait until he recovers. He cannot get any more air; the apparatus only provides a certain amount of air, at a certain speed. You cannot run in the apparatus, and I am sure that no ordinary man with the apparatus on can carry a man for any distance. He may drag him a yard or two. There is another apparatus which the Draeger people do not publish very much, that is the half hour apparatus. We have two half-hour apparatus, and they only weigh about 14 lbs. Now, a man can go up a ladder and replace brattice, and all that sort of thing, as easily as a man with a helmet on. A man with no helmet on can see, and he feels like a man with nothing on.

The Foreman: You don't think, then, if there had been Draeger apparatus here, and experienced men, experienced men, that is in the use of that apparatus, that it would have saved many?

Mr. Ashworth: I would just like to say what I think on that matter. Personally, I certainly came to the conclusion that if there had been no Draeger apparatus there, two lives at any rate would have been added to the loss. I am not going to run it down, but it wants using properly. In this last disaster in Lancashire, now, they used the apparatus simply for the repair of brattice and other things, to restore the ventilation, and to go in front to see if there is any fire. And that is all they do. They were not allowed to go a long way in front. It is good for that, this half hour apparatus, properly used. Personally, I think I would have adopted the half-hour apparatus entirely, and have had no two-hour device.

The Foreman: Don't you think if some experienced miners had been trained how to fix that apparatus, it would have been a useful thing?

Mr. Ashworth: They must be trained. We are working that with our ambulance class, and no man that does not pass a doctor's examination is allowed to take part in the Draeger apparatus at all.

A Juryman: What do they use for tamping in the Crow's Nest Pass Mines?

Mr. Ashworth: Oh, clay.

Juryman: Do they use any other material?

Mr. Ashworth: Simply clay.

Juryman: Do they use any paper around it?

Mr. Ashworth: No, just clay; that is all. No paper.

Mr. Campbell: I don't think we quite grasp Mr. Grosham's question to you about the Draeger helmets. You said that you did not think that the Draeger helmet would be a good thing on account of its weight, and the difficulty in assuming it; but I gather from you that you have an ambulance corps and use the apparatus in connection with the instructing of that corps.

Mr. Ashworth: We use the half-hour apparatus.

Mr. Campbell: Do you consider that would be a good thing to have?

Mr. Ashworth: Certainly.

Juryman: That was his answer.

Mr. Ashworth: The way we work it, we have a half-hour apparatus, which is only a breathing arrangement We have four extra cylinders with each apparatus, and that gives us two hours; but the man that is wearing the apparatus can only go away from his party for a quarter of an hour, and quarter of an hour back again, and then you know where he is. Otherwise, the men can go away and stay, and you don't know where they are; something may happen to them, and you have pins and needles all the time.

Lame Back

To have a lame back or painful stitches means Disordered Kidneys, and the sooner you have the Kidneys and Bladder in a perfectly healthy condition the sooner you will enjoy life. As far as we know there is only one remedy that is guaranteed to cure you, and that is FIG PILLS. If they don't make you a strong, healthy person in two weeks your money will be refunded. 25c. a box at all leading drug stores, or mailed on receipt of price by The Fig Pill Co., St. Thomas, Ont.

List of Locals District 18

Corrected by District Secretary up to November 10, 1910.

NO.	NAME	SEC. AND P. O. ADDRESS.
29	Bankhead	F. Wheatley, Bankhead Alta.
481	Beaver Creek	W. Watson, Beaver Creek, via Pincher.
431	Bellevue	J. Burke, Bellevue, Frank, Alta.
2163	Blairmore	James Turnbu ll, Blairmore, Alberta.
919	Burmis	Thomas Gregory, Burmis, Alta.
1378	Canmore	J. Nell, *Canmore*, Alta.
2633	Coleman	W. Graham, Coleman, Alta.
2227	Carbondale	G. M. Davies, Carbondale, Coleman, Alta.
2378	Cardiff	L. Huckins, Cardiff, Alta.
2877	Corbin	R. Jones, Corbin, B. C.
2178	Diamond City	Charles Orban, Diamond City, Lethbridge.
2383	Edmonton	M. Bonic, 434 Lorne street, Norwood, Edmonton.
2314	Fernie	D. Rees, Fernie, B. C.
1263	Frank	G. Nicol, Frank, Alta.
2497	Hosmer	J. Ayre, Hosmer, B. C.
1668	Hillcrest	J. C. Jones, Hillcrest, Alta.
574	Lethbridge	L. Moore, P.O. Box 113, Lethbridge.
1233	Lille	W. L. Evans, Lille, Frank, Alta.
2829	Maple Leaf	M. Gilday, Maple Leaf, Bellevue, Alta.
2334	Michel	M. Burroll, Michel, B. C.
2352	Passburg	Jas. Davis, Passburg, Alberta.
2589	Royal Collieries	James McKinley, Royal Colliery, Lethbridge, Alta.
102	Taber	William Russell, Taber, Alta.
1959	Taber	E. Brown, Taber, Alta.
14	Monarch Mine	H. W. Watkins, Elean, Alta.

