OLD TIMES AND NEW

Banquet Last Night Brought Forth Many Interesting Speeches.

OUR MINERAL RESOURCES

Governors Dewdney and Mackintosh and Provincial Mineralogist Carlyle on the Mining Industry—Good Talks by Warren and Woodhouse.

One of the largest and most representative gatherings that ever took place in Rossland assembled at the Hotel Allan Saturday night to do honor to Lieutenant Governor Dewdney of this province, Lieutenant Governor Macintosh of the Northwest Territories, and W. A. Carlyle, provincial mineralogist. It was an impromptu affair, gotten up on the spur of the moment, and all the more hearty and enthusiastic on that account.

It was 10 o'clock when all the nearly 100 gentlemen had sat down to a dinner of exceptional quality. The large dining room of the Hotel Allan was handsomely decorated for the occasion and everything bore the evidence of good cheer. The dinner was served with unusual ease and alacrity, and all the guests were kept in a happy frame of mind from the beginning.

The tables formed three sides of a square and were lavishly decorated with native wild flowers. The chairman, Dr. Bowes, and the vice-chairman, J. S. C. Fraser, faced each other at opposite ends of the main table. The guests of the evening, the Hon. Charles H. Mackintosh, Hon. Edgar Dewdney and W. A. Carlyle, provincial mineralogist, sat at the center of the same table, along with Mayor Scott, Alfred Woodhouse, the Hon. T. Mayne Daly, Frank Paul of Montreal, General C. S. Warren and Mayor Manly.

The others present at the banquet were: Oliver Durant, Chester Glass, J. B. McArthur, F. J. Walker, Robt. Walker, W. H. Corbould, W. N. Dunn, W. S. Haskins, J. F. McCrae, A. H. MacNeill, John R. Reavis, J. S. Clute, D. M. Linnard, F. H. Oliver, E. N. Ouimette, Geo. Pfunder, W. T. Oliver, G. F. Whiteman, A. J. McMillan, J. L. G. Abbott, J. A. Kirk, N. A. Burritt, E. H. Kane, J. W. Boyd, A. B. Mackenzie, G. H. Bayne, J. M. Martin, J. H. Adams, H. J. Kingsmill, A. Klockmann, C. O'Brien Reddin, Harry Roy, Dr. Campbell, Robert Hunter, H. S. Wallace, A. C. Galt, H. E. D. Merry, C. C. Woodhouse, jr., Mr. Barness, Charles Dundee, Lionel Webber, John McKane, George H. Fraser, W. S. Rugh, J. B. Dabney, J. L. Parker, Charles Howson, F. R. Mendenhall, O. Jeldness, Joshua Davies, R. W. Gregor, C. R. Hamilton, Robert A. Weiss, Ross Thompson, Francis McLellan, Judge Scofield, Smith Curtis, C. O. Lalonde, R. Dalby Markhill, John McMartin, John Y. Cole, H. B. Nichols, Edward Munns, Dr. Armstrong, H. C. Bellinger, D. J. Fitzgerald, J. W. Astley, Dr. MacKenzie, J. B. Johnson, Edward Hewitt, A. B. Clabon, G. A. Pounder, W. H. Jones, Tom C. Gray and Mr. Myers.

First of the Toasts.

After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts the chairman proposed "Our Country," coupled with the name of his honor, Lieut. Governor Mackintosh.

In responding Governor Mackintosh said: Mere formal words inadequately expressed his appreciation of the generous courtesy at all times extended to those public men visiting the city of Rossland. Tonight Rossland even exceeded itself. Nor would he attempt to pay the debt by any fulsome eulogy or superfluous compliments. He was sure that Lieut. Gov. Dewdney and Mr. Carlyle reciprocated his sentiments when saying Rossland camp had become famous for hospitality, and as dav followed day was becoming famous as destined to be the greatest gold producing district on the American continent. [Loud applause.]

