County of Victoria, June 09.

The Weekly Free Press

FIRST YEAR — LINDSAY, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1908 — PRICE THREE CENTS

EIGHTY IN DEATH LIST OF WESTERN HOLOCAUST

Fernie, Michel and Coal Creek Wiped Out

LOSES SOVER FIVE MILLIONS

7,000 Persons are Homeless—Jail Prisoners Set Free.

Nelson, B.C., Aug. 4.—The latest news from the Crow's Nest Pass disaster shows a death list of 62, which will probably be increased to 70 or 80.

The property loss exceeds five million dollars.

About seven thousand people are homeless.

Fernie and Michel have been wiped out.

Coal Creek, five miles east from Fernie, is also destroyed.

Hosmer lost some ten houses, and the Coal Company's surface works were destroyed.

The powder magazine at Hosmer exploded, killing one man.

The five black hand suspects who were in Fernie jail were brought in irons to Cranbrook, and will be brought on here. The other prisoners were given their liberty.

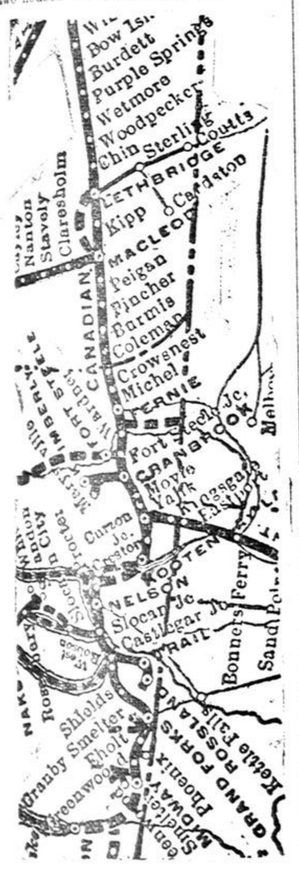
Two hundred refugees will reach here this evening, and will be housed and looked after.

Nelson raised $2,000 yesterday, and sent Alderman McMorris and two carloads of food and clothing to the scene.

Vancouver wired $5,000, and Spokane rushed in a carload of provisions.

The Daily News publishes an extra this morning with the following account of the disaster from its special correspondent at Fernie.

"Fernie is in ruins. Only thirty-two houses have survived the disas-



Map of Crow's Nest Line and East Kootenay District.

trous fire which swept the city out of existence yesterday. It is not definitely known as yet whether any lives were lost in the city proper, but the finding of several corpses in the neighborhood of the city is reported, and it is feared many have perished in the relentless flames.

Had Small Beginning.

"The fire originated in a bush fire that has been burning for the last month, in the limits of the Cedar Valley Lumber Company to the west of the city.

"On Saturday a gale of wind started early in the morning with the force of a cyclone and revived the fire that was supposed to be quenched. By about 11 in the forenoon it had spread to the coal ranch.

"The fire jumped the river about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, striking the south end of the town. The Fort Steele brewery was the first to go, and from there the sparks carried the fire into the old town, which was soon a pall of smoking embers. At the same time the Elk Lumber Company's mill and the Cedar Valley mills caught fire, and in an incredibly short time West Fernie was a seething mass of flames, the people fleeing for their lives. The conflagration jumped the river by the wagon bridge, and inside half an hour the entire business section was in flames, owing to the high wind scattering the burning shingles in all directions, and for long distances.

"When at its worst the fire was taking springs of over a hundred yards in length and zigzagging in all directions.

"The damage cannot fall short of five millions of dollars, the greater loss falling on the C.P.R., which lost the coal tipple, coal bunkers, depot, freight store, water tower and over one hundred cars; the Trities Wood Co., which lost its magnificent store and stock, and the lumber companies, whose mills, limits and stock is wiped out. Fully twenty-five million feet of manufactured lumber is gone.

"The extent of the disaster can be measured better by the recital of the few buildings left standing than by a detailed list of the widespread destruction. There remains of what once was Fernie and the erections that housed a population of about seven thousand souls, ten or eleven small cottages and five or six residences, all situated near the park. For the rest there is not a store, bank, hotel or business concern of any sort or description left standing except the offices of the coal company, the Great Northern depot and water tank and the big concrete warehouse of the Trites Wood Co.

"On Baker avenue and the park a determined effort was made to stay the conflagration, and to the heroic work of the residents and the firemen the few remaining houses owe their preservation.

