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Prospectors and Their Place in Mine Industry

Canada's Mining Development One of the Most Romantic Annals in History of the Country. What the Prospector Has Done to Make it So. Task of Finding New Mines.

Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources for Canada, this year is delivering a series of addresses on mining in Canada. He gave a somewhat similar series last year and these, when published, proved not only of special interest but also of outstanding value to the country. It is both fitting and proper that Hon. Mr. Crerar should give over at least one of these addresses to the prospector—the impetus and backbone of all mining development in Canada. In an address last week, Hon. Mr. Crerar said:

"A few days ago a letter came to the department. It was from an old prospector who had spent three years in northern British Columbia and the Northwest Territories without once coming 'outside.' He said: 'I have spent 52 years in Northwestern Canada and have done rather more than my share of pioneering, but hope to do plenty more in the prospecting line. Just now I am having a real holiday in Victoria after being away for three years. The green grass and flowers look pretty good to us old timers for the north, but when spring comes, like the geese, we go back to the north and continue to chase for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It's a good thing for us that we never lose sight of that little star of hope.'

"I could not help but think how typical this letter is of the spirit of the prospector, and how fortunate Canada has been in having men so imbued with those pioneering qualities, courage, hope and perseverance. Without such men and their certain belief that around the next bend of the river, or across the next divide, lies the Eldorado of their dreams, Canada's mining industry could never have grown to occupy the place in our economic life that it does to-day."

"The story of mineral development

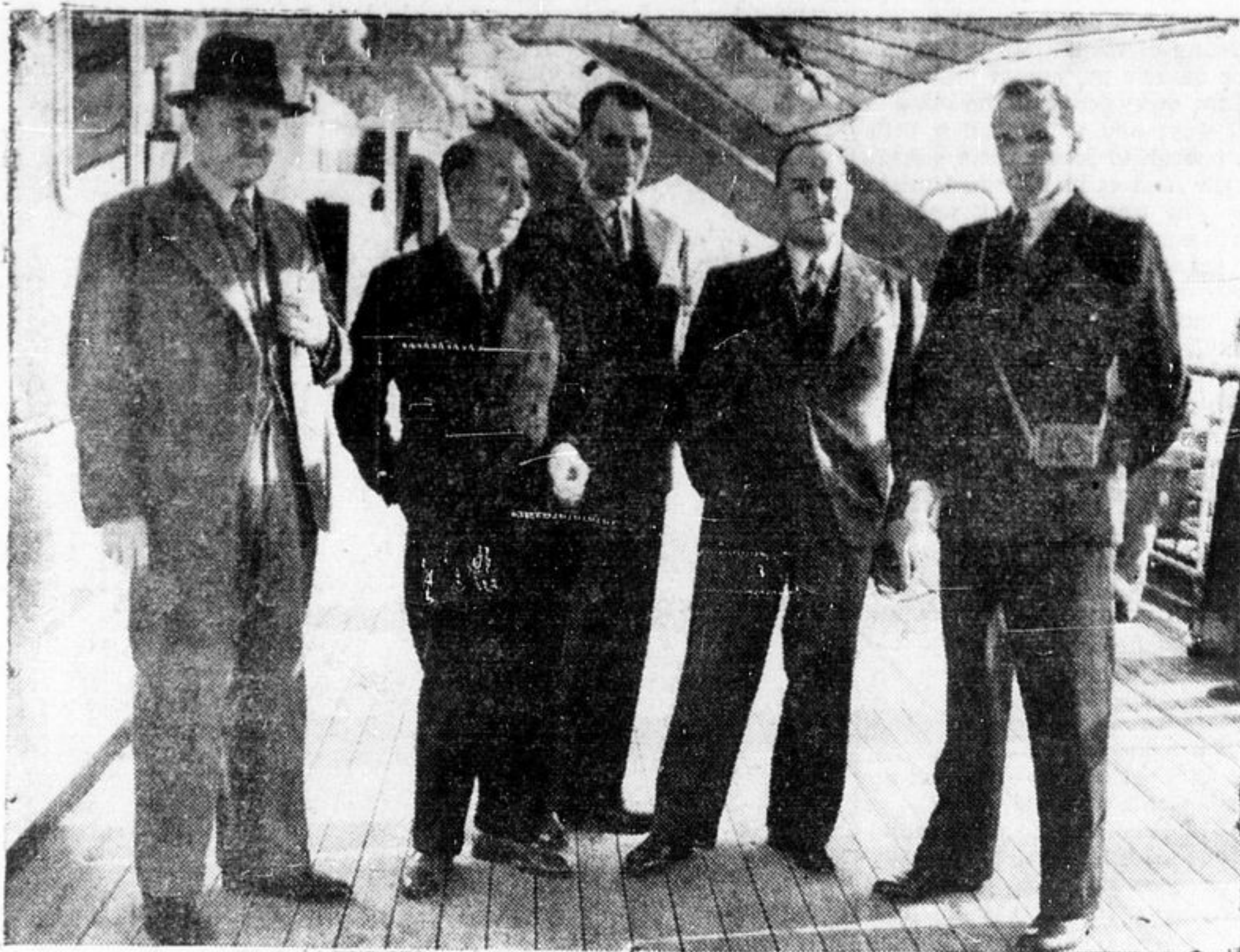
in Canada forms one of the most romantic annals in the economic history of our country. Yet it is largely a story of the perseverance, courage and optimism of our prospectors. Mines are not easily found; they must be searched for. And nature, as it challenges man's courage and ingenuity has, except in rare cases, hidden her treasures remote from beaten paths, among rugged mountains, and rocky and forested lands.

