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DANIEL LOSES HIS SUIT.

R. T. Daniel, well known in Trail, where he owns the Arlington Hotel and the water works of that town, besides much other valuable property, has lost his suit in the State of Washington wherein he sought to have the secretary of the Gold Hill Mining Company issue certificates of stock to him in the company's British Columbia mine. The stock was sold under execution in this province and was purchased by him.

The Gold Hill Mining Company is a Washington corporation, but its property is located in British Columbia. Under an execution obtained by Daniel 211,500 shares of stock were sold in 1899 by the sheriff of West Kootenay, said stock belonging to E. J. Doneen, Michael Doneen, C. Davidson, Edward Welch and E. J. Dyer.

In a suit brought in the State of Washington to compel the secretary to enroll Daniel as a stockholder on his books the superior court of Spokane county sustained a demurrer, on the grounds that the complaint did not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action and that there was no equity in the bill.

The supreme court decides that the attempted sale in British Columbia, so far as the record disclosed, was void, as no law of British Columbia was pleaded by the plaintiff authorizing the sale of stock by the sheriff. The court holds that a party basing his right on a foreign law must plead it. The lower court is affirmed.

THE SHORT HOUR DAY.

The Victoria Times has this to say concerning the short hour day: "In these latter days the 'workingman' is making a considerable stir in the world. He will probably make a still greater commotion when he sets up a less arbitrary division between himself and some of his fellows who in many cases work harder and longer for a far smaller reward. In British Columbia the man who labors eight hours for from \$2.50 to \$5 cannot be said to be crushed under the heel of the oppressor. Men who still consider themselves young remember well when the hours of labor were from seven in the morning until six in the evening and when there was less grumbling at the length of the day than there is under the eight-hour system. According to the conception of one class of our mixed community, this merely illustrates one of the hopeful features of the make-up of man. He is never satisfied with things as they are; he is always striving to get up higher. It is hard to say when he will reach a point which will be perfectly satisfactory. As there never was a millionaire yet who was satisfied with the amount of his possessions, so it may be that future generations will never behold a satisfied workingman. He may develop into an abnormal type like Carnegie, distributing with a prodigal hand that which he has gained by years of application or agitation. When he finds that perfect satisfaction with things as they are in this world is impossible he may go back to ten hours again, thus giving his successors a starting point and something to work for. But that is not likely. When the hours of labor have been reduced to the point beyond which it will be impossible to go, then the agitator will strike out upon new lines. By that time there will probably be no small concerns in the world. The trust will be supreme. All the works and commercial houses and steamship companies and railway corporations and publishing houses and mines and farms—every enterprise under the sun—will be under the control and management of gigantic trusts. All the 'small concerns,' as they will be regarded in those days, will be swallowed up or driven out of business, and the commercial and industrial classes will be but two, capitalists, or employers, and employees. Then it will be possible for all real workmen to come together and secure their rights. There will be no danger such as there appears to be at the present day of creating an 'aristocracy of labor.' The employer who devotes all his waking hours to his business in order to keep up with the times and the demands of his employees will discover what a blessed thing it is to be freed from care; to be able to say to himself, 'I've worked six hours this day, and I think I've earned my pay.' But his successor will not be so easily satisfied. He will start an agitation against the tyranny of capital and the evils of monopoly.

He will 'go in for' government ownership of everything, and as he will be in a vast majority he will carry his point. Then the advanced nation will indeed be happy, for every individual in it will be a civil servant. We all know what a beatific existence that of a government employee is. No anxiety about pay day; about losing your job because of the unkind dealings of old Father Time; no 'docking' for days of illness; a skillful manipulator or one with a 'pull' can always rely upon his claims for 'faithful service' being recognized, and all that sort of thing; nothing to occupy the thoughts but tennis, golf and ping pong. Speed the day when we shall all have what is 'coming to us.' In the meantime it would be pleasant if the Legislature of British Columbia could see its way to applying the eight-hour law to all occupations; mentioning specifically that of newspaper men, whose hours of labor at present do not come within the eight-hour limit, who, in fact, according to the eight-hour standard, do 'double shifts' daily. If we cannot obtain justice in any other way, we shall certainly be compelled to ally ourselves with the newly-organized Provincial Progressive Party, whose membership represent the only workmen element that is making progress in British Columbia. We hope it will make a wise use of its power, lest a worse thing befall it. Let it take warning from the fate of some of the departed, but not lamented, political parties of this province."

"SPLITTING THE EMPIRE."

