

HUNDREDS PERISH IN GREATEST CONFLAGRATION IN CANADA'S HISTORY—SEVEN TOWNS DESTROYED

THOUSANDS OF LUMBERMEN IN GREAT DANGER

One Hundred Square Miles Surrounding Fernie, B. C., Is a Mass of Flames

Michel, Hosmer, Sparwood, Olsen and Other Towns are Reported Early This Morning to Be in Ashes—Many Bodies Missing

Property Loss Will Reach Tens of Millions of Dollars and the Catastrophe Will Go Down in History as Ranking with the Terrible Disaster at San Francisco—Thousands Homeless

Special to The Herald. WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Aug. 2.—Hundreds are dead, 10,000 homeless, half a dozen towns entirely destroyed, the lives of thousands of lumbermen and prospectors in jeopardy and hundreds of square miles of timber a seething mass of flames tells a part of the story of the worst fire Canada has ever known.

Not a building of any consequence is left in Fernie, and it is thought that Michel, fourteen miles distant, has also been completely destroyed.

Every wire that is still in working order near the scene of the terrible conflagration carries stories of a disaster which may prove even worse than the one at San Francisco in April, 1906.

Late tonight it is reported that Hosmer, Olsen and Sparwood have been entirely destroyed.

The air itself, says one report, is afire.

Cut off from every avenue of escape, hundreds of persons known to have been in the area already laid bare by the flames, are thought to have perished.

The bodies of many victims so far recovered are burned beyond recognition.

In scores of instances the flesh has been burned to a crisp. In fact, it is probable many human beings have been reduced to ashes, just as would be the case were the bodies placed in a crematory.

So intense at times is the heat, fed by the timber land and wooden structures, that persons half a mile away from the fire itself are overcome.

Railroad property of all kinds has been destroyed. Bridges are gone, whole trains of freight cars have burned and coal and coke supply stations are in ruins.

While there is no way to accurately estimate the loss of life or property, it is known that more than 100 persons have perished and property worth tens of millions of dollars has gone up in smoke.

The fire at an early hour this morning is still making rapid headway.

A special received here at 11 p. m. from Nelson, B. C., places the number of dead around Fernie alone at seventy to 100.

The death list may be double this number. The population of the stricken towns, according to latest figures, is as follows: Elko, 400; Fernie, 6000; Michel, 1800; Hosmer, 1000; Coal Creek, 1500; Morrissey, 100.

The Crows Nest pass country in this vicinity is the richest in the Dominion.

CRANBROOK, B. C., Aug. 2.—W. Carswell, assistant superintendent of the Great Northern railroad, arrived here from Fernie. He made his way out at great risk. Part of the trip was made on a handcar and the balance on foot. Every stick of timber along the line is burned and not a living thing is left. The bodies of Peter Miller and Louis Fratina, a section hand, have been brought in and four unknown Italians have been found. Mr. and Mrs. Forester and twenty-five men have arrived at Campbell's Siding, having been forced to give up their fight to save Sparwood mill. Five members of the party succumbed.

Starvation has been added to the terrors. When the people left their homes for the protection camps, little or no provisions were taken and now there are some 6000 on the prairies with nothing to eat.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Aug. 2.—The Great Northern officials have received word from their superintendent at White Fish, Mont., that sixty-five carloads of coke and coal and three bridges belonging to the company have been destroyed by the forest fires at Fernie. The big bridge just west of the depot at Fernie and No. 3 and No. 4 bridges across the Elk river, between Hosmer and Michel, have been wiped out.

The Canadian Pacific railway has lost two depots, a water tank and all of its cars at Fernie. Only a few residences are left standing in the town. A message



WAR RUMOR IS NOT JUSTIFIED

CASTRO'S ACTIONS PARTIALLY EXPLAINED

TALK OF ARMED RESISTANCE HELD TO BE ABSURD

Letters Written Denunciatory of American Presidents Were Confidential and Not Intended for Publication

By Associated Press. CARACAS, Friday, July 31 (via Port of Spain, Aug. 2).—The differences between President Castro and the government of the Netherlands will probably turn out to be less serious than at first appeared.