"But the prospector, as if in answer to the whispered command 'something lost behind the ranges, go and find it,' has pushed on in the face of privation, loneliness, danger and sometimes even death, in his treks to the Klondike, to the Pas in Manitoba, to Cobalt, to Porcupine, to Kirkland Lake, to Noranda, and to Great Bear Lake, far up in the Northwest Territories. And in his wake have sprung up mining camps and towns from which has come added wealth in the form of minerals to give new life and spirit to the nation.

"Perhaps a clearer picture of the extent and rapid development of our mining industry can be gained when we realize that in 1900 the value of our minerals was around sixty-four millions of dollars. In 1937 it had increased to four hundred and fifty-seven millions.

"The story of this development is largely a story of mineral discovery. I have said mines are not easy to find. Yet many fanciful tales are heard of accidental discovery of rich ore bodies. Sometimes a prospector trails a wounded animal to its den and there waiting for him is a rich mineral vein; or a pack-animal slips, and in the scar of the hoof-track lies a fortune. The truth is, however, that mines must be searched for, and searched for carefully—anything less will not do. And that is where the trained prospector comes

EXPERTS SEEKING PLANES FOR BRITAIN



These five Britons arrived in New York last week aboard the Queen Mary bent on a study of the possibilities for purchasing military aircraft in the United States and Canada. They are in Washington, D.C. now. Left to right, Commodore Sir Arthur T. Harris, commander of the Fourth Bombing Group; Reserve Commander James G. Weir, Commander Casper John, of the Fleet air arm; Squadron Leader Charles E. Horrex and Frederick Rowarth, civilian engineer.

in, and why more than we have at present are needed.

"It is interesting to note that in 1686 de Troyes, while journeying up the east shore of Lake Temiskaming, was guided by Indians to a deposit of lead-silver now known as the Wright mine. Yet, on the opposite side of the narrows, and only a few miles away, lay the rich silver deposits of Cobalt that were not discovered until 1603.

"The Porcupine area the early fur traders and explorers for decades crossed and recrossed through the heart of what is now the Porcupine belt. It remained for trained prospectors like Alex Gillies, Benny Hollinger, Sandy McIntyre, and others whose names today are known wherever mining men foregather to make the discoveries that have since made Porcupine one of the world's great gold camps.

