GOOD SHOWING IN 10 WEEKS

Ore Shipments of Trail and the Slocan

FOOTS UP JUST $2,000,000

Which Will Mean An Output This Year of Over $10,000,000.

Fort Steele is Grateful for a Weekly Mail Service—A New Map of East Kootenay—How to Reach Fort Steele—Some Further Information About East Kootenay—The Slocan Beats the Record on the North American Continent for Producing Mines.

It is estimated that up to the middle of March the ore shipments this year from Trail Creek and the Slocan combined totalled $2,000,000. This is a good showing for ten weeks, and means that even at the present rate of development the output for the year will greatly exceed $10,000,000.

Mr. Grant Govan of London, Eng., who last summer spent some weeks in British Columbia in connection with the Corbin option on the War Eagle, has, it is stated, floated a strong company in England to develop properties in West Kootenay and especially the Slocan.

AT FORT STEELE.

Fifty Properties Have Been Sold in East Kootenay for $600,000.

Fort Steele, East Kootenay, B. C., March 24.—(Special.)—Thanks to our energetic member, Mr. Hewitt Bostock, our postal arrangements and river navigation are greatly improved.

Fort Steele now has a weekly mail service from Golden, with hopes of a bi-weekly service when navigation opens up, which is expected about April 20. We also have hopes of a bi-weekly mail service with Jennings on the Great Northern Railway.

Improved navigation of the Kootenay is a much-felt want, and we are this year to be able to compete on more even terms with West Kootenay and other mining regions.

Mr. T. McWhittle, P. L. S. and C. E., is now engaged in drafting a new map of East Kootenay to snow all mining camps and mine locations. An eastern firm will print the maps and place them on the market.

Sale of East Kootenay Properties.

Over 50 properties have changed hands here, the figures paid amounting to some $600,000. This is not a bad beginning for a mining country which 1896 hardly knew existed in British Columbia. A list of the properties will be given next week.

How to Reach Fort Steele.

From Golden, on the C. P. R., Fort Steele, the headquarters for the East Kootenay mining district, is to be reached by a weekly stage service, but this is to be made a bi-weekly service as soon as navigation opens up on the Columbia, which generally starts about April 20.

Besides, when navigation opens we shall have a daily boat service from Jennings on the Great Northern Railway, as well as a stage service. At the present time we have frequent teams coming and going. The livery service at Jennings is first-class and reasonable as to cost.

ABOUT EAST KOOTENAY.

More Facts Concerning the Region of Which Fort Steele is the Capital.

The following is an extract from a circular issued by Thomas McNaught, broker, of Fort Steele: The district of East Kootenay in British Columbia is the southeastern portion of that province extending northward from the international boundary between the United States and the Dominion of Canada. It extends 300 miles along the western boundary of the Northwest Territories of Canada. It lies right in between the two ranges of the Rocky and Selkirk mountains. Its average breadth from summit to summit of the mountains is 50 miles. In it are the head waters of the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers, which rise close to one another and flow in opposite directions, the Columbia northward and the Kootenay southward. These rivers afterwards change their direction—double backwards in their course and unite in West Kootenay, which is on the western side of the Selkirk range, between that range and the Cascade Range. The whole district of East Kootenay is embraced in the valleys of the upper waters of these two rivers each valley about 150 miles long and separated from the other by the canal Flat about one mile broad. It is along the tributaries of these rivers that the principal mineral wealth is located.

East Kootenay has long been noted not only for its rich placer mining, but also for its valuable deposits of high grade ore—mainly galena, silver and copper. Since the early days of the gold rush to British Columbia, many millions of dollars have been taken out of its creeks, notably Wild Horse and Perry Creek. It was the district that first attracted attention and its wealth would have been developed long ere this time but for the wild rush to the other gold fields of the world. The rediscovery of the great wealth in Southern British Columbia has again brought the Kootenays to the foremost place in the mineral world.

The greater portion of the district is within the richly phenomenal belt of mineral wealth that lies in Southern British Columbia, and contains gold, silver, copper, iron, coal and oil deposits of great value. The district is divided into four mining areas, Donald, Golden, Windermere and Fort Steele.

