

The Battle To Save Collins Ends In Failure

DISCOVERY OF EXPLORER'S BODY MADE UNEXPECTEDLY

Engineers Did Not Think the Cavern Would be Reached so Soon-- Not Yet Known How Long Collins Had Been Dead-- Was Held Prisoner Seventeen Days.

Cave City, Ky., Feb. 17.—The long struggle is ended. Mother Earth, after clinging grimly, in life and in death, to Floyd Collins for more than 17 days, finally surrendered at 2.45 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and, without warning, opened a tiny hole between a rescue shaft and the natural tomb of the cave explorer. Peering down this tiny fissure into Sand Cave, the brave workers who had waged an unequal combat with the natural forces of the earth, saw that what they had fought so hard for had been lost.

Collins was dead. But they will reclaim his body, only to restore it again to the rugged hills he roamed as a youth and explored as a man. "Thank God, they've found him," was Lee Collins' single statement after his son had been found.

Cave City, Ky., Feb. 17.—A solitary miner, patiently chipping away



Who was found dead in sand cave near Cave City, Ky., after being entombed seventeen days.

through solid limestone yesterday afternoon broke into the cavern where Floyd Collins had been held a prisoner for seventeen days, and found him dead. He had been dead for at least twenty-four hours. The chisel in the hand of the miner jumped forward into emptiness signaling the end of the fevered and exhaustive rescue efforts at 1.30 o'clock, but it was not until an hour and a half later that the finding of the body was made public.

The still form of Collins had not actually been reached last night for medical certification of his death, but the physicians at the shaft-head said that this was merely a formality. Descriptions of Collins' features, his rigidity and coldness, supplied by the only miner small enough to work through the tiny hole leading to the victim, prompted the doctors to declare that he had not survived his terrible ordeal.

It may be some hours before the body of Collins is brought to the surface as hours must elapse before the aperture is widened and made safe enough to permit it to be moved out of the natural prison cell. When that is done an inquest will be launched at the shaft-head, and the exact time that he has been lying dead, while the rescuers worked to save him, will be determined.

Finding Unexpected. The finding of Collins was totally unexpected, for only an hour and a half before Albert Marshall, a Kentucky miner, discovered the form lying below him in the cave, the leaders of the rescue band had announced that five feet of solid limestone had intervened, between them and Collins. In order to get through this last barrier to the prisoner, the officials, one man would take up the task of boring toward the victim.

When will Collins be reached? And will he be dead or alive? These were the questions that rested with Marshall when he crawled into the tunnel at noon. He had been picked to start the solitary work because of his fine record in the rescue work, in addition he was

an exceptionally small man, wiry and able to withstand the hardships he was expected to face.

Donning a rubber coat to protect himself against the water still dripping into the shaft and tunnel, Marshall climbed into the basket in the shaft and was lowered. He waved cheerily as he went down the shaft. When he reached the tunnel opening he waited until a small chisel and a hammer were lowered to him.

Began To Chip Stone. Then he began his crawl through the tapering, dangerous opening. Even at this stage it was hazardous work and it was only the increasing number of "lips" of boulders and earth that had prompted the leaders to drop down to one man instead of the full force in the rescue work.

Proceeding slowly, Marshall got to the limestone ledge. Flat on his stomach he began to chip the stone. Meanwhile a chosen detail of men were sent down to posts along the tunnel back of Marshall. They were John Stevens, Simon Johns and Abe Blevins and Ed. Brennan. They with Marshall were the pick of the miners and their function was to pass back to the shaft the limestone as Marshall cut it away.

Piece by piece the miner hacked a way into the stone. It was slow work and time and again he had to suspend his all-important task while he pushed the accumulated debris back to Brennan immediately behind him. The stone, seemingly so hard in the cursory tests given it, proved not as difficult as expected. Word was passed from man to man that things were going better than anticipated.

When Mr. Carmichael, the engineer, whose calculations were vindicated to a fraction of an inch, heard of the remarkable progress being made, he asked Brigadier-General H. H. Denhardt, in command at the cave, to take steps to prevent any excitement should the chisel in the hands of Marshall break through earlier than scheduled.