"The story of the discovery of the Hollinger is unique in showing the need for careful prospecting. In 1909 Gillies and Hollinger were prospecting in the vicinity of Pearl Lake, staking as prospected although no gold as yet had been seen. On October 9th they came upon an old test pit, about four feet deep, alongside of which lay the rusty remains of an old force and anvil. While Gillies was cutting a corner post, Hollinger, short distance away, was clawing away the moss from a rock outcrop. Suddenly a cry of 'gold' from Hollinger pierced the air. And free gold it was, everywhere but in the pit—and yet the bottom of the pit, when sampled and assayed yielded fifty-two dollars a ton!

This was Porcupine born—a camp which up to date has produced over \$450,000,000, and is the scene of thriving mining towns.

"Prospectors flocked in and overflowed in all directions. To the southeast in the Larder Lake and Kirkland Lake areas a few years later Bill Wright, Harry Oakes and the Tough Brothers were backing their discoveries with all the courage and capital at their command. On what is now the Lake Shore property, Harry Oakes was doggedly working although as he expressed it, he didn't know whether he was developing a mine or a potato patch. Yet since the date of its discovery the Kirkland Lake camp has produced gold to the value of over \$256,000,000.

"Geologists had definitely shown that the mineral-bearing belt of the Kirkland and Larder Lake areas continued eastward. Although gold was discovered by Oiler and Renault at Lake Fortuna in 1911, nothing substantial developed, and it remained for Ed Horre to open up a new mining area for Canada by his discovery of the Horne Mine in 1922. From this discovery arose the Noranda mine and the rich mines of Cadillac and Bourlamaque areas in Quebec. Out in Manitoba, Jack Hammell, Tom Creighton, and Carl Silveritz were showing that the future of that province was not alone confined to her rich prairie lands. In British Columbia 'Scotty' Dilworth and 'Pat' Daly were proving the possibilities of the present Premier mine, while Fred Wells was disclosing sources of lode gold in the Barkerville area, an area long famous as a placer producer.

"Soon afterwards came the airplane to aid the prospector in his search. No longer need the prospector spend weeks and months of an all too short season reaching the scene of his activity. With the aid of air travel a prospecting party is landed on the ground in a few hours or, at the most, days; supplies are flown in, and the party can be left in the field until the freeze-up.

"To Jack Hammell must go the credit for the first extensive use of the airplane, not only for prospecting, but for use in developing mines remote from transportation. As a result we see the opening up of mines in the Northwest Territories, and the hinterland of Ontario and Quebec which, in their initial stages, are almost entirely dependent upon the airplane.

"A glance at a map of Canada now shows dotted all across the country thriving mining camps, all of which are contributing substantially to our mineral output. And yet the areas being developed in proportion to the possible total mineral bearing area is relatively small. It is apparent, therefore, that large areas remain to be intensively prospected. Even in the older camps more intelligent and careful development is revealing new mines.

"However, it must be borne in mind that our minerals are a wasting asset, and that once mined they cannot be replaced. We must, then, continue to find new mines and this still a task for trained and experienced prospectors. It is necessary to realize also that, although it has lost nothing of the colour and romance of past years, the search for minerals to-day is a highly organized undertaking, demanding not only the exercise of every talent of the freelance prospector, but the full use of available scientific knowledge.

"In the early years of the industry, and even until comparatively recent years, the search for minerals in Canada was carried on in a somewhat haphazard fashion. Time, energy and expense were too often wasted in areas having little promise of mineral wealth, while areas with promise were too hurriedly examined to warrant an opinion as to their possibilities. Then, too, prior to the advent of the airplane, and the outboard motor, a good part of the active prospecting was wasted in travelling to and from the area to be examined.

