

DEATH'S BOLL CROWNS NEAR THREE SCORE

Ruin Remains From the Western Canada Disaster.

Earthquake or Gas Explosion the Cause of the Slide.

Cabins of the Town of Frank Are Buried Deep Under Rocks, and Many Victims Will Never Be Recovered.

FRANK, N. W. T., April 30.—It is distinctly known this morning that fifty-six people lost their lives here before day-break Wednesday by the sliding of the rocky top of Turtle Mountain down upon the sleeping village of Frank.

It was undoubtedly the worst disaster ever known in any community in Western Canada. It was either a rock slide of such magnitude as to be almost inexplicable or a slide induced by a seismic upheaval. Besides killing fifty-six people, it destroyed the plant of the American Coke and Coal Company, did a vast amount of damage to the mines and completely devastated about ten square miles of the finest and most picturesque section of Crow's Nest Pass.

The material from the slide or upheaval came down in almost a vertical wall of rock and crossed the valley, a distance of over a mile, and went part way up the foothills on the opposite side of the valley to a height far above the highest building in the town. Where once existed cozy homes, fertile farms and stock ranches there is now nothing but huge chaotic piles of debris from the mountain which has all the appearance of having undergone a volcanic eruption. The land, which was once of great value and was rapidly increasing in price on account of the known presence of natural gas as well as coal deposits, is now buried many feet deep with waste matter and will be valueless for all time to come.

THEORIES OF RESIDENTS.

As there is no geological expert resident in the town it is impossible to ascertain exactly the true character of the force exerted, but judging from the evidence now brought in by those who have been scouring around the outskirts of the waste of rocks and debris, many are inclined to the belief that it was a huge mountain rock slide, caused by an earthquake or some subterranean explosion of gas, which is known to exist in large quantities under the section of the country. The nature of the earth of which Turtle Mountain is formed is largely of limestone variety.

Another theory advanced by many of the mining men of the town is that the limestone cliff had been undermined by some subterranean branch of the Old Man River, which had been silently working away for years. There are many inclined to the belief that it was a huge limestone upheaval, the primary causes of which were the slackening of the limestone under the influence of the thawing weather of the spring. None of these theories has so far been borne out, but the general opinion now seems to prevail that the trouble was not volcanic, as at first supposed.

A puzzling feature which induced the volcanic eruption theory is the fact that some pieces of rock are still being thrown from the strangely altered top of Turtle Mountain. Closer investigation, which was made by the sliding of the mountain, reveals the fact that this supposed eruptive matter comprised particles of rock which continued to drop from various places along the top of the mountain.

ROCKS IN THE AIR.

These rocks are in many cases huge masses weighing hundreds of tons and are still falling down with a noise like thunder, they start off from the mountain rock lying in the path of the slide, which rush onward, bearing destruction to everything in their pathway. For that reason it is extremely dangerous to approach the vicinity of Turtle Mountain in order to make an investigation into the exact causes of the catastrophe.

The estimates place the number of dead at 112 on the supposition that seventeen men at work in the mine shaft would not escape alive. Then when it was known that these imprisoned men had escaped late yesterday afternoon the number of killed was estimated at ninety-five. This morning it was believed that the total loss of life would not exceed sixty. So far as actually known the fatalities number fifty-six.

Many of the bodies of the dead will never be found. Some cabins are buried under 150 feet of rock. Although organized parties were made last evening and to-day to search for bodies, only nineteen have so far been recovered. Most of the corpses were mangled almost beyond recognition.

The disaster happened at a quarter past 4 o'clock when the sleeping inhabitants of Frank were suddenly awakened by a tremendous crash, followed by a shaking of the buildings. It was still dark and for a time the greatest confusion prevailed, no one knowing what had happened. As soon as day dawned it was seen that the whole side of Turtle Mountain had fallen away, and that the valley for a distance of two miles was entirely choked up by rocks, and debris piled to an average height of sixty feet.

SWEEP OF DEBRIS.