A detail of the 149th Kentucky Infantry was hustled out with fixed bayonets. Their movement to posts fringing the shaft head occasioned inquiry, but the officials, made cautious by their many defeats in the treacherous soil, refused to disclose their progress.

On and on went the clinking tool in Marshall's hands, deeper grew the hole in front of him. Suddenly under the impact of the hammer the chisel leaped forward and Marshall nearly lost it. A hole the size of a quarter appeared in front of him, and a current of stale air swept his face. He knew that he had broken through, but he decided to keep the discovery to himself until having widened the opening, he could be certain.

Shouted Discovery. So back he went to chipping away the stone. Eventually the hole became wide enough for him to crawl forward and put his head through. Darkness, so thick that he could "almost feel it," loomed blankly ahead, and the eerie sound of dripping water, drop by drop, first on this side of him and then on that, came to him. He pulled his head back and shouted his discovery, and returned to battering the stones.

To one side the stone broke and in the earth Marshall found evidence that clinched his belief that he had struck the channel leading to Collins. There were several bottles, some working tools, and sections of rope left behind by the men who first sought to get Collins out through widening the original cave. When this find was made Carmichael, who was notified, knew that his task was nearing an end.

Marshall, by this time, had made the opening in the rock wide enough to struggle half way through. He turned the beam of a torch light downward. Almost immediately below he saw dimly the form of a man. He could not make certain, however, for the battery in the torch was low. He then withdrew himself and, holding to the timbering which had been brought close to the edge of the



Upper picture shows where shaft was sunk to cave "tomb" of Floyd Collins at Sand Cave, Kentucky. Lower picture shows electrical plant at mouth of cave, which gave warmth to Collins over a light circuit. Over this circuit radio tests were taken to determine whether Collins was living.

rock, let himself down feet first. In the darkness he moved his feet up until he touched something that yielded. While he was hanging there, his partner Brennan, even smaller than Marshall, was clamoring for a chance to go down into the pit below. Marshall yielded and Brennan crawled head first through the hole in the rock. Carmichael and Blevins held his feet.

Flashed Light on Body. Armed with a new torchlight, Brennan was lowered until he could just touch the form. He flashed the light on the face of the prone figure. He later reported that it was ghastly white and "pinched-looking." He stretched out a hand and felt a hand that was stretched within reach. It was very cold. Brennan was then drawn up and reported to Carmichael. The engineer ordered the men to remain where they were while he went to the surface.

As he came out of the shaft he gave the first signal that Collins had been found, by calling excitedly to Professor W. D. Funkhouser, geologist of the University of Kentucky, who had waited at the top. He whispered a few words to him and then walked down the excavation railway and called to General Denhardt to join them. While the officer was making his way down the precipitous side of the ravine, Funkhouser looked up at the battalion of newspapermen waiting back of the barred wire, beyond which they could not go.

An hour and fifteen minutes had elapsed since Marshall had cut the first hole through the rock wall of Collins' tomb. "Gentlemen," he said, "I have a special bulletin to announce. Collins has been found, apparently dead, at the precise spot our survey indicated."

On the fringe of the newspapermen was Mrs. Jennie Collins, the stepmother of the victim. Beside her was his sister, Nellie Collins. They heard the shouted announcement without outward emotion. Events and the actions of the

COLLINS' BODY MUST REMAIN In Its Natural Tomb--Removal Is Impossible.

DOCTOR SEES REMAINS And Pronounces Explorer Dead --Burial Service at Mouth of the Shaft.

Cave City, Ky., Feb. 17.—The body of Floyd Collins will be left in his natural tomb and his funeral services will be held this afternoon at the mouth of the shaft which was dug to rescue him but in vain. His aged father, Lee Collins consented to the arrangement after Dr. William Hazlett of Chicago, had himself examined Collins and pronounced him dead.

Cave City, Ky., Feb. 17.—Revealed but not recovered, the body of Floyd Collins to-day still was lying in the natural tomb which had been his for more than seventeen days, while jaded miners, spurred on by the realization that at least they have found the cave explorer, pecked away at the limestone roof of the sand cave. Collins' feet probably will remain for ever in the spot they were pinioned by the falling boulder eighteen days ago. H. T. Carmichael, in charge of the rescue work is unwilling further to risk the lives of the miners in removing the boulder.