4000 LOCATIONS.

Slocan's Showing Better Than That of Any Other District on the Continent.

The peculiarity and the merit of the Slocan district, writes Van B. De Lashmult in The Oregonian, lies in its ability to make a showing of more producing properties than any other camp on the North American continent, which has depended upon its discoveries and not upon outside capital for its development.

Notwithstanding this fact, the reader must not infer that every hole in the ground is a mine, or that every share of a mining stock he sees represents a bonanza to back it up, or that fairly good prospects or developed properties have not got a limit of value beyond which it is not prudent to venture. Very naturally prices are becoming quite exorbitant, one cause for it being the anticipation of the spring rise. But the prime cause consists in the evils of the bonding system, under which fictitious values are placed upon them, to meet the possibilities of future development work, and prices, too, that the purchaser would not entertain for one moment if he were paying the cash in hand.

Following is a list of the shipping mines in this district—one-third regular and the other two-thirds occasional shippers:

Alamo, Cumberland, Dardanelles, Grey Hoyle, Idler, Kootenay-Columbia, Minnesota Noble Five Consolidated, Rambler Consolidated, Reco Slocan Star, Sunshine, Washington, Wonderful, Pozue, Slocan Boy, Ruth, Ruby, Silver, Surprise, Whitewater, Wellington, Jackson, Silver Bell, Black Fox, Montezuma, Irene, Lucky Jim, Iron Hand, London Hill, Charleston, Ibex, Ivanhoe, Gibson, Mountain Chief, Freddie Lee, Chambers Group, Reid & Robertson, Alpa, Bird-Holder, Enterprise, Exchange Group, Fisher Maiden, Galena Farm, B. & A., Briggs Group, Silver Crown, Idler, Bon Ton, Big Bertha, Kokanea, Trade Dollar, Texas, Fourth of July, Bell, Bullion, Blue Bell, Skyline, Highlander, California, Highland, Yakima, Idaho, Best, Northern Belle, Bluebird, R. E. Lee, Antonie, Paddy's Fraction, Great Western, Miner Boy, Jo Jo, Goodenough and Black Diamond.

The dividend-paying mines are the Whitewater, Payne, Slocan Star, Reco, Rambler, Goodenough, Idaho, Alamo and Cumberland. Those paying profits, a portion or all of their cost of development work and frequently the original purchase money back to their owners, and which are clearly entitled to be classed as shipping mines, are the Wellington Surprise, Antonie, Washington, Slocan Boy, Robert E. Lee, Ruth, Idler, Idaho, Alamo, Cumberland, Mountain Chief, Alpha, Noble Five, Last Chance, Bluebird and Northern Bell. All of the above mines are within a radius of 35 to 40 miles from Kaslo. Hundreds of prospects are being developed more or less—on most of them just the necessary assessment work ($100 each year) is being done, while a few not enumerated above have made some shipments of ore. There are over 4000 locations in this district.

A despatch from New Denver says: This section is experiencing the greatest revival in business it has ever felt. The early settler, who has spent the last three, four or five years in the prospectors' camps in the Slocan waiting and hoping for the dawn of prosperity in the opening of the mines hard by, cannot really realize what it means now it is here. The inrush of strangers—investors, sightseers, laborers and miners—has begun in earnest, and the hotels of New Denver are hard pressed to accommodate the public. In addition to the four hotels now open a new one is under construction, and steps are being taken to provide sleeping accommodations in lodging houses for the hundreds that are expected daily when the weather moderates and spring opens.

The building boom has fairly begun, but at the present time laborers and mechanics are here in sufficient numbers to supply the demand.

The miners hereabouts are working steadily, but on short shifts. Mining deals of greater or less magnitude are pushed through in regular order, it evidently being the purpose of most of the buyers to develop the properties as early as the weather will permit.

PROPERTY IN NELSON.

Figures at Which It is Held Rapidly Advancing—Building Operations.