In the downward rush of the debris and other material that was through the upheaval, the entire operating plant of the French-Canadian Coal Company was carried away. The buildings demolished house, electric light, boiler-house, engine-house and a row of coke ovens. Seven houses also owned by the company were smashed into kindling, six of them being obliterated and their occupants killed, while ten other houses, which were situated in the valley east of the town, were also smashed into matchwood. The people living in these houses were also instantly killed as they were sleeping.

The direct monetary damage will exceed \$1,500,000. The actual loss to the mine company will probably not exceed \$300,000. The Canadian Pacific Railway loses heavily through the blocking of its tracks. The scene of this awful catastrophe was originally one of the most picturesque valleys in Canada. Through the center of this beautiful valley ran the Old Man River, which has its source on the eastern slope of the Crow's Nest Pass. The total width of this valley was a little over a mile, and it was bounded on the southern side by Turtle Mountain, a sheer wall of rock which rose to a height of 300 feet above the level of the town. The

MRS. FRANK ECKERT MAKES HER PROFESSIONAL DEBUT

Large Crowd Throngs Alhambra Theater to Greet the Talented Young Woman—Short Comedy Sketch and a Vaudeville Programme Rendered by Clever Performers



TALENTED SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG WOMAN WHO MADE HER PROFESSIONAL DEBUT AT THE ALHAMBRA WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND WAS ACCORDED A VERY FLATTERING RECEPTION.

MRS. FRANK ECKERT, wife of the well-known bookmaker, made her first professional appearance as an actress at the Alhambra Theater last Wednesday night. The house was well-filled, and when Mrs. Eckert first came upon the stage she was heartily applauded by her numerous friends in the audience. She was also the recipient of many handsome floral tokens.

Mrs. Eckert played the leading part in a short comedy entitled "Hearts." The piece is a clever one and was indeed well-received. Mrs. Eckert showed that she is well fitted for a life on the stage. She acted her part with much ease and grace. The other persons in the cast also did well and made the sketch a thoroughly enjoyable one.

After the comedy a short vaudeville programme was rendered and Mrs. Eckert contributed a song entitled "My Darling." She then appeared in the leading role of a town of Frank lay in the peaceful valley, now a scene of desolation and chaos, which was bounded on the other side by a range of foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

The weather conditions to-day retarded the work of rescue. The temperature fell to zero, a drop of more than forty degrees in forty-eight hours, and there was a heavy snowstorm. As the noise from falling rock at the mountain continued through the day people were afraid to approach its base, and so the work of recovering bodies was carried on by a few, and by then only in an intermittent fashion. The continual roar from the mountain causes many fears.

Daniel M. Mackenzie, an intelligent miner, gives a thrilling account of the experience of himself and his companions, who were imprisoned in the mines for more than twelve hours, and who eventually escaped by digging their way to freedom through forty feet of rock and debris. He says: "Three other miners and myself were working as a cut-off on the No. 8 man-way when we were first aware that something unusual had happened. I was leaning against a chute just at the moment. Suddenly there seemed to be a falling in the hanging wall, and I knew that the danger was upon us. The coal fell from the roof in large quantities, and I was half-squeezed, and knew that I was in a bad way. I was something had happened but not knowing what it was, we started to make our way to the lower entry. Reaching the entry we started for the mouth of the tunnel. On the way we encountered four men running toward the mouth of entry.

HILL FLOUR RAE HURTS COAST MILLS

Most Serious Menace to Home Industry Looms Up Keenly.

East Finds Aid to Gather in Our Export Trade to Orient.

St. Louis Sees Path Blazed Out for Minneapolis and Proposes to Invade Pacific Ter- ritory.

James J. Hill has made a move which, carried to its logical conclusion, affords the most serious menace that has ever confronted an industry on the Pacific Coast. The business of flour exporting is his new point of attack. For many years the millers have supposed that the Pacific Coast, being nearest to the Orient or any wheat-growing portion of the United States, was secure in its expectation of reaping a great and growing revenue from the sale of its mill products in Asia and the islands of the Pacific. Now Hill has planned to give the Eastern millers the bulk of the milling trade of the Orient and the Pacific islands if it be possible.

