

# TERRIFIC EXPLOSION REVEALS DEATHS OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED MINERS THE COLLAPSES OF THE CROWS NEST COMPANY BRITISH COLUMBIA

## DRIFTS ARE UNLOCKED AND SCORES OF MEN CUT OFF FROM EXITS

### Those Who Survive the Shock Fall Victims to the Deadly Gases That Soon Fill the Workings.

### Rescuers Work Heroically and Succeed in Recovering the Bodies of Ten of the Unfortunates.

#### DEAD RECOVERED FROM THE MINE.

- STEVE MORGAN,
- JOE SAUGALA,
- WILLIE ROBERTSON,
- VICTOR JOHNSON,
- JOHN LEADBEATER,
- FRANK SALTER,
- JOHN McLEOD,
- T. FEARFUL,
- THOMAS JOHNSON,
- ONE UNIDENTIFIED.

VANCOUVER, B. C., May 23.—One of the most terrible disasters in the history of the frequent mine accidents in British Columbia occurred last night in the Crows Nest Coal Company's mine at Fernie, B. C. More than 100 men are either dead or imprisoned in the mine, and little hope is entertained of rescuing any who may yet be alive.

The explosion took place at 7:30 last evening. The management has a list of 133 men who are known to have been in the mine, and there were probably others. Of these only twenty-four are known to be safe. It is expected that few, if any, of the remaining 109 are alive.

**CAUSE IS NOT KNOWN.**  
What caused the explosion has not yet been definitely ascertained. One of the mine shafts was always more or less gaseous. It was reported in Fernie this evening that the explosion resulted from the use of an open lamp by a careless miner. Another theory accounting for the explosion is that a miner struck a match, exploding the gas, which was always present in No. 2 shaft. The true cause of the disaster probably will never be positively ascertained, for it is doubtful if any man who knows will ever reach the outer air alive or be able to tell the tale.

The explosion took place in No. 2 shaft of the mine, being repeated in a few seconds in No. 3, with which it was connected. The two shafts are situated in Coal Creek, about six miles from Fernie. No. 2 has always been considered the more dangerous of the two, being dry, dusty and gaseous.

Not a man of more than 100 employed in No. 2 escaped. From No. 3 workings about twenty-one men es-

aped. The first intimation of the disaster which those on the outside received was a rush of coal dust and fire to the height of more than 1000 feet above the fan. Word was immediately sent to Fernie, five miles from the mine, and within two minutes from the time of the accident occurred relief parties were at work.

R. Drennan, Dr. Bonnell and True Weatherly were the first to enter the mine. When about 500 feet into the working Drennan was overcome by afterdamp and had it not been for his companions, would have perished. On being removed to the outer air he recovered and gave instructions to the rescuing party to commence repairing the overcasts. The overcasts are the pipes which connect the air through the mine, and they had been almost completely destroyed, rendering it impossible to enter, owing to the afterdamp.

**HEROISM OF THE RESCUERS.**  
Volunteers were called for and a score of brave men sprang to the work. For nearly six hours this policy was pursued with tireless energy. Every few minutes the men would collapse and be borne to the outer air and their places quickly filled by new volunteers.

The first body recovered was taken from No. 3 mine about 11 o'clock and was that of William Robertson, a lad of 13 years. Several hours elapsed and then three more bodies were recovered. None of the victims gave the slightest signs of life and their remains were removed to the washout. At 4 o'clock this morning relief parties had penetrated so far that the gas became unbearable and operations had to be suspended for an hour or two in order to

let the men clear the afterdamp.

Among those who escaped from No. 3 were: C. Burrows, James Baker, P. McNeill, C. Dunlop, A. Farquharson, James Carr, James Dobie, John Sharp, P. Monahan, H. Salter and a number of foreigners.

Many acts of bravery were witnessed during the night. The heroic work of True Weatherly, who time and again entered the pit where men were falling all around him, was particularly noticeable. So far only ten bodies have been taken from the mine, and several

was settled and that the British terms would be expected to be liberal. The British public is still quite ignorant of the course of events in South Africa and there are no demonstrations to-night on the streets, although a great mass of the question asked is, "Is it peace?"