"I say that advisedly," continued his honor, "for despite many drawbacks, such as timidity upon the part of investors and a good deal of misrepresentation, the mining districts of Rossland are as much advanced in three years as those of Butte and other points were in ten years. [Applause.] South Africa, with its marvelous quantities of ore, was years ago abandoned and condemned. Since then millions of pounds sterling have been taken from the various claims."

After referring to the growth of Rossland, Mr. Mackintosh continued. "But Mr. Chairman, I do not know that I was invited to eulogize Rossland in particular or its people in general. 'Our Country,' was the toast, and rather a large order for a limited special. Naturally I would like to take you to the great wheat fields of Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest Territories. I would like to urge some of you to go to a point where Canada's flag kisses the shadows of the Arctic circle, and where waters falling into the Yukon bear upon their bosom millions of treasure to be had for the exertion of picking it up. [Cheers.] I would wish to speak of the great timber and commercial advantages of Quebec, the vast agricultural and manufacturing resources of Ontario, and the fishing, mineral and other resources of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. But as I imagine that my friends' fingers are already hovering in the vicinity of my coattails, I resist temptation.

"We have a country whose flag vouchsafes a refuge for the oppressed of all climes; a flag of which English and Irish and Scotch are joint inheritors and which belongs to all who love Britain and Britain's Queen; a flag revered as much by the French-Canadian as by the patriotic Englishman; a flag speaking of fealty, and chivalry, and loyalty; a nation worthy of the flag." [Loud applause].

Continuing he said that Canadians intended to remain loyal to the mother land, and they sought the friendship, the respect, the confidence of their neighbors across the border, and only asked that the same generous reception extended in Canada should be reciprocated by the country whose people found a land of liberty, of truth, of honor and safety, when visiting this portion of the American continent. [Loud cheers.]

The speaker pointed out our national necessities, referred to Canada's progress and urged all to be self-reliant and courageous. He asked those of the United States, who had cast their lot in with Canadians in any part of the country to work shoulder to shoulder in peace and harmony. To be candid, he thought they owed something to those who assisted in winning their battles 30 years ago—of course General Grant had something to do with it. [Laughter.] Even at Bull's Run, Canadians were the first to reach Washington [loud laughter] and, it should not be overlooked that we in Canada are contributing many statesmen and journalists to the ranks of public men in the United States. In Minnesota the Hon. J. T. McLeary represents his district in congress; St. Paul has Mr. J. J. Hill; North Dakota, Mr. Roger Allen. Illinois last year secured a Canadian, Mr. T. N. Jamieson, as chairman of the republican state committee. Then there is Mr. H. Loncks in South Dakota, populist leader, and Mr. Jerry Simpson, a congressional representative and the original popocrat. In journalism there were Wheelock of St. Paul and Medill of Chicago—while the Toronto Globe had to send Mr. Boyle over to act as Mr. McKinley's secretary during the campaign! So great a draft was made upon our resources that it is just possible that this caused the defeat of the former government at Ottawa. [Laughter.] In fact nearly all the great men of the United States were Canadians. [Laughter.]

He hoped enough had been said to show those present the disaster which might attend any rupture of the present international relations. [Applause.] He was proud to see the flags of both nations intertwined and could fervently pray "long may their varying tints unite, and form in heaven's light one arch of peace."

Governor Dewdney's Speech.

"Our Province" was the next toast and Lieutenant Governor Dewdney was called on to respond. He said:

"The toast you have asked me to respond to is one which I feel I am unable to do justice to in an after-dinner speech. The many familiar faces I see around me at this table at any rate know that I have had an experience of some 37 years of the province, and they will appreciate how little of that I can give you in regard to its history and its capabilities on an occasion of this sort. When first I landed on the shores of Vancouver island the province of British Columbia, both island and mainland, was one colony (a crown colony) and its government was controlled from Downing street. The governor had a council to assist him in the administration of affairs in the colony. It was subsequently divided and at a later period again united.