"About three hundred men, women and children fled to the coal company's office. The fact of that building being isolated and surrounded by spacious lawns, suggesting it to the panic-stricken people as the only place in town that offered the slightest hope of refuge. Willing volunteers ascended to the roof and fought like heroes for hours amid the scorching heat and suffocating smoke. The water pressure remained good and several lines of hose poured tons of water on the structure.

"The large new court house and the new postoffice and customs building were directly opposite and it was while these were burning that the greatest danger existed.

"Again and again swirling masses of sparks found entrance to the attic and a bucket brigade did yeoman work in quenching them. Store after store and hotel after hotel caught, and despite the efforts on the part of the fire fighters they fell one by one, until not a building of any description or kind remains standing north of Walmsley street save the residences of W. R. Ross, M.P.P., D. V. Mott, the Catholic priests', Coal Company office, residence of J. T. Telfer and the Western Canada Wholesale Co.

"The scene at night was awe-inspiring, the lumber piles in West Fernie blazing fiercely, the mountains on every side a mass of flames and the town itself lighted up by the smouldering ruins."

The Nelson (B.C.) Daily News reporter wires from Cranbrook, B.C., as follows:

"Having seen the results of the calamity at Fernie, I must say that it is more entirely extensive than any report gave reason to believe.

"It is a disaster not paralleled in the interior of British Columbia, and one calls for the promptest action on the part of the public.

"Some three thousand people, mostly women and children, have to be housed and cared for until they shall have time to look about them. These are being shipped to Cranbrook, where every public and nearly all the private houses are being used as temporary shelters for the homeless and in many cases naked refugees.

"Hundreds slept Sunday night in the open without blankets or covering of any sort. Relief committees have been organized and food is being supplied to all. Special constables have been sworn in and the town or what is left of it is orderly.

"The relief committee organized by Mayor Fink has got away two trains filled with provisions of every kind—blankets, stoves, flour and all the simple requirements. There are many mouths to feed and every one here is taking a practical hand at trying to alleviate the sufferings of those who have come to us in their dire necessity.

"According to reports, sixty-one men and two women have been burned to death at the number four camp of the Elk River Lumber Company. Four men were found burned to a crisp on the C.P.R. tracks near Hosmer."

Toronto has placed $5,000 at the disposal of the sufferers.

Regina wired $500 without delay on Sunday.

Premier McBride, of British Columbia, telegraphed to the government agents at nearby points instructing them to do all in their power to relieve the situation.

Calgary Council held a special meeting Sunday afternoon and forwarded a train load of supplies in the evening which included 15 tons of flour, half a ton of oatmeal and cornmeal, ton of potatoes, five thousand pounds of shoulder bacon, one hundred tons of cooking utensils, twenty-five camp stoves and one thousand loaves of bread.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has instructed General Macdonald to place all militia tents blankets, etc., in British Columbia at the disposal of the fire victims. The Federal Government will take no action regarding money till it learns the details.

Loaded with provisions, clothing and bedding, a special car was attached to yesterday's trains over the Spokane International railroad for Fernie, B.C., to aid the thousands made destitute by fire in the district.

—Nine out of every ten men you meet nowadays asks this question: "Had your vacation yet?"

Ho! for Montreal, Detroit, Contest Drawing to a Close

THE INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS INTENSE — EVERYBODY WORKING THEIR HARDEST TO GAIN THIS GRAND TRIP.

The contest lasts only ten days longdays longer. Just ten days more of hustling, ten days of vote getting, ten days more of busy work. Then comes the summing up, the rest, the reward.

Every candidate is going to make the most of those ten days. It is on the home stretch that the race is more or less lost. It is the last lap that counts the most. The votes you get on these ten days are going to send you to Montreal and Detroit, or win you the handsome gold watch, given by Mr. W. F. McCarty, and now on exhibition in his window.

MISS MINNIE CAIN,
Leader in District No. 1, in The Free Press Two Weeks Free Vacation Trip.

JUST A GLIMPSE.

Just a glance at the outstanding features of to-day's list. They are:

Miss Cain still leading in No. 1, with Miss Barry a close second.

Miss Burke continues to lead in No. 2.

Gains by Miss Gillis and Miss Britton in No. 3, with the former about 125 ahead. But look out for the Bobcaygeon girl, with the Bobcaygeon backing.

