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TERRIBLE DISASTER AT STELLARTON, N.S.

Explosion in Coal Mine Buried Nearly 100 Persons and it is Feared Nearly all Have Perished. Twelve Bodies Have Been Recovered.

(Special to the Guardian.)
NEW GLASGOW, Jan. 24.—Pictou County was visited by a terrible colliery disaster at 5.45 o'clock last evening when an explosion occurred in the Allan shaft mine at the Ford Pits Seam, Stellarton. At the time of explosion there were ninety-three men in the mine, including seven of the day shift who had not finished their work, the others having just gone down below on the night shift.

There are three levels or landings in the Allan shaft at five hundred feet, 652 feet, and 1,242 feet respectively. Eight men in the 500 foot level did not hear the explosion but smelling smoke they ran for the cage. When the cage was lowered with a lighted lamp in it these men entered it at the 600 foot landing and were hoisted to the surface. Among them were Arthur Nugent, Jas. Nugent, James Torlly, Walter Sewacker, Robert Doyle. The only other person to come out alive up to midnight was a Belgian boy Joseph Lahey who was found at the bottom of shaft and who later died. Up to two o'clock this morning eleven bodies had been recovered.

The explosion came in puffs of smoke from the pit mouth at two minute intervals. There was no report and little concussion on the surface. The explosion blew the cage up the huge shaft and drove the mine timbers 200 feet along the levels. When the smoke puffed out of the mine mouth the cry of an explosion was raised. The report spread like wildfire and people rushed thither from all quarters in hundreds. From the nearby homes of the miners, women and children ran in frantic haste to the minehead mad with anxiety for the safety of husbands and fathers trapped below.

The specially trained dragger men were on the spot in a few minutes after the accident but up to midnight they had only been able to get three hundred feet into the east workings at the twelve hundred foot. It is practically certain that the explosion occurred at this level. The entire west level has fallen in and they could not get out of the cage on that side. It is this level which runs towards the Old Ford Pit. The mine is full of gas and shows every indication of being on fire behind the west level fall.

Of the men entombed sixty-six are from Stellarton, 13 from Westville and four from New Glasgow. The rest are Belgians. Throughout the night thousands of people congregated around the shaft and there were scenes of great excitement. The heart-breaking thing was that where there were so many willing hands nothing could be done.

BEST EQUIPPED SHAFT ON THE CONTINENT.

The Allan shaft was one of the most up-to-date and best equipped shafts on the continent and at the time of its construction was the deepest in America. It was constructed during the general manager-ship of C. J. Coll, at a cost of \$1,250,000 and took over two years to complete. It was designed to tap the famous Ford Seam, the largest single seam of coal in the world and in which a fire and explosion occurred in 1880, causing the destruction of the pit and the loss of over forty lives. The shafts had a producing capacity each of two thousand tons daily although they never attained that output. Owing to the outbreak of fire in the Albion Mine some weeks ago the Allan shaft were put on double shift on Monday.

Sir Montague Allan is President of the Company, N. Pruhomme, General Manager, George Gray, Assistant General Manager and M. Notebaert, Chief Engineer. The shares in the Company are largely held by men who had important mining interests in Belgium. The Allan shaft was producing some 600 tons of coal per day, single shift. In view of the demand from all quarters for fuel the management started the double shift Monday which increased the output to some eight hundred tons per day. On the day shift some 250 men were employed underground so that if the explosion had occurred earlier in the day when the day shift men were at work the loss of life would undoubtedly have been much greater.

PREVIOUS EXPLOSIONS RECALLED.

The explosion recalls to mind the Drummond explosion in 1873 when some 60 lost their lives and the Ford Pit explosion in 1881 when the fatalities were 41. The last mine explosion of any note in this province occurred July 25 last at Dominion No. 12, New Waterford, C. B., where sixty-five persons lost their lives.

Thirteen bodies have been taken to the surface none of them now being alive. John W. McDonald, Westville, son of Geo. McDonald, fireman, was worked over for some three hours with pulmotors but was too far gone to respond.