The world has been looking on holding its breath for some time watching the merging of one great industry after another into one combination, or trust, as it is most generally termed. These combinations have been confined heretofore to the United States. The amalgamated copper trust, the steel trust, and scores of others have served to fill columns in the daily press. J. Pierpont Morgan has become the central figure of the world's finance and business. His ability is recognized by more than one railway line has been placed from bankruptcy upon a solid paying basis through the magic touch of his hand. How he did it was a mystery to smaller minds, but the fact remains that it was done. So long as his operations were confined to this particular line of business not much was thought of it. But of late years he has been branching out. Nothing seems too great for his grasp. The pooling of the interests of the transcontinental lines across the continent in the United States is familiar to all. The merger, as it is called, is being contested in the courts of several of the States to the south of us, notably Washington and Minnesota. What the outcome will be it is hard to say. As long as this octopus was reaching out within the territory of Uncle Sam, and getting hold of everything belonging only to him, the sight was looked upon with varied interest. We were simply the spectators in the gallery looking down into the arena.

But Mr. Morgan, like Alexander the Great, seems to be looking for new worlds to conquer. We now hear of the steamship trust; in other words, the combination of all the steamship lines crossing the Atlantic into one merger, controlled by one masterful mind, and eventually flying but one flag. It is said the American and Cunard lines have already entered into the agreement, and the statement is further made that those companies refusing to join the combine will be compelled to fight for their existence.

Whatever the outcome of this business may be, whether for good or evil, it is certainly viewed with alarm. England, since the days of Elizabeth, has been mistress of the seas and the least thought of hauling down the British flag in favor of any country is sufficient to stir the blood of the nation as one man. The question naturally arises, What is to be done? It is quite evident that British and Canadian interests will not be allowed to lapse for want of attention. Colonel Denison suggests, so the telegraph informs us, that "the British and Canadian governments run a complete line, tax everything the trust vessels bring to Great Britain, letting everything that the Anglo-Canadian line brings enter free."

The London Saturday Review takes the matter of the steamship combine seriously, and declares that the nation will now be compelled to step in and save its existence. It further says that the "agreements must be published with their full conditions and freight rates. Then secret or postponed rebates must be made illegal and the British merchant must be made a free man. It may become necessary to cancel all differential rates in favor of foreigners, while the wholesale disposal of British shipping lines ought to require the consent of the government."

Another eminent authority, the London Spectator, says that all "that can be done is to allow the natural forces to operate freely in buying and selling, but vigilantly to protect unwilling sellers from any attempt to coerce them into parting with their holdings." Perhaps the merger may fall through, as all the interests have not yet agreed to it. No law can be passed to prevent any man, or association of men, dis-

posing of property as he or they see fit, but it does seem reasonable that laws could be passed to encourage the establishment of other lines, and eventually bring the merger lines to an understanding that the attempted hauling down of the British flag is not to be thought of. The traveling public can do something in this matter by showing patriotism enough not to patronize the merger lines. Perhaps not much can be expected in that regard, but if people show their patriotism in going to fight in South Africa and to uphold the flag in all lands why not come to the rescue when an attempt such as this is made to haul it down? It is too soon to discuss the question in detail, or even to suggest remedial measures of a drastic nature, but it is well to sound the alarm and not allow the watch tower of the citadel to be taken while the guards sleep. J. Pierpont Morgan is a great man in his gigantic conception of business, and has shown his ability to carry out great ends, but there is such a thing as overstepping the bounds and doing too much, and we cannot but believe that he has done so in this instance, provided the so-called merger eventually. He will find, at any rate, that John Bull will paw the earth as never before.

OUR LUMBER INTERESTS.

Few people have taken deep thought of the extent and volume of the lumber trade in the Kootenay country. In our interest in mining many other things have been lost sight of. In reading a very interesting interview with Erastus W. Matthews of Nelson, published in our local columns yesterday morning we are led to realize that the lumber and timber industry in the Kootenay country has assumed vast proportions. And when we stop to consider for a moment this is not to be wondered at. The numerous towns that have sprung up in the last few years have taken great quantities of lumber in various forms in their upbuilding, but the great consumption of timber used in the mines and in the construction of railways has been enormous. We use the distinctive term between lumber and timber. Mr. Matthews tells us that there are 15 lumbering plants now operating in East Kootenay, and that a large portion of the product is sent to Alberta, where the region is treeless and must be supplied from abroad.

This is encouraging to contemplate. In the early days of the Rossland camp nearly all lumber was shipped in from the State of Washington. It was so only for a short time, for local enterprise stepped in and soon supplied our wants. The industry has grown and spread, so it seems, and we are now a shipper abroad. To supply our own needs is something to be thankful for.