$100 Reward, $100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by all Druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

FASHIONABLE FURS.

Quaint Old Styles Revived In the New Stoles and Muffs.

So widespread has become the vogue of furs that no longer are they regarded as a luxury, but, on the contrary, as quite an important detail of the toilet. Because of this widespread vogue and the necessity for supplying the demand for pelts the four corners of the earth have literally been scoured, and wonders have been accomplished by means of dyeing and plucking. One sees the plebeian American red fox, by no means a comely beast in its native condition, transformed into a marvel of ebon blackness by expert coloring. A process of dyeing has made an amazing change in squirrel, which in plain gray proved so unbecoming to most women when it was introduced six years ago But the most wonderful treatment of all is that which transforms the American muskrat's pelt into a fur which cannot readily be distinguished from sealskin.

Never before has there been a season when the fashions in furs have been so distinctly different for matrons and debutantes, for not only is the wearing of sable and broadtail confined almost exclusively to the elder set of women, but it is noticeable that few of them are in favor of mink or caracul and that in reserving lynx for themselves they are graciously allowing their juniors to have prior call on sealskin. This rule applies especially to fur coats intended for street use, and of these there are a large number of styles to suit the individual purse.

Stoles are of infinite variety. Some of them are so long that they reach far below the knees and at the back cover the shoulders halfway to the waist line. In fact, so large are they that sleeves would almost be sufficient to transform them into coats. The flat, broad stole is always at its best in a short haired fur, but it is seen frequently in lynx, black fox and stone marten as well as in Persian paw, in sabled squirrel and in mole.

The novelty of the season is the rug muff, which can only be developed in a pelt having naturally a small head and tail, such as are seen with sable, mink and ermine. In the rug muffs a row of tiny heads overlap a similar

DIRECTOIRE COAT IN SEALSKIN.

number of tails, and when outspread it becomes simply a flat oblong, handsomely lined and conveniently fitted with several pockets.

Some of the so called "tailored" fur coats are literally in three pieces muff, jacket and detachable heroyable collar, with or without deep lapels beneath the throat and fastening with large ornamental buttons. It goes without saying that such outfits appeal strongly to the women of economical tastes. The illustration shows a stunning directoire coat in sealskin.

Trimmings a Girl Can Make.

This is to be a season of triumphings, and the girl who is clever enough to make her own can save her purse. One of the easiest for home manufacture is thick cotton cord covered with bias silk sewed on the machine and then used in the form of braiding.

As the cord is large, the work is quickly done when sewed into curves, scrolls or circles. It is especially effective on net or mousseline. It is sewed by hand with loose stitches.

Another showy trimming that can be made at home is from bands of flowered silk cut to outline flowers and appliqued to white or extra mousseline de sole or chiffon. The raw edges are finished with a gold or silver cord, very narrow, or with a ruffle of the narrowest ribbon that can be bought.

When Hanging Curtains.

A house decorator gives this important advice to women who are arranging their homes. They should not hang curtains of one color against a wall paper of another color. They should not join carpets of opposite colors. They should not put different papers on the walls of adjoining rooms which have wide archways or folding doors between. These are simple suggestions, but they mean a great deal. The woman who is guided by them will arrive at much better results than she who ignores them. When it is not possible to have the carpets alike in rooms that are joined by wide openings a rug should be laid over the long seam to hide it.

ADVERTISE IN THE "LEDGER."

FLOWERS OF SPEECH.

An Englishman's Address at a Ladies' Seminary In Siam.

The influential Englishman in Siam flattered himself that he had a very decent knowledge of the language and was ready to do great things. He had already ordered coffee from his hotel waiter with success and asked the boy to bring up his boots.

