

ALMOST EMPHATIC NO

Rossland's Reply on the Export Duty Question.

A GREAT MASS MEETING

Strong and Sensible Speeches—What the Camp Wants is Cheaper Transportation and Smelting, and Not an Export Duty, to Build It Up.

A mass meeting of the citizens of Rossland was held in the opera house last Thursday and a strong resolution adopted against the proposition to place an export duty on ore. Stirring speeches were made by J. B. McArthur, Capt. William Hall, Edward Hewitt, Smith Curtis, Dr. Sinclair and Alfred Woodhouse against an export duty. In fact the sentiment against the export duty was so strong that when the resolution was adopted not a single person in the large audience of 500 or 600 people voted against it. The sentiment was practically unanimous.

The house was well filled at 8:30 when J. M. Martin called the assembly to order by stating that the object of the meeting was to discuss the question of having an export duty on ore. Then he invited C. O. Lalonde, Capt. William Hall, Alderman J. B. Johnson, J. B. McArthur, Alfred Woodhouse, James Breen, Smith Curtis, Dr. Sinclair and Edward Hewitt to take seats on the stage.

That the meeting was held at all was due to C. O. Lalonde, who succeeded in adjourning the meeting on Monday and rented the opera house last night so that all citizens of Rossland might be heard on a question of such vital importance to each of them.

Mr. Lalonde gave the audience a brief recapitulation of what had transpired at Monday's meeting and the chairman called on A. J. McMillan for an expression of opinion. Mr. McMillan said that he was present at the meeting held on Monday evening and had introduced a resolution on that occasion and fully expressed his views. He thought it best to withdraw that resolution in order to leave a clear field for those who were present.

J. B. McArthur Talks. J. B. McArthur was called for and was loudly applauded as he stepped forward to address the assembly. The speaker said he was greatly surprised the other day when coming from Slovan to learn that a meeting had been called to consider the question of an export duty on the copper ores of this camp. The agitation he said seemed to have been stirred up principally at Nelson. [Applause.] He held that it was not a question of duty, at present, but rather one of cheap transportation. He criticized the C. P. R. and the Minister of Railways Blair had been informed when here that what Rossland wanted was cheap transportation and cheap fuel and he promised to do all he could with the government to secure them for us. If Rossland had had the best smelting facilities she could produce 1,000 tons a day. He showed plainly that the smelter facilities, at present, are inadequate for the current requirements.

C. P. R. To Blame. The C. P. R. was offered 1,500 tons of Rossland ore per day from three mines, provided it would give this camp the transportation facilities it needed. The C. P. R. could build a railroad from Rossland to Robson for \$250,000 and this would be of great benefit to the mine owners. It was the impression of Mr. McArthur that the reason why the C. P. R. did not give Rossland what she was entitled to was because there was some sort of an understanding between that company and Mr. H. H. H. What assurance have we, he asked, but what the present smelter charges will be raised 15 per cent if the government puts on an export duty? Mr. McArthur then stated that he knew of two parties who were ready to erect smelters at some point on the Columbia river provided they can get transportation facilities. Then he introduced the following resolution:

The Resolutions. Resolved, That this meeting views with alarm the agitation for the imposition of an export duty on ores which are alone produced in the Rossland camp, which is unwise and impolitic and not at all justified by the conditions existing at the present time in this district.

That an export duty on our ores would only operate under present conditions, and so long as these conditions continue, as an oppressive tax on the mine owners and a continual menace to capital seeking investment in the purchase and development of our mining interests.

That the imposition of an export duty on our ores will not induce the mining conditions as they exist in this camp, nor would it induce capital to make investments in smelters in this district so long as the present railway facilities for the transportation of our ores and fluxes remain unchanged.

That what this camp needs now is not an export duty on our ores, but a direct and independent railway communication to some point on the Columbia river where the best smelting facilities may be obtained, and with this object in view we beg to call the attention of the federal government to the fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway company, notwithstanding the enormous subsidies which it has received and which the people of Canada have so heavily taxed themselves to pay, has failed in its obligations to this camp and to the country. Some of the large mine owners have offered a daily tonnage of 1,500 tons to the C. P. R. if it would build a line from Rossland to the Columbia river, at which point they would build and erect their own smelters, and that offer remains unanswered, although made over six weeks ago.