Miss McGeough ahead in No. 4 and Miss Campbell following her hard. This district promises to be the most interesting of all.

Miss Moore continues to lead in No. 5, Miss McKenzie apparently at a standstill.

SEND IN SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Contestants are strongly advised to hand in their subscriptions and money immediately after receiving them. The contest closes at 9 o'clock on the evening of Saturday, August 15th. After that, subscriptions or ballots do not count in the contest. There will be a rush on the last day. Shrewd contestants will anticipate that rush by sending in their subscriptions and money beforehand.

MISS VIOLET BARRY,
One of the hard workers in District No. 1.

Then, on the last day they will have nothing to do but turn in their ballots.

BALLOTS GOOD TILL AUG. 15.

All ballots now being issued are marked good until August 15. Hence nothing is to be gained by holding back the subscriptions. On the contrary, much is to be gained by turning them in at once. You do not have to keep track of them, and as a result are freer to hustle in the critical last days of the campaign. If you want to, you can hold your ballots. But send in your subscriptions at once.

HUSTLING FOR RENEWALS.

One energetic county candidate, who long ago finished covering anything within reach, is utilizing the last days of the campaign in making a second canvas of the same ground. She is hustling for the renewals.

KEEP HUSTLING.

Now is the time to round up your promises. Now, if you think you have covered your field, is the time to scurry over it and gather in your renewals. Now, if you have asked everybody, is the time to ask them again.

STANDING OF THE CANDIDATES.

District No. 1—Comprising all of that portion of the Town of Lindsay lying north of Kent-st.:

Miss Minnie Cain (B J. Gough's)	33,631
Miss Violet Barry, Kent-st.	33,345
Miss May Goodwin (Cambridge-st.)	18,250
Miss Annie Wright (Town Clerk's Office)	3,775

District No. 2—Comprising all that portion of the town of Lindsay lying south of Kent-st.:

Miss M. Burke (Felix Forbert's Store)	15,657
Miss Ethel Adam (Cambridge-st.)	11,764
Miss Kate Tangney, (Kent-st.)	8,119

MISS ADA GILLIS,
Present Leader in District No. 3 in The Free Press Two Weeks' Free Vacation Trip.

District No. 3—Comprising the townships of Fenelon and Verulam, and the villages of Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon.

Miss Ada Gillis, Fenelon Falls.	7,973
Miss Clara Britton, Bobcaygeon	7,849
Miss Mima J. Wilson, Fenelon Falls	5,983
Miss Wilhelmina B. Read, Bobcaygeon	2,404
Miss Greta Smith, Fenelon Falls	2,322
Miss Lillian Everson, Verulam.	166

District No. 4—Comprising the townships of Mariposa, Eldon, Ops, Emily, Cartwright and Manvers, and the villages of Woodville and Omemee:

Miss Lucy McGeough, Omemee.	30,487
Miss Sarah Campbell, Woodville	26,063
Miss Madge Gilliece, Downeyville	5,521
Miss V. Feir, Manvers	1,208
Miss M. Hobbs, Manvers	300

District No. 5—Comprising the townships of Somerville, Bexley, Carden, Dalton, Laxton, Digby, Longford and Haliburton County:

Miss S. L. Moore, Kinmount	9,648
Miss May McKenzie, Haliburton	5,416
Miss Bertha Richman, Coboconk	2,778
Miss Ruby Hill, Lochlin	400
Miss M. J. McInnis, Kirkfield	500

—Joseph Edward Gould, a member of the well-known Uxbridge family of that name, died Tuesday. The deceased, who was worn in 1861, was at one time engaged in the lumbering business at Coboconk. He was a leading farmer and was a strong advocate of the silo in the early days of mixed farming.

BUDGET FROM BUSY KINMOUNT

DEMISE OF A RESPECTED CITIZEN—SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC—A GARDEN PARTY.

(Correspondence to Free Press.)

Kinmount, Aug.3. — The angel of death claimed as its victim, on Wednesday last, one of the old settlers of this part, in the person of Mrs. Richard Carr, who was ill for a length of time with cancer and suffered intensely to the end. She was laid to rest in Kinmount cemetery on Thursday. The sorrowing friends have the sympathy of all.

The union Sunday school picnic took place last Thursday in the grove on the farm of Mr. Beasley, south of the village. St. James' Sunday school will (D.V.) hold theirs in the same place on August 12th, and they extend an invitation to all to join them.