The news has reached the Pacific Coast flour millers, and they are much excited. Those in the Northwest, in Oregon and Washington, are most concerned for the present. Minneapolis and Duluth are the greatest beneficiaries at present of the Hill move. But already there are signs of a corresponding move in the Middle West to provide the flour for the Pacific trade, to the exclusion as far as possible of the milled products of California.

Kansas City is the milling center for a large area of wheat-growing country, its tributary lands provide a quality of wheat which is already going in large quantities to Los Angeles. In fact, a very large proportion of the wheat worked up in Los Angeles comes from the Middle West. Some of this wheat also comes to San Francisco and to Stockton and is mixed with California wheat to produce certain grades of flour. But the ideas of the Middle West have recently largely grown, and the desire to furnish the wheat flour for the Orient and the Pacific islands is openly announced for the first time.

CANADIAN ROAD MOVES.

To make the substitution of flour from Minnesota for the Pacific Coast flour possible in the shipments across the ocean from Seattle it has been necessary for Hill to make such a low rate for west-bound flour that it has a margin sufficient to afford strong competition in Asia. This has provided four dollars a ton in the total charge. The Canadian Pacific promptly took advantage of the matter of securing freights for the long haul. It has made the same rate from Winnipeg. Canadian flour is thus added to the sources of competition in the Northwest for home consumption and for shipment abroad.

Now St. Louis, also certain to reach out for trade wherever it may be obtained, expresses its intention in behalf of the Middle West through the columns of the Modern Miller, an organ of the flour millers, which is published in St. Louis. The Modern Miller says that the mills of the Middle West can profit by the misadventure of the Northern Pacific, one of Hill's lines of railway. In addition to this significant utterance the statements of President Ellis, president of the St. Louis Millers' Club, of recent date should also be considered.

President Ellis says that with united efforts the railroads can be induced to favor flour in transit the same as packing materials. He recommends that a combination of export flour and the concentration of the full tonnage of Western mills upon one or two roads "that will treat flour as it should be handled." One of President Ellis' statements is as follows: "The nature of Western mills should be concentrated as far as practicable in some central where millers can look forward to a thoughtful and thorough betterment of present conditions. Since they can accomplish this, but with united action, export flour can be given the treatment to which it is entitled and the trade carried on in a profitable way which should characterize such an important traffic."

DESCRIBES SITUATION.

The Modern Miller describes the present situation created by Hill just as it is viewed by the millers of the Pacific coast. "J. J. Hill has made a through rate from Minneapolis which gives the mills of Minnesota equal advantages with the mills of the Pacific coast. The intention of developing flour markets in the Orient, can readily be placed in the list of the things which Hill has accomplished. He has developed the whole milling industry in America will be benefited directly or indirectly. The Pacific coast millers do not see it in this light, but they have the misfortune to be easily held their own and should share profit and success in the business. The Panama canal is built the markets of the Pacific coast are reached by a short rail haul to New Orleans and the new line of the Pacific coast will overlook the opportunities of the mills of the Middle West.

