GET-RICH

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Subscriptions invariably in advance. THE REAL ISSUE

The public press and the politicians are driftinf somewhat from the real issue at stake in connection with the East Kootenay scandal.

Attempts have been made to juggle with the people's rights to the extent of over 600,000 acres of land in the southeast corner of the province. These attemuts have been futile because of the exposure that was made in time to prevent the land from being alienated. By the assent to bill 16 during the present session of the legislature, the crown grants have been cancelled to the lands in the air that some of them will be nifiecent timber have been destroyed in in question. The lands remain, as they always were, vested in the crown, and very properly so. While all this rescality was in pro-

gress, a large number of bona fide prosnectors, acting under the best legal advice obtainable, proceeded to locate coal and pretroleum claims. They conformed with all the requirements of the law and applied for licenses to proceed with prospecting and development work. They have a perfect and unquestionable right to their licenses but the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works has per sistently refused to issue any. His department offers as an excuse for this delay that the land in question is under "reserve." This is absolutely false, and the Chief Commissioner and the Premier know it to be false.

The crux of the situation lies in the fact that these licenses have not been issued. Because they have not been issued, the government makes the claim of the C. P. R. to the land stronger than at otherwise would be. Hence the recent conniving on the part of every member of the Prior administration. But not only does the Government persist in strengthening the hand of the railway company, the development of the Kootenavs is being seriously and grievously retarded. If the coal and petroleum ereas were open to development, the district would experience great and lasting prosperity, the cost of mining and smelting would be materially reduced by reason of the breaking of the existing fuel monopoly in which the Premier is interested, and there would be a marked increase in the provincial revenue.

If the press and the legislature really desire to see the tangle straightened out quickly, effectively and satisfactorily. unremitting efforts should be directed towards compelling the government to issue licenses to those who have complied with all the requirements of the law. The longer the delay, the worse at will be for the country.

THE PERSIAN QUESTION.

Those who have followed the course of events abroad have been aware for some time that there is a "Persian question" which must be taken into account in any broad view of the greater Eastern question which has at times of late seemed to be pressing for solution. Not very long ago a speaker in the house of commons in England, paraphrasing Metternich's famous expression about striking commentary on the coal situa-Italy, declared that "the independence tion in British Columbia. Of course of Persia is a phrase." It is pretty well the strike in the Vancouver Island colknown that Russian influence has made lieries is the reason for the present great inroads in Persia. Russian officers have been training the Persian army, provincial government had been wise in become very noticeable. A couple of ant supply available from local sources. days ago there was published at Wash- Instead of a few, there would probably ington a brief report to the secretary of be a dozen independent collieries operstate from Minister Griscom indicating ating today on Vancouver Island if the that an agreement exists between the Dunsmuirs had not been granted the coal Fersian and Russian governments under measures there. which no railroads can be constructed in Persia except by Russians or the Russian government for a period of ten blindly refuses to use this as an object years from the accession of the present lesson in its policy with regard to the Shah.

irgion came almost simultaneously with the Crow's Nest coal monopoly through ar. important announcement by Lord his refusal to grant coal licenses in the Lansdowne, the British foreign secre- Flathead and Lodge Pole districts of sian gulf. Lord Lansdowne said 'hat so far as the Persian gulf was concerned because it was owing to British enter- tons of coal instead of importing thou- punishment for the cigarette manufac- Roi. prise and expenditure of life and money sands of tons.

that the gulf was now open to the commerce of the world, and because the protection of the sea route to India ne cessitated British predominance in the gulf. Continuing, he said: "I declare fortified port in the Persian gulf by any sentiment: other power as a very grave menace to means the least important. Meanwhile, affairs in southeastern Europe continue unsettled, and the report of the reoccunation of Newchwang by Russian forces has led to the suggestion of decisive action by the powers interested.