"But conditions have changed greatly in recent years. Seldom now do we hear of a prospector leaving for the field without first having familiarized himself with a knowledge of the area's possibilities from a study of geological maps and reports.

"It is to assist and encourage the prospector that the Dominion Government, and certain of the provinces, employ geologists to map and examine areas of possible mineral wealth throughout the country. Maps and reports containing the results of the field work are completed with every possible despatch, as the time factor has become all important in the modern search for minerals.

"Strangely enough, reports published

many years ago have played a notable part in some of the important discoveries of recent years. For instance, it was part of the contents of a report issued by the Geological Survey of Canada in 1900, which prompted Gilbert LaBine in 1930 to search for deposits of radium in the east shore of Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories.

"Again in 1900, attention was directed in a geological report, and also in another report issued several years later, to the possibilities of the Little Long Lac area, but the recommendations aroused little interest until 1931, when 'Hardrock' Smith staked a discovery on the present site of Hardrock Gold Mines Limited. Although the whole area was soon blanketed by stakers, it was not until 1932 that Tom Johnson and Tony Oklend discovered what is now the Little Long Lac mine. Another report issued in 1927 made special reference to the possibilities of an area in northern Manitoba. Guided by this R. J. Jowsey, a veteran Canadian prospector, discovered the present Gold's Lake Gold mine a few years later.

"Beyond question, such geological information has greatly assisted the prospector. Nevertheless, in the end, the finding of new mines is wholly dependent upon the prospector. It is clear then, that we must allow him as much freedom of action as it is possible to give him. He is willing to acknowledge that certain regulatory measures are necessary in the public interest, but he becomes discouraged when he has to meet petty and harassing regulations.

"It has been the experience of every important mineral producing country that the prospector does his best work under conditions free from hampering legislative restrictions. Furthermore, most of the important discoveries of the past have been made by the so-called 'grub stake,' or free-lance prospector. Perhaps in the future the highly organized prospecting expeditions may obtain important results. Nevertheless, there will always be need for the 'lone' prospector.

"But the task of finding new mines must not be left to the prospector alone. He requires, and is entitled to a fair reward for his courage and toil. And it is here that capital can, and must, come to the aid of the industry.

"The development of a prospect to the stage where it becomes a mine requires money; and as a rule the average prospector has little beyond his season's requirements, small though that is—usually not more than \$1,000 or \$1,500. The prospector must be able to sell his claims. Capital must, in our mining industry, be able to continue to expand, show at least a degree of courage comparable with that of the prospector. True, the disappointments of mining investment have been many—not every good prospect develops into a mine—on the other hand, when a mining venture proves successful the monetary rewards are great.

"The Federal and Provincial Governments are assisting the prospector by providing him with geological maps and technical assistance in the form of devising the best methods of ore treatment. A fair and equitable system of taxation, coupled with reasonable mining legislation and mining regulations should assure the public confidence. Because of this basis for the orderly development of the industry, many of the hazards for capital are removed.

"It is evident by reason of its climate and soil conditions that the future of the greater part of northern Canada must centre about the mineral industry—a future which depends upon the prospector, and his partners, labour and capital. Little or nothing is known as yet of the mineral resources of large sections of British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Yukon. The same is true also of parts of northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. We do know, however, that many of these areas are underlain by rocks, which elsewhere in Canada have proved to be highly productive.

"We have a great asset in the skill and experience of our prospectors, who have a knowledge of the north country that cannot be found in books. They have not failed us in the past. So long as our northern areas hold promise of new discoveries, and so long as our prospectors know that a reasonable reward awaits their efforts, they will not fail us in the future."

North Bay Nugget:—The spade, rake and hoe are the current instruments of torture, unless one likes that sort of exercise.

Student Formerly Worked at the Dome

Harold Macadam Dies Gallantly in Geraldton Mine.