Now, influential Englishmen in Siam are not as common as cockroaches, and that afternoon the distinguished visitor was requested by a friend to deliver an address on "England" at the only ladies' seminary in the country. Confidently he accepted.

He began famously. Every one applauded and smiled. But gradually as he proceeded he noticed consternation overspreading the countenances of his listeners.

"What's the trouble?" he whispered in English anxiously to his friend on the platform.

"Trouble!" exclaimed the friend hotly. "Why, the trouble is what you are saying."

"But," protested the speaker, "I am saying, 'I am delighted to see so many young ladies rising to intellectual heights, with fine brains and large appreciations.'"

"Oh, no, you're not," corrected the friend. "You're saying, 'I am pleased to see so many small lionesses growing large and fat, with big noses and huge feet!'"—London Tit-Bits.

WHEN YOU WEEP.

The Way That Tears Act Upon the Human Organism.

Professor Waynbaum, M. D., of Paris publishes some queer facts regarding the nature and purpose of tears, coming to the conclusion that tears act upon the human organism "like chloroform, ether or alcohol."

"When a human being gives way to sorrow," says Dr. Waynbaum, "the blood pressure in the brain decreases. The tear helps in this process, which benumbs the brain for the time being, causing passiveness of the soul almost approaching indifference.

"Tears are blood, changing color by their passage through the lachrymal glands. One can drown his sorrow in tears as one can benumb his senses by the use of alcohol or drugs. When a person cries the facial muscles contract and the appearance of the face changes, which action facilitates the white blood letters, driving the blood particles into the lachrymal gland from which they issue in the shape of tears.

"Children whose nervous system is particularly tender derive great benefit from crying occasionally. The act of crying relieves their brains. The same may be said with respect to women."

The professor likewise explains why laughter sometimes produces tears, but the explanation is too technical for reproduction.

The Only Safe Way.

"No, I can't stay any longer," he said, with determination.

"What difference does an hour or so make now?" asked a member of the party. "Your wife will be in bed and asleep, and if she wakes up she won't know what time it is."

"Quite right, quite right," he returned. "I can fool my wife almost any time as long as I get home before breakfast. Why, I've gone home when the sun was up, kept the blinds shut, lit the gas and made her think that it was a little after 12. But, gentlemen, I can't fool the baby. I can make the room as dark as I please, but it won't make the baby sleep a minute later than usual, and when she wakes up hungry it comes pretty close to being morning, and my wife knows it. Gentlemen," he added as he bowed himself out, "I make it a rule to get home before the baby wakes. It's the only safe way."

A Dog Story.

At a farmhouse at which we have been staying a terrier, Rough, shares always his master's first breakfast, the bread and cream accompanying a cup of tea. Three corners he breaks off and gives to Rough, who eats the first two. Off the third he licks the cream, then carries the crust to a hen who each morning comes across the field where the fowls are kept and at the gate awaits her friend's arrival. Should others of the hens appear, Rough barks them off, while his favorite devours her portion.—London Spectator.

A Tremendous Task.

"So you are going to study law?"

"Yes."

"Going to make a specialty of criminal law?"

"No."

"Corporation law?"

"No. Both are too easy. What I want is to be accurately and reliably informed as to what months in the year and days in the week it is permitted to shoot certain game in the various sections of the country."

A Patron of Art.

"So you enjoy reading all the extravagant praise that is printed about that opera singer?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox. "It kind of helps me to feel that maybe those tickets were worth what I paid for 'em."—Washington Star.

Poor Jones!

Missionary—Can you give me any information about Deacon Jones, who labored among your people three years ago? Cannibal—Well, the last I heard about him he had gone into consumption.—Judge.

NOTICE

CITY OF FERNIE

NOTICE is hereby given that NO Discounts on Electric Light will be allowed unless payment is received at this office on or before 4 o'clock pm. on the 25th of each month.

Under no circumstances will this rule be departed from, and consumers are requested to govern themselves accordingly.

Dated at Fernie, February 15th, 1911.

S. W. BARCLAY,
City Clerk

NOW, ARE YOU EDUCATED?

If in Doubt Here are a Few Simple Tests

A professor in the University of Chicago told his pupils that he should consider them educated in the best sense of the word when they could say yes to every one of the questions that he should put to them. It may interest you to read the questions. Here they are:

Has education given you sympathy with all good causes and made you espouse them?

Has it made you public spirited?

Has it made you a brother to the weak?

Have you learned how to make friends and keep them?

Do you know what it is to be a friend yourself?