SUCCESS OF THE IRISH LAND

The Irish land bill has passed a second reading in the house of commons. The vote was almost unanimous. No measure of equal importance ever before encountered such good fortune. The debate over it occupied nearly two days. Representative members of all parties dvocated the general principles embodied in the bill. What opposition develened in the debate was confined to minor issues. The ministerial bench was in a good-natured mood, even when opposition cropped out. No irritation was shown. The amendments recommended by the Irish Nationalists and the Liberal spokesmen are to be given due consideration. A spirit of hopefulness is adopted. If so the ways will be greased for the bill to slide easily through a as are the lumbering operations conthird reading. When it reaches the house of lords it will probably pass without much debate. The provisions of the bill are acceptable to the absentee Irish land-

of seats in the upper house. present form affects the tenants evicted forests of giant fir and cedar without from their farms for non-payment of a feeling of regret and a sense of loss. rents during the period of coercion an. The timber resources of this section tedating the framing of the bill. The are a great source of wealth and the Nationalists insist upon their restoration to their holdings, and the same privilege of buying the farms accorded them es will be given to the other tenant farmers. That means, of course, the dis- greatest care should be taken in conturbance of the tenants now in possession. But the government should not find it difficult to make a satisfactory is to guard against forest fires. The settlement with them.

The passage of the land bill promise great things for the people on both and extinguish an incipient forest fire sides of the Irish channel. It will put as the municipal authorities are to prean end to the feud of a century, and vent fire losses in a community. p'ace England and Ireland on a footing of amity, the like of which has not when the danger from forest fires been experienced by them since the sign- threatens. Until the autumn and wining of the act of union. It is to be ex- ter rains set in this danger will be conpected that the old time agitation for stant and more vigilance should be ex-Suggestions of that figured in the debate on the land bill. The Morley Liberals spread conflagrations that befell the favor its renewal. While supporting district last autumn. The virgin forthe principle of the land bill, Mr. Morley ests of the Kootenays are being invadvision for the future establishment of an army of loggers. The danger of home rule. But when that question comes up, if it ever does, after the land and at the same time the means and question has finally been disposed of and ability to fight the destroyer are inthe success of the operation of the law creased. If men at work in the forests proved, there will be none of the old could be persuaded to exercise the ably. time bitterness displayed in the debate. greatest care in the use of fire the Then, again, the passage of the land bill danger would be lessened. It is to be paves the way for an enthusiastic wel- hoped that the coming dry season will come being extended to King Edward be free from acts of negligence in such during his approaching visit to Ireland. cases, but it depends largely on the de-That is already foreshadowed. Possibly it will inaugurate an era in British politics in which no part of the Unite1 Kingdom will evince stronger proof of lovalty to the crown than Ireland itself wherein some few evidences of disloyalty have been given in the past.

IMPORTING COAL TO B. C. The importation by the C. P. R. of 10,000 tons of coal from Japan to Victoria for use on the Empress steamers, is a scarcity of coal at the Coast. but if the

The strangest feature of the whole thing is that the present government coal measures of the Kootenays. Prem-The publication of this report at Wash- ier Prior, by his persistent coddling of sary cost with coal from Pennsylvania.

EASTERN OPINION RE THE SCANDAL

The Miner herewith reproduces the opinion of the Montreal Star concernwithout hesitation that we should regard ing the East Kootenay scandal. It is garettes in his possession on the day the last year or so we have been drift- had occasion to show more than once) the establishment of a naval base or a a fair sample of Eastern Canadian

"The trail of corruption can be traced British interests, and we should certain- far and near. In British Columbia ly resist it with all the means at our light has been thrown upon a scheme disposal." This is an exceedingly defi- lately on foot by which, had it been nite speech, and without doubt it will carried out, the province would have be weighed with care in more than one handed over to a railway by way of the Bickerdike Act, is to smoke it. lay of big dividends. But in the last of the European cabinets. The great subsidy 625,000 acres of land rich in There may be poetic justice though in few months a change, marked and discriental problem comprehends many fac- oil and coal in lieu of a somewhat larfors, of which the Persian question, ger area of lands of much less value. though it has attracted less attention The proposed substitution had, it sumer. than others up to the present, is by no clearly appears, a corrupt motive back of it; for, when the commissioner of Crown lands in the late Dunsmuir cabinet hesitated about carrying it into effect, the law partner of the Attorney-General came to him with an offer of 30.000 acres of the desirable territory in question, mentioning that two members of the legislature were to be similarly squared. The minister apparently did not entertain the offer, but he kep quiet about it, and retained his seat till Mr. Dunsmuir resigned. Moreover, the Attorney-General, Eberts, whose partner made the shockingly corrup proposal, is a member of the presen Prior cabinet. An uglier scandal was probably never ventilated. When will the people of Canada wake up? That their most vital interests are imperilled by the present condition of political mortality is clear as the sun at noonday."

