

Felix Henderson Gives Evidence at Enquiry

Moose River Mine Manager Tells Commission that he Had Warned Foreman to Watch for Weaknesses in Mine. Property Underground Examined Daily. Mine Workers Tell of "Squeezing" of Mine Timbers.

Last week the Royal Commission inquiring into the Moose River Mine tragedy in Nova Scotia where three men were trapped underground for ten days by a cave-in, one of them dying before he could be rescued opened last week at Moose River, Nova Scotia. The commission is headed by Justice W. F. Carroll. The entombment of the three men by the cave-in on Eastern Sunday and the efforts made for their rescue thrilled the whole continent, and there is very special concern in the enquiry as to the cause or blame for the accident.

Probably the greatest interest in Timmins will centre round the evidence of Felix Henderson, the manager of the Moose River Mine. He is well known in Timmins and was for some years in the North. In the opening of his evidence he told the commission of enquiry of warnings he had given to watch for weaknesses in the mine which was 75 years old, and had not been worked for many years. "I told the men to be careful every minute," he said. Mr. Henderson after referring to the warnings he had given his foreman, George Fahie, admitted that he was aware that one part of a shaft was without supporting pillars, but he said the warning had been issued without any particular reason.

Blasting operations said the mine manager, "certainly did their little bit," to cause the collapse that trapped Magill, his mining partner, Dr. D. E. Robertson, of Toronto, and their timekeeper, Alfred Scadding, still recovering from effects of the long entombment.

Story of the collapse was retold by witnesses as the commission appointed by the Government to investigate the accident, sat around a dining room table in a little frame house, not far from the abandoned mine.

Henderson, his thumbs hooked in his vest, leaned back on a chair, and disclaimed responsibility for arranging such "details" as obtaining Government permission to work the mine, says one despatch, reporting the commission.

It was Magill, the youthful Toronto lawyer who died from pneumonia while imprisoned 140-feet below the surface, who undertook to make all arrangements for operation of the mine.

Henderson said he could not say if Magill had "any right to work the property." It was the duty of a mine manager, he agreed, to "know whether he is working a property legally or not" but this had been left to Magill, who Henderson "always thought of as the manager."

A miniature mine shaft was constructed on the table from a pile of books and records so that Henderson might explain the workings of the old mine, uncharted and uncharted.

Extraction of ore from the various levels and pockets was described along with drilling and blasting operations.

Jangling of the rural telephone bells interrupted the hearing several times, and outside on the porch witnesses laughed and talked as they waited to be called.

Drilling and blasting had been carried on from March 17 until the accident, April 12, said Henderson, still wearing the high boots and heavy clothes he wore during the long days of labouring that eventually saved the lives of Dr. Robertson and Scadding.

Henderson said he could not say when the last blasting shots were fired. He was at home sick.

"Do you think any of the charges fired on the east side contributed to the cave-in?" he was asked by Norman MacKenzie, Deputy Minister of Mines. "Well, frankly," said the manager, "They certainly did their little bit."

There was no accurate record of the number of shots fired. The only record he said, had been kept by Scadding in a notebook the timekeeper had used to light a fire with. It was this fire which sent smoke signals to the surface after the men were trapped.

Henderson said he had been engaged in mine work 40 years before he became manager of the Moose River mine, abandoned for about 30 years before operations were resumed.

No definite day had been established as "examination day" in the mine, Henderson said, but it was examined every day. "We hadn't reached that point" he replied when asked "whose duty it was to examine the mine."

"But it must be written down in a book for that purpose," interrupted Mr. MacKenzie. "It's part of the Mining Act."

As far as he was aware, Henderson continued, dewatering of the mine had not been completed at the time of the accident.

"Who really was the mine manager?" asked Mr. MacKenzie.

Henderson scratched his grey head and looked puzzled.

"Well," he hesitated. "I always thought of Magill as the manager."

Magill had assured him, Henderson said, he would "look after everything." He had bought detonators for mine work and had looked after the mine business generally.

Details of the cave-in were described by Luther Higgins a big, tall fellow who operated the hoist that lowered Robertson, Magill and Scadding into the mine on the fatal night.

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Iroquois Falls Car Owners Score Roads

Road to Monteith Practically Impassable. Annual Clean-up Week at Falls. Other Iroquois Falls Notes

Iroquois Falls, Ont., May 27th, 1936. Special to The Advance.

Motorists report the roads over the week-end the worst for several years, with the exception of the roads to Timmins and Cochrane which are reported to be in fair condition. The road to Monteith is virtually impassable due to several bad holes. On the Ferguson highway several stretches can be navigated only in low gear. At least two local motorists had to be pulled out on the short stretch joining Iroquois Falls and Ansonville. Settlers are complaining bitterly of government failure to put graders on the road, particularly at a time when many teams are available, since, because of the backward spring, they are unable to get on the land.