Can you look an honest man or a pure woman straight in the eye?

Do you see anything to love in a little child?

Will a lonely dog follow you in the street?

Can you be high-minded and happy in the meanest drudgeries of life?

Do you think washing dishes and hoeing corn just as compatible with high thinking as piano playing and golf?

Are you good for anything to yourself?

Can you be happy alone?

Can you look out on the world and see anything except dollars and cents?

Can you look into a mud puddle by the wayside and see the clear sky?

Can you see anything in the puddle but mud?

Can you look into the sky at night and see beyond the stars?—Pittsburg Dispatch.

LA PIU GRANDE SCOVERTA DELLA'ERA

Una Fotografia di te di tue amice o pure della tua innamorata sopra la covertina del quanciale, una cosa nuova realista come e artistica.

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Nowhere in the Pass can be found in such a display of

Meats

We have the best money can buy of Beef, Pork, Mutton, Veal, Poultry, Butter, Eggs, Fish, "Imperator Hams and Bacon" Lard, Sausages, Weiners and Sauer Kraut.

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Letters to The Editor

(Continued from page 7)

unless there was something personally required by them, as for instance the protection of their property from floods. After we assisted them out in this respect that was the last we ever saw of them, but no doubt they thought if their presence was made at a meeting they might be confronted with the possibility of being requested to pay their annual dues.

"As regard the proceeding of the meeting held Tuesday, March 7th, it is a well known fact that this was our regular meeting night and if you were alive to the surroundings and kept posted on current events of the day, you would no doubt know, and if you wished to take any interest in the conduct of the town's affairs you would have been present. Apart from the fact that you should have known the date, you were advised by phone the same day. You refer to the arrogance displayed by the clique. This assertion seems to be made to cover yourself and is unworthy of notice. You also go on and state the actual standing of the Michel Board of Trade is eight members. We desire to state that this is another absolute lie, as our records will prove. Those who are ashamed of the actions of their leaders can be counted on one finger, and that man's name is the individual who makes an attempt to edit a sheet (we would not like to call it a newspaper) called the Michel Reporter. You make an exception in one instance, that of the Secretary, and it is quite evident why you conclude to do this, as he is the only one of the so-called Trinity who advertises in your sheet, as other business men, who are connected with the Board of Trade, with few exceptions, consider it is throwing money away.

"You go further and say the offices have drifted into the hands of those who use them as a medium to flatter their personal vanity, admiration, aggrandizement and emolument. This is the most idiotic statement of all, apart from its being a lie. The writer of the scurrilous article in the Michel Reporter knows it to be such, and if he takes the pains to consider what has been done by some of the officers he will ascertain that more than one has spent more than one hundred dollars for every fifty cents that have been donated by said would-be editor.

"As regards changing of the name of New Michel there were four of the officers made a special journey to Fernie at their own personal expense and lost two days over same to interview Mr. Rogers in connection therewith and other matters of equal importance. That it was impossible for him to act in the matter as that was one that directly interested ourselves. You were at meeting after meeting when the changing of the name was discussed, and you either did not possess grey matter or else you did not have the sand to propose anything that any sensible person would sanction. It is all very well for you to stand behind that sheet you print and slur and make personal attacks on people who make an effort to advance the interests of the town, and after this has been done you go on and print such stuff with no other object in view than to knock the town and make an effort to undo anything that has been done at the personal expense of the officers of the Board of Trade.

As regards the name "Pittsburg," it was unanimously decided at a regular meeting that Pittsburg would be the name, and Pittsburg it will be regardless of any childish views of the Editor of the sheet called Michel Reporter.

"We regret that we have had to reply to such an unusual article, and we would treat it with silent contempt but there may be a possibility that it might fall into the hands of those who are unacquainted with the veracity of the writer of said articles, to those who know the circumstances it is not necessary to appeal.

The Michel Board of Trade,
Secretary.
Per A. KENNEDY,
Secretary.

It is Indisputable

that many a man's only asset after a fire has been an insurance policy. And many a man has been ruined because he had neglected to protect himself with

Fire Insurance

Don't run the risk of finding yourself in such a predicament. Have us insure you to-day and make yourself safe.