FOREST FIRES.

The Kootenays have suffered severely from forest fires. Millions of feet of mag this manner in the last decade Wasteful ducted in this part of the country where a superabundance of materia induces careless methods and a disre gard for the economies practiced in older provinces in the lumber industry, lords, and most of them are occupants no one can look upon the destruction The chief objection to the bill in its by fire of the Kootenays' magnificen foundation of an industry second only to mining. Wasteful methods and wanton destruction of these resource ought not to be tolerated and the serving the timber supply. The mos important precaution that can be taken provincial government should be as much concerned to prevent the spread

The season of the year has arrived home rule will be revived sooner or later, ercised this year than last in order to guard against the recurrence of wideforest fires is increased by this invasion gree of care and vigilance exercised by the men in the forests.

THE LANSDOWNE DOCTRINE

The Brooklyn Eagle says that Lord Lansdowne's declaration that Great Britain would resist the attempt of any other power to establish a fortified gulf is the strongest note struck in British foreign policy since Beaconsfield ordered Russia away from Constantibased upon any moral right. The Eagle need not go across the ocean to find a by the facts in the case. doctrine which, while confessedly based is an object of superstitious reverence to the people who uphold it. The Monroe doctrine is a positive curse to some of the South American countries which it protects from European occupation and control; and, as President Roosevelt said recently, is not recognized as whatever beyond the military and naval power of the United States to maintain it.

= OH! CRUEL MR. BICKERDIKE.

cigarette or cigarette papers

finds himself with a few millions of ci- Arizona. West Africa and Egypt. For the act comes into force, will have to ing in the financial doldrums-partly that the present conduct of the agentand all. He may not sell them! He money market, partly because of labor a useless expense. British Columbia, may not give them away! He may not troubles, partly because of over-capi- despite its superior attractions, is geteven keep them!

this idea of making every manufactinct, has come o'er the spirit of our

AS TO SPELLING REFORM

There is a new outbreak of spelling reform. Earnest persons are writing to the newspapers about it, and some newsreform their own spelling, according to the artificial rules of the learned societies. It is the old story. We are to begin with simplifying the twelve large and hard words. When we have induced all the users of English to adopt our retwelve more, and so on, until we have lightly adventured all through the dictionary from A to izzard. Will the earnling, writing and pronunciation of the English language are among the things beyond control by statute law or mass meeting resolution? We do not spell the English language. The English langnage spells itself, and we have to go along with it. It is a living organism, the development of their low workings fluid, growing, changing, like a jelly with signal success. The rich ore on fish floating in the water. We talk wisely about the laws of language; but the wisest men tell us they know little about them. If the English language, or any the diamond drill on the 1500-foot level living language, have a formative, shaping force, it is the general, unconscious consent of its users, as vague as it is irresistible, as fluid and shifting as language itself. When language begins to vield to the shaping hand of the learned academies it begins to die. When it is dead you may spell and pronounce it any way you like, as we spell and pronounce Latin and Greek. But not before.

THE VICTORIAN STRIKE. A Melbourne dispatch states that the engineers on the Victoria colony railways have concluded to go back to work ecause the drastic measure introduced in the legislature was sure to become law. The provisions of the bill are uncountedly severe, but they follow logically on the government's view that the employees of the state railways are on the same foot as other civil servants and must be under government authority alone. The same view was taken by the government of Holland, and the view prevailed there as it did in Vic-There is surely no fault to find with this opinion in regard to servants of the state. The very fact that they are the state's servants places them in a class apart from the employes of private individuals and corporations. The state's authority must be supreme within its own jurisdiction. If public railway employees were at libert to defy it the same license would be claimed by other civil servants. At all events in this as in other matters, and public opinion appears to have been with the Victorian government most unmistak-

OUR FUTURE.