Following the first annual Clean-Up Week May 18-23, inaugurated by the Iroquois Falls Horticultural Society Section No. 1 was Saturday adjudged the cleanest. As a result 51 kiddies in this section will be given free tickets to the picture "The Country Doctor," at the Empire theatre, Ansonville, on Saturday. The prize winning section bounded by Fiddellville avenue and the south side of Fyfe avenue and included Circle Place, West Circle Place and Grosvenor avenue. Section 6, bounded by Argyle and Cambridge avenues and 7th street to the town limits received first honorable mention, and Section 2, bounded by the north side of Fyfe, Cambridge avenue and Eighth and Tenth streets received second honorable mention. The selection was made on the greatest apparent effort to clean up premises during Clean-Up Week.

Bill Brydget, former amateur hockey star with the Port Arthur Allan cup team and Iroquois Falls Eskimos, and the past several years defenceman with the New York Americans, has taken a position at Kirkland Lake as manager of the Arena. Mr. and Mrs. Brydget will move to Kirkland about June 1.

Miss Helen Burnside and Mr. G. Thane, Englehart visited in town Monday enroute back to Englehart from Smooth Rock Falls, where they visited over the week-end with Mrs. L. Shore. Mr. and Mrs. George Brown spent Sunday at Lake Sekekinika.

M. J. Smith spent the early part of the week in North Bay, as local delegate to the K. of C. convention.

W. H. Dawson, Ansonville, attended the Liberal-Conservative convention at Toronto, as Porcupine Junction delegate.

W. Osborne, local delegate to the Liberal-Conservative convention, motored to Toronto Sunday. He was accompanied by Mrs. Osborne and Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Newman.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brown spent the week-end at their summer cottage at Lake Sekekinika.

The Aristocrats orchestra held a dance in the town hall Monday evening. The Iroquois Falls and District Rod and Gun Club will hold its June meeting Monday evening, June 1st.

Seeding, Harrowing, on Hollinger Park

Filled-in Ground Between Station and Mine to be Largest Playground Space in North.

Seeding and harrowing began this week on the tract of reclaimed land that was once Miller lake and more recently a large area of unsightly grey slimes. Hollinger park will this year get its real start and within a couple of years, if work continues at the present rate, a great expanse of turf will give Timmins a larger playground than that possessed by any other town in the North.

The initial covering of loam was placed on the cyanide last fall. Just sufficient space was left bare to accommodate the softball diamond which will in all probability be moved to another section of the park next year.

FIRE DESTROYS THE ASSAY OFFICE AT McWATERS MINE

Word from Rouyn says that fire of unknown origin broke out in the assay office at McWaters Mines about 1 o'clock on Thursday afternoon which resulted in the complete loss of the building. It is probable that the work of reconstruction will be started immediately.

St. Thomas Times:—More than 90 per cent. of the toys sold in England for Christmas, 1935, were British. More than 60 per cent. were imported ten years ago. Another example of a wise protection policy.

Ottawa Not to Protest Proposed Railway Line

Application of Temiscamingue and Abitibi Railway, reported to be a subsidiary of the C.P.R., for a charter to construct a line into and through the Rouyn-Noranda area of northwestern Quebec, formed the subject of a conference at Ottawa Thursday between Hon. C. D. Howe, Dominion Minister of Railways, and Col. MacLennan, chairman of the Temiscamingue and Northern Ontario Railway.

The application has been made to the Quebec Legislature. Mr. Howe said it was "purely a provincial matter" and there would be no official protest from the Dominion Government, although the Canadian National Railways would be free to act as they chose. Premier H. B. Hurn announced Ontario would be represented when the application came before a Quebec legislature committee.

Col. Lang had no comment on the conversations but declared the agencies now serving the Quebec gold mining areas—the Canadian National and the T. & N. O.—would continue to do so and needs of the area would be taken care of by those who pioneered it.



Hon. J. H. (Jimmie) Thomas, one of the most popular and esteemed men in British public life, has resigned from the Cabinet following reports that there had been a "leak" in information regarding the budget.

Empire Day Observed at Central Public School

Patriotic Touch Given to Programmes by Both Junior and Senior Classes. Programme by Junior Classes in Morning and by Senior Classes in Afternoon.

Empire Day was fittingly observed in Central School on Friday, May 22nd. Special lessons were taught on the British Empire, throughout the school and two programmes were given.

In the morning the Junior pupils assembled for the following programme:
1. Opening Chorus—"The Maple Leaf"
2. The Lord's Prayer.
3. Chorus—"The Song of Peace"
4. Talk—Miss Susie Smythe.
5. Recitation—"Our Flag"—Kenneth Burt.