ACCIDENTAL COMBUSTION.

MONTREAL, Jan. 24.—The officials of the Acadia Coal Company said this morning that the advice indicated

that the explosion was caused by accidental combustion.

(Special to the Guardian.)
STELLARTON, N. S., Jan. 24.—Twelve bodies have been recovered from the Allan shaft when an explosion occurred on Wednesday night. The mine is badly wrecked and the work of rescue is difficult. Little hope is held out for rescuing alive any of the imprisoned men. It is supposed 100 men were in the mine.

Some of the rescuers who came to the surface this morning state that the explosion caused great havoc in the mine. These men who were only able to reach the upper levels say that the pit is almost blocked up with falls and that it will probably be a week or more before all the bodies are recovered. All night the rescuers worked hard to reach the entombed men hoping that some of them could be found alive but their efforts were not rewarded.

RELATIVES ANXIOUSLY AWAIT RESCUE PARTY.

Hiram Donkin, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and Mines says the Allan shaft is situated on the same seam as the famous Old Ford Pit, the oldest colliery in Pictou County which was destroyed by an explosion. The mine was flooded and became useless ever after. The seam upon which this old pit was situated was supposed to be the largest in the world having a thickness in some places of over forty feet.

BODIES SINGED AND MUTILATED.

Most of the bodies were singed by fire and some of them were badly mutilated.

The first body to be recovered was that of Fred MacKenzie, blacksmith. He had gone down half an hour before the explosion occurred to shoe a horse and was killed at the bottom of the shaft. He was a married man with a large family. The men who came out alive were on the 500 foot level. They did not hear the explosion but smelling smoke they ran for the cage. When the cage was lowered with a lighted lamp on it these men entered it at the 500 foot level and were hoisted to the surface. The only other person to come out alive up to this hour was a Belgian boy, Joseph Lahey, who was found at the bottom of the shaft and who later died. The cage did not get beyond the 900 foot level. It was after nine o'clock before the bottom of the shaft was reached. Fred MacKenzie's body was first recovered and then the dragger crew who went promptly to work brought up Lahey. The pulmotor kept him alive but he died shortly after being brought to the surface.

Meatless Days in England

LONDON, Jan. 23.—Lord Rhonda, food controller, is prepared to take drastic measures to deal with the meat shortage. An order has been issued to take effect immediately, decreeing two meatless days weekly—Tuesdays and Fridays—in London, and Wednesdays and Fridays in other parts of the County. This will apply to homes as well as to hotels and restaurants. Even meat left over from the previous day must not be used on meatless days, but saved for the following days.

COMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

Minard's Liniment Cures Neuralgia.

Minard's Liniment Cures Rheumatism.

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

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BOLSHEVIKI RULE NEARING AN END

Counter Revolution to Bolsheviki Movement Proving Serious Menace. Many Killed in Moscow Riots.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—Counter revolutionists opposed to Bolsheviki have united and severe fighting is said to be proceeding in Petrograd. Warships joining Kerensky are said to have arrived in Petrograd. Many were killed and injured in the Moscow Riots Tuesday. Many arrests were made in Petrograd and Bolsheviki supremacy is seriously threatened.

LITTLE NEWS FROM GERMANY

LONDON, Jan. 23.—In Germany the censorship is holding the newspapers in check as regards the decision of internal affairs in that country. The only inkling of the still tense situation is contained in the Leipzig newspaper, which announces the impending resignation of Vice-Admiral Von Muller, Chief of Emperor Wilhelm's Naval Cabinet, who is declared to be one of harmony with the pan-Germans because of his desire for a peaceful understanding with Great Britain.

BUOYING UP GERMAN HOPES

Meanwhile Admiral Von Tirpitz father of Germany's submarine campaign, one of the leaders of the pan-Germans and Great Britain's arch enemy, continues to tour the country delivering bombastic speeches and holding out to the people the chimera of ultimate success for German arms. A basic point in his arguments, however, seems to be that in order to gain this success it is needful that the whole of the economic power of the nation be used.