M. A. KASTNER
Insurance Real Estate

A Voice from Australia

The old adage that "distant pastures look green" is peculiarly applicable to the land of the wallaby and kangaroo, so persistently proclaimed as the El Dorado of the workingman and an illustration of "sane and safe" Socialism by those who make use of the word and attach it to every reform big and little that is instituted. Even well-meaning people who form opinions much in the same way as a blank record receives its impressions, i. e. passively—will dilate upon the progress of practical Socialism in Australia and then when later on its inadequacies develop, the reactionary phase becomes manifest we hear loud lamentations by the sentimentalist who sees, or at least thinks he sees, another setback to Socialism so-called while the newspapers chortle editorially and revel in huge scare heads regarding "Another Utopian bubble bursts," "Visions vanish," etc.

The Australian continent by reason of its aloofness from the rest of the world and its sparse industrial population may experiment with remedial measures whereby, speaking comparatively, the people are relatively better than the great masses in countries that are more highly developed commercially, but as industrialism grows in like proportion do conditions change varying only in degree perhaps from those which prevailed where capitalism has a firmer hold.

No better substantiation is needed than the subjoined article reproduced from The Sun of Sydney, dated Jan. 17th, just received from James Douglas formerly of Michel.

This article is accompanied by four cuts showing buildings that can be duplicated in practically every coal camp throughout the Pass.

In the same paper we note the feverish anxiety with which the need for protection from outside enemies is advocated, enemies that may or may not be future realities, but give scant attention to the ever present death dealing germ diseases that lie dormant within their own territory and must in the normal order of things break out finally. Similar conditions obtain in Canada, so that it is not a case of the beam and mote, we merely wish to point out that there is no marked difference, save in degree, between countries that are under the present commercial regime.

PART I.

"Heigho, for the wind and the rain,
For the rain it raineth every day."

This old epilogue might have been appositely spoken almost any day last last week at any of the South Coast colliery settlements, as vast rolling curtains of thick fog were rung down upon the grim tragedy of existence at those places. It rained every day and every night, and it blew harder than it has ever blown before—so the people declare. Hard, and dangerous, and full of discomforts, the collier's life always must be, of necessity. But in weather such as that of last week it is almost incredibly miserable—more especially in conditions such as obtain in the South Coast townships.

Imagine communities aggregating 200 or 300 men, women and children, existing in places where there is not a decent cottage to be had for money, and where there is no land available whereon these industrious and thrifty people may make homes for themselves that shall mitigate somewhat the discomforts of their ordinary lives. Imagine these deplorable conditions made doubly hideous by torrential rains, pouring through fogbanks that shroud the drenched earth in darkness at noon tide, and one may possibly realize in what wretched circumstances the miners at Clifton, Scarborough and other of the coastal settlements have existed during the past week or so—and must always exist in any but fine weather.

Incredible is by no means too strong a term whereby to describe the deplorable position of these unfortunate people. No one who does not know the facts would ever believe that white human beings could be compelled, in a country like this, to live as these people have to live. The great majority of them possess no comforts whatever. Their lives are devoid of almost every compensating pleasure that makes the lives of other toilers tolerable. They have no gardens, no enclosures that they may look upon as their own, and beautify, or amply, to the household profit. They have actually no homes—no place that they could make homes of. There are some few exceptions. But they are scarce. The dirtiest, dingiest slums of Surrey Hills or Woolloomoo loo cannot show such unspeakable hovels as hundreds of the southern district colliers and their families are compelled to herd in. Most of them are not even shelters. Indeed, compared with the misery of everyday existence in such places, the grimy arduous dangerous work in the mines There may be something in that fact.

Sanitation Movement

There has been an outbreak of typhoid down the South Coast lately. And the matter is by no means occasion for wonder

The municipal authorities down south have just inaugurated a new sanitary service. They are compelling its use, too. And the township of Clifton wears a strange and extraordinary appearance to-day, in consequence. The general style of architecture there is primeval. Huts, built roughly of planks and tin, have been scattered around anyhow, and with no regard for uniformity of frontage. These huts are for the most part in a wofully ruinous state. Like the cottage in the poem their outsides are old and mean. But unlike the thatched abode that the poet described, everything within these places is wondrously unclean. The wind whistles through their cracked sides. The rain beats in and through them. On hot sunny days they are ovens. But people are living in them—because they must live somewhere, and these is no where else. And now each one of these poor hovels has its sanitary appurtenance. There are no yards—not a bit of fence of any kind. And the galvanised iron outhouses are put just anywhere. There are three of them in front of one hovel in which a family of six is crowded. And the stench from these places is at times insufferable. A serious case of sickness occurred at this place lately.