Surgeons went into the pit early to-day to attempt to amputate Collins' feet, but were unable to reach him. The body is almost covered with dirt and rocks, and these must be removed before medical examination can be made.

With the consent of Collins' family, the physicians will amputate one or both feet, when the hole has been made large enough for them to enter.

It was announced late last night that Governor W. J. Fields had ordered that an autopsy be held on the body by three physicians "to determine the cause of death, to locate any possible injuries, and to find if there was any trace of poison."

Meantime, tentative arrangements for the body to lie in state in Cave City high school for two days were announced by T. L. Gorby, a friend of the family. Four ministers, pastors of churches in this region, will conduct the funeral services, and the body will be taken to Mammoth Cave burial ground and laid to rest beside the bodies of his mother and sister.

STILL PUT BLAME ON THE GOVERNMENT For All Canada's Ills—More Tory Speakers Heard in the Commons.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The debate on the address was continued by W. F. Garland (Conservative, Carleton) yesterday afternoon. He disapproved of the Government's fiscal policy, to which he ascribed much of the unemployment in Canada.

Donald Sutherland (Conservative, South Oxford) was the next speaker. He claimed the alarming increase in the public debt and the loss of 600,000 of the best young people of this country had created an appalling situation. It appeared to be the policy of this country to employ our own people in a foreign country to send goods back to Canada.

The majority of the Progressives were, as Miss Macphail had said, nothing more than "a pale shadow of the Government."

Horatio C. Hocken (Conservative, West Toronto) stated that the prime minister, during his recent western trip, had made an appeal to the Progressives "to come all in and we will be all one happy family—and I do not know but had it not been for the ginger group, the marriage might have taken place."

King George Has Bronchitis; His Condition Satisfactory

London, Feb. 17.—A bulletin issued at Buckingham Palace this afternoon on the condition of King George, who was announced yesterday to be suffering from a feverish cold, said his majesty had an attack of bronchitis, due to influenza. Despite a restless night, the bulletin added, his condition was satisfactory.

The bulletin was signed by Lord Dawson, physician extraordinary to the king, Sir Milson Rees and Sir Frederick Stanley Hewitt.

The fact that they visited the palace this morning raised fears that the king's illness was worse than had been thought. It was pointed out, however, that these physicians invariably have a consultation when the king's condition is anything but normal, and the issuance of the bulletin allayed uneasiness.

Wealthy Man Kills His Wife and Then Suicides

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 17.—Thomas L. Wann, Sr., capitalist and prominent socially, shot and killed his wife and then committed suicide in their apartment here early to-day.

PROHIBITION PEOPLE ARE READY TO FIGHT Against Stronger Beer—To Urge Legislature Members to Oppose It.

Toronto, Feb. 17.—The integrity of the Ontario Temperance Act and governmental sincerity in the enforcement of the same are questions uppermost in the minds of two thousand delegates gathered here this morning for the convention of the Ontario Prohibition Union. Registrations are from all parts of the province. The preliminary local meetings last week and the "stronger beer" amendment proposed by the Ontario Government have given stimulus to the convention opening to-day, and it is expected that the gathering will be one of the most important in the temperance history of the province. Undoubtedly the discussions will centre considerably on the announcement in the Speech from the Throne of the intention of submitting to the legislature an amendment to the O. T. A. permitting the sale of 4.4 per cent. beer. Along that line Dr. Harvey Wiley, United States scientist, will address the delegates to-morrow on the subject of "What Constitutes Intoxicating Beer."

In the course of the preliminaries this morning R. J. Fleming, president of the union, in his opening address laid stress on the significance of the government's announcement. The executive of the union reported his plans for meeting the situation. Among other things the legislature members will probably be urged, individually and collectively, to vote against the amendment.

The executive committee in its report suggests that the convention express the opinion that native wines also be prohibited. There were also resolutions presented to ask the federal government to stop granting licenses to breweries in Ontario without the sanction of the Ontario Government, and also asking the federal authorities to stop the shipment of liquor to foreign countries by Ontario lakeports.

