

THE FERNIE FREE PRESS

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FERNIE, B.C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1924.

Whole Number 1326.

Crow's Nest Trading Co. Limited

OUR ANNUAL

January Sale

WILL COMMENCE

Next

THURSDAY

We are Making Special Arrangements for this Sale. We have a big stock on hand, and must move at least \$10,000.00 worth of it within ten days, so as to have our stock in shape at stock-taking. Our prices will be the lowest that high class goods have been sold at for a good many years, and we ask you to be sure and call early—and call often.

\$100.00 ABSOLUTELY FREE

Look out for our big Prize Drawing to be held during the Sale.

Get ready for the big Moccasin Dance and Carnival

to be held at the Fernie Skating Rink, Wednesday, January 16th.

UNITED CHURCH OF FERNIE — VICTORIA AVENUE

Calendar for Week Beginning Sunday, January 6, 1924.

Sunday—Combined Service at 11 a.m. A Tree with fruit unharvested: Evening Service at 7.30 p.m. A Path untrod: A House whose rooms lack yet the heart's divine perfumes: Meeting of Board of Stewards at the close of this service. This is the Year that for you waits Beyond Tomorrow's mystic gates —Horatio Nelson Powers.

Tuesday—W. M. S. will meet at the home of Mrs. Corrie at 8 p.m.

Wednesday—Junior Aid at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday—Tuis Boys at 7.30 p.m.

Friday—Choir Practice at 7.30 p.m. C. G. I. T. at 7.30 p.m.

—
"Somewhere, some way, some time each day, I'll turn aside and stop and pray That God will make this church the way Of righteousness to men."

The New Year
A Flower unblown: a Book unread:

IF THE COLD WEATHER KEEPS YOU INDOORS

Why Not

PASS THE TIME WITH A GOOD BOOK

Our Selection of Popular Reprints

AT \$1.00 EACH

Include such Well-known Authors as

REX BEACH GENE STRATTON-PORTER
HAROLD BELL WRIGHT JOHN FOX, JR.
ZANE GREY B. M. BOWER
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And Numerous Others

Zane Grey's Latest Book
"THE CALL OF THE CANYON"
Just Arrived — \$2.00 a Copy

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DRUG AND BOOK STORE

HON. DR. KING VISITS FERNIE

The Hon. Dr. J. H. King, Federal Minister of Public Works and representative of East Kootenay riding in the Dominion Parliament paid a short visit to Fernie on New Year's day with a view of securing first hand information upon the effect of the Home Bank failure in his riding. He had been advertised to appear at a public meeting here on Wednesday evening, January 2, but he was compelled to return to Ottawa immediately and could not stay as long as originally planned.

On reaching the city on Tuesday he immediately got in touch with Mayor Henderson, chairman of the Home Bank depositors committee and a special meeting was called and held in the Council Chamber the same afternoon, which resulted in a well representative gathering meeting the Minister.

Mayor Henderson occupied the chair at this meeting and after briefly explaining the object of the hurried meeting, he introduced the Hon. Dr. King, whose address was as follows:

"Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I regret that I am not going to be present with you at your advertised meeting for tomorrow night, owing, as the Mayor has intimated to you, my presence being required in Ottawa to get ready for the opening of the coming session and as one of the Western Ministers principally, I should be there, so you have been notified to meet this afternoon. I am your representative, and I come here as your representative in Parliament in order that we may discuss back and forth your disaster, because it has been a disaster, in the matter of the Home Bank. I would like to have come earlier to Fernie because I knew when the first report came, that the people of Fernie had been very strong supporters of that bank and I feared there would be many that would suffer but none of us thought that the disaster would be so great in this locality. I wish, therefore, to hear your representations and see if some means cannot be devised where we can possibly make representations that are of assistance to you so I will just be seated now and hear from you, we can talk back and forth, tell me what is on your minds in order that I may get your views and be able to represent that viewpoint for you."

On behalf of the Coal Creek depositors, Mr. B. Caufield, told the Minister that considerable arrangements had been made for the advertised meeting bearing strongly upon the cases of real distress caused by the Home Bank failure so that the Honorable Minister would hear for himself how serious the situation is. He stated that he was indeed gratified to see that the Hon. Dr. King had come to his constituency for the facts relative to the disaster prevailing here, which in itself, shows the people of this District that he is not trying to shirk his duty. Mr. Caufield then very concisely outlined some of the distressing cases of hardship and privation caused by this financial fiasco, drawing a picture in the minds of those present of the hardships the miners had to undergo in the bowels of the earth to scrape a few dollars together for a rainy day, these meagre savings had been placed in a supposedly sound Canadian financial institution which heretofore to the Canadian workman with his limited knowledge of business affairs, was a place of security for his hard earned savings, only to find he has been woefully misled. Taking the cases at Coal Creek where there was no other bank but a branch of the Home Bank, he pointed out that on account of the convenience the workers had put their money there, rather than probably lose some working-time by coming to Fernie to deposit in some other bank or Post Office Savings Bank, Coal Creek even being denied the latter consideration by the Postal authorities. "After putting money in this rotten institution," he added, "we are told we have no redress, these people at the Head of the bank took our money and gambled with it, and when they happen to back the wrong horse we have to be the losers."