There is a fine new post and telegraph office at Clifton. It is a two-storied structure, of attractive appearance. But grouped alongside it, higgledy-piggledy, is a collection of the worst class of hovels to be found in this country. They must have been a bad enough blot upon the landscape before. Viewed from a distance—a good long distance—they might even have lent something of picturesqueness to the scene. They are ruinous enough for that. But the sanitary conveniences have taken away their picturesque value, and left them a mere hideous collection of four hovels—the hideousness sharply and conspicuously emphasized by the new sentry-box like structures which are scattered about amongst them.

Elsewhere at Clifton there are huts and humpies as bad as those around the fine new post office—or worse. But the municipal authorities can do but little to improve matters, at present. If they pull these places down and burn the wretched stuff of which they are pieced together, the unfortunate people who inhabit them will be left shelterless. There are no other places into which they can crawl, even. It is a terrible state of things. Clifton is a very beautiful place. But it is most foully disfigured by about the craziest, ugliest, most ruinous collection of impossible hovels that can be imagined in a clean community. The illustrations can give only a faint idea of the actual conditions. They are in all respects shocking. And the residents declare that nothing can be done to improve these conditions till the Government takes action. Because the parties responsible remain deaf to all entreaties and blind to the pressing necessities of the community.

Sardine Street, Tintown

When a coal miner has finished his "shift" he is always a tired man. Also he is invariably too thickly begrimed to sleep unwashed. But it is but small opportunity for washing that many of these toil-worn people have. In what is popularly known as "Tintown" at Scarborough, there are a number of galvanised iron huts in which the miners live. Those on the right hand of the "road" are single-roomed. In each of them two men live. These kennels have no floors—nothing but cinders. The fireplaces are just heaps of rough-hewn stone. A couple of rough bunks and a small bench complete the equipment of the places. There is no fence. The huts are jambed closely together, with but a few inches of space between them. There is a rough track in front of them. And there is only a rough, weed-grown rise to the railway line at the rear. They are nothing but kennels, these places, and very untidy dirty kennels at that. And not the slightest provision has been made for water supply. When rain falls the denizens of these sardine boxes line up all the hollow-ware they possess to catch the water as it flows off the roofs.

When the men come "home" to their huts they must go and hunt for water to remove some of the grime that lies thickly upon them. They bail it out of holes, fed by springs principally. And the water that is used by the occupants of the upper huts sometimes flows along, to be used again by the people lower down.

It had been raining when "The Sun" representative visited Tintown. The steep road was like a rocky trout stream in a mountain district. In all the little hovels there was no comfort, nothing of the kind that makes a home comfortable or attractive—nothing but wetness and dirt, and misery. In one of the huts were two men, one trying to sleep, and the other making tedious and unsuccessful efforts to prepare a rough meal on a discouraged fire, the smoke from which refused to ascend the low bush chimney. Water from the embankment at the rear was flowing over the cinder floor. To keep some part of the floor out of the water a channel had been cut in the ground from the hole in the back of the hut to the doorway in the front.

It was all very miserable. And the conditions in all the other huts were the same. Not a vestige of cheer or suggestion of comfort anywhere. And before long these men had to leave their desolate kennels and go back to their burrowing in the dark bowels of the earth. Straining tired muscles, delving with wearied arms, in the dim light of a lantern that was only a spark in the blackness, to win for humanity the fuel without which the march of civilization must stop, and the wheels of industry be heard no more. From the coal pit to the hovel—from the hovel to the coal pit. This dismal routine of tedious discomfort, all that there is in a man's life! A dog's life?—No. A dog would not have it. People ask why miners strike occasionally. An apt answer to the question, why do they not cease work more frequently would be that the conditions at "home" are so unspeakably dismal and discouraging that the blackness and the labor of the pit are deemed preferable to idleness in circumstances of such discomfort.

The Married Quarters

On the left side of Sardine Street are larger huts for married men with families. In these places children are growing up. Poor little Australians! What a grievous handicap is theirs! No home comforts, no garden, no backyard, even, to play in; none of the surroundings for them that educate and elevate a child, and help a nation onwards on the march to progress and enlightenment and prosperity. Nothing but squalor, and such poor, plain comfort as the love and devotion of sad-eyed mothers can supply from time to time. Here, also, there is no provision made for saving the rain water. When it rains out comes all the hollow-ware—tubs, jubs, tins, of all sorts.

