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The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew"

WEATHER

Sunny with a few cloudy intervals and warmer; east winds 15. Low-high at Charlottetown 35 and 50. Sunday, sunny.

14 PAGES

CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1956

PRICE 5c

Cabinet Meets Again Today

OTTAWA (CP) — The cabinet meets today—the third meeting this week—to hear a report from External Affairs Minister Pearson on his United Nations proposal for a Middle East international police force.

His suggestion was immediate support from the U.S. and State Secretary John Foster Dulles urged that Canada put it before the UN in the form of a resolution. The UN General Assembly now is adjourned without a date set for its reconvening.

Presumably, Mr. Pearson will give the cabinet some indication of preliminary reaction from other UN members to his suggestion for an "adequate" force to patrol the borders between Israel and the Arab states.

But it was also pointed out that circumstances have changed vastly in the last few days and that Prime Minister Eden of Britain has said he would favor a UN force after stabilization of the Middle East situation.

Mr. Pearson specified no numbers in putting his proposal before the UN General Assembly early Friday but a high government source here said Canada has in mind a force of as many as 10,000 men.

Officials here were not optimistic that the UN would establish an international police force to keep the Israeli and Arab armies apart, once separated.

As an infantry battalion would be roughly comparable in percentage to Canada's present contribution to the UN force, the UN force in Palestine led by Maj.-Gen. E. L. M. Burns of Ottawa. There are 10 Canadians, besides Gen. Burns, serving as truce observers. Nine countries are represented on the commission of some 80 observers and Canada contributes more than most countries, including the United States and France.

However, there was never much enthusiasm for the idea, even among the 18 UN members which stopped Communist aggression in Korea.

Mr. Pearson made his proposal in explaining why Canada abstained from voting on the U.S. ceasefire resolution. He said a ceasefire was not enough, that even if it were achieved it would merely leave the situation as it was before.

The new Canadian proposal goes farther than any other suggestion by Canada in this field.

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Hope Virtually Abandoned For 113 Trapped In Springhill Mine

Known Dead And Injured

SPRINGHILL, N.S. (CP)—Following are the known dead and injured in Thursday's explosion at the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company colliery No. 4.

- Dead**
- Ephraim Alderson
 - Joseph Crumney
 - Gerald Dawson
 - William Ferguson
 - Lester Fisher
 - Ben McClellan
 - Lester Nelson
 - Burrell Pepperdine
 - Pleasant Pyke
 - Alex Spence
 - Clary Styles
 - David Vance
 - George Wood (Total 13)
- Injured**
- William Jones
 - Earl McCarthy
 - Lester McDonald
 - Wilfred McDonald
 - Neil Ross
 - Benny Roy
 - Allan Skidmore (Total 7)



THE WRECKED PITHEAD

Roaring flame which accompanied the explosion at Springhill ripped from the mouth of No. 4 Colliery above LEFT killing four men on the surface, shattering and igniting everything in the immediate area, and trapping more than a hundred men at the bottom of the mine.

Fire, Debris Cause Delays

SPRINGHILL, N.S. (CP)—Sweating rescue workers continued to dig through piles of fallen coal early Friday and predicted they would reach their 113 trapped comrades about 4 a.m. AST after they rig an auxiliary hoist.

A draegerman who came out of the explosion-ravaged No. 4 Cumberland colliery said he and other rescue workers had gotten through the coal piles and, as he put it, the black slope which they face "looks nice and clean."

and mining engineer, said, "I don't know. I just don't know." Premier Henry Hicks and Deputy Mines Minister J. P. Messervey talked with Mr. Gordon for more than 1½ hours before he told reporters about rescue progress.

Cause of the explosion and its exact origin were not known definitely.

But it is too steep to go down without a machine, and surface workers are rigging a hoist that will take the draegermen—volunteer rescue workers—down to lights where the trapped miners are. But hope of the men being found alive was fading by the hour.

Two victims were draegermen, volunteer mine rescue workers who entered the gas-filled underground passages soon after the blast. They were killed by fire-damp—the miners' term for coal gas.

Rescue attempts were held up early Friday evening when a rescue crew was forced to seal off a mine section where fire threatened a second deadly explosion.

Another explosion might end all hope for the entombed men. The first blast at 5:07 p.m. Thursday already had cost at least 13 lives and critically injured five others.

After this was done the rescuers—known as draegermen—had to wait several hours while fumes cleared.

Two others were burned—some beyond recognition—by the blast and following fire. Mine surface buildings were practically demolished.

Then team after team of draegermen went down the mine shaft. They carried hundreds of feet of lumber to prop up falling coal faces. But when they returned for periodic rest periods they were downcast and quiet.

RELATIVES KEEP VIGIL. Wives, mothers, sweethearts and children of the missing men kept a long vigil at the mine entrance. They clustered in small, quiet groups, talking in whispers.