On the other hand the stock exchange throughout the day was a seething mass of brokers, who eagerly bought South African shares, while long after the closing of the exchange nearly a thousand brokers crowded Thurston's main floor, did a frantic curb business on the strength of the peace outlook.

The appearance of Brodrick, the Secretary of State for War, at the Volunteer Service dinner to-night was watched eagerly in the hope of gaining an insight into the Government's private frame of mind. Brodrick's listeners had to be content with the speech, the speaker turned reference to the present situation responding to the toast, "The Imperial Forces," the War Secretary said:

"I should like to enter into details of the communications which are now pending and which, I believe, will all hope, the surrender of the Boers."

Brodrick then proceeded to reiterate the oft-declared intention of the Government not to be drawn into any compromise which would jeopardize future peace in South Africa.

A dispatch to the Standard from Pretoria dated Thursday, May 22, says that up to the previous Sunday the discussions between the members of the peace conference at Vereeniging were heated. On Sunday calmer counsel prevailed, and certain points were suggested by the Orange Free State representatives themselves as offering a prospect of agreement. The terms of the proposed agreement were discussed at Pretoria, and it is believed that a definite agreement has been drafted, and that this agreement has been signed. Much has been due to the dispatch to the patience and tact of Lord Kitchener and to the full facilities given to the delegates for discussion.

#### DEMANDS BY BOERS.

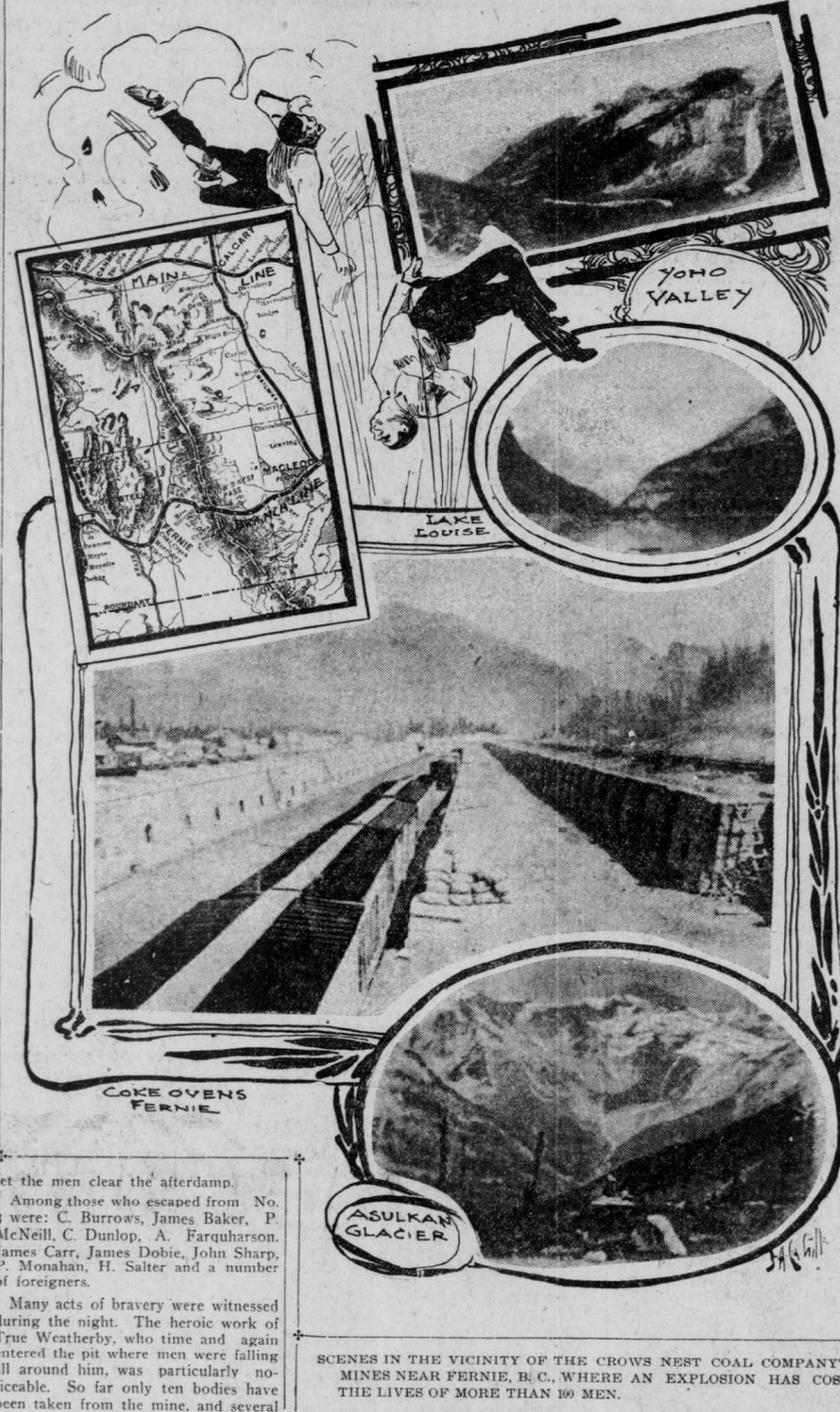
London Paper Publishes List of the Conditions for Peace.