Phenomenal is the rapid advance made in the figures at which lots in British Columbia towns are held. During the past year, according to The Miner, property valuations in Nelson have increased generally almost 15 per cent, and notwithstanding the fact that over $150,000 worth of new buildings have been erected during that period there has not been the faintest semblance of a real estate boom. In the business and more select residence districts the appreciation in values has been from 20 to 30 per cent., and the outlook is that prices will be doubled within the next 90 days. Business lots that sold for $4000 60 days ago cannot now be secured for less than $5000. Residence lots are reasonable, and in some of the outlying districts the same prices are asked that obtained twelve months ago.

Probably the greatest increase in values has been in the property sold at public auction by the Government last autumn, in many cases three and four times its original value. In the suburban districts, however, 25-foot lots can be secured for from $50 to $250. During the past year there has been no less than $75,000 worth of property sold and the greatest portion of this was to people desiring to establish homes and not for speculative purposes.

With the opening of spring many new residences and business blocks are to be started, and the capacity of the saw mills and lumber yards will be taxed to supply the demand for lumber.

Deals in Mines.

W. A. Campbell of Rossland has purchased for Chicago parties the Susana and Morning Star No. 7 claims on Lemon Creek, four miles from Slocan River.

Victoria parties have purchased the Argo for $25,000 cash.

On Goat River.

Much attention is now being directed toward the Goat River district by prospectors and other mining men. This district has received very little public attention, but the work has been gradually going on and now sufficient work has been done to show that there is a bright future in store for the locality. Several claims have been located on this mountain, but only a few have had much development work done on them.

Old Flag Co.

The Rossslander.

The Old Flag Company are highly pleased with the results of development work upon their property in the south slope of Lookout Mountain. An incline shaft following the footwall is down 50 feet, and a crosscut has been driven 40 feet, all in ledge matter. The footwall is perfect, a talc seam separating it from the country rock. At the bottom of the incline the ore is silicious, carrying mineral generally through it, and in the crosscut is a body of ore between four and five feet in width, showing strong in copper and iron-pyrites, assaying on an average $13.75. This ore will concentrate by water, of which there is an abundant supply on the property. A contract will be let to run a tunnel of 800 feet, and from that point, by drifting and crosscutting, the ore bodies can be opened. A Crown grant has been obtained for the company's property. The work so far done has been at the expense of the original shareholders, the proceeds from the treasury stock not having yet been touched. Robt Dixon is treasurer.

The Canada Mutual.

A regular meeting of the directors of the Canada Mutual Mining and Development Company (Limited) was held yesterday in the board room of the company, 32 Toronto-street. There was a large attendance. Among those present were: Dr. Landerkin, president; Henry Cargill, M. P., vice-president; Major Sam Hughes, M. P., second vice-president; D. W. Jameson, B. A., secretary; J. R. Roaf, solicitor; M. O. Tibbits, general manager; Rev. A. MacGillivray, Dr. Oronhyatekha, F. C. Burr, Guelph; R. S. Box, St. Mary's; J. D. Moore, M. P., Galt; John Waddell, Chatham; Dr. Fotheringham, Toronto; F. W. Hay, Listowel; Dr. Henwood, Brantford; J. A. Moody, London; Major McGillivray, Toronto; and Thomas W. Dyas, Toronto.

The meeting expressed lively satisfaction with the prospects of the company. The action of the executive in determining to withdraw the stock at noon to-day at its present price was endorsed, and the stock will accordingly be promptly withdrawn. Instructions were given to the general manager to commence development work on the "Little Giant" group at once. Mr. Tibbits expects to go to Rossland in a few days to confer with the western manager and begin operations. The executive were complimented on the admirable manner in which the Canada Mutual was placed before the public. The success of the company is assured. The office staff was kept busy till after office hours receiving orders and issuing stock certificates and then the work was not overtaken.

The Ethel Group.

