

Rosland Weekly Miner.

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SEPTEMBER DIVIDENDS.

Reports to the Engineering and Mining Journal for September show that dividends aggregating \$16,310,045 were distributed last month by 55 companies identified with the mining industry, this being, with one exception, the largest month of the year. Of these 55 companies 36 were engaged in the mining of precious and semi-precious metals and paid \$1,048,000, or a little over 6 per cent of the total. The other 19 included iron and steel, coal and coke, petroleum, natural gas and chemical interests, which paid altogether \$15,262,045. The heavy payments in this latter class were due chiefly to the quarterly dividends of the Standard Oil company (\$8,000,000) and United States Steel common (\$5,061,115). The dividend paid by the United States Steel Corporation is the one declared on July 2nd. As shown elsewhere, the steel company declared on October 1st its second quarterly dividend of 1.34 per cent on its preferred stock, and 1 per cent on the common, the total amounting to a little over \$14,000,000. The Standard Oil dividends have fallen off since March, but the total payments this year have reached a total of 40 per cent, and unless the fourth quarterly dividend is again reduced the total for the year will be the same as last year, 48 per cent. The California Oil and Gas company paid \$140,000, or 7 per cent, on its capital stock of \$2,000,000. This makes a total for the year of \$350,000, or 27 per cent. The dividends paid by the gold, silver and lead interests in September exceeded those of August, the increase being due principally to the quarterly declaration. Colorado, South Dakota and Utah figured prominently as dividend payers, although the Isabella and Doctor-Jack Pot, of Cripple Creek, both passed their usual quarterly payment. The lead mines of Missouri also made good showings during the month. The price of this metal is well maintained at a profitable figure. In addition to the United States companies reporting dividends in September, there were seven silver-lead and copper properties in Mexico which paid dividends last month. One of these, the Panoles silver-lead mine at Mapimi, Durango, is paying 50 per cent monthly on a capitalization of \$250,000 Mexican money (about \$125,000 gold). Its stock is difficult to buy. Honduras, C. A., and British Columbia also reported dividends paid in September. Most silver-lead companies in this province would be rather pleased to parallel the performance of the Mexican company mentioned.

OBNOXIOUS IMMIGRANTS

According to the report of Thomas Fitch, immigration commissioner at New York, the immigration into the United States from southern Europe, from the centres of pauperization and illiteracy, is constantly increasing; while from northern Europe, from which the country in the past has drawn its most desirable immigrants, there is a steady decline. During the fiscal year last past the total number of immigrants who reached the United States through the port of New York was 453,496. Of these upwards of 100,000 came from southern Italy, the home of secret societies, of the Mafia, of brigandage, and of anarchism. More than one-half of the entire immigration for the year was of Italians, Poles, Russian Jews and people of the Slavik races. Incident to this change in the character of immigration, the percentage of illiteracy was never so high as it has been during the year. Of the immigrants from these countries named, from 40 to 50 per cent are absolutely illiterate. The commissioner's report, in combination with recent occurrences, may well cause the people of the United States to ask whether their rules concerning immigration should not be revised so as to exclude the undesirable classes thus rapidly being added to their population. When anarchists and other rascals abuse the hospitality extended them it is surely in order to withdraw that hospitality. The United States has certainly not found its own particular "open door" to be an unmixed blessing. In dealing with this question the Post-Intelligencer says: "It should be made an imperative requirement for admission to this country that the would-be immigrant should show affirmatively not only that he will not become a public charge on account of his physical defects, or his present poverty, which the law now requires, but that his moral character is likewise free from such defects as render him dangerous to the peace and good order of the country. Each intending immigrant

should be compelled to show that he is not of the criminal or quasi-criminal class; that he is a person of good moral character; that he has the rudiments of an education; that he is qualified to make his own livelihood; that, in short, he is of the material to be moulded into American citizenship. All others should be as rigidly excluded from this country as are the criminals, the paupers, the sick, lame and halt, under the existing laws."

THE YACHT CONTESTS.