Great is Rossland. The future of the camp is assured beyond all question. The mines here have experienced the ups and downs of popular approval, but the fact remains that the bodies of payable ore are of a permanent nature. The veins have been proved as the world. increasing in width with depth. Barren zones have been discovered from time to time in the course of development, but, fortunately, the extent of port or a naval base upon the Persian the barren zones is much less than the size of the shoots of pay ore. In nople twenty-five years ago. This is of the Rossland camp there is evidence ain. The News, however, does not atenounced by the Eagle as establishing of enough treasure already to equal the tempt to justify the inertia and stua doctrine made by might and not national debt of Canada. This is a pidity that is so palpably evident in the gression and brutality in Finland. It

bold assertion, but it is fully justified administration of the agent-general's is proposed to secure publication of While the veins show an increase of who is supposed to represent us in and to induce the great organs of puband in other directions its ascendancy has its generation, there would be an abundwidth with depth, they do not, however, London, has been guilty of somnifolic opinion to record their verdict upon show a very great increase in value quence, and while doing so he has got the facts. While it is scarcely hoped to the tonnage. It is scarcely reason- within range of a representative of the that the result will be the restoration able that they should under the cir- News. The inspired News would have of Finnish liberties, it is thought that cumstances. But there is an immense its readers believe that because an the protest of civilization will reach the amount of gratification to be obtained immigrant can obtain a grant of 160 czar and lead at least to some moderafrom the established fact that between walls there is no falling off in values. stricken Territories and that the Fed- stroying the ancient laws and culture international law and has no force It is now apparent and beyond contro- eral authorities offer special induceversy that whether the vein is ten ments to immigrants to the Dominion that the wide publication of the truth feet or 100 feet wide there is as much, if not more, gold, silver and copper available in the lowest as in the high- We have yet to learn of any labor reest workings. And what is still more cently that has tended to produce prac- her sway over existing nationalities. It gratifying and of infinitely greater im- tical and beneficial results in the way is desired by the leaders of the move-Mr. Bickerdike's bill to prohibit the portance is the realization that in the of promoting British immigration to ments that Finns and Finnish sympatary, in the house of lords, of the policy East Kootenay, compels the Le Roi com- importation, manufacture, or sale of lowest workings are streaks of high this province. It is also news to us thizers in new countries give their best of Great Britain in relation to the Perpany to supply its smelter at unnecescigarettes is now before parliament and grade chalcopyrites and pyrrhotites that the Canadian immigration departthat the Canadian immigration departthought to the question of making relation to the Perpany to supply its smelter at unnecescigarettes is now before parliament and grade chalcopyrites and pyrrhotites that the Canadian immigration departthought to the question of making relation to the Perpany to supply its smelter at unnecescigarettes is now before parliament and grade chalcopyrites and pyrrhotites that the Canadian immigration departthought to the question of making relation to the Perpany to supply its smelter at unnecescigarettes is now before parliament and grade chalcopyrites and pyrrhotites that the Canadian immigration departthe country, and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites that the Canadian immigration departthe country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites that the Canadian immigration departthe country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites that the Canadian immigration departthe country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites that the country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites that the country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites that the country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites and pyrrhotites that the country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites and pyrrhotites that the country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites and pyrrhotites that the country and it is difficult to imagthe properties and pyrrhotites and pyrrhotites that the country and it is difficult to imagthe pyrrhotic pyrrhotites and pyrrhotites are pyrrhotites and pyrrhotit the country, and it is difficult to imag- in point of richness equal anything ever ment discriminates against that por- sive as possible. Russia's atrocious If there were no incompetent and cor- ine how a man of Mr. Bickerdike's discovered in the camp. This is best tion of the Dominion lying west of the breach of faith with Finland is only Great Britain held a position different rupt government at Victoria, British Co- mild and benevolent disposition could exemplified in the recent development Rockies. If Mr. Turner could only sucfrom that of the other powers, both lumbia would be exporting millions of have devised such a cruel and inhuman of the Centre Star, Le Ro No. 2 and Le ceed in "jollying" desirable immigrants indignant