Devotion of the Women

The women whom fate and the indifference of mankind have doomed to existence in these places, fighting nobly, but almost hopelessly, in circumstances absolutely devoid of cheer, or hopes to do their best for those entrusted to them, are all sad-eyed. Their lives know nothing of the sunshine of a clean, well-kept home. The dull cloud that overhangs them, denying them the brightness that is enjoyed by their fellow-women, has no silver lining—as far as they are able to see. When a strike occurs, and the weekly supplies cease, and there are dismal threats to turn them out of the hovels in which they are forced to live—then the fight so courageously and patiently maintained by these self-sacrificing women becomes a sadly hopeless one indeed.

The Problem—And Its Answer

At the lower end of Sardine Street, with its rocky boulder-strewn waterway of a road, are two little cottages that shine out as bright exceptions to a rule of drab and dismal dulness. They are plainly built. But they are apart from the others. They have fences, and gardens, and fruit trees, and greenery growing over their verandahs. And the people in these places do not wear the general appearance of despondency that characterises the rest of the place. What is the meaning of it?

"Well, you see," said one matron—she actually smiles as she spoke—"we bought this ground many years ago, before it was locked up, and we have made our homes on it."

That was all. And it was so perfectly simple! But the eloquence of the lesson that that simple explanation taught could not be expressed in any terms of speech.

"We have made our homes here!" Let the Government of New South Wales take the lesson to heart. Hundreds and hundreds of toiling men, living like animals, eager to buy land and thriftily build pretty homes upon it—homes in which their children might be happy in comfort, and even some of the modest luxuries of life. And not an inch of ground that they may possess in what is almost virgin wilderness. They must live in the comfortless hovels provided for them—or travel long distances to their employment from places where the owners of the land believe in the right of even miners to possess something that they may cherish and take pleasure in, and turn to refreshingly from the tedium if their everyday work.

This is a serious matter for Clifton and Scarborough and other places where the land is all held by those who will neither sell it that others may build decent houses, nor yet build the houses themselves. When the greater number of the men employed there are compelled to live away—and pay railway fare—it means the loss of hundreds of pounds a week. It is centralisation—on a moderate scale, perhaps, but that is what it is. And Scarborough is one of the most lovely watering places on this continent—and one of the most easily accessible from the capital. But it is not going ahead as it ought to do. The money that it should have is drained out of it steadily.

Clifton, also, would be a beautiful resort—but for its awful collection of abominable hovels and the startling effect that its brannew sanitary system gives those places. And Clifton, also, is showing signs of decay where it ought to be displaying all the evidences of material progress.

Also, it should be mentioned to enjoy the privileges of a home, the miner working on the "lock-up" areas has to make other than pecuniary sacrifices. He has to wait as long as two hours for a train, sometimes. But he has the home, and makes the sacrifices cheerfully. He uses what is called the "paper train," a good deal, and that train travels by a timetable all its own, apparently.

The Government's Responsibility

If it is admitted that it is the duty of a Government to ensure that the citizens of a country grow up in circumstances possible of promoting the growth of a healthy, viril, moral people, the Government of New South Wales has a big responsibility in this matter. The position is now, that it is not possible for the miners to secure land on which they can erect healthy homes. It is not possible for them to possess adequate sanitary conveniences. The South Coast district is as beautiful as any place yet discovered on this wide earth. Its wealth of ever-varying scenery—its glorious diversity of entrancing ocean pictures, its towering, mist-shrouded, wooded heights, its splendid beaches, its lovely gullies, filled with rich store of bright ferns and brighter wild flowers—all these things put the South Coast in the front rank of the beauty spots of New South Wales. But, in sharp and awful contrast, the people who live in the midst of all this wonderful natural beauty are condemned to an existence of the most extreme squalor and misery imaginable. And there is no hope for them—save in the Government. There is nothing to be done for them except by the Government. They must stay on, herded together in little tin kennels like dogs—or crowded into crazy hovels of half-rotten boards patched with strips of tin—until the time when the Government shall choose to say.

"This Thing Shall no Longer be."

And most surely, by every claim that undeserved, unnecessary misery may have upon human sympathy and human pity and human justice, that time must be at hand.

It should not be difficult for the shocking conditions here related to be remedied by legislative means. There are large areas of land suitable for building held by the colliery proprietors, for which they have no use—and for which, as they quite justly explain, they can give no tenure. That should not be an impossible disability to overcome. But the State has the power to make or vary any conditions in the interests of the people. And where, as is the case in some of these southern places, the disabilities are the result of heartless obstinacy and unconcern on the part of individuals. The State is still all powerful.