All talk of armed resistance is absurd in this government. The government believes it had the fullest justification for its dismissal of M. de Rues, the Dutch minister, and points to the action of the government of the United States in asking the recall of the British minister and Sackville West and President Cleveland's request in October, 1888, as well as a like demand upon Spain for the recall of Minister Dupuy de Lome by President McKinley in February, 1898.

Indeed, the case of De Rues is said to be much more flagrant than either of the others referred to. In the place of Sackville West and De Lome the letters written denunciatory of the American presidents were confidential and not intended for publication, while in the case of De Rues, on the other hand, he wrote his letter with the deliberate purpose that it should be published.

In the place of Amsterdam (called the Hou en Trouw (Loyal and True). Its membership consists of prominent Holland merchants, and its object is to secure employment for young Hollanders in foreign countries. This society publishes a monthly bulletin for circulation among its members. It notes existing conditions in foreign countries and indicates where there are vacancies which might be profitably filled by young men from the Netherlands.

Letters Ask for Information In order to secure information respecting opportunities for employment the secretary makes a practice of sending out letters asking for information, to Dutch merchants as well as to the ministers and consuls of the Netherlands government throughout the world. It was in response to one of these letters of inquiry that Minister de Rues sent the following letter which was published in the May, 1908, bulletin of the Hou en Trouw society of Amsterdam: "Caracas, 9 April, 1908.

"Referring to your letter of 24th of February, I am sorry to inform you that the present time is anything but favorable to business. The system of government (since 1899) of the present almost dictatorial ruling president, which is economically for the creation and afterwards always annulment of monopolies, through all kinds of subtleties, has very nearly ruined the country. The only ray of light in these dark days through which Venezuela struggles is the price of cocoa; but this is of course not sufficient to make the future hopeful.

"A good part of the import and export trade in Venezuela is in the hands of Germans, who engage their employees in Europe, chiefly at Hamburg. These young men come out on a contract for three years, after the expiration of which they either return or, according to their fitness, gain advancement where they are. Firms also

(Continued on Page Two.)

MAN LYING ON TRACK IS INSTANTLY KILLED

By Associated Press. SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 2.—While lying across the track early today Richard Krabel, an Alameda baker, was run over by a westbound local train near the United engineering works at Alameda and killed. How he came to be prostrate on the track is a mystery.

Engineer Ede says the man was lying on the rails when he first noticed him. It was then too late to stop the train, although he tried to do so. Krabel was clad in a light suit of much the same color as the roadbed, and to this fact Ede attributes his failure to see the body sooner. He may have fallen against a rail, and becoming stunned could not get off, or being under the influence of liquor, gone to sleep.

BEAR JAMES H. BUDD TO HIS FINAL REST

FORMER GOVERNOR BURIED AT STOCKTON

Bar Association Attends in a Body, and Leading State Officials Take Part in the Ceremonies

By Associated Press. STOCKTON, Aug. 2.—The funeral of former Governor James H. Budd took place this morning from the late residence of the deceased, Rev. R. H. Slink of the Congregational church officiating.

Governor Gillett and staff and other state officials were present, and the floral offerings were both numerous and beautiful. The pallbearers were former Lieutenant Governor W. T. Jeter, Attorney Frank Gould, Frank Drew, Joseph Byrne, Jr., Attorney A. V. Scanlon and Attorney E. R. Thompson. The casket was placed in the receiving vault at Rural cemetery.

The attendance was very large and the Bar association was present in a body.

LANDS LARGEST YELLOW-FIN TUNA CAUGHT IN 3 YEARS

By Wireless to Associated Press. AYALON, Catalina Island, Cal., Aug. 2.—A yellow-fin tuna, fifty-six inches long and weighing 84½ pounds, was caught at noon today off Seal Rock by E. A. Herrick of Los Angeles. He used the regulation tuna tackle and baited with sardines. He was fishing with Captain H. Boss in the launch Helen.