LONDON, May 24.—After the Cabinet meeting ended a meeting of the inner committee of the Cabinet was held. After this meeting Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, proceeded to Buckingham Palace, where he had an audience with King Edward. Chamberlain returned to Buckingham Palace a second time in the evening. Lord Salisbury has gone to Hatfield House and the other Ministers have dispersed to their homes.

It is understood that the Boer demand for independence has now been completely abandoned, but that certain points concerning amnesty, compensation and representative government were submitted to the Cabinet, together with minor matters, and that at the meeting of the Cabinet committee the Government replies to these points was decided, and that this reply was called to order.

The Daily News claims the Boer demands are as follows: First—Either an immediate grant of self-government, or failing that, to fix a date for the establishment of self-government. Second—In case self-government be deferred, the Boers should be entitled to advise with their temporary rulers. Third—Amnesty for the rebels. Fourth—Permission to retain their rifles for defense against the natives. Fifth—Permission to retain their saddle horses. Sixth—A guarantee that the natives should not be treated upon an equality with white men. Seventh—That no limit shall be placed upon the money for rebuilding and restocking the farms.

The Daily News is of the opinion that with the exception of the matters of self-



SCENES IN THE VICINITY OF THE CROWS NEST COAL COMPANY'S MINES NEAR FERNIE, B. C., WHERE AN EXPLOSION HAS COST THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 100 MEN.

## COAL DUST AND FIRE LEAP IN A CLOUD ONE THOUSAND FEET HIGH

### Dread Signal That Flashes the Awful News of Slaughter to the Workers Outside the Mines.

### Call for Succor Is at Once Sent to Fernie and Relief Parties Rush to the Scene of Disaster.

days will elapse before all are recovered. The mine is free from fire and the bodies will be removed as fast as the afterdamp is cleared away. The rescuing parties are working four-hour shifts and the company is doing all in its power to assist in the work. General Superintendent Stockette and Superintendent Drennan have been on the scene ever since the disaster occurred and are working heroically.

The town is terror-stricken, and heartrending scenes meet the eye on every side. All day the trains to the mine have been crowded by anxious friends and relatives of the imprisoned men hurrying to the scene of the disaster.

A meeting of the Board of Trade has been called to organize a relief fund for the sufferers.

#### MINES POORLY EXCAVATED.

The mines are six miles from Fernie. Three seams are being worked, and in the initial stages of development, the Government officials say, the management took great risks, their workings being irregular and made to hurry the production, as the demand was in advance of development. Nos. 2 and 3 mines are connected, and the Inspector of Mines pointed out in his reports that an explosion in the one would be apt to affect the other. In the opinion of the inspector a proper use of the ventilating fan, which the company has kept constantly in use, an enlargement of the airways, keeping the brattice close in to the face, putting in stoppings as required, and maintaining good discipline, should result in a fair exemption from danger.