"The vast resources and capabilities of the province are so numerous in character that I could not take time to speak to you on all those subjects, so I will confine myself to its mining history—an industry in which all here are so much interested. The gold excitement which attracted so large a number of people from the old country and other parts was the cause of so sudden an interest being taken in British Columbia by the home government and their making a crown colony of it in 1858. It was looked upon by those capable of judging, even in those very early days, as a country of immense wealth, and one which at some time would become a large mineral producer. Gold was first discovered in British Columbia in 1857, and mined on the Pend d'Oreille near Waneta. Then other discoveries followed periodically to help keep up the spirits of our comparatively small population. Fraser river diggings were found in 1858, and drew a large number of people from California. Then Cariboo was discovered in 1860, Wild Horse creek, now Fort Steele, in 1864, Big Bend 1866, Bridge river 1866, Cassiar 1868, what was known as Peace river mines 1870—thus showing that alluvial diggings extended in districts from Peace river to the Rocky mountains.

"During these periods our province has had its times of prosperity and of disappointments. As years rolled on larger representative powers were given to the people, but not until confederation did we obtain full representative powers. After confederation times improved, but as soon as the effects of that had gone, and the construction of the Canadian Pacific was completed, the province was greatly depressed.

"The quartz excitement and development in later years has, however, now established the fact that we have an important and permanent mining industry and we are being recognized in almost all parts of the world as the coming mining country. It looks as if we were on the eve of rapid and substantial progress, and that the predictions made by myself many years ago, and repeated later by mining men of established reputation, would be fulfilled.

"I have lately returned from East Kootenay, a section of our province which has been awaiting railway construction, and which has got it before going largely into prospecting and development. You will be glad to hear that the prospects are most favorable, and that there is a certainty of that district making a great name for itself. Going back again to the far west we have the Cassiar district being explored for quartz, and the marvelous reports and returns from the Yukon country (which must be tributary to British Columbia), gives a stretch of country of vast mineral wealth, extending from the Yukon on the 141st meredian of west longitude to the Rocky mountains, a distance of from 1,800 to 2,000 miles. If we cannot make a country out of that we had better get out.

"The province is today in its infancy. A great deal has to be done. We can not expect to prosper unless we work intelligently and loyally to each other. Every district has enough wealth around it to insure prosperity, and with a united effort, one helping the other, we should in a few years become the banner province of the Dominion in wealth and prosperity."

Mayor Scott was then called on to respond to the toast of "The City of Rossland," which he did in a brief and happy manner.

Mr. Carlyle's Speech.

The chairman next proposed, "The Mineral Resources of Our Province," and called on Provincial Mineralogist Carlyle to respond to it. On rising to speak Mr. Carlyle was heartily cheered. He began by saying:

"Statistics are generally dry and uninteresting, but in the last report of the minister of mines I endeavored to gather together for the first time and arrange all data available concerning the output of the mines in this province. These tables, I believe, have been widely copied, and I hope they have proved of some little service to many who are now turning their eyes toward this province and are seeking information. A special endeavor was made to give due prominence to the production of the lode mines, first to show that this class of mining is of very recent birth in this country, that it is really just getting fairly started, and secondly to show the rapid advance since the nearly knock-out blow given by the tumble in the price of silver in 1893.

"In 1887 we find that by lode mining only about $17,000 were produced, in 1893 $300,000, in 1894 about $800,000, while in 1895 there was a sudden increase to $2,400,000, while 1896 saw this nearly doubled by a production of $4,250,000.

"For 1897 this rapid increase will be maintained, as already, from the statements made from customs and shipping returns given by the newspapers, which I know to be very close to the actual smelter returns, the production from West Kootenay alone has nearly reached $4,000,000 for the first half of this year, or nearly equal to the output for the whole year of 1896. Thus everything points to the fact that this year the lode mines of British Columbia will show a gratifying increase. [Cheers.]