There seems to be a general opinion among yachting experts who witnessed the recent contests that Shamrock II would have had a better chance of winning if she had been better sailed. The fault, it seems, lay not with Captain Sycamore and his crew, but with Mr. Jameson, to whom Sir Thomas Lipton confided sole control of the Shamrock in the races. John R. Spears, the noted yachting authority of New York ascribes the errors of judgment in the sailing of the Shamrock in Tuesday's fluke not to Captain Sycamore but to Jameson's absolute control, when he compelled Sycamore against his will to take a certain course. Spears says these errors did not matter on Tuesday, as there was no race, but he charges that Wednesday's race was lost to the Shamrock by a violation of the fundamental rules of yachting: errors for which Captain Sycamore was not responsible. On two occasions at least the challenger by her remarkable manoeuvres lost at least one minute. All other yachting experts writing for New York papers ascribe the result of Wednesday's contest to most remarkable errors of judgment on the part of those in charge of the Shamrock. It is probable that Sir Thomas' anxiety to try again with Shamrock II was largely due to the feeling that she might have been better handled. The New York committee has decided that the rule must be enforced, however, so Sir Thomas must build a new yacht if he wants to try again, or else wait the prescribed two years. As the situation is now next year will not be likely to see a contest for the cup.

THE POSITION OF CANADA

In a recent speech to his constituents, John Charlton, M.P., set forth in a graphic way some facts relating to the present position and the prospects of Canada. The extent of undeveloped territory in the north was especially dwelt upon. In 1888 a committee of the senate investigated the resources of the country north of the Saskatchewan river, and found that 300,000 square miles were adapted to the growth of wheat, 400,000 miles, including the wheat area, adapted for the growth of barley, and 600,000 miles in which potatoes could be grown. Mr. Charlton made an estimate of 250,000,000 acres of wheat-growing land for the west. This would mean, with a moderate yield, the gigantic crop of 5,000,000,000 bushels. He placed the population capacity of Canada at 100,000,000. In dealing with some very interesting facts, especially as regards trade relations with our nearest neighbors. He said: "Our total imports from the United States last year were \$119,306,000; the previous year they were \$116,672,000. Last year our imports from Great Britain were \$43,164,000, or but little more than one-third the amount of imports from the United States. Our total exports to the United States last year were \$70,406,000, but this included in round numbers probably \$25,000,000 in coin, bullion, gold-bearing quartz, nuggets and silver concentrates, and making a further deduction for our exports of foreign products of \$2,423,000, our net exports of domestic products to the United States were less than \$44,000,000. While our exports presented this unfavorable aspect, the total exports to Great Britain were \$105,328,000, or two and a half times as much as our total imports from that country. The United States possesses great manufacturing centres and great aggregations of populations in cities, and should naturally furnish Canada with an extensive market for farm products, but our exports of farm products to that country last year were two and a half times less than the imports of farm products from that country. We purchased from the United States of free corn last year with half a million of the total value of farm products exported to that country from Canada. It is too early to make an analysis of our trade returns from the United States for the fiscal year just ended. For the previous year our import of manufactures was \$63,000,000 from the United States and \$38,000,000 from Great Britain, and it is not improbable that the imports of manufacturers from the United States are still greater this last year. While this vast volume of the productions of American labor is purchased by us, the producer of food in Canada is prevented by a nearly prohibitory tariff from selling food products to the operators in the United States who produce the goods he purchases. Our free imports from the United States last year were \$56,884,000, or 75 per cent of our total free imports from the world. Of

this free list no less than \$30,000,000, in round numbers, was composed of manufactures, lumber and Indian corn. Our free list for entry into the United States, aside from the precious metals, was practically nil. These figures convey the information that our trade relations with the United States are upon an unsatisfactory footing, and the policy which gives the United States easy access to our market, and is met by a policy which excludes our natural products from that country, is one which requires modification." Mr. Charlton's conclusions as to the prevailing sentiments in Canada must commend themselves to the public: "Canada has good laws and efficient administration. There are no mockeries of justice in this country, no burning of negroes at the stake, no lax divorce laws, no impending contests between trusts and consumers. We live in the possession of perfect liberty, and the safeguards for its retention are secure and ample. Canada has a good population. The ethnic conditions that render it necessary to consult the wishes, or prejudices, if the term is preferred, of two races will lead to mutual forbearance, will promote assimilation, and will in the end, it may confidently be hoped, prove a source of strength rather than of weakness. It is a better form of government, all things considered, than the one enjoyed by the people of the United States."