The bill prohibits any person to man-ments has not been fashionable lately. Meanwhile it behooves the News to reufacture, sell, keep or give away any The camp had its inciplent boom, and lie on some other source than Mr. Tur-Obviously any manufacturer who hustled off to Mexico. Oregon, Idaho. Miner is right or wrong. smoke the whole stock himself, papers because of the condition of the world's general's office is a public disgrace and Absolutely the only thing that can because development requires time, and immigration. If the office were operbe done with a cigarette, legally, under the fickle public grew impatient of de- ated upon an up-to-date and efficient turer of smokes his own smoke-con- dream. The pluck and patient industry of those who have stayed with the camp have been rewarded.

Aside from the fact that the tonnage of available shipping ore has not diminished-it has materially increased-a new era of industrial activity has been born and will soon become a demonpapers are trying to begin at home and strated reality. Concentration is the watchword. By concentration we shall have another Butte, a rival to Johannesburg. By one process or another, the several companies actively engaged in mining in this camp are preparing to attack the enormous tonnage of developed ore that has remained so long untouched. Shrewd, experienced engineers and chemists have experimented and experimented until they are thorest reformers never learn that the spel- oughly satisfied that millions of tons of low grade material is amenable to profitable treatment. By the end of the present year their plans will live in enormous local concentration works. Meanwhile everything is working

smoothly. The Le Roi people continue

the 1050-foot level is reported as holding

out in a highly gratifying manner, and

ft is rumored that the exploration of has been by no means abortive. The Centre Star and War Eagle require no comment. It is well known that these mines alone today could sustain a population of 5000 if their management were not constantly harrassed by pettifogging city officials. The Le Roi No. 2 has a proved high grade ore shoot in the Josie mine that reaches uninterruptedly from the 300 to the 700-foot level. It is one of the biggest known ore shoots in the world. But that is not all. The same company has enough concentrating ore in other workings to make it no mean rival of the War Eagle. Then there is the giant Kootenay, the owners of which are building an aerial tramway clear across the country to the railway in the Trail Creek valley, so that they may ship their thousands of tons to the smelter. The White Bear company is now justified in asking the C. P. R. and the Great Northern railways to extend their tracks to the mine, and one, if not both, has decided to comply. The of the leaders on both sides of politics Spitzee company is preparing for deep- is to confer as to what is needed withlevel mining on an elaborate scale and with excellent prospects for success. of party interests. In our opinion it is The Jumbo ompany is ready to join the not official arbitration that is wanted list of steady shippers. The Iron Mask, so much as (1) protection for free or Homestake, Crown Point, Iron Cost and non-union labor, and (2) some regulaseveral others are getting ready for tion of the conditions of labor or employwork. The Giant is steadily working ment devised not at all in the interest of and maintaining its splendid record as employers, but for the protection of the a more than self-sustaining mine. The public. leasers down Sheep Creek at the O. K. are squabbling, third parties, and more

have made a very important strike. Taking it all in all Rossland is absolutely all right. The condition of the do not find satisfactory, but let it be camp was never better. There can be done with some regard to the public inno doubt as to its future. An era of terest; and whatever rules are imposed great industrial activity has comnenced. It will continue to grow in extent until several thousand miners will soon be steadily employed. Then will follow a great and general revival. The South Belt will be eventually proved and Rossland will take her place in the front rank of the mining camps of

THE B. C. AGENT-GENERAL.

