



WAITING FOR A FUTURE

This is the main street of Springhill, N.S., a town with a tragic past and a doubtful future. It's a one-industry town—coal

mining—and the future of the future of the mine now is in doubt following the second fatal underground accident in two years. Sir

Roy Dobson, chairman of A.V. Roe Canada Limited—the parent company—has said No. 2 mine

will not likely be reopened. Stock of the mine is evident in the background. (CP Photo)

ELMSDALE

Miss Vera Williams employed at secretarial work for Amalgamated Dairies Ltd., O'Leary, was a weekend visitor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Williams.

Mrs. Alvin Bell was a weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Robert MacKay, Pleasant St., Summerside.

Mrs. Fred Johnston was also a weekend visitor to Summerside, guest of Mr. and Mrs. James Johnston.

Mr. Donald Williams of Nova Scotia, spent the weekend at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Williams.

Friends and neighbors of Leigh MacNeill, are pleased to see him out again after his recent illness which confined him to bed for a few days.

Mrs. James W. O'Brien, Mrs. Gerald O'Brien and Garry, recent visitors to Charlottetown were accompanied by the latter's mother, Mrs. Myra Callaghan and grandfather, Mr. James E. O'Brien of St. Louis. Mr. O'Brien who is 92 years of age has recently undergone eye surgery in the City Hospital, Charlottetown, and had returned last week to have the stitches removed. His many friends congratulate him on the success of the operation now that he has his sight restored. Such an undertaking at his age required great courage and faith.

Mr. Thane MacNeill of Toronto, visited his sisters and brothers on P.E.I. Mrs. Ralph Rennie and Leith MacNeill of Elmsdale, also Mrs. Wallace Bradshaw and Claude MacNeill of Summerside. On return, he was accompanied by his mother, Mrs. Basil MacNeill of Elmsdale, who will spend the winter with other members of her family in Toronto.

421 ELECTION CANDIDATES

CANBERRA (Reuters) — Nominations closed Friday for Australia's federal election Nov. 22 with 421 candidates contesting 156 seats—124 in the House of Representatives and 32 in the Senate. The ruling Liberal and Country parties nominated candidates for 118 seats in the two chambers. In 66 of these they oppose each other. The Labor party has 121 candidates, the democratic labor party 96 and the Communist party 20.

Draegermen Have Tough Job In Rescue Operations

By IAN DONALDSON
Canadian Press Staff Writer
SPRINGHILL, N. S. (CP)—There are 50 men in this coal town who crawl 400 feet on their bellies to go to work. The 10 draegermen crews from four Nova Scotia mining areas are assigned to one of the most gruelling rescue jobs being conducted in rock-filled No. 2 colliery. They are working in the 12,000-foot level, completely stuffed with rock loosened by last week's "bump" or underground upheaval. The level, highest of four in which rescue work has been centred, is also filled with gas that seeps through the sides of the narrow tunnel the draegermen are digging.

in widening the passages to the area where there is a slim chance men are still alive. IT'S REAL SMALL The tunnel they are digging is less than three feet square. While "bare-facers" are able to use picks and mauls to batter their way through fall-ins, the draegermen are limited to the strength of their arms. They cannot use metal tools. Rescue officials explain that gas in the level is at its danger point and "steel on steel" could spark an explosion. Friday the draegermen had covered about 400 feet. "That's how far we have to go on our bellies," one draegerman said. They travel another 200 feet to the tunnel on their hands and knees. "If we can make it through, and get the air circulating, the bare-faced men can help us. They're the ones who do the work and they deserve the credit." Each draegerman works on actual digging less than two hours at a time. This is to give him a little oxygen as a safety margin in case there is a fall-in or other delay. There is at least one "green" draeger crew involved. "We practise every month but this is the first real thing," one man said. "I was pretty worried on the way down here. I'm scared

until I get into the level and then I'm okay. "Harold Gordon (mine rescue chief) told us if we don't feel right about it we don't have to go in. But nobody's stayed out as far as I know." Working with the draegermen on the surface are crews of maintenance men who check over the apparatus at the end of every shift. When it's time to go the draegermen practically run to the pithead. Mr. Boulter walks over to their bench and says the one word "shift." Then the men are on their way.

NO PROBLEM ELSEWHERE Because of better air circulation, gas has ceased to be a problem in the rest of the mine. Only men with oxygen equipment can go into the gas area, but draegermen's equipment takes up room and weighs 30 pounds. The name "draeger" comes from the man who designed the equipment. "It's the weight that makes it tough," says shift director Tom Boulter of New Waterford, N.S. The draegermen's objective is to punch a small opening through the debris to allow air to circulate to drive out the gas. Then bare-faced miners can join them

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