Mr. Gordon said there was only faint hope that the trapped men would be found alive. He described it as a "faint possibility."

Business in this town of 5,000 was almost at a standstill. Citizens wore expressions of shock and dread as the hours passed without word from below.

Sealing off the fire area was "the only solution we could think of," chief provincial mines inspector Thomas Casey said.

"Another explosion may or may not happen," he said. "We all hope it won't."

French, British Set For Invasion Of Canal Zone

LONDON (CP)—French and British forces have completed setting-up air attacks on Egypt. It was announced Friday night, and are set for invasion of the Suez Canal zone.

The French defence ministry made the announcement as Egyptian President Nasser's forces were reported in a debacle in the Sinai Peninsula at the hands of victorious Israelis. The Israelis announced the capture of Gaza, headquarters city of the Gaza strip, long a thorn in their side.

Blizzard Hits The U. S. Plains

DENVER (AP)—A blizzard swirled snow across the western plains today, snarling traffic, closing schools and stranding motorists.

The first big storm of the season struck Colorado and Wyoming and parts of Nebraska and Kansas, then headed into the Dakotas. Cheyenne, capital of Wyoming, was virtually an isolated city as drifts were stacked up along highways by winds which hit 70 miles an hour.

Two men were reported missing as the storm slashed across western Nebraska.

The French defence ministry said preliminary strikes by carrier and land-based planes to knock out the Egyptian Air Force and clear the seas north and south of the canal had been completed. A spokesman said all Egyptian airfields have been bombed and 105 of Egypt's 230 planes were believed destroyed or badly damaged.

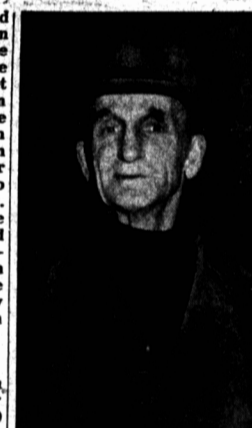
City Offers Aid To Springhill

The following telegram was sent yesterday to Mayor Ralph F. Gilroy at Springhill by Mayor J.D. Stewart and members of the City Council.

"Very shocked and sorry to hear of the terrible accident which has confronted your town. All our citizens along with the other citizens of Canada are praying for the safety of the miners still trapped below the surface. It is our fervent hope that they may still be spared to their loved ones who must be so anxiously awaiting their rescue. We stand by you for any help we can provide. Please call upon us for anything we may be able to do."

First Man To Enter Mine Tells What He Encountered

Earl McCarthy, 61 year old Springhill miner, the first man into No. 4 Colliery, following the explosion which trapped more than a hundred miners 4,800 feet underground on Thursday, in an exclusive interview with George Watton of The Charlottetown Guardian, told of the heroic action he had taken without regard for personal safety while trying to reach the trapped miners.



EARL MCCARTHY

Mr. McCarthy, one of the first to be taken to hospital, was rescued from the mine after being overcome by mine fumes and poison gas. Yesterday he returned to the mine area, where his son-in-law was one of those trapped within the mine.

At the time of the explosion, Mr. McCarthy, a weigh-chain operator, was at his post at the 4,700 foot level in No. 4 Colliery, which runs roughly parallel with No. 4 Colliery where the explosion occurred. He said that in the area in which he was working the explosion caused a very definite jarring movement and was accompanied by a sound which he described as might be likened to the blast of a shotgun in an empty barrel. His knowledge of mining indicated that this was not a mine "bump," described as a fall of rock or shifting of the earth underground. However, at this time he did not know what had happened, and received the first news of the explosion when he was instructed by telephone to proceed upward to the 3,300 foot level, and try to ascertain the condition within the other mine by entering through the explosion doors located in the emergency tunnel which adjoins the two pits at this level.

Asked about his thoughts at this moment, Mr. McCarthy, in a voice choked with emotion, recalled his thoughts of his lifelong friends in the mine, among whom was his son-in-law David Churchill whom he loved "as though he were my own son."

Because of the gravity of the situation revealed before him inside the mine he was not conscious of a sense of personal danger, and his thoughts were only of how he might do something to save the other men as soon as he entered No. 2 mine through the explosion doors, he encountered rubble of stone and timber strewn about the waiting head from where the coal cars are hoisted the final 4,800 feet to the mine head at the surface. The air was filled with a fine grey dust, and an odor of gas permeated the area, causing a burning sensation in the lungs.

LAMP USELESS. Although not equipped with oxygen gear, and his miners lamp practically useless in the dust-filled mine, Mr. McCarthy continued some 200 to 400 feet to the waiting head where the mine on shift normally waited for a ride to the surface.

turn back when he sensed he was being overcome, and it was only about 25 feet from this point that the body of Lester Fisher was later located.

Mr. McCarthy, overcome by the mine gas was met by Walter Mitchell and Jack Oakley who had followed him into the mine a few minutes later, and taken to the surface. He was rushed to All Saints Hospital from where he returned yesterday to join the hundreds waiting at the minehead.