"In placer mining it is evident that the gradual rate of increase will be maintained; while our collieries that have produced $35,000,000 worth of coal, will soon be of still greater importance on the completion of the new railway systems, and the easy means of transport for coal and coke to feed the growing smelting industry.

"The total production of our mines is not great when compared with other mining communities, but still we have reason to be proud that over $100,000,000 have been won from our scantily developed mineral resources to be added to our country's worth.

"The progress of the mining industry of this province, that had long languished, certainly received an immense impetus when the large deposits of high-grade gold ore were discovered in Rossland, as since then most of us know how greatly interest has grown concerning the mining possibilities of this country. The mines of West Kooteny, with their wealth of gold, silver, lead and copper, are now attracting mining men and capitalists from many parts, and it would seem that capital was about to unlock her coffers to help the prospector and miner, who are at work among the many mountains of this province.

"A strong and healthy feeling of rivalry is now spreading among the different mining centres, but this is a rivalry that does no harm as no keen competion, as in other commercial affairs, is here felt except in the laudable desire to excel in the amount of production of mine wealth.

"At present West Kootenay is the banner division as far as relates to mines. The good repute of the Slocan, Nelson, Ainsworth and Trail Creek is now established, but other parts are very fast coming into prominence, and the Salmon river, Trout lake and Big Bend districts are fast coming to the front. Into East Kootenay we are seeing the great hegira of prospectors to look for other mines like the noble deposits of silver-lead ore at the North Star and St. Eugene, and the new railroad will do much to open up the resources of this vast section of mountain land.

"In Yale are great surface showings in which some work has been done, but the railroad is being impatiently awaited. In historic Cariboo I hope to see during the season big mining enterprises there, while, not to be outdone, vigorous prospecting is being done among the mountains along the coast and on the coast islands and on Vancouver island.

"This whole country is awakening to the fact that it possesses great possibilities, but how great we cannot yet surmise. We have a long way to go yet to equal some of the great mining districts in other parts of the world, but British Columbia will surely yet prove a mining country of great importance, and many who for years turned their eyes in wonder to those vast mountain ranges, will be assured, even if it does not prove to be the greatest mining country on God's green earth.

Progress During the Year.

"During the past few days I have had the pleasure of revisiting some of the leading mines of this camp, and the decided improvement and very marked advance made during the past year is most apparent, not only in the amount of work done, but in the disclosure of new and large bodies of pay ore.

"The progress made has certainly equaled the expectations of those best qualified to judge, for in those properties in which systematic development work has been prosecuted, in every mine I have yet seen, the results have been most encouraging and confirmatory of the judgment and faith held by their owners. It is true that some claims have since apparently fallen by the way side, some probably to be forgotten, others to await ample capital and experienced management, lacking which success is always most doubtful. It was not to be expected that the many claims begun a year ago could all be successful, especially when the money has not been in the treasury to carry on prospecting in a bold and fearless manner. Because two of our best mines uncovered their ore chutes, after doing comparatively little work, it was too much to hope that a shallow shaft and a little drifting on many of the other locations would make mines and millionaires, as it were, wholesale.

"All those who truly have at heart the prosperity and success of Rossland and are firmly convinced that here we shall have great and productive mines, and among those who believe so I stand ready to be classed, the subsidence in the late flurry in mining stocks will be very gratifying, as now more legitimate enterprises will be begun, and sufficient capital, I believe, will be forthcoming to develop consolidated interests which will be procurable at more reasonable prices, prices that will be paid by men who know the value of prospects and who will be prepared, after purchase, to develop other properties here as they should be developed, as further and extensive development will surely be done for the simple reason that the discovery of large and very profitable ore bodies cannot fail but be an irresistable incentive to thoroughly explore the other properties about Rossland, on which we today see the same earmarks by which the miner has been guided to the mines of wealth that have made this camp so widely and so well known.