Geraldton, Ont., May 14.—Trapped in a slide of rock and earth fill between the first and second levels of Little Long Lac Gold Mines, J. Harold Macadam, 22, a native of Ottawa and a third-year mining student at Queen's University, was crushed to death at Geraldton on Thursday, after having been imprisoned in a stope for more than five hours.

Macadam had been employed at the mine less than a week but he was by no means new to mining, having worked for two summers underground at Greene Stabell Gold Mines and a year at Dome before coming to Little Long Lac to work during his summer vacation. To-day he was engaged in the task of "mucking into a chute" or transferring broken ore from the stope to a vertical slide which carried it to waiting cars in the drift below. The occupation is not considered hazardous and he had had considerable experience in that phase of operations.

Backfill Gives Way
The backfill of the stope, on which he was standing, gave way at the edge of the chute, carrying him some fifteen or twenty feet below the level at which he had been working. A large quantity of the fill above caved in on top of him, burying Macadam up to his arm-pits in earth and rock.

He was not believed to have been seriously injured by the slide, as he was able to shout to men working with him, assuring them that he was all right. Pinned against the side of the chute, however, and with hundreds of pounds of earth hemming him in, he was unable to extricate himself.

Dr. J. V. Riches, mine physician, and R. J. Johnstone, first-aid man, immediately descended the shaft and took up positions in the stope ready to administer treatment to the injured youth as soon as he could be released.

Man Lowered by Rope
Miners attempted to remove some of the material from above him, and one man was lowered down the interior of the chute by a rope to remove a portion of the cribbing, so that Macadam could be removed via the chute if other methods failed.

While these operations were being carried out the backfill in the stope gave way again in a second and more serious slide that carried literally tons of rock and earth down on top of the imprisoned youth. Dr. Riches and Johnstone narrowly escaped being carried down with the slide, but were able to make their way to safety by a margin of seconds.

Macadam was completely buried by the second slide, and it was at first thought that he had been killed. Later, however, he was able to establish communication with his would-be rescuers again, answering their shouts of encouragement in muffled tones.

Complains of Pressure
He was "all right," he said, and still able to breathe normally, but he complained of pressure on his chest and told rescuers he believed one of his hands had been torn off during the second slide. Attending physicians, however, attributed this belief to the fact that he had probably had the hand crushed and the resultant numbness was responsible for the sensation.

All work in the mine was suspended the moment the accident occurred, crews in various sections of the workings being informed of the accident by a slight discharge of hydrogen sulphide gas which was transmitted as an alarm signal. The men were taken to the surface and organized for rescue work, which was carried out under the supervision of J. M. Kilpatrick, Mine Superintendent, and Dick Johns, shift boss.

Rescue work was both slow and precarious. Below the entombed youth was almost a hundred feet of backfill, which, it was feared, might give way if disturbed, burying him still further in the stope. There was also the possibility of a further cave-in from above, which would have a similar effect.

Job Requires Four Hours
To combat this, cribbing was erected from the drift, and built up until it had reached a point almost level with Macadam's position in the stope. Truckloads of timbers and cribbing were required for the job, which was run up with amazing speed in the face of difficult conditions. Fast as it was, the job required almost four hours before it was completed. A bulkhead was also constructed above the entombed youth to guard against further landslides from the upper portion of the stope.

Contact with Macadam was maintained by voice until some time between 12 noon and 1 p.m., when the young man failed to respond to the shouts of rescuers. Fearing the worst, the men redoubled their efforts in a desperate race against time, hoping to reach him before life was extinct.

Dead When Rescue Arrives
Two men, lowered down the chute by ropes, took turns in operating an electric hand saw, cutting away the cribbing between them and Macadam. The last barrier was removed shortly before 2:30 p.m., five hours and fifteen minutes after the accident had occurred, but the young man was dead when rescuers broke through to reach him. Only external signs of injury were a cut over one eye, and a bruised wrist. His chest, however, was crushed by the pressure of earth and rock.