SITUATION IN RUSSIA

The status of the situation as regards Russia and the Brest-Litovsk peace conference remains unchanged. Trotsky, the Bolsheviki Foreign Minister, who is now in Petrograd, is said to be preparing another note to the Entente Powers on the subject of peace.

SECESSIONISTS ARE SCARCE IN QUEBEC LEGISLATIVE BODY

QUEBEC, Jan. 23.—The debate on the Francoeur motion relative to Quebec's position in confederation was resumed this afternoon in the legislative assembly but it met with even less favor than it did when it was brought up last week.

Interest centered in what Sir Lomer Gouin would say and again the galleries were crowded. The House was doomed to disappointment, however, as the five speeches which were heard today took up the entire afternoon and before the House adjourned Sir Lomer Gouin moved the adjournment of the debate and will probably conclude it tomorrow.

FOOD CONTROLLER HANNA RESIGNS

(Special to the Guardian.)
OTTAWA, Hon. Mr. Hanna, has resigned as Food Controller and his resignation was accepted. H. S. Thompson, Vancouver, will be his successor.

Lords Amend New British Election Bill

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The House of Lords by 132 to 42 votes inserted an amendment in the representation of the people bill establishing the principle of proportional representation in parliamentary elections.

ZIONIST MISSION FOR PALESTINE

LONDON, January 23.—At a Zionist meeting today, it was announced that Great Britain would in a few weeks allow a Jewish commission to go to Palestine to prepare for the establishment of a Jewish nation. The commission will be followed by a staff of technical experts, engineers, architects, agriculturists and town planners.

HUNS CAPTURE SWEDEN'S SUGAR

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 23.—The capture by German warship of the Dutch steamship Luna 1269 tons gross from Holland for Sweden with a cargo of sugar is reported in a Stockholm despatch to the National Tidende. The Luna was taken into Swinemunde.

TURKISH VERSION OF THE NAVAL BATTLE

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 21.—Via London, January 22.—(British Admiralty per Wireless Press)—The following official communication was issued today concerning the naval battle Sunday morning near the mouth of the Dardanelles:

"In a clever attack the cruisers Sultan Selim and Midulla, with some torpedo boats, issued from the Dardanelles yesterday in order to destroy enemy forces which had been located near the island of Imbros.

"Two enemy monitors, the Raglan, 4500 tons, with one 9-inch gun, and another small gun, transport of 2000 tons, a signal station and numerous munition depots were destroyed.

"There was lively aerial activity on both sides. An enemy airplane was shot down in an aerial fight and a second was seriously damaged. Our coast batteries successfully bombarded enemy torpedo boats.

"On the return trip the Midulla was sunk by striking several mines."

IN ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION IN MONTREAL

Controller Villeneuve narrowly escaped death at the hands of a stranger who attacked him with a dagger.

MONTREAL, Jan. 23.—Controller Villeneuve narrowly escaped death at the hands of a stranger who attacked him with a dagger about 8 o'clock tonight as he was about to enter his residence on Esplanade Avenue between Mary Ann Street and Mount Royal Avenue. The point of the weapon penetrated the right side of Mr. Villeneuve's neck, and was within a quarter of an inch of the jugular vein, fortunately the wound was not serious, though it required urgent attention.

RUSSIANS REFUSE HUN PEACE TERMS

PETROGRAD, Jan. 24.—Russian delegates to Brest-Litovsk peace conference have decided unanimously to reject the terms offered by the Germans.

Bolsheviki Envoy Heard At Nottingham

LONDON, Jan. 22.—At the labor party conference at Nottingham, Lithuania, the unrecognized ambassador of the Bolsheviki, made a speech which the Daily Mail calls a "direct incentive to revolution in Britain."

