

THE SITUATION -- AFTER THE apth.

A very great amount of anxiety was manifested by the people of Rosaland as to the outcome of the important meeting of the Le Roi directorate in Londor yesterday. This anxiety was engendered because of the possibility of circum stances arising which would have a very influential bearing upon the situation affecting the mining industry in this section. The meeting has been held; and, as will be observed by a reference to the first page of the Minler, one re sult is that a new board of directors was elected. The important feature of the situation as evidenced by the cabled news is that the new board has fully endorsed the policy of the old board as communicated to Mr. MacDonald and car ried out by him since the inauguration of the strike, in respect to the man agements of the mines. In the face of this definite announcement as to the position of the new directorate there can no longer be any doubt in the minds of the people of Rossland as to the exact situation in respect to the labor controversy. Already the mines are in actual operation, ore is being shippled from Le Rol and Le Roi No. 2, and there will be a resumption of full operations in the Immediate future. This is a circumstance which cannot fail to elicit the heartiest approval of not only the people of Rossland but of the inhabitants of the entire section of the country affected. A point that may be mentioned in connec tion with the resumption of work at the mines is the fact that work is provided for 1200 men at the best wages paid in Western America. The large pay roll which will soon be resumed will stimulate business to a very marked degree, and Rossland will again step into line as the premier mining camp of the Kootenays. Reference to the important nature of the news which we communicate to the

people of Rossland this morning would be incomplete were we not to remark that it is a matter for congratulation that ample protection under Canadian law will be provided to the companies in employing whom they please and for what wages may be mutually agreed upon. This is especially important when it is remembered that ample protection is guaranteed to any man who desires to go to work to gain his livelihood.

We cannot fairly be charged with taking too optimistic a view of the situa tion when we declare that the very serious trouble with which Rossland was confronted and which militated so disastrously against its welfare has passed away. With the passing of the "crisis," as some people chose to term it, of the 29th, and the announcement that work is to be immediately accommenced on the large mining properties, it must be apparent to anyone that every element o undertainty is eliminated from the situation and that the future holds nothing

but peace, order and prosperity for Rossland.

AUSTRALIAN GOLD PRODUCTION.

The gold production of the states of Australia and of New Zealand for the first half of the current year has been reported by the several departments of mines, says the Engineering and Mining Journal. The figures have been col lected and published by the Australian Mining Standard in an issue which has just been received. Our esteemed contemporary, however, according to its usual practice, has given a mixture of crude ounces or bullion, as reported by the different departments, and it is necessary to revise the figures very carefully to get at the actual gold output. Thus in the one case of Queensland, where the Mines Department has for some time past adopted the very commendable practice of reducing the reports to fine gold, the Standard has igmored this statement and gives the bullion weight. As in reporting gold we prefer to report actual gold,, not including other metals of unknown quantity and value, we have, in the following table, reduced the quantities reported to fine gold; we have also added an estimate for Tasmania and South Australia the statements for their comparatively small production not being available as yet. The table below gives the production for the six months ending

June 30th in values of fine gold: 1 1900. 1901. Changes. Per ct. . \$13,914,842 \$15,746,319 I \$1,831,477 13

ROSSLAND WEEKLY MINER

which has disturbed this promising section of the province for some weeks is en. A commencement of work has been made. Application for laborers is now being made publicly throughout the country. We know that all men who apply will be given work; and we know that in order that they may be permitted to engage in such work the laws of Gunada will supply adequate protection. As to the supply of labor for the operating of the properties there will be little question. Let us for a moment consider the conditions affecting unskilled labor in this section of the country. Unskilled labor employed in the mines is paid excellent wages, afforded ample protection of life and health, and is working under conditions which are admirable from the laborer's standpoint. What is uation in regard to unskilled lattor on other large works, aside from mi ing? Take the trackmen, the laborer in the corn fields, for instance. They are ted to all the inconvenience of climatic conditions and their consec unpleasantness, and are compelled to work 10 hours per day for a wage of about one-half of what the unskilled laborer in the mines is paid. This is so well known, and so thoroughly understood, that there will be little laggardness dis-played by that element of labor in embracing the opportunity that is presented by the expressed determination of the companies to operate their properties.

Taking up another phase of the situation as it presents itself to the ordinary observer today, we may make a few observations upon a point to which the people of Rossland have given considerable attention during the past few days. We disclose no secret when we admit that public opinion recently has been greatly influenced by the belief that certain parties were competent to undertake the solution of the labor controversy. Thi sentiment was engendered because of the carefdly matured plans of some stock manipulators who hoped to embarrass the actions of those who are engaged in the prosecution of their legitimate business in connection with the operation of the mines.