IN THE FAR EAST

According to the cable despatches, the Russian press is strenuously urging that the opportunity offered by the death of the old Ameer of Afghanistan should be seized for the benefit of Russia. It is quite possible that the advice will be taken and an attempt made to seat on the vacant throne a ruler favorable to Russian designs. The public knows little of what is happening in that far-off and comparatively secluded country, especially as to the movements the Bear may see fit to make for his own purposes. It may or may not be true that Russian troops are being rushed to the frontier to be ready for the seizure of Herat and the securing of a hold on Afghan territory, but the report has at least many elements of likelihood. That there is danger to British interests both in the Afghan region and further south and west there cannot be much doubt. A London correspondent touching on the subject says: "Every newspaper speaks of the death of Abdurrahman as a serious loss. He was a firm and faithful ally of this country, and a bulwark of inestimable value to our Indian empire. He kept peace among the wild Afghan tribes, and although the new Ameer is believed to be a man of energy and ability it is doubtful if his name carries weight among his turbulent subjects. In case the Russian government should wish to be unfriendly, the government is not in a position to take direct defensive action on the border which would in that case be menaced. Our only immediate means of action would, says the Morning Post, be to treat any violation of the Afghan frontier as a casus belli." In the past year or two Russia has been carrying on one of her customary intrigues in Persia, and has doubtless made solid progress towards securing an outlet to the Indian ocean. Recent events have shown that Great Britain is watching jealously every move made in that region not only by the big empire but by Turkey and Germany. No one need be surprised if exciting times should be brought about by all the movements and counter-movements going on.

ONLY IDLE GOSSIP.

The local rumor factory in connection with the local strike has been even more than usually busy of late. One of its products, which was circulated actively on the streets yesterday, is completely disposed of by the statement quoted elsewhere, and many others of a kindred nature are equally devoid of foundation. The manufacture and circulation of idle reports could not very well be stopped, since speech is free and there are many people at present who show themselves ready to talk to work. But the public can easily find its own remedy, which lies simply in ignoring the rumor factory and letting its output pass without notice. So many "yarns" from the same source have come to grief that new ones may well fail of receiving attention.

THE AGITATORS' LATEST.

A vigorous attempt is being made to "work" the Rosland Liberal association on behalf of the agitators, the plan being to pass a resolution stating that the alien labor law is being violated and calling on the Dominion government to enforce it. If the plan happened to prove successful its principal effect would be in the direction of disrupting the association, and that would certainly not tend to the advancement of the Liberal cause—the object for which the association was organized and is kept in existence. About the best scheme that could be devised to

paralyze it and render it ineffective for its proper work would be to turn it into the instrument of a clique. Wise members of political associations are always averse to having them used for ulterior purposes, as is proposed in this case.

It is apparent at a glance that the association would place itself in a ridiculous position if it were to adopt the declaration which the agitators set out, since it has no evidence that the declaration is true. The despatches from Ottawa show plainly that no such evidence has been forwarded there by the agent of the government, and the local association certainly cannot be in a position to make any such statement as is sought to be forced upon it. What a spectacle it would make of itself if it were to make any ex parte declaration that any manipulator chose to present! The attempt is further made to work up sympathy on behalf of the strikers by representing them as local people, with property and homes here, who are in danger of being ousted by outsiders. This looks extremely ridiculous in the light of the fact that not one man now on the ground need be idle for a day if he chooses to go to work. None are barred from going into the mines and earning good wages except by their own foolishness. A spurious plea for sympathy on their behalf is surely wasted on sane and sensible people. At all events, it would be simple suicide for the Liberal association to entertain the plea and make itself the cat paw of any clique whose purposes are altogether ulterior. The agitators have their own organization to use in their unworthy fight, and it looks very much like a confession of failure when they seek to manipulate another organization which has nothing whatever to do with the dispute. Of course they care nothing about the injury that would be done to the Liberal cause, but those who are solicitous for that cause should be able to keep the association out of the trap that has been so cunningly set for it.

THE FEELING IN LONDON.

In another column will be found an editorial article reproduced from the B. C. Review, the well known London weekly that gives special attention to British Columbia mining matters. There need be no hesitation in accepting the Review's criticisms as reflecting the opinion of London capital in the aggregate on the conditions which prevail in this province. Beyond a doubt, the harassing and worrying that the outside investor has met with here has made London shy of incurring further risks in the same direction, and even those who about that London is all wrong in this matter must face the fact that its opinion is as stated. And it is not only London that has been frightened off by bad legislation and the aspect of hostility to capital which the province has been made to assume, for other outside capital has been similarly alarmed. An incident that occurred not long ago will serve to illustrate the fact. An American operator who represented a large and wealthy syndicate was travelling northward on one of the Skagway boats. A well known Victorian who was a fellow passenger endeavored to interest him in a promising property at the coast, but as soon as the gentleman from the States learned that the property was located in this province he said: "You may save yourself the trouble of going any further. The people I represent will not touch any mining propositions in British Columbia, for the reason that if they did invest they would always be expecting to see your government and legislature do something that would destroy half their capital." This is the feeling that the directors of our affairs have contrived to create among outside capitalists, and he must be a rash man who will say that it has not seriously retarded the province's development. Some people assert that we do not want outside capital, that we can get along without it. It is quite true that we can get along without it and let the country practically stagnate. But if that is to be our view, for goodness' sake let us say so at once and be done with it. There is no sense in begging capital to come and help us and at the same time taking the most effective measures to repel it. Our present attitude is that of the small boy who holds out a bone to an unsuspecting dog with one hand while he holds in reserve a club with which to "swat" the animal of the nose.