Asked about his feelings in the matter of returning to work in the mines, Mr. McCarthy, who began work in the mines at the age of 12, and has worked in mines in Springhill and Western Canada for the past 49 years, displayed the indescribable courage evident everywhere about the disaster scene by scores of people, waiting with sober expectancy, in a bond of common sorrow and silent hope.

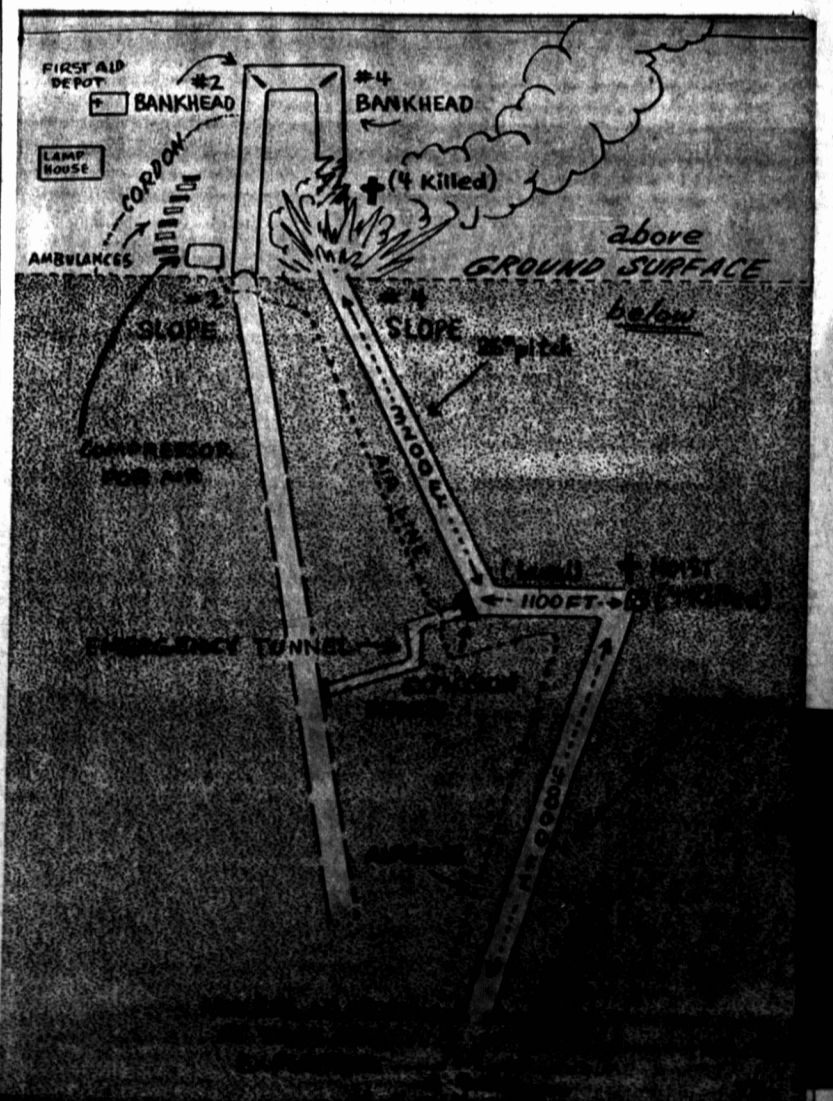
WOULD RETURN. Typical of these many brave people, Mr. McCarthy has previously been involved in mine accidents from which he bears the scars of a missing finger, the affliction of having suffered a broken leg and back injuries, and experience of having been buried alive in a mine having been buried alive in a mine accident, yet he expressed a willingness to return underground again.

Borden Legion Sends \$50 To Springhill Unit

At an executive meeting of the Borden Branch, No. 10, Canadian Legion, held in their Legion Home last night, it was decided to forward a cheque for \$50.00 to the president of the Springhill Branch Canadian Legion to assist them in providing aid to veterans and their families affected by the mine disaster in that town.

Although the amount is small it is hoped by the members that it will help in some small way to provide aid to the families of veterans. The meeting also extended sincere sympathy to all those who suffered injuries or loss in this disaster.

WHERE THE VICTIMS ARE TRAPPED



AT NO. 4 COLLIERY. TOP LEFT A close up of the debris at the surface of the mine at Springhill. TOP RIGHT Standing through the day in cold weather workers at intervals by light rain. LOWER LEFT Small groups, wives, mothers and sisters of trapped miners waited in silent hope for word from rescue crews working in shifts to reach the men deep in the mine. LOWER RIGHT Small groups, discussing concerns for loved ones, were everywhere about the mine area yesterday, and Salvation Army officials and other groups provided hot coffee and sandwiches to weary miners returning from underground rescue work. LOWER RIGHT A view of the damage at the pit-head. Photos By Wotton