Government Margin May Be Seventy

OTTAWA, Jan. 23.—The election of Hon. A. K. McLean and Mayor Martin in Halifax brings the Unionists in the House without counting the soldiers' votes, up to 129. Followers of Sir Wilfrid Laurier number 94, making the present majority 45. Two deferred elections are yet to be held in the Yukon next Monday, and in Nelson, Manitoba, on February 15th.

THE LATEST STANDING BY PROVINCES IS AS FOLLOWS:

Province	Govt.	Oppo.
Nova Scotia	7	9
New Brunswick	7	4
Prince Edward Island	0	4
Quebec	2	63
Ontario	71	11
Manitoba	13	11
Saskatchewan	16	0
Alberta	11	1
British Columbia	12	1
Total	139	94

WILL INCREASE MAJORITY.

It is believed here that the military vote will affect the results in Cumberland, Hants, Cape Breton, Brome, South Renfrew, North Oxford, South Perth, North Essex, South Essex, Provencher, West Edmonton and Skeena, and Queens and Kings E. E. I. All of these seats are now held by the opposition. The government is likely to have a majority of 70.

The counting of the military vote on the North American continent which is in progress in Ottawa, is well advanced. It should be finished in upwards of a week. While nothing official is given out, the vote is known to be strongly for the government. A very considerable number of ballots have been set aside.

Final returns of the election are expected about the 15th of February. The return of the writs, the last stage in the election, is scheduled for February 28.

CALL CARSON RESIGNATION HELPFUL

London Believes Settlement of Irish Question is in Sight. Sir Edward Now Has Free Hand.

LONDON, January 23.—The resignation of Sir Edward Carson from the War Cabinet lends color to the report that the Government, accepting the advice of its supporters in England and well wishers in the Dominions and the United States, has decided to bring about a settlement of the Irish question. Had Sir Edward remained in the Cabinet he would have been compelled to choose between his loyalty to the Government and to his Ulster Unionist followers. This he has avoided by resigning and he now has a free hand. During the short recess which the convention has taken Sir Horace Plunkett, chairman of the convention, and other Irishmen who have worked so hard for a settlement are making a last effort to see to it that their labors shall not be wasted. In this they have the unstinted support of Premier Lloyd George.

The Evening Telegraph, of Belfast, says that Lieut.-Col. James Craig, member of the House of Commons and one of the Ulster leaders, has resigned as Lord Treasurer of the Household.

ANOTHER OUTBREAK LIKELY IN AUSTRIA

Press Muzzled and People Apparently Subdued but Demand for Food and Peace Expected to Result in Trouble.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—While the bitter internal political situation in Austria-Hungary seems to have abated somewhat in intensity the latest indications are that beneath the surface the fire of discontent is merely smoldering and that at no distant date it again may break out in veritable conflagration.

The politicians with optimistic utterance have quieted a situation that admittedly is fraught with grave possibilities so far as the Dual Monarchy is concerned, but the known war weariness of the people and the food shortage are likely soon again to bring the people into sharp discord with the authorities.

The general strike which it is asserted took more than a million men and women from their work—a large proportion of them engaged in war industries—virtually ended Monday morning, but at last accounts the people still were clamoring for food and for a cessation of hostilities. At

the moment of the outbreak of public discontent, and throughout the days when the discord was strongest, the Government of the Dual Monarchy showed it was keenly alive to the necessity of calming the unrest. Immediately the cry of "peace" arose there came from the halls of the Government the answer, "We are ready for peace without annexation or indemnities," and it was added that this feeling was shared in the utmost by the Emperor King.

The loquacious Austrian press heralded broadcast the alleged peace desires of the Government and King, and its utterances likely had much to do with the subsidence of the popular clamour. With the return of the people to work, however, the newspapers apparently have felt the stern hand of the censor for nothing concerning the situation in Austria or Hungary has since been permitted to creep through.

The committee who so energetically worked for this big night of nights is also to be heartily congratulated, especially when one remembers the cause to which the funds are always given and how many homes are brightened by their society.

