

DOUKHOBOR EXPLOSION
ON CANADIAN PACIFIC
TRAIN AT FARRON,
BRITISH COLUMBIA ON
OCTOBER 29TH, 1924

ON KILLS SIX

PROBE BEGUN INTO TRAGEDY ON C.P. TRAIN

**John McKie, M.L.A., One of Victims of
Kootenay Explosion; Clues to
Perpetrators Sought**

KILLED

John A. McKie, M.L.A., Grand Forks.
Peter Veregine, Doukhobor leader.
Four unidentified.

PROBABLY FATALLY INJURED

Harry Bishop, Nelson.

INJURED

H. K. Fawcett, news agent, 4415 Cambridge Street,
Vancouver; shock.

Pat. O'Shaughnessy, Montreal; shock.

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Russo, Trail; slightly injured.

F. H. Gaskill, Spokane; chest injured.

Nick Reiben, Grand Forks; injuries to head and
chest.

George Zebroff, Grand Forks; injuries to head
and chest.

Unidentified Hindu, injury to lungs.

N. Wing, Vancouver; bruised.

Joe Ching, Fernie; minor injuries.

That the explosion on a day coach on the Kettle Valley train at Farron, 38 miles east of Grand Forks, at an early hour this morning, which killed six passengers, including J. A. McKie, M.L.A., Grand Forks, and Peter Veregine, Doukhobor leader, probably fatally injured a seventh and injured at least ten others, was a successful plot against the life of the Doukhobor leader, is the belief of railway officials and one that is engaging the force of investigators that has been rushed to the scene of the tragedy.

First reports stated that the explosion was caused by the bursting of the gas tanks beneath the day coach, but the finding of both tanks intact has dispelled that theory.

Canadian Pacific Railway officials here were emphatic today in pointing out that the explosion was caused by some human agency. Whether they were certain that the explosion was intentional or not, they would not state, beyond admitting that every phase of the tragedy was being thoroughly investigated.

Dispatches from Nelson also state that police officials there are investigating rumors that it was a plot to destroy the Doukhobor leader.

That the explosive was highly powerful was evidenced by the fact that every person in the coach, which burned on, was either killed or injured. The fact that the concussion was terrific is also borne out by the three bodies taken to the morgue at Nelson and as yet unidentified. They have very few marks on them, it is stated.

C. M. Murphy, general manager of C. P. R. western lines, and C. A. Cottrell, assistant general superintendent of lines in British Columbia, arrived on the scene today and are making a complete investigation of all the circumstances surrounding the explosion. With them also is W. O. Miller, district superintendent of the C. P. R., and provincial police, headed by Inspector Dunwoody.

SPECIAL TRAIN ENGAGED

A special train has been hired by the Doukhobor colony at Brilliant to convey the body of its leader to that point.

John A. McKie, M. L. A., was on his way to the coast to attend the opening of the legislature on Monday next. He was to have been met by Mrs. McKie at Grand Forks, both intending to continue on to Vancouver, where they planned to visit Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Draney, Second Avenue West.

Latest advices from Grand Forks state that Harry Bishop, previously reported as dead, is still living, but not expected to recover. He is in Nelson hospital. It is, however, ascertained that a Doukhobor woman, who is supposed to have been travelling with Peter Veregine, died of her injuries, which makes the sixth death.

TWO KILLED OUTRIGHT

Two of the victims were killed outright by the explosion, two died on the way to Castlegar and another on the final stage to Nelson. The train left Nelson at 9 o'clock last night bound for Vancouver and was due here at 10:30 tonight. Fortunately it was proceeding at a slow rate when the explosion occurred. Had it been travelling at a high rate of speed derailment of the other cars following would have been inevitable. As it was, the rest of the train was not damaged and the forward portion was also able to proceed on to Grand Forks with the coast-bound passengers and with five of the injured.

SUMMIT OF MOUNTAINS

Farron, where the explosion occurred, is on the Nelson-Midway line, and is the summit of the mountains between Nelson and Grand Forks.

The gas tank that exploded was a large cylinder used under day coaches containing illuminating gas for the lamps. It is said to be one of the first accidents of its kind ever recorded.

According to details reaching the city the explosion wrecked the centre of the day coach and blew off the whole of the roof.

Harry Bishop, who is dying in the Nelson hospital, is a traveller for Swift and well known in athletic circles in Nelson and the interior, being regarded especially as a first-class hockey player.

DEFEATED MENNINGER

John McKie was a pioneer real-estate agent, a man of attractive and impressive personality, his leadership of the Doukhobors was never questioned. He was a big man, physically and mentally. At all times he was working in the interests of his people, seeking by every means to advance their cause.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 19.

According to a statement issued today by D. C. Coleman, vice president of western lines, Canadian Pacific railway, the explosion early this morning on train No. 11, the Nelson-Vancouver express, which resulted in the death of five passengers and injury to many others, was caused by some human agency.

The belief is entertained by company officials that a plot was designed against the life of Peter Veregine, leader of the Doukhobors.

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Dispatches from Nelson also state that police officials there are convinced that some explosive was placed in the day coach, and are investigating rumors that it was a plot to destroy the Doukhobor leader.

That the explosive was highly powerful was evidenced by the fact that every person in the coach, which burned up, was either killed or injured. The fact that the concussion was terrific is also borne out by the three bodies taken to the morgue at Nelson and as yet unidentified. They have very few marks on them, it is stated.

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DEFEATED HENNINGER

John McKie was a pioneer resident of Grand Forks and for many years was manager of the Boundary Iron Works in that city. In the election of June last, as Conservative candidate, he defeated the sitting Liberal member, E. C. Henninger and C. A. S. Atwood, Provincial. Mr. McKie was also candidate in 1921, being defeated by a narrow margin by Henninger, on the absentee vote. He was 55 years of age and for years had been prominent in Grand Forks civic and board of trade circles.

Peter Veregin has been an outstanding figure among the Doukhobors of western Canada for sev-

eral years, a man of attractive and impressive personality, his leadership of the Doukhobors was never questioned. He was a big man, physically and mentally. At all times he was working in the interests of his people, seeking by every means to advance their cause.

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The belief is entertained by company officials that a plot was designed against the life of Peter Veregin, leader of the Doukhobor colony in British Columbia. The official statement of the vice president, however, concludes that according to information available, "the explosion was caused by some human agency within the car, either intentional or accidental."

NELSON, Oct. 29.—Both gas tanks on the Kettle Valley railway car, where six were killed and 14 injured early this morning, near Farron, B.C., are intact. Examination this morning shows that the explosion occurred inside the car and could not have resulted from a gas tank, to which officials first attributed the disaster.

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Explosion on Canadian Pacific Train.
—An explosion on C.P.R. train 11 on the Nelson-Grand Forks, B.C., line, near Farron station, Oct. 29, resulted in the death of Peter Veregin, the Doukhobor leader, and five other passengers and injuries to 14 more. An official investigation showed that the explosion was not in any way caused by the gas tank under the car, but by something which had been taken into the car, as the remains of an alarm clock, with attachments and other materials of which bombs are usually composed, were discovered in the debris. Two inquests were held, one on the four men who were killed outright, and the second on the two who died on the way to Nelson hospital, and verdicts were given stating that "a powerful explosive was placed within the car by some person or persons unknown, either with intent or through ignorance." One arrest was made, but the man was discharged as nothing definite could be brought against him.