Development work on the Ethel Group mines on Murphy Creek, north of Rossland, B. C., is being pushed forward in a practical manner. Ore taken from a shaft, 23 feet, assayed $12.90, a later assay yields $17. to the ton. The company now owns eight claims in a group, and with the view of expediting work and procuring the most improved machinery the management are offering for sale by tender a limited number of preferred shares, and have made arrangements with the Toronto Financial Corporation whereby dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum are guaranteed for a period of five years, on the allotted price of such shares—the minimum price being 75 cents per share on the par value of one dollar per share. This stock will soon be at a premium, as the 10 per cent. dividends will not only be maintained, but will likely be increased. Prospectus and forms of tender can be had on application to the company, 34 Adelaide-street east, Toronto, and Columbia-avenue, Rossland, B.C.

Bridge River Mining Co.

At a meeting of the board, held recently, the consulting engineer, William H. Merritt, M. E., was present, and the proposed work was outlined. It is intended to send a staff of men on to the mine at once, as the weather will now permit of the work being started. The great natural advantages of this hydraulic mine are these, abundance of water and positive evidence that the property contains gold in paying quanties. F. J. Stewart, 30 Victoria-street, has samples of gold taken from the mine.

RAN INTO THE TROLLEY CAR.

Hence Judge Ferguson Took the Case From the Jury and Exonerated the Company.

In the Civil Assize Court yesterday the case of Marshall against the Toronto Street Railway Company was concluded by Judge Ferguson taking it from the jury and entering a nonsuit. His Lordship held that the evidence went to show that Marshall ran into the trolley car and not the car into him. The company could not have prevented the accident.

The next case taken up was that of Shields v. City of Toronto. Thomas Shields kept a grocery store at No. 1 Mitchell-avenue, and lived in the same building. He is suing the city for $1000 damages, which he claims he sustained by reason of the negligence of the city in maintaining a sewer from which offensive smells arose, causing his wife and son to contract typhoid fever, during the fall of 1895, from the effects of which the wife died some months later. The defence claim that no notice or complaint was sent the city authorities, and that the building itself was in an unsanitary condition; also that there was a large number of cases of diphtheria and typhoid at the time, caused by a break in the conduit pipe affecting the city water. The case will be continued this morning.

FLAGS FOR THE SCHOOLS.

Five Hundred Dollars to be Spent—Recommendations as to Teachers, Examinations and Inspection.

The Supply Committee met yesterday afternoon and recommended that the tenders for large flags be awarded to Rice Lewis & Son, and the small ones to John Macdonald & Co., and that $500 be appropriated therefor.

The sub-committee on teachers will submit the following recommendations to the Management Committee to-day:

That Miss K. Kincade, holding a second-class certificate, be appointed temporarily and assigned to Manning-avenue School.

That the following transfers be made: Miss B. Somerville, from Crawford-street to Bathurst-street, and Mrs. M. E. Hay from Bathurst to Crawford.

That Miss L. McLean be promoted to the position of directress in Bathurst-street kindergarten.

EXAMINATIONS AND INSPECTION.

The sub-committee on inspection will recommend:

In favor of Dr. Noble's motion: "That weekly examinations, as at present conducted, be discontinued, and in lieu thereof, that each teacher be permitted to hold examinations at such times and in such manner as she may deem expedient, the results of such examinations to be used only for aid and direction of the teacher.

In favor of Dr. Noble's motion: "That uniform promotion examinations be held in all classes above the junior First Book, twice during each year.

Respecting the introduction of arithmetic and geography cards into the schools, entitled, "Quick and Quiet Work Cards," your committee does not feel justified in recommending the expenditure which would be incurred in purchasing said cards.

That a teacher be provided for a class to be opened in the vicinity of Sackville-street School, similar to those in Elizabeth-street School, provided proper accommodation can be arranged free of charge to the board.

Respecting the petition from 58 ratepayers in the vicinity of Rosedale School, asking that Rosedale School be enlarged to an eight-room school, and graded same as other schools, your committee cannot recommend in favor of the petition being granted, as the estimates have already been determined for the present year.

Where Are the Motors of Yesteryear.

(Some Theories as to their disappearance.)

That like Hans Breitmann's "Barty," they have taken the automatic bit between their teeth and moted away into the ewigkeit.

That they have been bought up by the Amalgamated Cab Drivers' Union, or whatever it is, to serve as playthings during the enforced leisure of strike periods.