6. Dance—"Highland Fling."
7. Chorus—"I know Three Little Sisters."
8. Story of the Flag.

9. National Anthem.
At 1:30 p.m. the Senior pupils assembled when the following programme was given:
Miss Laura Shaw had charge of the music for the day.
Chairman—Mr. Stewart Robinson.

Salute to the Flag
Chorus—"O Canada"
Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin's Tribute to the memory of the late King George the V—Miss Baker's Pupils.
Half Minute's Silence at its conclusion.

King Edward VIII's Speech upon the occasion of his Accession to the Throne—Miss Markell's Pupils.
God Save the King.
Address—Special speaker—Mr. W. O. Langdon.
Chorus—"Dear Canada, Dear Land of Mine."

King Edward VIII—Mr. Bule's Pupils
Cornet Solo—One of Mr. Robinson's Pupils.
"Hats off to the Flag"—One of Miss Patterson's Pupils.

Chorus—Miss Everett's Pupils
"May in the British Empire"—Miss Ramsay's Pupils
Chorus—"A World of Schools."
God Save the King.

Mining Court Cases Heard at Kirkland

Included in the Cases were Some from New Camp in Ramore District.

(Kirkland Lake Northern News)
Some of the staking done in the first "boom" in 1934 at Hyslop Township, scene now of a Hollinger mill development and a new townsite designated as Holtre, was questioned yesterday in Mining Court here before His Lordship, Mr. Justice Godson.

Adjourned to the next court was the case of squatters' rights, Ted Pion, of Ramore, vs. Mrs. Charbonneau, who lives on a farm in Cook township. In this action adjournment came when no evidence was offered that Mr. Charbonneau had a license of occupation on the ground which Pion staked in Cook township, near Holtre, in July, 1934, and His Lordship will investigate application for such license. Mel G. Hunt appeared for Mrs. Charbonneau and Albert Serre represented Mr. Pion.

Another case hanging around the activity at Hyslop was likewise adjourned, when the action of Ed Ross, Holtre, vs. John Rysack, Timmins, was heard. The dispute was on a claim staked in February, 1934, recorded in the name of Rysack, with Ross disputing the staking which took place in Gubord township, near Hyslop. Mel G. Hunt acted for the respondent and Albert Serre for the applicant.

Ted Pion is a leading member in the group controlling a townsite at Holtre, which was laid out on his farm, and Ed Ross, his brother-in-law, owned the farm which Hollinger Mines optioned for its development in Hyslop township.

Application by Vic Barber, Kirkland Lake, to bar O. Joki, also from this city, from using, for the purpose of

North Deserves Better Roads, Says Lt.-Col. Kerr

Head of Ontario Motor League Speaks at Iroquois Falls Banquet. Jos. A. Bradette Touches on Roads and Radio as Two Big Needs. Other Speakers at Iroquois Falls and District Motor Club Event.

Iroquois Falls, Ont., May 27th, 1936. Special to The Advance.

Speaking as principal speaker at the eighth annual banquet of the Iroquois Falls and District Motor Club at the hotel Iroquois, Iroquois Falls, Monday, evening, Lt.-Col. W. G. Kerr, K.C., Chatham, President of the Ontario Motor League, stated that in his opinion Northern Ontario was not receiving just treatment from Old Ontario. Confessing that he had never been North before, Col. Kerr, admitted his amazement at the tremendous size and industrial development he found. The South as a whole had an inadequate conception of the Northern part of the province, he said. As an illustration he told that his 11-year-old boy, at present attending school at Chatham, who accompanied him, kept wondering when Eskimos would be encountered. He expressed amazement at the poor condition of the roads from North Bay north, particularly the trunk roads. If Northern Ontario received a just proportion of taxes paid on cars, licenses and gasoline, roads in the district would be in excellent shape, he claimed. Referring to the impending trip North of Hon. T. B. McQuesten, minister of highways, he said he hoped the Minister would make this trip soon so that he could see conditions as they are. It had taken him five hours, he said, Monday, to cover the same distance he would ordinarily cover in Old Ontario in an hour. He guaranteed that the Ontario Motor League, with which the local club is affiliated, would do its utmost to secure recognition of the right of the North to good roads. He urged a greater local membership and the organization of a central northern club to express adequately the voice of the district.

The visitors were welcomed by Mayor G. L. Cameron, who commented on the safety education programme of the motor league, which was largely responsible, he thought, for the fact that Iroquois Falls has not yet had a serious motor accident. Reeve J. Albert Mongeon, of the Township of Calvert, stated the most serious problem confronting the League to-day was the North's poor road conditions, which are worse now than since the opening of the Ferguson highway, the district's only road.