"For this reason, now that the preliminary canter is over, and our mines are better appreciated and understood, I believe that this mining center will now begin the healthier and much more substantial phase of its existence and have a fairer chance to demonstrate the richness and permanence of the mines now opened, and also to demonstrate that these mountains have of a surety much more wealth treasured up, as it is beyond all probability that more than a part of the mineral resources of this district has yet been discovered.

"In every new camp some have to do the pioneering, many times at the risk of failure. They, with little to guide them, may make many mistakes or lack sufficient means to go a little farther, when their successors step in and reap the benefit of their labors in the completed work, and here we will in all probability see this again exemplified. But fortunately in Rossland some of the pioneers have been very amply rewarded for their grit and faith and perseverance, although everything seemed against their first efforts to prove up this district.

"The production of the Rossland mines has grown rapidly. It was $75,000 in 1894, $700,000 in 1895, $1,250,000 in 1896, and for 1897 everything points to a far greater rate of increase as the shipments will soon reach 2,000 tons a week, as the profitable shipping ore is now in sight without peradventure, and when the mines have their plants and underground workings properly arranged for the most advantageous methods of mining, the output will be greatly augmented and many more men will be required to work and handle this ore.

Two Great Mines.

"As to the mining and treatment of the low grade ores of the camp, and the establishment of smelting and reduction works here, it is yet too early to speak, but such great factors will yet be solved and I hope most favorably for this camp. If I may make mention of two mines, and I would like to feel at liberty to speak freely of what I have seen in others, I would like to state that in my humble judgment the famous Le Roi, whose dividends will soon reach half a million dollars, is now a far greater mine today than a year ago, as the ore bodies now exposed are much greater and more regular than they then seemed, while on the 500-foot level today is opened up a chute at least 450 feet long, by 6 to 16 feet wide, and to what greater width the lower grade ore may extend is not yet known, and the shaft is going down continually in high grade ore to the 600-foot level, where in the bottom I saw, yesterday, seven feet of rich sulphides. Farther to the east, where last year I could see nothing but excellent surface indications, today in the new tunnel on the Columbia & Kootenay mines can now be seen bodies of good shipping ore that rank this property as one of the most promising in the camp.

"Seeing the different ore bodies in the different mines today, we cannot but be impressed, remembering how little has really been done, that the camp has an assured and bright future, and is destined to become one of the bright jewels in the inheritance British Columbia possesses in her great mineral resources." (Prolonged cheering.)

The Mining Industry.

Alfred Woodhouse, M. I. M. M., of London, responded to the toast of "The Mining Industry." He said:

"In rising to respond on this important subject I feel sure you desire the honest impressions of personal observation, and not exaggerated statements. The mining industry must be looked upon as purely a commercial transaction, requiring the same economy and attention as any other business, for, after all, it becomes a question of how many cents does it cost to produce a dollar. The wild statements of irresponsible or interested individuals do much harm in choking off the cautious public, who are timid and easily alarmed. The capitalist, as a rule, is a shrewd, hard-headed man, and not a weak, confiding character who can be easily deceived.

"Travelling around the different centers one must be struck with the vast deposits of mineral matter. It is true many of these deposits are of low grade, but that proves the greater incentive to economy and automatic appliances by which the labor bill is reduced—every man saved meaning practically a clear gain of $1,000 annually.

"The erection of smelters and concentrators near the mines would naturally reduce the cost of production. Mines, however, require immense development to open out large bodies of ore before these expensive works are justified.

"The ores generally are smelting and concentrating and therefore this is not a poor man's mining country. However, I believe the day is not far distant when it will be possible for the small holder to sell his few tons of rock to a central or customs reduction works and thus add to the mineral production.

"The future welfare, I may say the life, of these fields depends entirely on the introduction of capital. Great outlay in development must be made before the mines can be expected to make returns. Once frighten the financial support by wild cats or false representation, it becomes most difficult to restore confidence. The history of South Africa, Australia and India proves this, and it must be remembered many other countries are trying their utmost to attract the capital to their own pet schemes.

