

# FIRST THROUGH CARS FROM FIRE ZONE HERE

## The Grand Trunk "National" Arrived at Toronto This Afternoon.

Sharp on time at Parkdale, but 30 minutes late at Toronto, owing to a slight delay between the two points, the Grand Trunk "National," the first train to pass through the far-flung northern fire zone from the west, pulled in at the Union Station at 1.20 this afternoon.

The trip is in many ways a record one, as despite the obstacles, the train was on time all along the way. This meant a vigorous making up of lost time at every opportunity, for despite the rapidity of the repairs to the damaged sections, the train had at times during the night to go at but a snail's pace.

Although the majority of the refugees left by the relief train starting from Cochrane at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the "National" picked up some score from the devastated area. These were dropped at the different stations along the line and less than a dozen came the whole way through to Toronto.

This small company included a family group composed of H. C. West, a trainman, his wife, and three small children, who suffered the loss of everything except the clothes they traveled in, and were miraculously saved from destruction by the mere direction in which they ran.

The youngest child to come through the inferno of Cochrane is the one-month-old baby of Mrs. M. Berland, of Cochrane, wife of one of the general merchants, who lost everything.

Mrs. Berland with her wee baby and three other youngsters were put on the relief train by Mr. Berland as soon as the fire looked dangerous. With her four kiddies, Mrs. Berland, who went through to Brantford to her relatives, had a trying time, but the little child was sleeping peacefully, wrapped up in a shawl on the seat.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Kussner and their children and Mrs. Kussner's mother, Mrs. Bessie Perkins, age 54, also went to Brantford. Mr. Kussner and Mr. Berland are in partnership in Cochrane in a large general store. They suffered heavily. Mr. Kussner estimated his loss at about \$50,000. The store, a warehouse, and seven houses were consumed. Many of the buildings were just erected.

A young couple, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Watson, who started out to make their home in Cochrane, are now back in Galt, the scenes of their courtship. Their humble little home was destroyed, but Mr. Watson managed to bury some of his furniture, including a sewing machine, a trunk, and other furniture.

Mr. Harry Smith passed through Toronto with a party of 18 Austrians from **Kapuskasing** internment camp on the Transcontinental. The aliens have been released to work in the East. Mr. Smith states that the fires along the G.T.P. are not so large, and the situation is under control. He saw many bodies in the bush and on the railroad.

Frank Measor and Arthur Wilkinson, who were homesteading outside of Cochrane, and whose relatives live in Hamilton, walked sixteen miles along the Grand Trunk Pacific into Cochrane, ahead of the fires, then assisted in fighting the fires at Cochrane. They also helped to build twelve rough coffins out of lumber, for the victims found in the streets.