That, after their pretty universal breakdown on the opening day last November, they are being generally overhauled, cleaned up, deodorised, and having the rattle taken out of them.

That they will only appear once a year, at the Lord Mayor's Show, to increase the hilarity of the London crowd.

That they are being carefully preserved in sawdust or cottonwool, in order that they may be produced as objects of historic interest, or monuments of inventors' incapacity, at the centenary of the much-boomed "Emancipation Day" in 1996.

That they have all started off for the North Pole, as their drivers affect nautical costume.

That they are lying low, till the County Council provides us with a decently straight and broad street in London, and one where the pavement is left undisturbed for two consecutive days.

That they are being converted into steam-rollers, and flying machines.

That they have been acquired by the War-Office, in order to strike terror in the hearts of possible invaders, or to transport our microscopic army from the base to the seat of hostilities. The cavalry will then become the Mounted Automotry, after the fashion of the early British war-chariots, the horses, if any survive, being out inside.

That they are being used as bath-chairs in Little Pedlington super-Mare or some other quiet seaside resort.

That they are being fitted with poles and shafts, so that horses or donkeys may be harnessed to them.

That we shall see them all on Hampstead Heath on Easter Monday, most probably as boat-swings or steam-roundabouts.

That they have privately exploded and are in smithereens, or, lastly, that they have been broken up by their owners and sold as old iron.

—PUNCH

CHARLES MARTIN THE MAN

Who Discovered the Great Saw Bill Country,

IS NOW IN THE QUEEN CITY

World's Young Man Has an Interesting Talk With Him.

This Old Prospector With Thirty Years of Experience is Enthusiastic as Regards Northwestern Ontario—The Engelduc Deal the Biggest Option on Record—Another Mining Town—Ingolf Comes to the Front—Ontario Mining News.

At the Walker House is registered the man who discovered the great Sawbill mining country. His name is Charles Martin and he hails from Montana.

Mr. Martin is an old-time prospector of 30 years' standing, and he is familiar with most of the mining camps on the continent, so that it was with interest that a World man sought an interview with him. He is a typical, matter of fact prospector, and, as might be expected, a man of few words. When he has anything to say, he says it briefly, and there's an end of it.

It was by means of a few short sentences, therefore, that Mr. Martin replied in the affirmative to the scribe's questions as to his discovery of the Sawbill Lake country and other matters.

In the spring of 1894—just three years ago—this rich region was entirely unheard of, when Mr. Martin came across it when out on a general prospecting tour. He recognized at once the rich surface showings of the district, and a location of 312 acres, staked out by him, was the first land taken up there. On thus "striking it rich," he marked out a number of other claims and then set about interesting outside capitalists. He made several trips to Montana, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska and other parts of the States trying to attract the attention of mining men, but they would not listen to his stories of gold away off up in Canada.

He stuck to his guns, however, and by and by money and people began to seek Sawbill Lake, with the result that it now boasts as fine a collection of properties in course of development as there is on the continent, including the Folger-Hammond reef, said to be the greatest dyke of ore in the world.

Mr. Martin is an enthusiast as regards Northwestern Ontario. He says that there is nothing on the continent, except, perhaps, Cripple Creek, to compare with the Sawbill or either of several other regions in Northwestern Ontario. In his opinion there is no question but that Sawbill is one of the richest camps on earth.

He is here in connection with a company in which he is interested, and leaves this morning for Duluth to complete arrangements for the development of mining location J. O. 75, one of his properties, by a New York syndicate. A twenty-stamp mill is to be put on the claim at once.

BIGGEST OPTION

On Record—a Rossland Opinion on the Engleduc Blanket Deal.

"The biggest option on record" is the caption to a leader in The Rossland Record, which reads:

The Ontario Government has recently given an option on 64,000 acres of mineral lands in the Rainy River district to the South African General Development Syndicate, represented by Col. Engledue, for $20,000. The conditions of the option are that the company agrees to spend not less than $30,000 in exploration work the first year, $40,000 the second year and $50,000 the third year. This is a remarkably cheap option. What would be said by mining men in Rossland if the whole of Red and Deer Park mountains were bonded to a syndicate on the same conditions?