Jos. Bradette, M.P., congratulated the local club on having secured Col. Kerr's attendance at the banquet. Col. Kerr would, he pointed out, take back to the powers-that-be, a true picture of Northern Ontario conditions. Referring to district radio reception Mr. Bradette claimed that conditions were no better now than they were four years ago. The North is entitled, he said, to a northern station, serving Northern Ontario and Quebec, the pioneer population of which, has for several months each year no other source of entertainment.

He expressed indignation at the fact that the growing population of the district has no means of access by rail to the West. He hinted at a filibuster at Ottawa by seven northern members unless better radio and railway facilities were provided.

J. A. Habel, M.L.A., Fauquier, expressed the hope the Government would see fit to reconsider the routing of the Trans-Canada highway. Such action, he understood, was at present being considered.

Present at the head table was President G. J. Thistlethwaite, chairman; Lt.-Col. Kerr; D. H. Parker, Abitibi Power and Paper Co., mill manager; Dr. C. A. Annot, Matheson; Jos. Bradette, M.P.; J. A. Habel, M.L.A.; G. L. Cameron, mayor of Iroquois Falls; J. A. Mongeon, reeve of the Township of Calvert; A. T. Hurter; D. A. MacIver, district department of highways engineer, Cochrane, and H. R. Phipps, acting resident engineer, department of Highways, Matheson.

A motor show was held during the afternoon followed by the annual meeting and election of officers.

Officers elected were: President G. J. Thistlethwaite; vice-president, Dr. C. A. Annot; secretary-treasurer, A. T. Hurter. Directors P. E. Wood and F. G. Charron, Iroquois Falls; J. A. Mongeon, Ansonville and T. McDonald Matheson.

Others in the party, but there was no sign of the other two.
There were five men in the party from Kirkland Lake who went fishing at the week-end. The party included Chief Jack Mathieson of the Kirkland Lake fire brigade, Bert Elliott, Kirkland postmaster, and Harold Parker and Harold Murphy, both brothers-in-law of Elliott, and both members of the fire brigade. All the men are known in Timmins and there was general regret here at the tragedy. Dr. Kay is a nephew of Mrs. A. Kincaid, formerly of Timmins and South Porcupine, but now of Kirkland Lake.

The five men made camp on the lake shore when they decided to go fishing. Messrs. Mathieson and Elliott went in one boat while the three others followed in another. When the squall came along and showed no sign of abating for a time, the two in the first boat decided to return. On their way back they found the second boat floating upside down. Dr. Kay, who was unable to swim, was floating beside the boat. He had on a life belt. There was no sign of the other men. Both Parker and Murphy were dressed in heavy clothes and it is thought that on this account they would have no chance in the water during a rough squall.

After taking the doctor's body ashore, the two survivors made their way to Elk Lake for help. Provincial police hurried to the scene to do all that could be done to recover the bodies. Dr. Kay was single but the other two victims were married.

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New Scholarship for Students of North

Award to be in Faculty of Applied Science University of Toronto.

Establishment of a new scholarship at the University of Toronto, for the Faculty of Applied Science, was announced last week by Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, minister of education.

The scholarship, which will be awarded each year for a period of five years, is of an annual value of \$400 and was made possible through the generosity of H. R. Bain, Toronto business man. Tenable for a period of one year, it will be awarded to the candidate prepared in a secondary school in the districts of Northern Ontario who has obtained the highest standing in the nine papers of honour matriculation required for admission to the Faculty of Applied Science.

The value of the new scholarship, Dr. Simpson announced, will be represented by a payment in cash of \$200 and the remission of fees in the Faculty of Applied Science of a similar amount.

St. Mary's Journal-Argus:—We hear lots of grouching about the weather in this neck of the woods. But after all our climate must suit the land just about a hundred per cent. For whoever heard of a crop failure in Western Ontario? We have a lot to be thankful for in this wonderful country of ours.

Cobalt V.O.N. Executive Said to be Resigning Now

Resignations from the executive of the Cobalt branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Reeve Harold Rowdon, of Coleman township, president of the branch, and of W. E. Sparham, the treasurer, have required calling a special meeting of the members and this session will be held during the present week. No reason for their action is given in the official notice calling the meeting, and it is reported other resignations are pending. It is stated the meeting will learn also that Miss Louise Henry, nurse here for some years past, is to be transferred to another branch, while further discussion is regarded as likely owing to the uncertainty of the attitude of the town council with regard to continuation of the grant made in recent years. No provision has been made by the municipality for payment of the \$50 monthly grant beyond the end of April, it is said.

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