No. 1 tunnel enters the face of the mountain on the right side of Coal Creek. This tunnel is gaseous, the miners operate with safety lamps, and the mine being ventilated by the separate split system, by a Chandler fan and in other ways. The mine is dry, but not dusty, and the coal is brought out by electric motors.

#### OWNED BY VICTORIANS.

Opposite No. 1 tunnel, and entering the face on the other side of Coal Creek, is No. 3. No. 2 is worked (as far as ventilation is concerned) in connection with No. 3, the same fan being the motive power for ventilation in both mines.

The Crows Nest Coal Company, proprietors of the Fernie mines, is the outgrowth of the enterprise of a syndicate of Victorians. In 1886 William Fernie, who resides here, learning that the Gale Company had applied for a charter through the Crows Nest Pass, interested a number of other gentlemen, who put an exploring party in the field with Fernie at its head. One week after taking the field, in 1887, the party found the first seam on Martin Creek. Ledge after ledge were discovered the year following.

#### FERNIE BECOMES A CITY.

For a time the company was threatened with extinction by the Central Pacific Railway, but mainly through Fernie's efforts, who hung on to his holdings when others weakened, the co-operation of Senator Cox, Robert Jaffray, Silas Rogers, Colonel Pellat and other influential capitalists, including James J. Hill, was enlisted, and the future of the company was assured.

Since that the British Columbia Southern Railway has been constructed as a feeder to the Great Northern. Enormous coke ovens have been built and Fernie itself has sprung from a hamlet to one of the most promising cities in Canada. The output of the company's mines is, almost daily increasing, while the superior coking qualities of the coal make it desirable for the finest steam purposes.

It is estimated that the company has in its lands a coal deposit of 22,000,000 tons.

NANAIMO, B. C., May 23.—Immediately upon receipt of the news of the Fernie mine disaster Mayor Manson of this town, which has a population of about 1000 coal miners, authorized the taking of subscriptions at the gates leading to the grounds where a celebration is being held. The amount will be devoted to alleviating the suffering at Fernie.

## EAGER BRITONS AMOUNT THE NEWS

### Crowds Gather in London Seeking a Peace Bulletin.

### South African Dispatches Intimate That the War Is Over.

LONDON, May 23.—There is every reason to believe that peace in South Africa is practically secured. How soon it will be announced depends, apparently, more upon the convenience of the Boer leaders than upon the inclination of the British Government.

Private and official advices received to-night in London from South Africa all point to the same conclusion. The delay is technical, and to end the long war seems to be the desire of both British and Boer leaders. The latter, however, are unable to convince all their followers of the wisdom of acquiescing to the terms of peace.

Information as to what transpired at to-day's meeting of the Cabinet is closely guarded, but it is not likely that the Cabinet's reservations concerning the actual details of the present negotiations only qualify this optimistic expression of opinion by guarded reservations concerning the extent of the personal control of the Boer leaders over their commands. Were the delegates at Vereeniging, according to information in possession of the War Office are fairly evenly divided. Consequently extreme precautions are exerted both in London and Pretoria to prevent any premature action or report which might adversely influence the burghers.

#### TERMS ARE LIBERAL.

A member of the House of Commons, who is in close touch with the Government, said that he believed everything

## CHEAT STATE BY PADDING THE CENSUS

### Recount of Los Angeles School Children Shows Fraud.

### Figures Show That Fictitious Names Swelled the Former Lists.

Southern City Collects Two Hundred Thousand Dollars in Excess of Sum to Which It Is Entitled.

#### Special Dispatch to The Call.

LOS ANGELES, May 23.—By a recount of the school children of Los Angeles a falling off of 6000 names from last year's figures is disclosed. Three weeks ago the census was taken and the total then given showed such a wide discrepancy between the years 1901 and 1902 that great surprise was expressed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Census Marshal was criticized.