While the Kootenay is not a timber country in the sense that is understood in the wonderful belt along the coast from northern California to the extreme north of British Columbia, still the growth of timber is great, enough to supply our needs for many generations to come. Many of the mountain tops carry a scant and scrubby growth, that will probably never be worth anything for commercial purposes, but there are many valuable stretches and patches of most valuable timber, and their conservation and use is important. This, with our mines, seems to have been a happy combination of the utilities of nature for the benefit of each other. The 15 mills above mentioned give employment to many men in various capacities. That the industry will grow goes without saying.

SOCIALISM—A FAILURE.

We print elsewhere quite a lengthy article taken from the Vancouver Province, the result of an interview with a well known British Columbian who has just returned from New Zealand and other lands in the antipodes. The article is reproduced because it seems to treat candidly of the existing condition of affairs in New Zealand, where the most advanced socialism is being attempted to be carried out, the result of which has been watched with great interest the world over. The gentlemen interviewed is Frank H. Shepherd, and he says "the prosperous and contented working class in New Zealand is largely a myth. Stagnation prevails in almost every line of business. I am very glad to be back in British Columbia, which is a better country than any I know of south of the line."

New Zealand is a country that has been held up to the gaze of the world as on the high road to prosperity and happiness. It was supposed to be the Mecca of the laboring man, where short hours and big pay ruled in all trades, where strikes were unknown, and every dispute was settled by arbitration courts, which seem to have been kept very busy. Frank G. Carpenter, the noted traveler and correspondent, who was a visitor to New Zealand over a year ago, where he remained several weeks, spoke of all the conditions, surroundings and workings of the socialistic government in force there, and while expressing no opinion closed his series of interesting articles on the subject by pointing out the enormous debt that was being piled up each year, that must eventually

swamp the government. What with arbitration courts, providing the unemployed with work at the public expense at big wages, the strings that seemed to be attached to every utility in nature that elsewhere in the world are made to produce something, it seemed only a question of time when a change must take place. Mr. Shepherd, in his interview, says the work given by the government to the unemployed on the relief railways, that is, railways built for the purpose of providing work for those who had none, had to be stopped, because the appropriations were used up. He states further that mining is a ruined industry as the results of ill-considered legislation, and capital has been driven out of the country.

Socialism, pure and simple, is a dream. It has proved a failure in every instance where it has been tried. True, in a modified form it has held together in a few instances in a community sense, but dismemberment and a return to the tried methods of society and government is the rule. No one denies that there are tenets in socialism that appeal to the right understanding of all, and some of them when tried have been found available. We might mention the public ownership of water works and lighting that has been adopted by many municipalities and found acceptable. But here our socialistic friends step in and declare that the government must own everything and deal out everything to the subject with a paternal hand. No one pretends that any government is perfect, any more than the individual is a perfect man. To improve the government as well as the subject should be the aim of all. The great trouble with socialistic reformers is that they do not seem to look at the fact that the thing we call "government" is of slow growth and has taken centuries to bring it up to its present high level. We have but to read history and trace its slow growth along the milestones of time to see how much has been accomplished for the advancement of mankind. While the growth is slow it has steadily advanced. From the period known as the Dark Ages, when man was little better than a savage, to the Mediaeval Period, when light shone and the human race began to advance, down to the blazing light of the twentieth century the advance has been great, and so it will continue to be. We do not live in a Utopia and never will. A Utopian government cannot exist as there are many things over which we have no control, a fact that socialistic reformers should take heed of. The human family is made up of so many diverse elements, that it takes the strong hand of the law to control, direct and shape its needs. It is not the natural instinct of man to be confined or controlled by any power. But there must be a superior power, and that power is law. To enforce it, and that we may all live in peace and unity, we surrender certain of our individual rights, and we see the free and beneficent government which we enjoy. It is so much better than anything possessed by the ancients that we sometimes wonder at the change and marvel how such things could be. We must remember that government—a progressive government—goes hand in hand with all the lines of our civilization; that as we progress in the arts, the sciences, as well as in the world of education and letters, our government moves with us; and as each unfolds gradually, like the petals of the rose, we must study the gradual unfolding of one and all to rightly understand the true situation. We cannot jump into Utopia.

The socialistic government of New Zealand may work out into a perfect form for the welfare of its people, but little at this time justifies the belief that it will result in anything but failure. The people of that distant land might just as well drop into line with the advanced nations of the earth, accept conditions as they exist and trach and grow and improve as we do. It is the safe method—no better has yet been found.