Still another torpedo boat destroyer has "buckled" under the pressure of high speed. A revision of the building methods used in these boats will evidently be necessary.

A NOTABLE ADMISSION.

Apparently the tribulations of the Dunsmuir government have awakened the Victoria Colonist to a keener sense of the general situation of affairs in this province. In a recent issue it says: "It would be unreasonable to ask people to believe that times are as prosperous in this province as the people would like them to be, and it may be of some advantage to discuss a few of the probable reasons for this state of things. The chief industry of British Columbia is mining. At least that is the industry which has the most direct effect upon the progress of the

province at the present time. There is a good deal of activity in this industry and substantial advance is being made in bringing to light the great stores of minerals to be found in so many localities. But more might be done, and it would be interesting to ascertain if possible why more is not being done. We referred a few days ago to the drawbacks to the development of Atlin, and have since had new evidence upon the point. One exceedingly promising proposition was turned down, after it had been approved of, by Philadelphia capitalists, on the ground that the conditions surrounding mining in Atlin and in politics and legislation in the province generally, are too unsettled. They preferred to use their money where conditions were more satisfactory, even if the chance of profit was not so bright. A short time ago the Mining Association put out its memorial to which two of the then ministers replied. We have had many letters in the press complaining of the condition of the mining laws, and whether the complaints were well founded or not, the act remains that they are repeated in the British financial papers, and the result is mischievous. The eight-hour law, which was a needless piece of legislation, for the same results could have been reached in another way, gave confidence a severe shock. The Rosland strike did its share of harm. All these things hurt the mining industry. We do not pretend to be able to say just what complaints are based in reason or how the law can be changed so as to beget confidence. We do not wish to be understood as having no suggestions to offer; our present purpose is not to offer suggestions, but only to draw attention to the facts. It is clearly the duty of the government to take up this subject and deal with it in a manner that will, if possible, remove all just cause of complaint and put conditions on a permanent basis. A bona fide effort was made last session to get the mining laws into good shape, and a very substantial improvement was made. If more is necessary, more should be done, and done promptly. This is one of the subjects pressing for consideration, and it ought to be dealt with the least possible delay." The decision of the Philadelphia company with respect to the Atlin proposition is very much in line with the incident of which the Miner spoke on Sunday. Undoubtedly the ministers and the legislators of this province have succeeded by their mismanagement in giving it a very bad name among outside capitalists, and most earnest and vigorous effort in the proper direction will be needed for its rehabilitation. The Colonist is so far to be congratulated on having recognized this fact, but it is evidently still lacking in knowledge when it speaks of a "bona fide" effort of last session having effected a "substantial improvement." Mining men, who may surely be reckoned the best judges, are agreed that the efforts of last session resulted in anything but improvement. The fearful and wonderful "code of signals" and the imposition of the boiler inspection tax are decidedly not to be ranked as satisfactory amendments. Such legislation as this, showing but too plainly the readiness of the government and the house to further hamper the mining industry, must be far from reassuring people like the Philadelphians who turned down the Atlin proposition. Whoever is to be placed in charge of our provincial affairs should lay to heart the truth that capital has been frightened off by the mistakes of the past and that it can be effectually invited back only by the substitution of sane and common-sense methods for those which have resulted so evilly.

LONG DRAWN OUT.