ANOTHER MINING TOWN.

Ingolf Talked of as a Coming Place—Just West of Rat Portage.

Said a mining man the other day: "Keep your eye on Ingolf. This coming town is west of Rat Portage, about 19 miles, and this fair even to outrival Wabigoon. Rat Portage's eastern suburb. The country tributary to Ingolf is Hawk Lake, High Lake and Falcon Lake districts, and the foundation in each of these districts is very similar to that of Shoal Lake, made famous by the Mikado and other rich properties. A large syndicate has been formed to operate in Ingolf and vicinity and prospectors are busy preparing for spring operations. The ore is quartzite in slate and the country formation bears a striking resemblance to the Shoal Lake district. There is a railway station at Ingolf and a townsite will be surveyed at once. The promoters of the projects of which there are some prominent citizens of Rat Portage and Toronto.

AROUND THE SOO.

The Outlook is for Considerable Mining Activity in that Region.

Sault Ste. Marie Courier.

Mr. Charles Beck, along with a gang of men and a load of supplies, started to drive to this claim on Wednesday; it is located about 35 miles northeast of the Sault. We are informed that Mr. Beck has let a contract to Messrs. Drake and Smith of Goulais Bay to sink 25 feet on the vein. Mr. Beck talks very confidently about the prospects of this claim. It is close to the Car," we are told, and, therefore, should be in a good part of the country.

The assay office and laboratory of the Great Northern Mining Corporation is now fully furnished and actively at work. The latest addition to their apparatus to arrive was one of Hoskins' hydro-carbon furnaces. Mr. Wylie, the superintendent, has some 40 samples now under way. These samples have come from all parts of the district, some from as far away as near Missinaibe station on the main line of the C. P. R. and also from the Wahnapitae district. Most of the assays are turning out very well, indeed one from the Mississagua district went $32.50 in gold to the ton and some silver. This was from one of Mr. Marks' claims which is being opened up by the Great Northern. Another assay from the neighborhood of Killarney went $35 to the ton and one of the samples from the Northern Light, near Trout Lake, went $10 in gold to the ton, and an assay of copper from the same claim went as high as 18 per cent. pure copper, which is considered good.

Coal, Nickel, Gold.

Work, says The Algoma Pioneer, assures success whether in Algoma district, Rossland, Mexico or South Africa. The gold fields of Algoma, the coal fields, the nickel beds, the iron and lead veins alike, demand work, work, work, as the secret of success, prosperity and fortune. We have in this district everything that makes for health, wealth and prosperity, and there are in Rossland, South Africa, and other "boom towns," people who frankly admit that the prospects for success are greater in Algoma district than in any of the new fields.

Pocket Manual of Mining.

This is the title of a new reference book on mining, being got out by Messrs. C. W. Canniff, C.E., and J. H. Chewett, B.A.Sc., C.E. It applies especially to Canada, and touches upon every branch of the subject, mineralogy, geology, blowpipe work, prospecting, the operation of mines, mining machinery, ores and ore treatment. It has a glossary and full index, and should be a useful book.

It was something like two months ago that the British-Canadian Gold Fields Company stopped the sale of its stock and raised the price of its shares to 40 cents, and since then the directors have been as busy as beavers, saying nothing, but sawing wood. This accounts for the fact that little has appeared in the press concerning what this strong company has of late been accomplishing. Unruffled by this, the company has been developing the properties which it holds, and acquiring new ones in the Rainy River and Slocan regions.

In the Slocan district, as already announced, it has purchased the "Mile Point," a shipping mine near Ainsworth, which gives indications of great value and permanency. The company's superintendent of mines has made full arrangements for working and shipping from this mine continuously. In a letter to the president, Hon. George E. Foster, dated March 15, he says:

"There is enough ore blocked out at present to net the company, after paying all expenses of mining, freight and treatment, $30,000. The ledge has good indications for permanency, and will improve in quantity and quality as depth is reached."

The mine is situated well for economical working, the ore being carried by aerial tramway to the Kootenay Lake steamer, which it is dumped into barges for transport.