Teaching the Children to Pray

The women of the South Coast districts have for long been making their sad plight a theme of special and earnest intercession in their prayers to Almighty God. They have no longer hopes of succor at the hand of man: it is in the power of the Government to ensure that their pitiful appeals are presently answered.

"It has been going on so long—for years and years"—said a wan-faced mother. "And we've got so that we dont hope any more. But we pray for better times, most of us, and we teach the children to pray, too."

Think of the sublime pathos, the wondrous pitifulness of that!—The Sun, Sydney.

NO INTERFERENCE WITH "INTELLECTUAL" PROPAGANDA

NEW YORK.—In a message to the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Gaynor delivered himself of some thought regarding police interference with Socialist propaganda, and the arrest of strikers. Said Gaynor in part:

"I have particularly made the police authorities understand that those who entertain views of government, or of an economic or social order, different from ours, are not to be interfered with, or denied the right of freedom of speech and of assembly on that account.

A propaganda of intellectual persuasion and peaceable means for changes in form of government or in the economic or social order is lawful and not to be meddled with, much less oppressed, by the police. The Socialists do not believe in individualism, but in collectivism. In place of having the present condition of individual ownership of property, they would mass all land and chief products and the principal means, tools, and machinery of production under the control and operation of the state, in order, as they claim, to bring about distribution of the total product of industry among all those who contribute to produce it by their physical and mental work, after first providing for the non-productive agen and infirm. That it clearly appears to the rdest of us that this scheme would be doing away with incentive to individual exertion, greatly reduce production, and thereby increase poverty and distress, is no reason for denying those who advocate it right secured to every one by our system of government. And that their flag is red, instead of blue or yelow or green, does not annoy or alarm intelligent people.

"They chose the color red for their emblem, not to signify that they favor violence or the shedding of blood, as the unintelligent suppose, and as actions of those in official authority often lead people to believe, but for the purpose of typifying the common brotherhood of all men of all nations through the same red blood which flows through the veins of all, and to the end that all war and violence shall cease. Let the fundamental rights of all on which free government rests be denied to no one. Those who want to work changes peaceably through the ballot box have the right to try to do so. They may let light in on them. As John Stuart Mill says, that which seems the height of absurdity to one generation often becomes the height of wisdom to the next."

BARGAIN FOR CASH—Cottage Piano, $100. Purchaser wanted at once, seller leaving town. Apply, Ledger Office. 30-3 t.p.

FOR SALE—House, not plastered, water inside, on half lot, 30 x 120, and a Shack: corner of McEvoy St. and Mason Avenue; cheap for cash. Apply, Geo. Holmes, Box 81, Fernie. 4t- p.

TO LET—Furnished Room; suitable for one or two gentlemen or light housekeeping. Apply, Ledger Office. Mar. 25-n.p.

WANTED—M.D., duly qualified to practise in Alberta. For particulars write to James Neill, Secy., Canmore Local Union 1387, Canmore Alberta.

BASEMENT OF MINERS' HALL to rent every evening except Sunday and Thursday. Suitable for concerts, smokers, dancing, lectures, etc. For terms, etc., apply to D. Rees, Secretary, Gladstone Local, Fernie.

FOR RENT—Heintzman Parlors, Miners' Block, either whole or part of store.—Apply, D. Rees, P. O. 361, Fernie, B. C.

LOST—Transfer Card No. 16, Book No. 19560, issued from Frank Local on Sept. 26th, 1910. Finder please return to Geo. Nicol, Secretary, Frank Local, Frank, Alta.

FOR SALE—One or two good driving teams; broken to single or double harness; ages from 3 to 7 years; suitable for buggy or delivery rigs.—S. J. HARRISON, Wardner, B. C. 3t-p

MONEY TO LOAN—M. A. Kastner Fernie and district for the Colonial Investment Company, and is prepared to advance money on business blocks at a reasonable rate of interest.

FOR RENT—Five Room Cottage. Apply, W. Minton, Annex. 31-6f

TORONTO.—It is stated that the C. N.R. company is negotiating for the the possesion of extensive coal interests on the shores of Brule Lake, near the Yellow Head Pass. The property lies on the proposed main line of the C. N. R. through the mountains. No details are yet to hand, but the transfer will involve a large sum of money.

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