That before taking any action in the way of placing an export duty on ores, the governor-general-in-council should appoint a competent committee of three metallurgists to visit the several sections of country which are mining ores containing pyrite, nickel, gold, copper silver and lead, to mingle with the mine owners and get their opinion as to the best interest of Canada and its great

mineral resources; and if they find it to the best interest of the Dominion to place an export duty on ores, that they will not single out one section to place an export duty, but make it universal by placing an export duty on all ores and bullion going into the United States.

And further, that the chairman of this meeting appoint a committee of three to prepare a memorial to the Dominion government embodying these views and setting forth in detail the facts on which they are based.

When Mr. McArthur finished the reading of the resolution the applause that ensued was both long and loud.

Not a Single Champion. At this juncture the chairman arose and asked if there were any present who desired to champion the cause of an export duty on ores. If so they should come on the stage where every opportunity would be given them to speak, but not a single champion of the export cause responded.

C. O'Brien Reddin seconded the resolution introduced by Mr. McArthur. A letter to Oliver Durant from C. E. Race, editor of the Nelson Miner, was then read, in which a request was made that Rossland petition the government to place a duty on the gold copper ores of this camp.

Not Nelson's Affair. Captain William Hall, superintendent of the Le Roi mine, said the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the question of placing an export duty on ore. There would have been no agitation of the question were it not for the Nelson people and the eastern people on both sides of the line. What was most needed for Rossland was cheap transportation and not an export duty. This section had hundreds of thousands of tons of ore, but the facilities for handling it were inadequate. The conditions here were better now than they were before the Red Mountain railway was constructed, and when the C. P. R. came into the city the conditions would be still better.

When the smelter was completed at Northport he believed it would cheapen the cost of smelting. The effect of the cheapening of the cost of smelting would be in time to increase the number of people in the city from 6,000 to 30,000 or 40,000 like our sister city of Butte. [Applause.] There were hundreds of thousands of tons of low grade ores in this camp and he thought it would be foolish to place an export duty on ores simply because the Nelson people wanted it on our ores and not on theirs. [Applause long and loud.]

"As citizens of one of the greatest mining countries in the world we would be foolish to place an export duty on the same conditions prevail all around us. Take the Boundary country, for instance. They have vast quantities of low grade ores and all they want is transportation."

No Export Duty Wanted. Ed. Hewitt, the next speaker, said that since the meeting on Monday evening his views as to the propriety of placing a duty on ore had been changed by the arguments that had been presented to him. The question was one simply of transportation and the construction of the smelter at Northport simply meant a reduction in the cost of treating Rossland ores. Slovan ores had always gone to the United States and no one has been able to smelt them here. If people proposed to build a smelter at Northport, the highly subsidized C. P. R. should be compelled to give Rossland the facilities it needed.

Smith Curtis showed the fallacy of an export duty on ores at the present time and referring to Mr. Race's letter said that it did not contain a single argument worthy of consideration.

Dr. Sinclair also spoke against the export duty and arraigned the C. P. R. for its failure to do its duty toward Rossland. Alfred Woodhouse in his speech showed the foolishness of the proposed export duty and pointed out the advantage of Northport as a smelter site. The object was to get Rossland ores treated as cheaply as possible and he did not care whether it was done on the Canadian or the American side. [Cheers.] C. O'Brien Reddin called for the previous question. Smith Curtis moved that the resolution be adopted. A standing vote was called for and when the chairman requested all who favored the resolution to stand up nearly every person in the audience did so. When he asked for those who opposed the resolution to stand up not a single individual did so, and so amid much enthusiasm the resolution against an export duty was unanimously carried.

The chairman appointed J. B. McArthur, Oliver Durant and J. P. McCrea to prepare a memorial as directed by the resolution.

THE SMELTER LOCATION. Northport Selected Because \$150,000 a Year Can Be Saved.

After the meeting in the opera house last Thursday a mixer representative called on James Breen, manager of the Le Roi smelter, and asked him to make a statement of the reasons which had guided his company in selecting Northport as the site for their plant.

"One of the principal reasons," said Mr. Breen, "is that in the operation of a smelter of 300 tons capacity it will require approximately 40 tons of limestone daily to flux the excess of silica contained in the Le Roi ore. This limestone now costs the B. C. S. & R. company, whose smelter is located on the Columbia river at Trail, \$3.50 per ton. The Le Roi company at Northport can deliver a superior quality of limestone to any found in Kootenay in their works for 25 cents a ton, saving approximately \$50,000 a year in this item alone."