The month of months for camping has arrived. A number have already arrived in our burg to settle in different parts for a two weeks' outing. Six of the fair sex are putting up at Davis' Lake at Mr. Marks' cottage.

Mr. Geo. Train's father is spending a few days with him.

A garden party is to be held in Hopkins' grove on Friday night, under the auspices of St. James' church. A good time is expected; come and join in and make it such.

Bell Telephone Line Soon to be Finished

COMPANY EXPECT TO HAVE BETTER CONNECTION WITH ORILLIA.

Exhibition time will likely see the completion of the new Bell Telephone lines between Orillia and Lindsay. The company are bringing their wires through by way of Woodville, which will make connection between the two towns more easily made.

What is Happening At Janetville Station

MANY VISITORS SPENDING VACATIONS AT THE HOMES OF HOSPITABLE RESIDENTS.

(Correspondence to Free Press.)

Janetville Station, Aug. 3.—The hum of the binder and whistle of the threshing machine is to be heard again, the farmers are very busy just now with the harvest, which is coming in very fast owing to the very warm and dry weather.

Mr. Hugh Wilson is busy this week putting up his new house.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McGee spent a few days last week at Sturgeon Point with their niece, Mrs. F. L. Beecroft.

Mrs. Flack and Miss Mabel Syre are visiting friends in Toronto.

Mr. Lewis Fallis has sold his farm to Mr. R. Grandy. We will be very sorry to lose Mr. Fallis, but we are glad to be gaining Mr. Grandy as a neighbor, and wish him every success in his new home, and our best wishes also go with Mr. and Mrs. Fallis wherever they locate.

Miss Thornbury, of Lindsay, returned home last week after spending a few days with her aunt, Mrs. J. J. Thornton

Miss J. Magwood, of Toronto, is the guest of her cousin, Mrs. J. J. Thornton.

Miss Mason, of Toronto, is the guest of her cousin, Mrs. A. McGill.

Rev. Mr. Snowdon returned home Thursday evening, after spending a few weeks with friends at Meaford.

A party of seven men from the Massey-Harris Works, Toronto, spent from Saturday until Monday on the lake fishing.

Mr. R. Rowan, of Bethany, and Miss Amy Rowan, of Toronto, spent Sunday with their cousin, Miss E. Magee.

Miss A. Rowan left for Toronto on Monday evening.

Miss Grace Hobbs, of Toronto, spent Sunday with her parents.

Miss Effie Hobbs, of Oshawa, is spending a few weeks at home.

Mrs. Williams, of Toronto, who has been spending a few days with her nephew, Mr. Fred. Richardson, left on the 5.05 p.m. train for Toronto this evening.

Mrs. (Dr.) McClosh and family intend leaving for Winnipeg to-morrow evening.

Mr. G. Wilson is busy unloading a car of lumber to-day.

Mr. B. Shekelton left this a.m. for Lindsay, where he has secured a position as brakesman on the G.T.R. We wish him success.

OI WHAT A TIME.

We don't want our citizens to throw rice or old shoes at our girls when they start on their Free Press Two Weeks' Free Vacation Trip, as it will be no wedding party, even if it will be the happiest time of their lives.

MANY PLACES STRUCK BY LIGHTNING AND BURNED

Four Horses Burned to Death---One Killed.

WIRES BLOWN DOWN

Three Barns and one House Levelled---Crops Destroyed.

Tuesday's thunder and electrical storm only finds its parallel in that of a Saturday night some weeks ago, when so much damage was done to property in Lindsay and vicinity. Tuesday the lowering skys foretold a coming storm, and shortly after seven o'clock a terrific downpour of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, suddenly burst upon the town, and from that time until an early hour the next morning the incessant pour continued. The thunder and lightning passed away just before midnight, but the rain did not cease for some hours later,

Had the storm been accompanied by a strong wind there is little doubt but that the damage would have been much greater that that done a few weeks ago. However, the storm was of a nature that would be kindly welcomed by the farmers, whose crops have suffered under the blazing sun for some time past. Yet, while some farmers will benefit, others were injured, and as far as can be learned at the time of going to press, no fewer than three barns in the adjoining vicinity have been struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Those in town who looked with feelings of sorrow upon the reflection in the sky were hoping that the heavy rain would quench the flames, but from reports, none of the barns were saved, and only a few charred timbers strewn on the ground marks the spot where a well filled barn once stood.