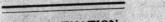
For weeks past members of the Miners' Union have been fed upon false prom ises put forth by men who professed a knowledge of the situation which might be an aid to them in the accomplishment of their purpose. Day after day the indi-viduals to whom we have referred have been in communication with the executive of the Miners' Union, and have held out the promise to them that ultimately there could only be one solution of the difficulty-and that would be the retirement from office of all who are in charge of the operation of the mining properties situated in this section and the reversal of the policy pursued by the latter. The Rossland Miner, on numerous occasions, took opportunity to say that

such contentions by such parties were unwarranted and inadvisable. We were scoffed at for our attitude on these occasions; and now, today, what is the position of the parties who were responsible for creating the impression that we allude to? We find them in a most humiliating position indeed. Their last card has been played, and they have lost. "Wait for the 29th," they declared, and what has happened? These men who for weeks past have been deceiving the poor working miner with promises of a complete reversal of policy on the part of the mine managers, and accedance to the policy of the Miners' Union, occupy a most humiliating position indeed. They see themselves defeated on every hand The meeting of the 29th of August has been held and the new board of directors has fully endorsed the policy the managers were carrying out under instruction from the old board of directors.

There can be only one end of this controversy. The mine managers are going o be permitted, by all the circumstances surrounding the situation, from the fact that the mines are here, that they are going to have charge of them, that the laws of the country will permit of no lawlessness, and that they will manage their properties as they see fit, to employ such labor as they choose at such wages as may be agreeable. It must the apparent to all men who are capable of soning that the strike, which has afflicted Rossland for some weeks past, and which has disturbed the entire community, and which has brought this section of the province into disrepute, is over. That is amply demonstrated to every

man who is capable of thought. To sum up, what are the circumstances? What are the conditions of situation at the present moment? The mines are here; they are in charge of certain men who intend pursuing a certain policy; that policy is not going to b interrupted or interfered with by any circumstance which could possibly have eventuated during the past few days. A determination has been expressed to operate these properties; an offer is made to labor to engage in work; that offer is being responded to; a start has actually been made on the mines; and it is only a question of time until a sufficient amount of labor has been obtained to operate the properties to their full capacity.

With a knowledge of these facts; with a knowledge that there can be no Interference with labor, it is not necessary to indicate that the solution of the difficulties with which Rossland has been confronted for some time, is now at hand. Right in this article we might take opportunity to say that we feel like congratulating, not only the people of Rossland, but this entire part of the province, for the happy solution which has been made of the most deplorable difficulty which has disturbed us for long. So confident are we of the outcome that we deem it expedient to say that never again, in our opinion, will Rossland's prosperity be interfered with by the occurrence of such a labor controversy as we have experienced.



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statement seems cheeky, to say the least, since it is a well known fact that Governor Mackintosh had nothing whatever to do with the purchase of the Le Roi, his stereotyped interviews for the last three years to the contrary notwithstanding.

A SILENCE BORN OF FRAUD.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish all the correspondence which has passed between the Board of Trade of Rossland and the executive of the Rossland Miners' Union and the officials of the Western Federation of Miners with headquarters at Denver, Colorado. It will be seen that no answer has been returned to the very courteous request for information by the Rossland Board of Trade. We think it cannot be disputed that this silence is very significant. It would seem to indicate in a very complete fashion that the strike inaugurated early in July was an illegitimate one in every sense of the word. It is not possible to place any other construction on the matter when there is an absolute refusal to discuss the affair with an important public body who thought it well to ascertain important circumstances surrounding such a large issue. In connection with this theme it is interesting to remember that dispatches published in yesterday morning's paper show that steps are about to be taken to impeach Mr. Shaffer for ordering an illegitimate strike. From the telegraphic reports it is hard to ascertain the exact amount of evidence which is available in proving that Mr. Shaffer is guilty of such an offence but there cannot be the least shadow of doubt that the members of the Miners' Union and the business men of this city have a clear case for an action against those responsible for ordering a strike which has been conclusively shown to be an illegitimate one, even according to the constitution and by-laws of the Western Federation of Miners. It is not in any sense absurd to say that an opportunity for legal action against those responsible for precipitating such a ruinous condition of affairs exists when we recall that only a few days ago the House of Lords gave a decision in favor of a tradesman who had claimed to have suffered injury bec auce of the action of a trades union.

THE NEW MINISTER.

According to advices from Victoria, Mr. J. C. Brown, of New Westminster, is to be taken into the provincial cabinet as the successor of Mr. Turner Indications have pointed in that direction for some time, but the suggested combination was of so odd an appearance that the people in general have been slow to accept it as a possibility. Coalitions are nothing new in politics, which has in fact been aptly termed the science of compromise. The addition of Mr. Brown to the Dunsmuir cabinet, however, does establish something like a precedent. That gentltman was elected as one of the lieutenants of Joseph Martin, and directly in opposition to the elements which combined to form the Dunsmuir government. During the two sessions since held he has been a prominent member of the nominal opposition and was always supposed to be anxious, with his chief, to oust the present occupants from office. The public will naturally enquire why he should have changed his attitude and formed an alliance with people to whom he was a bitter enemy, politically speaking. No official or semiofficial explanation has so far been forthcoming, and in the absence of any such explanation the room for speculation is very wide. It may be that an explanation will be offered at once, and that in the meantime guessing would be a vain work. There will nevertheless be a lively inquiry as to what this new political deal means to the province and a general query as to how long so peculiar a combination is likely to last.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE STRIKE.