For good music, good songs, graceful dances and expert pipe music the Burns concert program was replete and will linger as a pleasant memory until next Burns Anniversary comes, when it is hoped many of the boys now overseas may also be home to participate.

T. HAM BETHUNE MENTIONED IN HAIG'S DESPATCHES

In a letter received in the City yesterday from France, it is stated that Lieut. H. L. Bethune of this City has been mentioned in Gen. Sir Douglas Haig's despatches "for valuable services rendered the Empire."

Lieut. Ham Bethune was one of the first Islanders to volunteer for overseas service and probably no Canadian soldier is more deserving of the honor he has just received. All letters from the boys at the front speak of him as the idol of his men. His many friends will be glad to learn of the distinction accorded him.

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THE WEATHER, TEMPERATURE, TIDE, MOON, ETC.

TODAY IS THE 127th DAY OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.

TORONTO, Jan. 25.—Westerly to south westerly winds.

The tide will be high this morning at 1:04 and tomorrow at 11:06; it will be high tonight at 9:05, and tomorrow at 9:57.

The sun sets this afternoon at 5:19 and tomorrow at 5:20; it rises tomorrow morning at 7:41 and tomorrow at 7:40.

The moon sets tomorrow morning at 6:00.

The first quarter of the moon was on Saturday, January 19th, at 9:38 a.m.

The moon will be full on Saturday, January 26th, at 10:14 p.m.

The length of today will be nine hours and thirty-four minutes.

BURNS CONCERT A SPLENDID SUCCESS

audience was forced to admit it was one of the finest closings in years. The musical director, Prof. S. N. Earle, a veteran in getting up concerts of excellent standard and offering a program of local talent not otherwise in any part of the Maritime Provinces.

The committee who so energetically worked for this big night of nights is also to be heartily congratulated, especially when one remembers the cause to which the funds are always given and how many homes are brightened by their society.

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CONDENSED SPECIALS:

BRIGHT BOY IS WANTED AT Guardian Office. 1341-12-23Mfr.

FOR SALE A PIANO APPLY Guardian Office. 2318-1-24M2PFD.

WANTED—TO PURCHASE, SECOND-HAND typewriter. Apply Guardian Office. 2289-1-23Mfr.

WANTED A MAID FOR GENERAL housework. Apply 55 Hillsboro St. 2349-1-25M6I.

BOARDERS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED in a private home. Apply 67 Elm Ave. 2290-1-23M3Ptd.

FOR SALE ONE COW NEWLY CALVED, Ashshire grade. Apply J. E. Trainor, Bedford. 2344-1-25M4Ptd.

TO LET A MODERN SEVEN ROOM house at Brighton immediate possession. Ring 240. 2341-1-25M6I.

WANTED TO RENT HOUSE WITH modern conveniences, on or before first of March. Apply at this office. 2300-1-23Mfr.

FOR SALE A NEWLY CALVED cow, or will exchange for dry cow, apply to Herbert Mason, Bunbury. 2340-1-25M3Ptd.

WANTED—A GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Apply Mrs. P. O. Brown, 196 Richmond St. Dr. 2152-1-14MDFH.

FOR SALE — ONE STACK OF straw on the farm of Bernard E. Croxon, Summerfield. For particulars write or see Angus M. Green, owner, Emerald, R. R. No. 1. 2332Ptd.

LOST A PAIR PIPE TONGS EITHER on Mt. Albion or Birchhill road. Finder please leave at W. J. McEachern, Mt. Albion. 2286-1-23M2Ptd.

FOUND ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO, at C. E. Pratt's St. Peter's a hand bag, containing a sum of money. Owner can have same by describing contents, and paying for ad. 2347-1-25M2I.

WANTED FOR FORT IVES, P. E. I. H. B. Detachment, five men between ages 18 and 20 to release members accepted for Flying Corps. Apply to Major Leigh at Drill Shed or Capt. Bayer, O. C. of the Detachment at the Russ. 2337-1