"We can lay down coke in Northport for \$2.50 per ton less than in Trail, and in our smelting operations we will use about 45 tons of coke per day, making a saving in this item of \$45,000 per year. "We will also save \$1.50 per ton on coal, of which we will use about 20 tons per day, making a saving of \$10,000 a year. "The cost of our plant will be reduced 25 per cent by reason of cheaper building material and freight rates, without considering the innumerable articles entering into the construction of a smelter which have to pay duty notwithstanding that the machinery comes into Canada duty free. On renewals and repairs there will be a monthly expense of \$2,500, on which there is a saving of \$2.50 per ton in freight, and 50 per cent in duties as against any point on this side of the line. The saving in this item alone will approximate \$15,000 per year. "We will save at least \$1.50 per ton on

outgoing freight. On a basis of 20 tons per day this will amount to \$15,000 per year.

"Taking these items and others which I have not mentioned, for instance the saving of \$1 per cord on wood, this represents roughly a saving of \$15,000 per year, or \$1.50 per ton of ore smelted. It is patent to everyone that this is just so much saved to the producers of ore in the Rossland district, and were an export duty placed on ore this saving would not be effected. It should also be borne in mind that besides establishing competition in smelting, the erection of the Northport plant secures a freight rate on ore of 75 cents per ton instead of \$2, as heretofore charged."

NELSON NEWS NOTES.

Two Contracts Let for Sewer Pipe—Public Schools Overcrowded.

Nelson, Aug. 11.—[Special.]—Yesterday the city council held an adjourned meeting to consider bids for the pipe to be used in the construction of the water system, but two bids failing to arrive the meeting was adjourned to this afternoon. Four bids were opened and the contract awarded to two firms whose names will be given for publication when the contracts are signed. It is thought the water system will be completed by November 1. The council also appointed Dr. D. Le Bau health officer for Nelson. His salary will be fixed later.

School matters are still in statu quo. The school opened last Monday, but the attendance was so very large the pupils were promptly dismissed. As the trustees have not yet received the school roll for this year the school is called every day and the pupils dismissed. An effort will be made to have school suspended until cooler weather, as the health of the children, to say nothing of the teachers, is suffering from the crowded to suffocation in such weather as the present. Dr. George A. B. Hall has telegraphed to the authorities at Victoria, but has received no reply.

Mining Notes.

Steve Hawkins and Louis Strand, two of the owners of the Monument group, located on the divide near the head of Lemon creek, returned to Nelson yesterday, having completed the assessment work. They brought some fine specimens, an assay of which gave 280 ounces of silver to the ton. Of six assays an average of 114 ounces was obtained. The lead, which can be traced through nine claims, is a strong and well developed one 12 feet wide. Work has been commenced on a 50-foot tunnel, which will be pushed as vigorously as possible.

The owners of the Copper Clown, left Nelson today to sink a 30-foot shaft on the lead. The clown joins the King and Copper Aggs. It is the property of John Perkins and Joseph Duhamel of Nelson.

THE PORTO RICO ROAD.

Contractor Ryan is Pushing Work on It—Bush Fires Around Ymir.

Ymir, Aug. 11.—[Special.]—Work on the Porto Rico is already well under way. Although the work was only commenced yesterday, more than a mile of the road was finished, the first portion lying near the railway track, being comparatively level and easy to grade. The difficult portions of the road lie near the mine itself, where considerable switch-backing will have to be done, besides a great deal of rock cutting. The present pack-trail is only five miles long, but the road will be six miles and will rise 3,000 feet in that distance, an average rise of one foot in ten.

W. M. Ryan, who has the contract for the road, is well known in Rossland, where he spent the greater part of last year. General satisfaction is felt in Ymir at his obtaining the contract, as he has promised higher wages than were ever paid before for this class of work anywhere in the district. He is employing all the men he can get from Ymir, and as he is also getting a lot of business here he is making a lot of his business in the town. He is also putting in a head and ranch of horses between up Wild Horse creek to the Ymir mine, and since he will give employment to local men it is sincerely hoped here that his tender will be successful.

On Saturday evening last a freight train ran into a bunch of horses between Salm and Ymir. The train was derailed and six out of eight of the horses were killed. Another engine was telegraphed for from Nelson and this on its way down killed another horse. The horses were the property of the Montana stables of Rossland and were travelling to Nelson to be used for packing business there.

A dangerous fire has been raging in Ymir for the last three days, but is now happily under control. It originated somewhere in the new part of the town towards the northwest, sometime on Saturday. Sufficient attention was not given to it in the first place and it quickly assumed alarming proportions. The bush at the back of the town being very dry was easily fired and at one time a great blaze surrounded the whole town. The men were out with buckets and succeeded in coming the fire to the east and saving the houses lying on the outskirts of the town. Now that the danger is over and the bush well burnt all around the town, everybody is glad the outbreak occurred as the town is far more secure from future fires than it was before.

