

Side Lights on the Rossland Boom.

The *Rossland Miner*, a weekly sheet which played no insignificant part in promoting that notorious era of wild-cat speculation in mines and ten-cent shares in Rossland mining companies, has been made party to a law suit which promises interesting revelations of how the game was played in these memorable days, now happily, and we hope forever, things of the past. The paper was originally owned and edited by John Reeves, who "whooped her up" in lively style, until he was bought out by F. Aug. Heinze, then operating the Trail smelter. A year ago last May Heinze sold the *Miner* to Bernard Macdonald, for the Le Roi Company for \$20,000, one-half of the purchase money being paid down at the time, the balance falling due six months later. The utmost secrecy was observed in the sale, so much so that the sale was ostensibly made at Northport to the Northport Smelting Company, which apparently made the initial payment. In reality, however, the charge went through the Le Roi Company's books under the caption of "Special Account," as Mr. J. R. Frecheville discovered when he made his investigation into the affairs of the company the following fall. Frecheville reported that the purchase of the paper was entirely unauthorized, and it was decided to allow the journal to relapse into the hands of Mr. Heinze by making default in the second payment. Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Thompson, although out of the Le Roi, still retained the management of the Le Roi No. 2, and they, with Edmund B. Kirby, of the War Eagle-Centre Star, desired to keep control, so the second payment was arranged for in the following fashion: The Le Roi obtained a cash rebate of \$2,500 and retained 750 shares of a par value of \$10 per share. The War Eagle Centre Star people coughed up \$7,500 and the Le Roi No. 2 \$5,000, receiving in return 750 and 500 shares respectively. Mr. Heinze was paid the balance of his purchase money and very quickly made it publicly known that all his connection with the paper had ceased. The second payment was made just about a year ago, and from that date until about April of the present year the paper was "carried" by the three combinations, viz.: The War Eagle-Centre Star, Le Roi No. 2, and the Le Roi, in proportion to their respective holdings.

Some time in the early spring of the present year Manager Mackenzie, of the Le Roi, who apparently has no great liking for "mining on paper," notified the other companies that the Le Roi would in future discontinue its contribution to the monthly deficit, and arranged to draw out the Le Roi's proportion of the debts owing to the *Miner* previous to that date. The joy of the other partners at this step on Mr. Mackenzie's part can easily be imagined, but as the matter had to be kept quiet at all cost the situation had to be accepted with as good grace as possible under the very trying circumstance narrated.

Some time last month the War Eagle-Centre Star people decided on a move to grab the *Miner* from the Le Roi. The officers of the company owning the paper included A. B. Barker, the local manager of the Bank of Toronto, representing the War Eagle-Centre Star interest, as president; William Thompson of the Le Roi No. 2 as vice-president, and Mr. Wallace, of the Le Roi, as secretary-treasurer, these three constituting the board of directors, and between them representing the entire stock issued, viz., 2,000 shares.

According to the documents on file a suit was instituted last month by John A. McDonagh, of Toronto, against the *Miner* Company, for \$3,000 for "money lent"—McDonagh being in reality the War Eagle-Centre Star combination, for whom it is said he has been all along acting as trustee, holding the 750 shares which represent their interest.

The writ was served upon the editor, J. P. Earngey, who now says he "mentioned" the matter to Mr. Barker (the War-Eagle-Centre Star representative on the board and the president of the *Miner* Com-

pany) and let the matter rest there. The Le Roi Company say that neither they nor their representative ever heard of the service of the writ until after judgment was signed for the full amount of the claim, in default of any appearance or defence being made by the defendant, the *Miner* Company, on October 31st last.

The Le Roi No. 2 Company also obtained a judgment against the *Miner* for \$2,000 for money lent, it is alleged, in the same fashion as that got by the War Eagle-Centre Star combination, and now the wrath of the Le Roi Company has been aroused and a big fight has been commenced against the other companies interested, the first step in which is an application to set aside the judgments referred to.

James Anderson Wallace, the secretary-treasurer of the *Miner* Company and the Le Roi representative on the board, has filed a lengthy affidavit on the pending motion declaring that the judgments in question were obtained without notice to him or his company, and that all the proceedings were kept secret from him and them, and that it was only by accident that the matter was discovered after judgment had been signed.

Mr. Wallace says he offered to sell the 750 shares held by the Le Roi Company to A. B. Barker for his principals at a 50 per cent. discount on the day the suits in question were commenced, and that Barker said he must first consult with the other parties. As has been explained, however, judgments were obtained, and presumably Mr. Barker is still waiting for a reply.

An effort was made to ring in the Rossland Great Western and the Kootenay Mines by selling these corporations 170 valuable Rossland *Miner* shares at par (\$2,700) but some one got scared at the probable result and the deal is said to have fallen through.

Whatever may be the outcome of the present state of affairs the story is interesting as illustrating the situation in mining circles in the Rossland camp.

Mining Institute Awards.

The subcommittee of the Council of the Canadian Mining Institute has recommended that the following awards be made for 1902 in the Students' Competitions:

The President's gold medal to O. N. Scott, School of Mining, Kingston, Ont. for his paper "On the Ore Deposits of Copper Mountain Similkamenn District, B.C." Also two cash prizes of a value of \$25.00 each to the following: H. W. De Pencier, McGill University, Montreal for his paper on "Mine Timbering in the Old Ironsides and Knob Hill Mines," and to L. P. Silver, School of Mining, Kingston, Ont. for his paper on "The Sulphide Ore Bodies of the Sudbury District". It is understood that one of the best papers contributed to the series, that by Mr. E. V. Corless, of McGill, last year's gold medalist, was at the special request of Mr. Corless withdrawn from the competition.

The Committee recommend that in the future, in addition to the President's gold medal, the Institute offer three prizes of a cash value of \$25.00 each for papers contributed by Canadian Mining Students on the following subjects:—

GROUP I.—*Ore Deposits and Mining Geology*.—The subject may be treated generally, or some particular district or single deposit may be discussed or described.

GROUP II.—*Mining Practice*.—Any and every branch of mining may be treated such as pumping, hoisting, ventilation, timbering, ore extraction, development, etc., etc., or some particular method of mining, or some individual mine or group of mines, may be described or discussed.

GROUP III.—*Ore Dressing and Metallurgy*.—Any branch of ore dressing or metallurgy may be treated as for example—crushing, jigging, milling, concentrating, smelting, roasting, cyaniding, etc.; or some particular plant may be described or discussed.