As the falling off in the number of scholars meant a corresponding decrease in the amount of public school moneys apportioned to Los Angeles, a recount was ordered. It has just been finished and the totals announced agree substantially with the count made three weeks ago, supplying what is claimed to be conclusive evidence that the rolls of the census for the last six years have been padded. By this means, it is asserted, Los Angeles has received in the aggregate \$200,000 more than it was entitled to from the State for the support of city schools. In one ward, the Fourth, there is a difference of 2000 names between last year's and this year's returns.

John Stedman, the Census Marshal, who is responsible for the recent enumeration, regards the supplemental work as a complete vindication of the totals returned by himself and deputies. Stedman says he is preparing a detailed statement, with which he will enlighten the public in a few days. He is convinced, he says, that the census has been padded for not less than six years past and he estimates the total number of children's names reported, though not in existence, at close to 8000.

As soon as the work in the Ninth Ward is accepted I will be prepared to show that the padding that now is apparent has been performed systematically

#### Confirmed by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—Confirmations by the Senate: Colonels to be brigadier generals—Abraham A. Harbach, First Infantry; William F. Spurgeon, Fourth Infantry.

Gordon Padlock of New York, secretary of legation, to be Consul General at Seoul, Korea; Julius Jacobs, Assistant Treasurer at San Francisco.

The Senate also confirmed all the nominations of first lieutenants of artillery made by the President to-day.

## NICKEL MACHINES HOLD GERMS OF A SCANDAL

### Agent Promises to Install "Protected" Gambling Devices

### SACRAMENTO, May 23.—An aroused public sentiment forced the suppression of the nickel-in-the-slot gambling machines several months ago. About two weeks ago, Charles B. Shearer, who controls a large number of slot machines in Oakland, came to Sacramento, and at once rumors gained circulation that he had made overtures to the local administration for the reinstatement of machines which he owned or controlled. Almost simultaneously with Shearer's advent more than sixty slot machines were received at the freight depot that were claimed by Shearer and stored in a front-street warehouse, where they have since remained.

The Bee this afternoon exposed the scheme by which Shearer hopes, evidently with the cognizance if not the consent of Mayor Clark's administration, to start all the machines running in the saloons of Sacramento. For several days past he has had an agent, Fred Myrick, call upon the saloonkeepers to obtain their signatures to an agreement, signed also by Shearer, by which the latter contracts to place the machines in the saloons, stand all the expense of litigation and pay all fines that may arise from their possession, with the understanding that he shall collect all the money from the machines and divide the profits with the saloonkeepers.

It is claimed that the contracts cover a period corresponding to the remainder of Clark's term as Mayor.

One of those who declined to sign the agreement was James Friel, proprietor of the Oberon saloon on J street, between Seventh and Eighth. He said to Myrick that if Shearer could be allowed to run machines in this city he did not see why he could not put back the machines which had been suppressed several months ago, and claim all the profits himself.

"Well," replied Myrick, "half a loaf is better than no bread, isn't it?"

Others who declined to sign the agreement were W. H. Hanson, Miller & Buegert and Kuchler & Stussey.

It is probable that the Grand Jury will probe the scandal and endeavor to ascertain the particulars of the arrangement by which Shearer intends to start up machines.

#### Won Over by Union Men.

SACRAMENTO, May 23.—A number of carpenters arrived this evening from San Francisco to take the places of the men now on strike, owing to trouble with the Subcontractors' Association. It is believed that many of the carpenters have been induced by union men who met them at the depot not to go to work.

#### Blaze at Vacaville.

VACAVILLE, May 23.—The large barn and warehouse of Dr. W. J. Dobbins was burned to-night. The loss is \$5000. Seven horses, farming implements and about 1500 fruit trays were destroyed.