It is undeniably true that a considerable feeling of jubilation exists among all classes in the community at the evidence which is at hand that the disastrous strike which threatened the very existence of Rossland for a time is virtually at an end, and that, on the other hand, there is a very apparent feeling of depression among those who were responsible for the ordering of the strike. Something which is quite astounding, and worthy of more than passing attention, is the circumstance that the strike collapsed so suddenly. The most sanguine of us as to the ultimate outcome of the trouble hardly anticipated that there would be such an early victory over the element who were responsible for the trouble.

It will be interesting to inquise into the reasons why the strike was not of a more protracted nature, and why its termination so speedily arrived. In the first place, we think it may be fairly contended that the strike was an illegitimate one. The investigation by an independent body, the Board of Trade, proved that up to the hilt, and, as a consequence, public sympathy was alienated from the strikers. This, no doubt, had a very disheartening effect upon the men who found themselves out of employment. While, when they quit work, they might have expected an ultimate victory, it soon became apparent to them, as it did to the public, that they were fighting a lost cause. We imagine that the strike would have been terminated at even an carlier date were it not for a certain influence of which we are all aware. It is undeniably true that the men were induced to believe through the representations of certain individuals that it was only a question of time until the management of the mines here would be changed to ruch an extent that there would be a reversal of policy, as it had been decicled upon by the London directorate. The most determined efforts were made to implant this impression in the minds of the laborers; and, as a consequence, it took root, and had, of course, a very considerable bearing upon the situation. We have remarked before, and we repeat now, that there never was the remotest possibility of any change in the policy of the old directorate, as communicated to Mr. MacDonald, manager of the Le Roi iMning Company, and enunciated by him, in regard to the manner in which the strike was to be treated. The announcement that at the meeting of the new board of directors a firm stand was taken in regard to the decision of the old board, served to dampien very considerably the ardor of the enthusiasts among the strikers; but while this is true, it is worthy of mention that even today there is still a feeling that the alleged "investigating committee" will take such action on arrival here as will result in victory for the agitators and the downfall of the men who are attempting to conduct the properties in their charge on a business

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Western Australia	\$13,914,842	\$15,74
Queensland	7.252,089	5,38
Victoria	7,196,120	6,94
New South Wales	2,634,599	2,11
Tasmania and South Australia (est.)	1,026,000	95
Australian Commonwealth	\$32,023.650 3,335,054	

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Total \$35,358,704 \$35,040,464 D. \$318,240 0.9 It will be seen that all the States of Australia, except Western Australia, have shown decreases of various amount. The gain of 13.2 per cent in that State has gone far toward conuterbalancing the decrease in the others, while the still larger proportionate increase of 16.7 per cent in New Zealand has brought the total up to within less than 1 per cent of that reported a year ago. The increase in Western Australia has not been due to new discoveries, but to the active working of existing mines and, in some part to the operation of new

plants and to improved processes of extraction at some of the larger mines. The latter is probably the more important cause. The decreases in Victoria and the two minor colonies are not important. That in New South Wales is large, reaching 19.8 per cent, while the total is 30 per cent less than that for the first half of 1899. This falling off is not clearly explained, though New South Wales has always shown more sudden and unexpected variations in its gold output than any of the other States. In

Queensland the chief cause for the loss of 25.7 per cent has been the long continued and severe drought, by which nearly all the industries have been injured. The operations of many mines have been curtailed or stopped by the lack of water for machinery and mills. In New Zealand the increase was due in part to the activity of the more

important mines and to the continued success of the dredging industry, which contributes an important share of the total output.

It is quite possible that the second half of the current year may mark better showing than the first, and that Australia may show a net increase for the present year over its total for 190%).

SOME FURTHER REMARKS ON THE SITUATION.