The Colonial Mining News of London criticises The Miner for its expressed treasonably to the country. the strong, well defined and unaltered dissatisfaction as to the conduct of the fissures that contain the hidden wealth British Columbia Agency in Great Britoffice. It would seem that Mr. Turner, this story in every civilized country acres of crown land in the blizzard- tion of the present policy which is deoutside of this province, the B. C. will subject Russia to universal hatred agent-general labors at a disadvantage. and suspicion, and place obstacles in as effectually as he seems to have like that of Manchuira are looked upon turers. Rossland as a centre for new invest- "jollied" the News, all would be well. with suspicion.

butterfly experts, alleged or otherwise, ner for information as to whether The

The fact of the matter is (as we have talization and wild-catting, but chiefly ting scarcely any benfits from British basis, it should be directly instrumental in sending thousands of settlers and millions of dollars to British Columbia, but we have vet to hear of a man or a dollar having been induced to come here through the instrumentality of the present incumbent.

If Mr. Turner has to be pensioned let him be voted an annuity that will keen him in reasonable comfort, but do not permit him to continue to occupy a public position which he does not fill to advantage. B. C. needs British settlers and money, and would have both in abundance if a really active and competent man were acting as our agent-general.

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR

The Toronto News very strongly advocates the passage of a compulsory arbitration act, not a merely permissive one, such as Sir William Mulock is now standing sponsor for in parliament. It quotes the example of New Zealand, which it holds we might quite safely follow. If it could be shown that a compulsory arbitration act would have the same effect in Canada as the New Zealand secretary of labor states in his last report that it has had in that colony, votes for it, we may assume, would not be hard to obtain in certain quarters. These are his words: "The effect of the act up to the present has been to greatly benefit the working classes by raising wages, by shortening working hours, and by giving (when other things such as skill, etc., are equal) preference to unionist workers." The most distant opposition to -compulsory arbitration in Canada has up to the present come from the laboring classes, who, perhaps, have good reason for doubting whether it would work in Canada precisely as it has done in New Zealand. They do not ask for incorporation or registration for their unions, or anything that would tend to fasten on them legal responsibility for their acts. They do not want any Taff Vale decisions by the courts in Canada.

Unfortunately, the question in a partyridden country like Canada is not what legislation is desirable, but what legislation the opposite party will allow to pass without converting it into a wespon of attack upon the government. The crisis which is now supervening in Canada, in common with the United States, is so grave, however, that the plain duty out any consideration, however remote. public opinion must be the final arbiter and other mines are making good or less the public at large, are suffering money, and the Velvet people claim to serious loss and often cruel inconvenience. Let men withdraw from any employment the conditions of which they on laborers as regards notice of withdrawal, let equivalent ones be imposed on employers as regards dispensing with the services of such laborers. Both employers and laborers are engaged in the service of the public, and it should not be in their power to inflict the loss and suffering they now do through their uncivilized methods of doing business with one another and regulating their dis-

> Any political party that in these days sets itself to angle for the labor vote, or for any special vote whatever, is acting

A Stockholm dispatch says that preher path, wherever she seeks to extend yet her representatives affect to be

Good times are operations of the

because it is the profits are mor because there surplus capital many have com the only victims men whose only thing for nothin reason for symp result in the f meaning people and they presur of people who own occupations tails of business

There may con one will realize scheme for maki profit would not papers if he beli until it does the. with the duty of pecting. The ge common criminal hans, than-the th en than the high better motives un They deserve no vice men have h gunning them do

Of another cla less to be said in the men and wo schemes that are en fraud, in whi for instance, that ceptional facilitie or "doping horse be declared as wron the races. the so-called v a fraud if he con of his money is general public a low But a gre been stolen from upon the promis and it is chiefly fenders that the rect their energie

CARNEGI

Andrew Carne

that Canada ha sons for believing adian population fast, and that industry is a "1 Of course, And facts. Canada i tion now in pro figure than, pro earth. There is from Andrew's west which mos ready taken not grants are flow almost faster th them. Then the se far from bei

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> THE : The Irish Lar committee whe decided. Parlia in favor of the ure if its practi

and do some t

satisfactory to ought not to l three parties in success, will b and the drift of mittee will be terest. Naturally, the gaining over w gain bill. And parties concern Irish tenant, th British taxpaye seem to have an

aging unanimi reassured by 1 tion that the ment of Ireland outlay in com number of year solutely safe.

The hope th