A new court of the Independent Order of Foresters was instituted here last night by Messrs. J. H. Falconer and G. L. Lennox, D. S. O. R.'s, with a charter list of 28 members. After the ceremonies of institution and installation of officers were completed the brethren adjourned to the McLeod hotel where a splendid banquet was awaiting them. Subsequently several toasts were drunk and responded to by the instituting and installed officers. This is the first fraternal society organized in the town and has commenced under very favorable circumstances.

AROUND CHRISTINA LAKE.

Many Good Showings As the Result of the Season's Work.

Owners of claims in the immediate vicinity of Christina lake are doing considerable work this season and while the ledges as a rule require a good deal of surface work before any good showing can be opened up, there are several claims with good ore in sight. R. O. Cramer, W. H. Morrison, J. S. Hicks and William Beech, the owners, are working the Beech group on Shamrock hill and have two and a half feet of solid ore in the bottom of a prospect shaft on the Beech. On the Missouri

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ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The property consists of La Regina Mineral Claim, aggregating an area of about 19½ acres. TITLE—The title of this claim is vested in La Regina Gold Mining Company by crown grant. There is no lien or incumbrance against the property.

LOCATION—The La Regina is situated in Trail Creek mining division, B. C., about two and a half miles distant from Rossland, about half a mile from Milk Ranch railroad station, and four miles from Trail smelter. The claim is traversed by a wagon road connecting Rossland and Trail, is fifty feet above and about two hundred feet distant from railroad track, consequently a claim with ideal shipping facilities.

FORMATION—The formation of this claim is granite, crossed by porphyry dikes in a southeast and northwesterly direction. Along the outcrop of these dikes the country rock is stained for some distance, caused by the character of the ore, an iron pyrrhotite. The surface of the property is more or less covered by erosion and shows glacial action, but where ever the formation is bare a ledge can be traced through the entire length of the claim.

DEVELOPMENT—The development work consists of one shaft, 45 feet deep in porphyry, strongly mineralized; near the surface is oxidized matter, after this the rock carries fine grained arseno-pyrite, pyrrhotite and copper pyrites, assaying .09 gold and 1 oz. silver, with trace of copper.

Shaft 2, 32 feet deep, about 50 feet north of shaft 1, in same formation, showing exactly the same character of ore and similar returns as former.

Besides above mentioned works there is a crosscut 40 feet long, 8 feet deep, and on another place further north an open pit, partly caved, giving returns of trace of gold and 7 oz. in silver.

On each of these openings, and also on the surface, are distinct signs that the claim is cut by an ore vein, as already has been proved by finds on more developed properties surrounding the La Regina.

All the claims extensively worked around Rossland, and in the direct neighborhood of the La Regina, as the Commander, Palo Alto and San Joaquin, have furnished the proof that it is necessary to spend a certain amount of work before reaching paying ore bodies, and only a few exceptions carried higher value on or near the surface.

I have no doubt that by sinking at shaft 1 to a distance of 100-150 feet, and cross-cutting, there will be struck an ore body with good values.

ROSSLAND, B. C., July 7, 1897.

The attention of the public is invited to La Regina Gold Mining Company, incorporated for the purpose of developing La Regina Mineral Claim, with a capital stock of 750,000 shares, 300,000 of which have been placed in the treasury, and the entire balance pooled. It will be noticed how confidently Mr. Luekmann expresses his conviction in the concluding paragraph of his report as to the ultimate success of this mine.

The entire capitalization is practically intact, only 25,000 shares of Treasury Stock having been sold.

This company was organized for honest mining. The promoters are mining men. They have borne three-fourths of the expenditures for development work to date. They seek no money for "wild catting," and they have honorably sought to protect investors in the Treasury Stock by pooling every share of the promoters.

100,000 shares of Treasury stock are now offered to the public at 5 cents. When these are sold it is believed by the directors that the next block of Treasury will readily sell at 7½ cents. Please wire your orders at our expense. We are determined, with the assistance of the public, to push work with the utmost vigor.

LA REGINA GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED,
RICH'D. PLEWMAN, Sec.-Treas.

Address all communications to the Official Broker:
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The committee appointed to draft a memorial to the governor-general-in-council for the purpose of obtaining the imposition of an export duty on ores, called a meeting at the Rossland camp, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, that this memorial to the governor-general-in-council should be drafted in the following words:

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