Supplementing the observations of yesterday morning we may appropriately neturn in this issue to the theme of the strike and its phases as they present themselves to the onlooker at the present moment. There can hardly be any question as to the outcome of this labor controversy. The large mining properties which are situated in this district are about to resume operations. know from announcements which have been made public that this is to be done; we know from results which have been already attained since the announcement was made that there can be no disputing the competency of those parties undertaking that work to fulfil and carry out their promises. Already a start has been made upon the work of operating the mines, and there will be little difficulty experienced in the future, in furthering the work, an ample supply of labor being at hand. It is important that we all should remember that it has been demonstrated within recent time that the opportunity to labor will not be interfered with. In other words, it has been demonstrated that the meanest individual of the community has the privilege of acting as his conscience might dictate so long as he does not interfere with the rights of his fellow man. This is a very important point, and one that ought appropriately to be given great consideration by those who feel it necessary that they should consider the various phases of this strike. The very fact that the ordinary interpretation of the laws which prevail in Canada demonstrates that there can be no interference with the liberties of the ordinary subject or citizen or inhabitant should make it quite apparent to every person that the policy of coercion and intimidation-which method has been depended upon so entirely in other places in order to win strikes which have been inaugurated-must fail in a Canadian community. With that in mind, no man of intelligence who may read these lines can doubt that the deplorable strike

THE SITUATION.

It is very difficult to continue the discussion of the situation affecting the mining industry in Rossland without a repetition of the arguments which have been cited heretofore, but we think there will be little disposition on the part of people conversant with the circumstances of the case to dispute that there is every guarantee of a complete resumption of work on the big mines, and return of the prosperity of olden days. A great deal might properly he said of conditions as we find them at the present moment. About the most important feature of the situation, as it presents itself at this time, is the fact that a great deal of cruel deception has been practised by certain individuals, and that they are open to censure for such action. The truth ought to have been told about the matter right from the start. There never was the remotest possibility of any circumstance arising which might have resulted in a reversal of the policy pur sued by the old directorate in regard to the strike. While certain changes on the directorate were anticipated, there could never have been any probability of a reversal of policy in respect to an issue fraught with such grave possibilities for Western Canada in regard to the operation of its chief industry. But in the face of all the knowledge which was had upon that point, the most persistent efforts were made by dertain parties to induce the belief in the public mind that a different sort of condition would arise. The public was informed at the earliest possible moment that the new directorate had endorsed the policy of the old board, and that there would be no change whatever. Incredible as it may stem, this announcement, made upon the authority of the manager of the Le Roi Mining company in this city, was disputed, and an attempt was made to discredit its authenticity. Mr. MacDonald, in order to demonstrate that his position was absolutely unassailable, took occasion to publicly state that he would wager a large sum of money as to the authenticity of the news which he gave the Miner the authority to publish; and it was not only amusing, but rather pitiable to see the haste with which the gentlemen who had been so active in attempting to discredit him in the byes of the public took care to hide their heads and absent themselves from quarters where it might be suggested that it would be in order for them to prove their contentions by taking up the wager.

If we could say a few words to the miners of Rossland which might be listened to with an ear ready to receive an honest opinion, we would say that in view of all the circumstances we think it would be in their interest to return to work and accept the inevitable. We reiterste our assertion of yesterday, that there can be no question as to the ability of the mine managers to operate their properties on terms satisfactory to themselves. This statement seems almost superfluous, but it perhaps is necessary in order to convince some people as to the exact situation.

REGARDING THE LE ROI PURCHASE.

Speaking of Governor Mackintosh, the Evening World of last night says: 'It is but natural that he, having purchased the Le Roi for the British pub should desire to see the business of the mine properly conducted and the shareholders rewarded for their confidence in his judgment.'

This statement should be reserved for the banquet speeches of the Mutual Admiration Society, or for the stereotyped interviews when the Governor gous abroad, where the facts relating to the purchase of the Le Roi are not known. To those in Rossland who know all about the purchase of that property this

We need hardly point out that such a contention is the most arrant nonbasis. sense. That it is simply preposterous and ridiculous in the extreme will be apparent to all who will just give the matter a little thought. We think that it is true that every mine manager in Western America-that is, any manager of important properties-is entirely in accord with the policy pursued by Messrs. MacDonald and Kirby in dealing with the unfortunate strike with which they were confronted a short time ago. In the face of that it is simply idle to suggest that any investigating committee which might be appointed would consider for one moment the idea of reversing a policy fraught with such tremendous

possibilities-and especially when victory has already been attained. A great many very worthy people are prone to complain that the mine man agers are displaying a hard-hearted spirit in refusing to concede the muchars an advance of fifty dents a day-from \$250 to \$3,00 which they demanded. It sounds very philanthropic for outsiders to make a suggestion of that sort; and it is perhaps true that the point most in favor of the contentions put forward by the strikers was that injustice was being done to muckers in not receiving the same scale of wages as prevailed in camps adjacent to Rossland district, But let us inqure for a moment into the merits of this phase of the case. We presume no intelligent man will take the position that any employer of labor ought not to be permitted to take advantage of the labor market as he finds it. Now, what are the conditions in respect to unskilled labor? If we are correctly informed, the class of labor which the mucker performs is unskilled in every sense of the word-that is to say, it requires no particular ability or experience in order for the work of the mucker to be performed. Now, in British' Columbia today, there are perhaps 500 trackmen working upon the C. P. R. These men w-