The company has also purchased the chief interest in the well-known "Howard Fraction" group, situated between Springer and Lemon Creek in the Slocan. Of one vein on this property the company's superintendent of mines for B. C., says in his last report, page 72: "The vein was 12 to 20 inches wide, of honey-combed quartz, with argentite disseminated through it in crystalline form, and considerable ore has been stoped, hand sorted and shipped to the smelters, which returned high values in silver and good gold values, as seven tons shipped to Pilot Bay in 1895 gave 163 ounces silver and $16 gold to the ton, and 12 tons more recently 206 ounces of silver and $26 in gold per ton. This winter work is being carried on, but little has been done to develop the veins found on the other claims."

At the rate of 64 cents per ounce for silver, the above values run $120 and $157 per ton of ore, respectively. A force of 14 men has been put at work on this property, and shipping will be on at once and be regularly carried on.

The shareholders are to be congratulated upon seeing within the short period of four months their company in possession of ores for shipping mines of great promise, and in the richest silver district of British Columbia. A communication will soon be addressed to all the shareholders, giving them the good news of the company's operations more in detail.

Anthony Hope Hawkins.

The author of "The Prisoner of Zenda," according to a recent interviewer is, next to Fred Terry and George Alexander, the handsomest man in London. He lives in chambers at 16 Buckingham street and does all his writing between 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. in a very plainly furnished room, containing little but a large and well-filled bookcase, an American writing table, a few chairs, portraits of his family and of Thackeray and Gladstone, and a safe with combination lock, in which he keeps his manuscripts.

Mr. Hawkins is remarkably modest, although his success has been won with great rapidity. He was educated at Marlborough school and Balliol college, Oxford, and was called to the bar in 1887. Getting very few cases, he began to write a story founded on incidents in the transactions of a swindling company in a South American republic, partly to amuse himself and partly in the hope of increasing his slender income. Not believing that any man of business would undertake to produce "A Man of Mark," the author managed to publish it at his own expense. It was well received by some of the critics but proved a financial failure.

The idea of "The Prisoner of Zenda" occurred to its author one morning after a long talk in court. He at once sketched the story as a series of pictures in his mind and wrote it very quickly. This, however, was after he had attained partial success with "Mr. Witt's Widow," "A Change of Air," "Sport Royal," "Half a Hero" and quite a number of short stories. "The God in the Car," which Mr. Hawkins says he prefers to all his other tales and in which many think that Cecil Rhodes is truthfully portrayed, was begun before "The Prisoner of Zenda." The spellbing "Dolly Dialogues" and "The Indiscretion of the Duchess" followed "The Adventures of Rudolph Rassendyll." Mr. Hawkins is now engaged upon what he himself characterizes as a dangerous experiment, and will soon publish a sequel to "The Prisoner."

SAYINGS OF CHILDREN.

"And, now, little children," said the Sunday school superintendent, "if you are good children, some day you may wear a golden crown." "Pawa got one on his tooth, now," chirped the smallest and newest boy.

"Pop," said Johnnie, "why is it called a gymnasium?" "Why? Why, because that's its name—sh—" "Yes, I know that," said Johnnie, "but why didn't they call it a Tommasium or a Bobnasium, eh?"

Mother—Were you good at the party? Six-year-old—Yes. Mother—You didn't ask twice for anything at the table? Six-year-old—No, I didn't. I asked once, and they didn't hear me, so I helped myself.

A story is told of a child witness in an Irish court who was asked by the judge: "If you took a false oath what would happen you?" He hesitated, and at last said: "I suppose I would get my expenses."

The Teacher—When a woman's husband dies, Patsie, what is she called? Patsie—A widder. Teacher—And when a man's wife dies, what do you call him? Patsie (after some thought)—A widout-her, mum!

Mamma—How cruel, Eleanor, to hurt the poor little worm! Eleanor—But he looked so lonesome, mamma, an' I just cut him in two so's he'd have company, an' the two of him wiggled off together just ever so happy.

Aunt Dorothy had just finished her preparations for a bicycle ride, and appeared at the door arrayed in bloomers. "Oh, auntie!" exclaimed Jerry, who was playing in the garden, "are you going to be my uncle?"