Coroner Dr. W. J. Henry, Jellicoe, informed of the accident, ordered an inquest to be held in Geraldton Friday. Date of the mine inspector's investigation which will also be held, has not been announced.

The body was shipped on Saturday to Ottawa for burial there.

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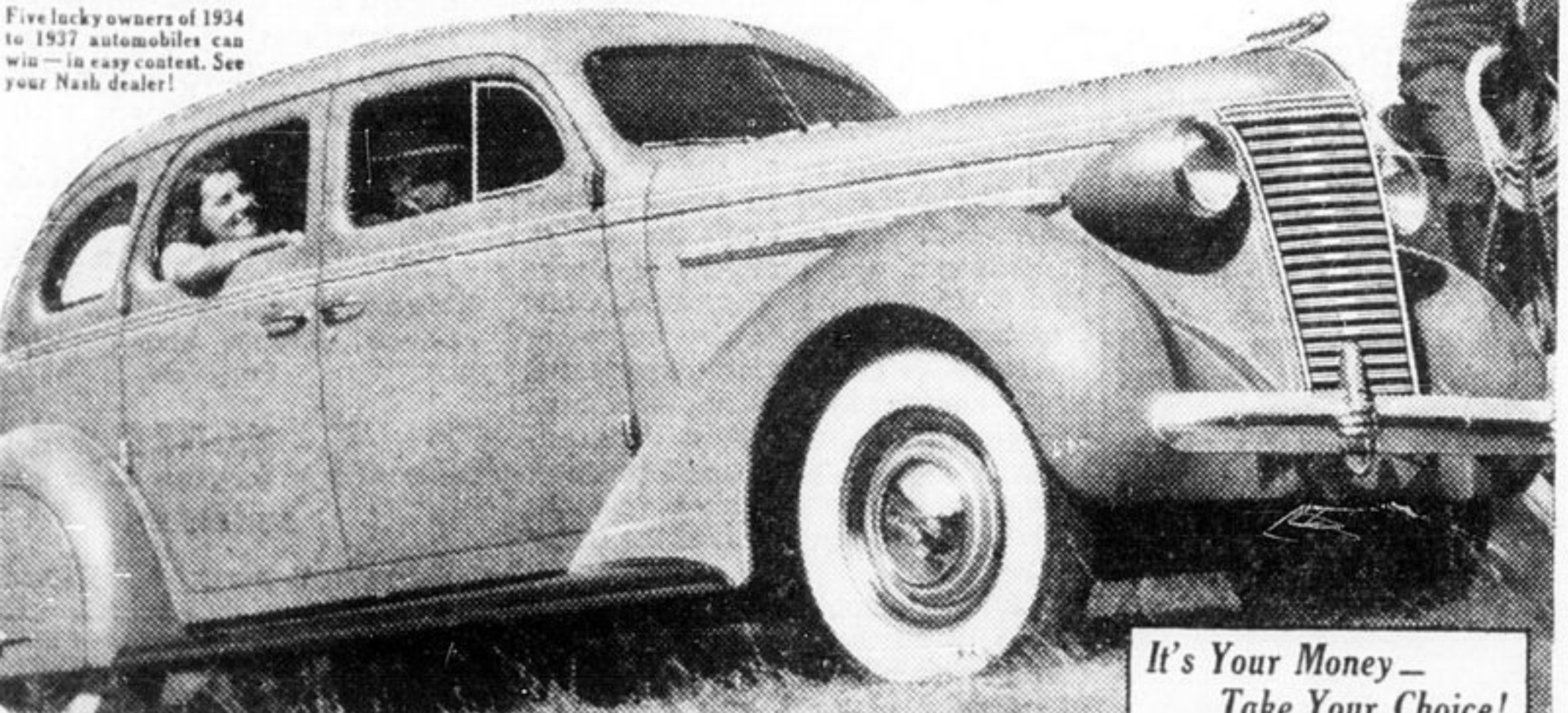
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