"One hears a great deal about free-milling rock, but with two or three exceptions I have not seen such ores. It is true that from atmospheric influence some of the sulphides at or near the surface become oxidized, and then a portion of the gold is liberated, but that does not constitute a free milling ore.

"From personal examination I find your mines give every encouragement for the introduction of capital, while the easy mining laws offer inducements to the hardy prospector to travel over the steep mountains to discover their mineral resources.

"The floatation of undeveloped properties into companies is not advisable as, although for a time this system may have helped the mining industy, in many cases after deducting floatation and broker's charges, little working capital was available for development, and reconstruction becomes imperative before the mine can be worked profitably.

"Rossland would not hold its present position had it not been for the financial support of our American friends, and this financial support is a solid and crucial proof of the value of your mines.

"It is the duty of everyone to place true and reliable facts before the general public so that it may be proved to the investor that British Columbia, under her equitable laws, is worth their financial support, and that already from her deep lying riches a foundation has been laid of inexhaustible prosperity." [Cheers.]

The American Prospector.

The last of the formal toasts was to "The American Prospector," and Gen. C. S. Warren was called on to reply, which he did as follows:

"When Queen Isabella and Ferdinand pawned their crown jewels in the spring of 1492 to grub stake Christopher Columbus as a prospector, it is the first mention we have in history of the race of men who have blazed all the trails upon this continent. The locator kept the contract and declared the queen in. Upon the wind-up, however, the prospector met with the fate usual to prospectors 500 years thereafter. He acquired the experience. [Loud laughter.] After Columbus had struck the camp, as usual, there was a big hurrah, and John Cabot, Americus Vespuccius, Sir Walter Raleigh, Cortez, who prospected in Mexico, De Sota, who prospected in Florida and Mississippi, and Pizarro, who opened a new camp in Peru, followed his lead. Many of these pathfinders seemed to be shy of a grub stake for many moons.

"The landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, about 260 years after Columbus discovered the camp, seemed to revive, stimulate and encourage many industrjes, and prospects which had been closed down resumed operations. Since the landing was made at Plymouth Rock by prospectors for religious liberty they have had a host of followers, and now the prospector is recognised as the pathfinder all over the world."

General Warren then went on to describe how the prospector and miner of California and Nevada helped the Union and probably saved it. It was the wealth he produced that saved the nation's credit and made it possible to to carry out the war to a successful issue. He then referred to the guests of the evening as prospectors and paid high tributes to the services each had rendered to the miners of British Columbia.

Continuing, he said: "The prospecting expedition of Lewis and Clark, made in 1803, opened and explored an empire unequalled on earth. It has been said that nothing succeeds like success. The great success made by Fremont, Dewdney, Mackintosh and others who blazed trails, was beyond the reach of these men had it not been for the prospector. Tonight we sit around this board in a hilarious frame of mind. Do not let us forget the army of 5,000 men who are tonight making history and blazing out and laying the foundation for a new empire. These are heroes of peace. Their ancestry lie at Waterloo, Balaklava, Gettysburg, or wherever a hero has a resting place. Here is to the American prospector—from Clondyke to Patagonia—may success crown his efforts shall be our prayer."

Toasts to "The Ladies," proposed by C. R. Hamilton and responded to by G. F. Whiteman, the "Chairman," proposed by Governor Dewdney, and the health of "The Hostess," by the vice-chairman, followed. The banquet was brought to a close by the singing of "God Save the Queen" and "Auld Lang Syne."

Minister Wilson Starts for Chili.

SPOKANE, Wash., July 10.—[Special]—Henry L. Wilson, minister to Chili, and family started for his post of duty tonight. They will be 25 days in making the journey.

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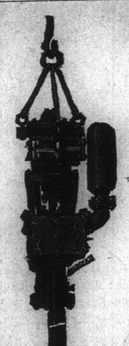

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