She was one of the Hothouse sent on fomenting mischief, and for that purpose she interviewed Mrs. Refugee Boer respecting domestic comforts. The H.: "How do you like the floor-cloths in your tents?" Mrs. B.: "We much prefer the velvet, as we have been used to it all our lives." The H.: "Poor dear! I shall interview the commander at once and see that you have felt." In consequence, in at least one of the camps, the floors were provided with Angora mats and sheepskin rugs.—Times of Natal.

And now we have a new excuse for a strike. It comes from Dawson, the land of the midnight sun and much gold dust. The union carpenters of that burg, so the dispatches yesterday morning tell us, "are striking against payment in dust." We have been laboring under the hallucination for several years that people were rushing to the far north for the express purpose of getting "the dust." It seems there is such a thing as too much of a good thing, even when we talk of the glittering gold.

The little steamer Camano made a trip from Wenatchee to Kettle Falls last week that was a record breaker. She is the first boat to reach that particular point on the Columbia, which has heretofore been thought inaccessible. Kettle Falls is not so far from Rossland as not to be known to our people. In fact, the little town is considered one of our neighbors, although in the State of Washington. River navigation is impossible from that point until Northport is reached going north.

Sol Smith Russell, the veteran actor, is dead. He was born in the State of Maine in 1848, and leaves an estate of \$2,000,000. He played at some time in nearly every city of note on the continent, and gained a great reputation as a comedian, a mimic and a vocalist. Most old timers have seen and heard him, and enjoyed a hearty laugh at his drollery.

We are told that settlers are coming to the Kettle River Valley to secure homes, many of them going into the fruit raising business. It has been demonstrated that apples, and most of the small berries, grow to perfection in this beautiful valley, to say nothing of grain and the hardier vegetables. More the merrier.

Lord Sholto's brother seems to have been a genuine sport. The dispatches yesterday tell us that the Marquis of Queensberry ran through personal property valued at \$66,000 pounds and the Glen Stuart estate of 500 acres in the past two years. All this may be in accordance with Queensberry rules, but it is hardly in conformity with the rules laid down for good business.

Two highly accomplished gentlemen by the name of Robert Fitzsimmons and James J. Jeffries want to punch the stuff out of each other, but so far have got no nearer the real thing than talking about it. By all means let them get together and hammer away as long as they please. The public is tired of all talk.

The Dewey ledge on Thunder Mountain is now said to be 500 feet wide, all rich ore. Gold will be of little value when the product of that much boomed district is thrown on the world. Give us another!

Sir Robert Giffen, the well known statistician, is of the opinion that Great Britain is today better able to bear a taxation of \$750,000,000 than she was to bear \$350,000,000 40 years ago.

The owners of the Treadwell mines in Alaska figure on a profit of \$150 a ton on the output of a thousand stamps, which is 4000 tons per day, making a profit of \$6000 a day.

Senator Money of Mississippi was run off a street car the other day in Washington, D. C., for refusing to pay his fare. You can't always judge by a man's name.

Some rigid Presbyterians in Scotland, resenting his presents of organs to poor kirks, say Carnegie is a partner of the devil.

Mr. Morgan has tackled a good many hard propositions, but nothing quite so formidable as the British government, says the Spokesman-Review.

CURRENT COMMENT

CANADA A COMPETITOR.

A few years ago our minds were so much exercised with regard to the foreign competition in Great Britain that Mr. Chamberlain sent a circular letter to the colonies asking for detailed information on the subject, which was subsequently received and published in a voluminous blue book. It had hardly occurred to anyone at that time that another form of competition might have to be seriously considered, viz., the competition of our colonies with ourselves. Today it is a fact that Canadian agricultural machinery is becoming as common in our fields as the American variety, and in Australia. Canada is becoming a formidable competitor. That is why the Canadian manufacturers have so strongly protested against the Australian tariff bill. The exports of agricultural machinery from Canada to Australia have increased from \$120 in 1896 to over \$12,000, with ploughs (of which Canada sent Australia not a single specimen as recently as 1896) have increased from \$204 in 1897 to over \$20,000 at the present time.

I find, too, that in 1897 Canada began to export the following articles to Australia: Nails, brass-ware, dentists' tools, jewelry and plated ware, paper, capvases, preserves, saddlery, sewing machines, soap, whiskey, watches, clocks and woolen goods. Half the reapers and binders are of Canadian origin, which means that Canada is a greater competitor of British agricultural machinery makers in that colony than the United States.

I do not repine because of these facts, for I do not take the one-sided view of "Empire" which consists in regarding colonies as satellites, which should contribute not only to our glory, but to the contents of our pockets by providing "markets" for our wares. Somehow it never occurs to those who agitate for free trade within the empire and a tariff wall against the world at large that our colonies may soon compete with us as effectively as foreign countries.