#### Old Cable Way to Manila Too Long.

Direct cable connections to the Philippines will be hailed with satisfaction by all Americans, says the Anaconda Standard. At present the route over which cable messages from Washington to Manila must travel is as follows: To New

York by land; to Valentia, Ireland, by cable; to London, England, by cable; to Havre, France, by cable; to Marseilles by land; to Alexandria, Egypt, by cable; to Suez, Egypt, by land; to Aden, Arabia, by cable; to Bombay, India, by cable; to Madras by land; to Singapore, Malayan peninsula, by cable; to Saigon, Cochinchina, by cable; to Hongkong, by cable; to Manila, Philippine Islands, by cable. The total distance is approximately fourteen thousand miles.

#### AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES IN HIGH FAVOR ABROAD

Tests Recently Made in France and Germany Show Their Superiority.

American locomotives in their preliminary trials between Miramas and Arles, France, have maintained a speed of 74.5 miles an hour, according to a report received at the State Department from Consul General Skinner at Marseilles, under date of November 6, moreover, Mr. Skinner reports that the speed at certain moments reached as much as 77.5 and 80.7 miles an hour over an especially good portion of the track, and that the results are easily recognized by the regularity of speed and general stability were most satisfactory.

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Consul General Mason says that the results of the tests and observations have been entirely satisfactory. He adds that the general director has secured the patency of the American locomotive and authorized the construction of a locomotive according to that system, with certain modifications. These machines are now in process of construction, and it will depend upon their efficiency and durability whether the system shall be further utilized. The cost of the Bavarian locomotive is nearly \$2000 greater than that of the American.—Washington Star.

South Germany's oldest monasteries, the Benedictine abbey of Weesobrunn, has been restored to the Benedictine order by Baron von Cramer-Klett, a Protestant, and will soon be recaptured by monks. The Baron bought all the lands and remaining buildings of the old abbey from the Bavarian state for \$60,000 marks, and sold them to the Benedictines for a nominal sum.

## CHEERING BOARDS AT THE PARTING

### Dr. and Mrs. Jordan Give Reception to the Students.

### Glassmen Leave for Home and Stanford Campus Appears Deserted.

#### Special Dispatch to The Call.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, May 23.—The quadrangle presented a strangely deserted appearance to-day after the busy days of final examinations that have just passed. The undergraduates are departing on every train, only the seniors remaining to get their degrees and a few of the "undergrads" to enjoy the festivities of senior week. Many of the alumni are expected to arrive between now and Tuesday, when the alumni meeting will be held.

Dr. and Mrs. Jordan held their annual reception to the graduating class in the parlors of the girls' dormitory never appeared more beautiful. Forts, palm trees, stalks of bamboo, sprays of pepper weed and cut flowers in profusion were tastefully arranged. Vice President and Mrs. Branner received with President and Mrs. Jordan and were assisted by the Misses Clara Sillman 1901, Minna Stillman 1901, Alice Joiner 1902, Elizabeth Peckham 1902, Sue Porter 1902, Jean Henry 1902, Helen Ely 1902, C. H. Baker 1902, and Messrs. H. B. Jordan 1904, C. H. Baker 1902, R. B. Barnhill 1902, E. C. Leib 1903, H. S. Bonte 1902, V. K. Keen 1905, D. D. Kehring 1902, G. E. Gamble 1905, S. P. Friselle 1902 and K. A. Richardson 1904. The music was supplied by a San Francisco orchestra.

Duff and Doyle's Hall, in Menlo Park, was the scene of the senior "smoker" to the alumni to-night. A large number of alumni from San Francisco and assembly towns arrived to enjoy senior hospitality and the affair was one of the most pleasant ever held here.

The scene of the class exercises in the morning including the reading of the class history and the class will be the laying of the 1902 plate in the quadrangle and the senior luncheon in Encina Hall in the evening.

sermon will be delivered in the baccalaureate hall by Rev. Frederick W. Clamper of San Francisco and the anniversary of the Christian associations will be observed in the chapel in the evening.

A Baron's robe has two rows of ermine, that of a Viscount two and a half rows, an Earl's has three rows, a Marquis's three and a half and a Duke's robe four complete rows.