The tuna towed the launch three miles, and four times took out 400 feet of line, and four times sounded bottom. Fishermen state that there is a school of at least 500 tuna in these waters, and every available launch is out with enthusiastic waltons.

This is the largest tuna taken in these waters for three years.

ACQUITTED OF LAND FRAUDS

OREGON OFFICIALS GO FREE OF CHARGES

"HENEY INDICTMENTS" MAY BE FORTHWITH QUASHED

Prosecution of Binger Hermann, However, Will Be Proceeded with, Trial Being Probably Set Next Week

By Associated Press. PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 2.—Ex-Senator R. A. Booth of Eugene, his brother James H. Booth, ex-receiver of the land office at Roseburg, and Thomas E. Singleton, who have been on trial for several days in the United States district court on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the government out of 160 acres of public land in Douglas county, were acquitted by the jury today.

The jury was out nineteen hours. It is stated that, largely because of the failure of the government to secure a conviction in the present case, following closely on the heels of the acquittal of former Receiver Booth on a similar charge, the government will quash the majority of the remaining "Henev" indictments, known as the "Henev" indictments.

Excited from those to be discharged are the ones against Binger Hermann, former congressman and commissioner of the general land office at Washington.

It is said the date of the trial of the Hermann indictments will be set this week.

It is understood F. J. Henev will come to Portland to try Mr. Hermann and prosecute in person the cases against him.

CIRCULATION OF BANK NOTES SHOW DECREASE

By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—The monthly statement of circulation of national bank notes shows that at the close of business July 31 the total circulation amounted to \$892,088,991, which is an increase for the year of \$88,693,105 and a decrease for the month of \$6,244,926.

The circulation, based on United States bonds, aggregates \$825,350,982, an increase for the year of \$70,357,695, and an increase for the month of \$2,110,465.

The amount of circulation secured by lawful money was \$66,728,000, an increase for the year of \$18,355,412 and a decrease for the month of \$8,255,391.

The amount of bonds on deposit to secure circulation notes was \$629,423,420 and to secure public deposits \$145,869,372.

LABORING MEN RESENT ACTION OF REPUBLICANS

BRYAN IS NOW CERTAIN OF VICTORY

REVERSAL OF STANDARD OIL CASE MAKES VOTES

Opinion of Attorney General Bonaparte and Suits Started Against Labor Leaders Also "Help Some"

Special to The Herald. FAIRVIEW, Lincoln, August 2.—In an interview with newspaper men today William J. Bryan declared he believed nothing can now prevent the success of the Democratic party at the polls this fall.

"And," said the Commoner, "even those who ordinarily are inclined to be exceedingly conservative in their estimates, admit that the victory is bound to be overwhelming."

Continuing, he said: "Several things have occurred of late to throw thousands of votes to the Democrats. First of all the Standard Oil reversal has aroused the whole nation. Then comes the contempt cases against labor leaders in Washington, and, finally, the opinion of Attorney General Bonaparte delivered yesterday holding it to be illegal for national banks in Oklahoma to contribute toward the guaranty fund for the protection of depositors.

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ALLEGED CLAIM JUMPERS SHOT AT RANDSBURG

BRADFORD PECK INSTANTLY KILLED

M. S. TARKINGTON MORTALLY WOUNDED

J. N. Witt Uses Winchester with Telling Effect When Two Men Attempt to Drive Stake on Property

Special to The Herald. RANDSBURG, Aug. 2.—As a result of trouble today over a claim six miles west of Garden Station, Bradford Peck, Jr., was shot through the heart and instantly killed and M. S. Tarkington was mortally wounded. The shooting was done by J. N. Witt with a Winchester rifle, when the two men attempted to drive a stake on a claim occupied and claimed by Witt.