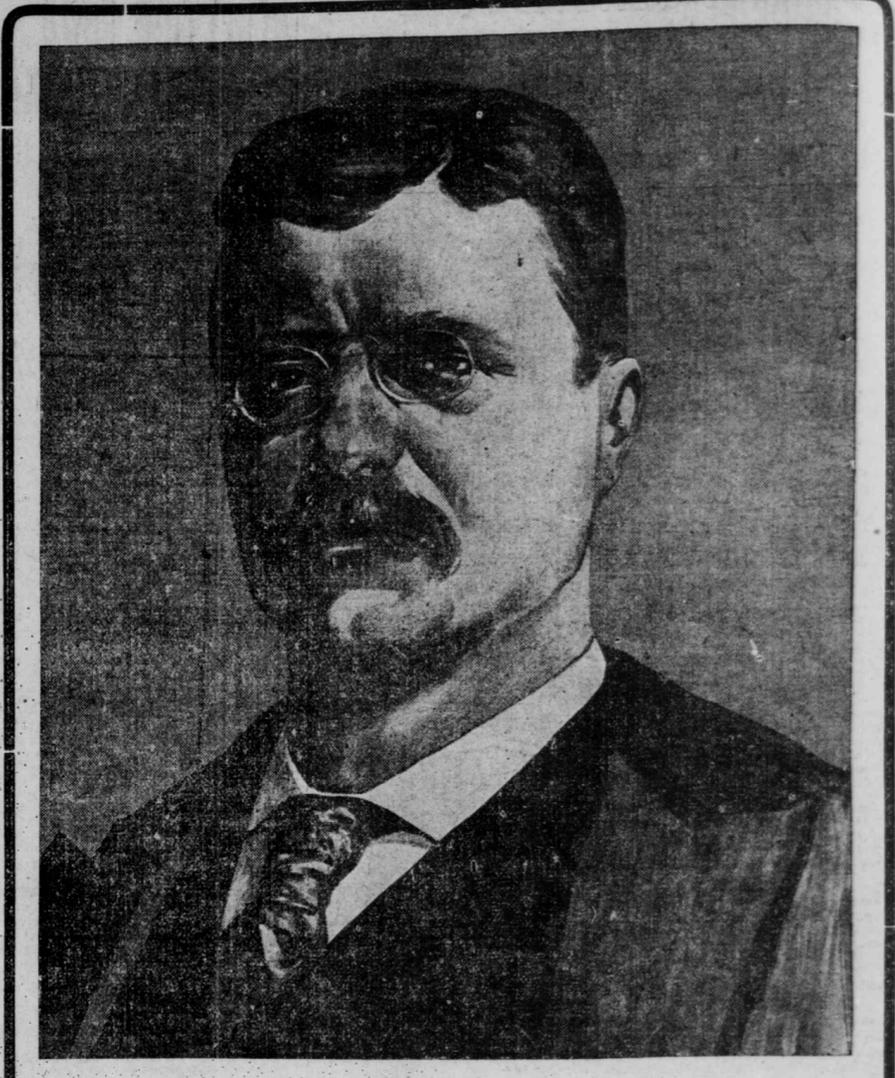
The movement to steal away the jobbing trade of the Pacific coast originated with St. Louis. Many of the millers since Hill showed the way to Minneapolis and Duluth to reach the Orient with their flour, and already St. Louis is in full cry after the trade for the Middle West. This means that the overland carriers of flour will be forced to do the Middle West what Hill has already done for Minneapolis and Duluth.

There has been some wonderment in this city concerning the use that Hill could make of such large steamers as he has had built for the Pacific Ocean trade. The Modern Miller has no such wonderment, for it sees that "Hill shows his interest in the Minnesota mills and is enterprising enough to build mammoth steamships and have their carrying capacity given out to the quantity of flour they are capable of carrying."

Millers in San Francisco say that the conditions attending Hill and his northern lines are different radically from those of the former. Hill's mills have a business eastbound and empty cars to bring back to the coast, unless he can find flour or other freights that will bring in enough to pay the expenses of moving the lumber eastward; also that if he had not the flour freights he could not afford to move the lumber.

Whatever may be Hill's reasoning, the effect upon the millers of Washington and Oregon is certainly bad. The next move may be that the Middle West millers will see what they can do to occupy the Oriental trade field for flour that is now in the possession of California flour millers. The situation is causing a great deal of interest in California, where it is very well understood by the milling interest.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Queen Wilhelmina has notified the United States Government that she has appointed Dr. Charles Augustus Hart, to act as umpire in the arbitration between the United States and Venezuela at Caracas of American claims.



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

ROOSEVELT ART SUPPLEMENT FREE SUNDAY, MAY 10 FREE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

This is one of the best and most characteristic portraits ever made of the President. It is a three-quarter life size study reproduced in delicate flesh tints on a canvas surface paper and looks so much like an oil painting that it is hard to tell the difference without very close and careful study. As President Roosevelt will be in California in less than two weeks, this is a splendid opportunity to get a good picture of him for either window or mural decorations, absolutely free.

