

BOUNDARY CREEK'S RAILROAD PROSPECTS.

There seems to be little doubt that President Corbin, of the Nelson & Port Sheppard and connected railroads, is on the alert with a view to connect Boundary creek with the American railroad system to the south by means of his lines. Preparations for the necessary preliminary surveys are already, it is said, being made, Mr. Corbin being ready to take full advantage of the interneck squabble between the Heinze group of capitalists and those behind the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Railroad scheme.

Meanwhile Premier Turner "hopes against hope," that he may yet induce the Dominion Government, by pledge of aid next session, to give sufficient encouragement to induce an early commencement of railroad construction between Pentteton, Boundary and the Columbia River districts. His efforts are not very likely to prove successful, as the Dominion Government will in all probability act on the principle, "let sleeping dogs lie," since when they awake they are likely to arouse considerable discord in the House of Commons and elsewhere. Even the B. C. Liberal members are divided sharply on this railroad issue, which Dr. Milne and his friends have further complicated. These circumstances unfortunately give the East Canadian members of the House of Commons full opportunity of deferring recognition of the claims of a Province whose interests have for years been sadly little recognized at Ottawa. It will be a pity if for the benefit largely of Spokane, the American railroad system connects directly with Boundary creek, ere the Canadian lines make thither, but this seems highly probable, and none can blame the Boundary creek people, suffering keenly from the arrested development of their district, if they prefer an almost immediate American railroad connection to a further deferred Canadian one.

A VERY NECESSARY EXPLANATION.

Mayor Manly, of Grand Forks, thus explains himself in regard to the allegation that he aided and abetted claim jumping in connection with the Volcanic mine of the Olive Gold Mining Co., of which he is vice-president. The mayor, in reply, says—we quote from the *Grand Forks Miner*:

"I had good reason to believe that certain parties were calculating to locate these claims, and we had stakes set before anyone else for our own protection.

The fact is, the company has no deed to the property yet; it is all in my name,

country about the plans, there was somewhat of a stir made about it.

"And I want to say here that I am emphatically opposed to claim jumping. When a party wilfully lets his license run out, the ground reverts to the government, and anyone can claim it. That is not claim jumping, however. When I have large interests I intend to protect them, as it would be any man's duty to do. The position of no member of the Olive Gold Mining Co. is changed. Mr. Larsen, I understand, is discussing in case on the street corners and making some wild statements, but he is as well off as he ever was, and there was no intention, in relocating the claims, that any member of the company should lose a cent."

It therefore appears that the Mayor's action was well intended. Meanwhile the license of the company was, it seems, duly taken out in hot haste by a leading stockholder of the company. Its status seems therefore to be fully secured.

NOTHING TO WITHDRAW.

The *Colonist* falls foul of the *MINING CRITIC* and the *Rosslander*, more especially the latter, in respect of criticisms upon the high-priced transfer to an English company of the Waverly mine in the Illecillewaet country. The *Rosslander*, against which the most virulent of the *Colonist's* strictures are directed, is well able to take care of itself, and, as for ourselves, we have nothing to withdraw or retract. We simply stated what we now repeat, that in respect of this venture the British investor has been asked to pay a big price, secured as usual by the costly intermediary methods of the underwriter. We also asserted that the valuations were high for a claim comparatively little developed, and pointed to the fact that the promoting company, the "Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited," was an undertaking overlaid with altogether undue promotion profits and backed by big advance calculations of the yield of properties possessed by the company. The *British Columbia Mining Record* previously noted these facts about the parent company, so too the *Protegee*: also a Victoria issue, not altogether obscure, whilst the manner of flotation of the Gold Fields and British Columbia, Limited, has been freely and unfavorably criticised, wherever mining men of the province meet who are not interested in the formation of that company. We repeat that the excessive promotion profits asked of the British investor in respect of more than one such company lately organized in respect of British Columbia mining properties, are only too likely to "warn off" much British capital from our province, as similar tactics have

Samuel Gibbs

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