Immediately after the shooting Witt took his family to Johannesburg, where they are now staying with friends, and then came to this city and surrendered himself to the sheriff.

Tarkington, who resides at Tulare, is an old soldier and a member of Al Malikhah temple, Los Angeles. He was shot through the neck and head, and probably will die before morning. He managed to reach a railroad station but fainted before his arrival from the loss of blood.

Peck, the man who was instantly killed, formerly lived at Fresno, where his father still resides.

In telling the story of the shooting, Witt said: "I was just ready to leave for the mountains with my family on a camping trip when Peck and Tarkington came into the yard and started to drive a stake. I ordered them away and when they refused to go I advanced toward them with the Winchester in my hands.

"They made no move to leave and when I shot Peck dead and wounded Tarkington, Tarkington dropped to the ground but got up again and begged me not to shoot. He started away towards the railroad station. I believe these men were desperate characters, ready to take my home from me and kill me if given a chance."

One story is to the effect that the claim where the shooting occurred was owned by Tarkington and Peck and that Witt and a man named Cheesborough had jumped it. It was known that both sides claimed the property as their own, but no bloodshed was expected to follow the dispute. Before leaving here for the claim last night Mr. Tarkington told several friends that he was going to avoid trouble if possible.

REVALK'S DEATH HAS MYSTERIOUS ASPECT

HAD BEEN DRINKING FREELY FOR THREE WEEKS

Police Reported to Be Investigating Connection with Fraternity and Want to Know About Missing Letters

By Associated Press. SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 2.—Mystery still surrounds the death of Vernal Revalk, the young student who succumbed early yesterday morning at the harbor emergency hospital to the effects of potassium cyanide. The opinions of the physician and officials who investigated the case are that Revalk committed suicide, but the father of the boy and his closest friends are inclined to think he was the victim of foul play.

It developed today that for the past three weeks he had been addicted to the use of alcohol and other drinks of an injurious character. He is said to have used them in considerable quantities. The boy was of a highly emotional temperament and inclined to be despondent at times.

According to report, Revalk was in love with a young woman who was married last week and it is thought this made him despondent.

The police feel there is something back of the death of Revalk and are investigating his connection with the college fraternity, some of the members of which were at the farewell party tendered him on the eve of his intended departure for the Philippines. It is known that a secret meeting of the members was held yesterday morning. Revalk wrote four letters before starting on the hook ride that ended with his death, and only one has been accounted for. That was sent to Leland Sparks, son of the late governor of Nevada. Young Sparks wired today that he received the letter and left this evening for this city. Three other letters were written at a Fillmore street cafe.

JAMES H. HUMPHREY, A PIONEER MINER, IS DEAD

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 2.—James H. Humphrey, a pioneer miner and merchant, died at his home on Chestnut street, Oakland, today, after a brief illness.

He leaves three sons and four daughters. The eldest son, Harry, is chairman of the Nevada state Republican committee. Another son, Charles, is a train dispatcher for the Southern Pacific company, and the youngest son, Frank, is assistant to the treasurer of the Southern Pacific.

THE NEWS SUMMARY

FORECAST For Los Angeles and vicinity: Cloudy Monday; thunderstorms in the mountains; fresh west wind. Maximum temperature yesterday, 82 degrees; minimum, 69 degrees.

LOCAL Franciscans observe feast of Portuncula indulgence with great pomp. Jail officials puzzled by case of miner reputed to be man of wealth. Youth has narrow escape from drowning at Bimilni baths.

COAST Alameda man, lying on track, instantly killed by train. Alleged claim jumpers shot at Randsburg. One man killed and another mortally wounded.

EASTERN William J. Bryan, in interview with newspaper men at Fairview, declares action of courts will make thousands of votes for Democratic party.

FOREIGN Talk of armed resistance in Venezuela declared to be not justified. Former minister to United States elected president of Panama.