HOUSE BURNED.

Such was not a pleasant night to be turned out of one's home; however, this was the only choice permitted Mr. O. Johnson, of Omemee, whose house was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

The house was badly shattered by the bolt, and it is a miracle how none of the occupants received injury.

The building burned very quickly, being a frame structure, and the only articles saved were a table and a sewing machine. The insurance amounted to $140, which does not go very far towards recuperating the loss sustained by Mr. Johnson.

HORSE KILLED.

During the worst of the storm between ten and eleven o'clock, Mr. G. H. M. Baker, of the Baker Lumber Co., lost one of his finest mill horses, valued at about $175.

The horse was amongst the others in the pasture field near the mill on St. Paul-st., and was struck by lightning and instantly killed.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Mr. Silas Calvert, of Reaboro, had the misfortune of losing his barn and contents by fire.

Between the hours of ten and eleven Mr. Calvert was awakened by the crash of a thunderbolt which sounded as if its course was very close to his property. Upon rising and looking out through his bedroom window he was shocked to see that his barn was on fire. He hurried down as quickly as possible, but was too late, for the fire had gained considerable headway. The neighbors soon gathered and proffered their services, but all in vain

The barn was the property of Mr. R. Thorne, of Reaboro, and was not insured. Mr. Calvert's loss will be a heavy one. Four horses were burned, and the largest part of the season's crop went up in the flames. He also lost the majority of his farm implements.

The contents were insured for $1,000 in the Farmers' Mutual.

BARN DESTROYED.

The loss experienced by Mr. Switzer, of Cameron, through Tuesday's storm, was heavy. The barn and all the outbuildings were swept by fire, nothing remaining next morning but a few charred timbers, to signify where his property stood. The loss is made up of crop and implements, together with barn and driving shed. Mr. Switzer carried $600 insurance in the Farmers' Mutual on his barn. It is not known what insurance was carried on the contents.

While on his way to the barn Mr. Switzer sustained a serous injury. A large rusty nail penetrated the instep of his left foot, which gave him great pain until morning.

The sympathy of the entire community is with the unfortunate man, as it is understood he purchased the farm only a few months ago.

TELEPHONE WIRES DOWN.

The night central operator sat in her office handling the switch board very carefully, as in time of storm every precaution must be exercised. About half-past ten a long distance call came in for Peterboro, but the young lady was unable to make the connection. She tried several times but finally gave up the attempt. Next morning the wires between here and the Quaker city were found to be down and some in a bad condition. A gang of men were immediatly dispatched from town and another batch were sent from Peterboro to repair the wires that were damaged.

$30,000 DRAINAGE SCHEME FOR BENEFIT OF OPS LAND

Plans and Profiles Almost Completed—Two Main Trunk Lines and Many Branches of 8 and 12 Inch Tile---3,809 Acres Involved.

Omemee, Aug. 5.—A survey has been going on for some time, and plans and profiles are now completed, for the most extensive drainage system ever undertaken in this part of the province. The Council of Ops has found this necessary for the drainage of the large area of low-lying farm lands in the valley of Stoney Creek. A flow of water coming with a rush in high flood time against an obstructed outlet, backs up and renders unfit for cultivation lands from which in olden times good crops used to be harvested.

Some idea of the magnitude of the work involved may be gathered from the fact that one cut at the outlet, of about 800 feet in length, has an average depth of nearly 8 feet and a bottom width of 12 feet, and the total cost of the outlet cuttings run up to over $5,000 Besides the two main trunk lines there are many branches designed of covered eight-inch and twelve-inch tile. These all combine to make a total of 17¾ miles, giving a good drainage outlet to 3,809 acres of land, 1,246 acres getting thorough drainage, at a total cost slightly over $30,000. The work has been surveyed and designed by Messrs. Smith & Smith, engineers and land surveyors, Lindsay.

—Fenelon Falls intend holding their annual celebration in aid of the Public Library on August 19th. A full day's programme of sports is being arranged.

No. 8. Not Good After Aug 15

VOTING BALLOT

The Free Press Montreal-Detroit Trip

This Ballot will count as One Vote.

For.....

District No.....

Address.....

When fully filled out and received at the Lindsay Free Press office by mail or otherwise on or before expiration date shown above. NOT GOOD AFTER THAT DATE. Void if name voted for has not been properly nominated. Ballots are not transferable.