The fact that the struggle with the Boers has just entered upon its third year without bringing the end in sight has caused a great deal of bitter comment in Britain, even friends of the government joining in the chorus of condemnation. The London Times probably epitomized the criticisms from that side of the controversy when it offered the following observations: "A third campaign has now opened, and still we do not discern any signs that the government are making the vigorous efforts which are indispensable if it is already too late to provide such a mobile force as would be adequate this autumn. Are the government doing anything to provide it even three months hence, and if not what possible excuse can they urge for their neglect?" There is a strong disposition in certain quarters to class Lord Kitchener as the wrong man for the position. The London Spectator avers that he has not the mental capacity to "think in 10,000 mile blocks." It even asks for his recall and his replacement by Lord Roberts, a suggestion that may serve as an indication of the panicky feeling which the situation has created. Some of the ministers have been aroused by the criticisms from their candid friends to speak in self-defence, alleging that the government is doing all that is called for in the way of furnishing men and money. Their statements have evidently not had a completely reassuring effect, for the volume of censure has not diminished so far. One of the un-

explained mysteries in connection with the guerilla war is the abundant supply of ammunition at the enemy's command. No person seems to be able to offer with confidence a theory that would account for this fact. Another mystery lies in the ability of comparatively large bodies of Boers to move about freely without detection and to surprise British detachments and convoys. Both these circumstances would appear to argue that the British intelligence service does not materially improve. In the meantime the recalcitrant Boers get plenty of good advice from their own real friends, to which they pay little heed. The Rev. Mr. Botha, the Dutch minister at Richmond, has written a letter to the civil commissioner at Richmond from the refugee camp at Vrededorf Road, Orange River Colony, under date of August 10th, explaining the true position of affairs, in order to enlighten his congregation and fellow Cape Colonists. He says: "A futile resistance cannot any longer be dignified by the name of war. The Boers still fighting have forfeited the sympathies of the Dutch Cape Colonists by the heartless way in which they have misled the people. They have told the colonists that their case was never more hopeful, whereas they knew too well that it never was more hopeless. The presence of the commandos in the colony and the continued resistance is a crime, because, while there is nothing to gain, it simply is ruin for others who have no quarrel with them or the British." Good counsel this, but thrown away on men entirely guided by fanatical hatred.

So far as surface indications portray the situation, conditions in the copper market are slightly improved since last week, says the Engineering and Mining Journal. The price of good merchant bars in London has advanced about \$1 since last report, and stocks there are entirely depleted. In fact, there is hardly a pound of copper in consumers' hands anywhere, nor is there any visible supply outside the stocks accumulating in the hands of the Amalgamated Copper company, which proved such a disturbing factor in the speculative market ten days ago. It is impossible to make any reliable estimate of the amount of copper now held or accumulating in the hands of the Amalgamated people. Information on this question is not furnished for publication, but it is evident that if a large amount is held, say 100,000 tons, it can wield a powerful influence on the market and may be used as an instrument to force competitive interests to agree to share a portion of the burden, either by curtailing production or by stocking a portion of their output. At present, although consumers are bare of material, they will not buy more than is required for absolutely immediate use, for fear of a slump in prices.

The Toronto World has come forward with the theory that the death of the Hon. Clarke Wallace was partly due to a "broken heart," which it traces to two causes: "First, the discovery that there was no room in the Conservative party for a member of parliament in Canada who was of strong Protestant and British principles and disposed to assert the same; and, second, that there were leaders in the Orange order who were ready to sacrifice their principles for the sake of the Conservative party and were ready to knife him because of the principles he asserted." The World's theory is ridiculous. It is quite possible that Mr. Wallace found these two circumstances in existence, and that he grieved over them, but few will accept the view that they were sufficient to "break his heart."

The Wardner News says: William O'Brien, late president of the Miners' Union at Rosland, who this week confided his troubles to the Spokesman-Review, states that "the condition of affairs in Rosland and Northport is similar to that of Wardner, Idaho, after the trouble." If Mr. O'Brien has blundered into the truth in this statement the people of Northport and Rosland are to be congratulated. We can assure them that Wardner has been in pretty fair condition "since the trouble"—a marked improvement over what it was before.

Canadian forests are capable of supplying the world with pulp wood alone for 840 years, on the basis of 1,500,000 tons of manufactured pulp a year. This is the estimate of J. M. Langellier, superintendent of forest reserves of Quebec. It is given in a paper to the Canadian Forestry association, reproduced in the second annual report of the association, just issued. Mr. Langellier takes 100,000 tons of pulp yearly as his basis, that being about the total production of the United States.

Scant sympathy is wasted on rejected cup defenders. The breaking up of Thomas W. Lawson's Independence caused but a passing protest, and now the yacht Yankee, built to defend the Canada's cup, has been sold at auction in Chicago for \$225, about half what the canvas and rigging alone cost. The truth is that these racing machines are good for nothing else except cup defending.

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