How many people are aware that in the iron and steel trade Canada will, I

in the course of a few years, have to be reckoned amongst the great producers? If all goes well the steel works at Sydney, Cape Breton, will soon be supplying all Canada with steel, and exporting it to the old countries and to the East. The concern in question is the Dominion Steel Company, founded by American hands, with a capital of \$4,000,000, which has erected a steel plant in Sydney harbor at a cost of \$2,000,000. Supported by liberal bounties there is every prospect of success before the undertaking. Canadian steel, in fact, has already reached the British market and the curious point about it is that the heavy bounty paid by the Canadian government makes this British colonial steel far more formidable than the foreign product to the British manufacturer.—L. G. C., in London, Eng., Morning Leader.

SWIFT TO A CLOSE

EVIDENT THAT FEW ADDITIONS WILL BE MADE TO "FATHER PAT" FUND.

PROBABLE MEETING WILL BE CALLED AT EARLY DATE TO DISCUSS MEMORIAL.

The honorary secretary of the "Father Pat" Memorial fund C. S. Wallis, has issued the latest list of subscribers to the fund, and the amounts therein acknowledged swell the aggregate to more than \$1200. In the list of names will be noted that of Julius Peterson, of the Trail smelter; George Pfunder, the well known Rossland man, now resident, it is hoped temporarily, in Spokane; George H. Hamm, the popular Canadian Pacific man of Montreal; Hector McRae, now resident in Ottawa; W. F. Tye and Harold Montzambert of Ottawa, with others more or less well known in the Golden City. The list is as follows:

Rossland—A. J. Drewry, Etta Key—\$2.00.
Trail—Julius Peterson—\$1.00.
Spokane—Geo. Pfunder, Wellington S. Harris, C. F. Robbins, H. Stevenson, Wm. H. Chambers, Chester Glass, Henry C. Burton, H. G. Brown, R. Foer (50 cents)—\$3.50.
Toronto—Alfred Wright—\$1.00.
Montreal—A. Sandeman, Geo. H. Ham—\$2.00.
Peterboro, B. C.—H. E. Foster—\$1.00.
Glasgow, Scotland—A. D. Provand—\$1.00.
Ottawa—Hector McRae, Sanford H. Fleming, W. F. Tye, Harold Montzambert, J. Mullin, M. P. Davis—\$6.00.
Quebec—Frank Carroll, Alexander Macdougall—\$2.00.
Grand Forks—P. A. Z. Pare—\$1.00.
Previously acknowledged \$1176.95.
Total to date, \$1202.45.

Additional lists are coming in slowly, and it is evident that such further increases in the list will be of trifling importance. There are, however, a number of lists outstanding, and in some instances it is known that small amounts have been collected on these lists. The honorary secretary is therefore disposed to await the arrival of some of these lists before calling the general committee together to discuss the disposition of the fund. It is now realized that there is now comparatively little utility in delaying the discussion of this important point further, and it is probable that Mr. Wallis will call a meeting of the committee at an early date.

FIRST MOVE MADE

MATTER OF FINANCING CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM IS MOOTED BY COUNCIL.

TRUSTEES INVITED TO COMPARE ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND OUTLAY.

Within the next few weeks the question of civic finances will come to the fore prominently in connection with the question of financing the city school system. That matters are shaping themselves in this direction is evidenced by the following clause in the report presented at the regular meeting of the city council on Tuesday by the finance committee:

"That the clerk draw the attention of the board of school trustees to a comparison between their estimates of ordinary expenditure for the year of \$14,369.30 with an estimate of the total amount available for schools from all sources of revenue—\$10,790—made up as follows: Per capita grant for schools based on grant for first quarter of year, \$7200; high school grant, \$300; taxes at two mills, \$3239; and also to section 38 of the School Act, and also to the fact that the general estimates of the city's revenue show no balance available from ordinary revenue to supplement the school fund or any fund."

Speaking to the motion for the adoption of the report, Alderman Hamilton, who occupied the chair, remarked that the board of school trustees must seriously consider the matter mooted in the clause quoted. Even supposing the taxes were paid in full the sum available for school purposes would not exceed a trifle over \$10,000, while the corporation would have no balance to supplement this amount. It was apparent, therefore, that before the end of the year there would be a large shortage in the school fund, and the point at issue must be as to whether steps could be taken to adjust matters to avoid a crisis in the school system.

There was comparatively little discussion on the subject while council was in session, but later the aldermen took up the topic with animation. It will now be interesting to note the attitude which the school trustees will adopt.