A mother trying to get her little daughter of 3 years old to go to sleep one night, said: "Dora, why don't you try to go to sleep?" "I am trying," she replied. "But you haven't shut your eyes." "Well, can't help it; dey come unbuttoned."

A little girl, aged, called her father to her bedside the other evening. "Papa," said the little diplomat, "I want to ask your advice." "Well, my dear, what is it about?" "What do you think it will be best to give me for a birthday present?"

Sweet little Meg came into her Sunday school class one morning, her eyes filled with tears, and looking up into her teacher's face, said: "Our dog's dead, and I guess the angels were scared when they saw him coming up the path, for he's awfully cross to strangers."

"There is too much system in this school business," growled Tommy, "Just because I snickered a little the monitor turned me over to the teacher, the teacher turned me over to the principal, and the principal turned me over to paw." "Was that all?" "No. Paw turned me over on his knee."

A little girl going to church with her mother one Sunday saw some men working on the street car tracks. "See those men breaking the Sabbath," said her mother, thinking to suggest a moral lesson. The little girl watched them gravely. Then she looked up in her mother's face and said: "And can't God mend it?"

Little 6-year-old (after seeing the play of Uncle Tom's Cabin)—Oh, mamma, mamma! "Little Eva" thas gone to really, truly heaven! Oh—o-oh—boo—hoo—o-ho—o-o! Mamma—Do not grieve so, my child. "Little Eva" will probably go to heaven again to-morrow night. Little 6-year-old—Oh, no—no-o-o! She won't—for she is going to Philadelphia.

A bright little fellow, who has not yet seen his third birthday, often amuses the household of which he is an important feature by his questions and observations. At dinner one evening recently it was noticed that he was intently studying the expanse of white table cloth in his venerable grandfather's head. When a lull occurred in the table talk the pride of the family promptly took advantage of it. "Drandpa," he said, "who tut oo' hair 'at way?"

The Good Old Inn.

It might be interesting to know who was the first person to keep an inn. The word is of Anglo-Saxon origin and signifies a lodging house; another term was gest hus, a house for guests; or cumula hus, a house for comers. Near the highroads a few scattered inns were established for the convenience of travelers over night.

Edward the Confessor ordained that if a traveler remained over three nights in an inn, he was to be styled thirdkt-man of hinde and the landlord was answerable for him exactly as though he were one of the servants. A good many alehouses were dotted around Saxon England and the sturdy early Englishmen spent a great deal of time in them. Chaucer's friar "knew well the taverns in every town" and Dunstan found it necessary to ordain that a priest "should in no wise be an alesop"—that is, a professional teller or reciter at an alehouse. Efforts were continually made to keep down the number of inns. In the reign of Edward I. there were but three in the whole of London.

The inns of the middle ages were furnished in a very homely manner. In the fifteenth century the famous St. George inn at Salisbury possessed thirteen guest rooms, each with three beds in it, a table on trestles and oaken benches. People ate and drank and slept in the same apartment indiscriminately. At this time titled persons slept on a bed, while commoners had to put up with mattresses—a curious distinction.

In French and German mediaeval inns a humorous custom prevailed for the punishment of those convicted of talking and boasting too much. A wooden knife was always placed by the side of the president of the table, whose duty and privileges it was to put the boasters to silence by ringing the bell in the blade or blowing the whistle concealed in the handle. He then handed the knife to the man who had been "called down," who kept it till he in turn had a chance of presenting it to some one who proved a greater boaster than himself.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the inns of Paris and London were in their heyday and were the gathering places of the wits and literary men of the day; even the noblemen used the inns as a sort of club. The Duke of Montague gave a dinner at the Devil and tradition says the great Elizabeth herself did not disdain to eat pork and peas at the King's Head in Fenchurch street. An ancient covered metal dish is still exhibited there as the one she used. Most of the famous old literary taverns are now merely a matter of history. The rooms were small and low with only wooden benches but the giants of the time used to gather there for the social intercourse they craved. Mine host was a personal friend of his customers and the same customers frequented the same inn year after year.

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