1308 For; 431 Against. Toronto, Feb. 17.—According to returns received by the Church Union Bureau of Information up to noon to-day, 1303 Presbyterian congregations have voted in favor of church union and 431 against.

C. N. R. Net Earnings. Montreal, Feb. 17.—The net earnings of the Canadian National Railways, after payment of operating expenses amounted to \$17,244,251 in 1924.

\$5,000 ANNUITY FOR CANADA'S WHEAT WEAZARD. Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The national service rendered by Dr. Charles Saunders in the development of "Marquis" wheat is recognized by the Federal Government by the inclusion in the main estimates tabled in the House of Commons last night of an annuity of \$5,000. This item will inevitably receive wide support and commendation.

Hon. J. S. Martin, minister of agriculture, has introduced a bill in the legislature to abolish the agricultural development board and substitute a single commission.

NEARLY SEVEN MILLION LESS

Federal Expenditure For the Present Year Than Last. ECONOMY IS OBSERVED

Estimates Represent a Cumulative Decrease of \$104,967,151 in Past Three Years.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—Canada's expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1926, will be \$342,936,597.16, according to the main estimates tabled in the House of Commons last evening by Hon. James A. Robb, acting minister of finance. They show a decrease of \$6,933,279.38 from those of the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, next, and the cumulative decrease in the main estimates for the three fiscal years beginning with 1923-24 is \$104,967,151.13.

A feature of this year's main estimates is the fact that the reduction is almost equally divided between uncontrollable expenditures, the net decrease in the former being \$3,539,672 and the decrease in the latter being \$2,993,607.

Increase in Pensions. As to the uncontrollable outlays, there is an increase of \$1,010,000 on account of European war pensions as a result of the adoption of the Ralston commission, and there is an increase of \$206,500 on account of superannuation, following the rash last fall on the part of the Civil Service to take advantage of the Calder Act provisions. There is, too, an increase of \$137,500 on account of subsidies to provinces because of a larger payment to Saskatchewan, whose population has grown.

Decreases. It is estimated, also have been made in uncontrollable expenses. There is a saving of \$2,375,136 in interest on the public debt, resulting from advantageous refunding loans during the past six or eight months. Then, there are decreases in the following other items of uncontrollable outlays: Soldiers' land settlement, \$1,500,000; soldiers' civil re-establishment, \$1,210,000; adjustment of war claims, \$138,000; Imperial War Graves Commission, \$98,780; contribution to the League of Nations, \$4,896.

Public Works Cut Three Millions. Under the head of uncontrollable expenditures there are decreases in practically all the departments of Government, the largest cut being in miscellaneous services, \$3,429,525, and the next capital outlays for the Department of Public Works, with a cut of \$3,016,345. Trade and Commerce shows a reduction of \$806,855; Public Works (income) shows a cut of \$949,316, and Immigration and Colonization a decrease of \$708,000. With the exception of the Department of Agriculture, where the decrease is \$103,500, the cuts in the other departments, are all under the \$100,000-mark.

National Railways Estimates. Another notable feature of this year's main estimates is the tabling separately of the provision for the Canadian National Railways for the first time since the present government assumed power. The total estimated amount for the Government system for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1926, is \$60,000,000, an increase over the previous year of \$3,473,000. In an explanatory note issued with the estimates it is stated that this separate tabling of the railway estimates should help to avoid the confusion which has arisen with respect to expenditures on the Government service constituting the general estimates, as distinct from the outlays on account of the Canadian National Railways, and should also serve to give to the country a clear conception of the position with respect to the Government system.

Four Passengers Killed When An Airplane Crashes

Buenos Aires, Feb. 17.—Four passengers in an airplane were killed and the pilot was seriously injured when the plane crashed yesterday at Ceres in the province of Santa Fe. The crash was due to a frightened passenger seizing and pulling the rudder control.

There was a distinguished gathering in the British House of Lords Tuesday when Herbert Asquith, Liberal leader, was formally introduced to the house as Earl of Oxford and Asquith.