If you tried to buy this picture of President Roosevelt at the stores it would cost \$1.50. In fact, this particular picture is controlled exclusively by THE CALL and will not be ON SALE ANYWHERE.

LUMBER FALLS TO NEW OWNERS

Big Deal in Nevada County Means Much Improvement.

NEVADA CITY, April 30.—One of the biggest deals ever made in the lumber business in this county was consummated in this city this afternoon. The important lumber interest of Bierce & Smart were transferred to a company of capitalists represented by William Schaw, J. F. Batcher, United States Surveyor Graham and others.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY WILL VISIT THE COAST

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Before leaving for the West Secretary Root approved the recommendations of the War College building at army posts throughout the United States. Following is some of the construction recommended:

Fort Huachuca, A. T.—Construction of new stables, non-commissioned officers' quarters and shops.

Fort Baker, Cal.—Officers' quarters, guard rooms and shops for field artillery, barracks for two companies of infantry, guard-house and enlargement of department headquarters officers' building.

Fort Flagler, Wash.—Quarters for the commanding officers, bachelor officers, non-commissioned staff officers, and barracks for one band and one company.

Fort Riley, Cal.—Officers' quarters and one barracks.

Presidio, San Francisco, Cal.—Bachelor officers' quarters.

Fort Stephens, Or.—Officers' quarters and enlargement of guardhouse.

Fort Columbia, Wash.—Officers' and non-commissioned staff officers' quarters.

Fort Rosecrans, Cal.—Officers' and non-commissioned staff officers' quarters and one barracks.

JURY DECLARES HOWARD GUILTY

Convicts Him of Murder of Goebel on First Ballot.

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 30.—The jury in the case of James Howard, on trial for the murder of William Goebel, has just found the defendant guilty and fixed the punishment at life imprisonment. After disagreement at 10 o'clock the judge ordered them to return to their room for further deliberation. This they did, reporting finally at 11 o'clock. Howard was not visibly affected by the verdict.

REICHSTAG ENDS ITS LAWMAKING

Attack on Government Marks the Closing Session.

BERLIN, April 30.—The Reichstag completed its term to-day with the adoption of a bill amending the sick insurance laws for laborers and extending the period of insurance from thirteen to thirty-six weeks.

The speeches made on the insurance matter developed a campaign character. Dr. Arndt (German Reform party) attacked the Government for having this measure passed immediately before an election; so doing, he said, amounted to a victory for the Social Democrats. He warned workmen that every vote cast for the Socialists endangered universal suffrage. The Socialists and some Conservatives voted nay to the third reading of this measure; thereupon Count von Ballestrem, president of the Reichstag, announced the end of the labors of the present Reichstag.

The President said the present legislative body had held 392 executive sittings and was one of the most important Reichstags in the history of Germany. He presented a printed document of twenty-one pages, summarizing its work.

Chancellor von Bulow appeared during the closing moments and read Emperor William's decree dated at Buckleburg yesterday afternoon, by which Count von Ballestrem could rise to propose three hours for the Emperor the Socialists had left the hall.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF WAR COLLEGE BOARD APPROVED

ARMY POSTS AT THE PRESIDIO AND FORT BAKER TO BE ENLARGED.

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LYNCHERS LEAVE BODY HANGING FROM A TREE

ARIZONA CATTLEMEN TAKE THE LIFE OF A MEXICAN NEAR FORT HUACHUCA.

TUCSON, Ariz., April 30.—Advices from Fort Huachuca report that the body of a Mexican cattle rustler named Vasquez, aged 17, was found hanging from the limb of a tree eight miles from the fort on Tuesday. While there is no definite knowledge as to who committed the act, it is generally believed that it was the result of concerted action by cattlemen of that section, who have been losing a large number of cattle at the hands of rustlers.

Another Mexican was shot and killed three miles from the line in Huachuca the same day by line riders, who caught him and two others in the act of skinning a yearling. The man attempted to escape and was shot.