Chairman Henderson then addressed the meeting, quoting many cases of dire distress in Fernie, stating that if something is not done for these people, this little city will have to provide for them the rest of their lives. Questions were asked the Honorable Minister as to what action he would take in the matter and he assured the people of Fernie and district that he would make full representations of their arguments as set forth at the

"Get Ready For The Big Moccasin Dance"

A Fancy Dress Carnival and Dance will be held in the Fernie Skating Rink on Wednesday night, January 16.

This is being given under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Fernie for the purpose of raising a children's fund. Beginning with a torch light procession, it will abound in spectacular features, novelty races, drills, and an original North Pole dance.

To assist in the success of this function and as suitable prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, it is suggested that all participants prepare or secure their costumes at an early date.

To keep the ice surface fit for dancing only moccasins or rubbers should be worn.

The school children will select the Carnival Queen.

As the proceeds of this Moccasin Dance are to be devoted to a worthy cause the support of everyone is earnestly solicited.

Program will appear in next week's Free Press.

I.O.D.E. DANCE SUCCESSFUL

The Mount Fernie Chapter, I. O. D. E. held their annual dance on New Year's Eve, in Victoria Hall.

The hall was just comfortably filled and all those attending report it one of the best dances ever put on by the chapter.

The dance was a novelty one and met with great success with everyone. Paper caps, confetti and balloons being a great source of enjoyment to all.

The New Year was brought in with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and the supper was thoroughly enjoyed by all; the members of the chapter catering was excellent.

Fernie is to be congratulated on the beauty of the younger girls of this city and nowhere could be seen a prettier picture of girls in black and gorgeous colored velvet, satin, charmeuse, metal cloth and georgette gowns, made up in the very latest fashions. Everyone had a jolly time, the musical program was very good. Socially and financially the dance was a huge success.

CUSTOMS COLLECTIONS

The Customs collections for the month of December, 1923, were \$44,252.74, an increase of \$3810.50 over the corresponding month of last year. Following is a list of the returns for the year 1923:

January	\$51,699.48
February	50,590.90
March	61,187.17
April	56,821.61
May	45,927.03
June	48,921.44
July	43,921.04
August	42,935.45
September	43,715.84
October	48,372.86
November	46,676.28
December	44,252.74
Total	\$585,019.90

meeting and that they would receive every consideration from himself.

At the subsequent meeting held in the Grand Theatre on Wednesday evening, Mayor Henderson and Mr. J. Smith, respectively Fernie and Coal Creek delegates to the Toronto meeting of the Home Bank depositors submitted reports, outlining the great amount of work which had been done in the East and of the still greater amount remaining, which must be carried out. Both were very optimistic as to the final outcome, stating that it was their firm belief that the Home Bank depositors would finally be paid the full amount of their deposits. Mr. Smith strongly praised the work and stated that there were some of the finest men in the country fighting for the depositors. He also stated that Mayor Henderson, of Fernie, was one of the outstanding figures at the Toronto meeting and that Fernie had every reason to be proud of the work he had done in the East. Mr. Henderson stated that in Mr. Clarkson and Mr. Weldon, the Home Bank depositors had secured Liquidators who would carry out their duties without fear or favor.

In the diplomatic poker game now in progress in Greece a king has been discarded with the possibility of drawing a deuce.

OLD TIMERS CROSS DIVIDE

George Hoggarth, for the past 20 years proprietor of the Cranbrook Hotel, Cranbrook, died at his home early this morning at the age of 62. Deceased was one of the most widely known old timers, not only in south-eastern British Columbia, but throughout the entire west. He came to this Province in the pioneer days of 1887, temporarily locating at Golden during the construction of the main line of the C. P. R. (Subsequently he moved to the Crow's Nest Pass and opened the first hotel in the town of Elko in 1902, when construction of the Great Northern Rexford branch was in progress. He was actively engaged in business practically up to the time of his demise although for the past year has suffered from a chronic ailment and gradually failed in health. He is survived by his widow and two sons, all of whom reside in Cranbrook.

George was a good curler and many times was a visitor to Fernie to attend the annual spels. He had a host of friends here, all of whom deeply deplore his passing.

Bruce Brown, hardware man with Parks, of Cranbrook, and years ago a Fernie resident where he was employed with J. D. Quail and later with Sheppard & Elliott, died in the Cranbrook hospital on Monday last, after a short illness. Deceased was a good citizen and made many friends who regret his death. The remains were taken east for interment.

NON-FATAL YEAR IN MINES

For the first time since the year 1900, the Coal Mining Industry of the Crow's Nest Pass District of British Columbia passed through an entire year without a single fatal accident being recorded; the year ending December 31, 1923, being entirely free from fatalities.

This speaks, in itself, very highly of the efficiency of the safety regulations now in effect at the mines in Coal Creek, Michel and Corbin and for the manner in which they are carried out by the Inspectors, Staff and Employees of these mines.

On New Year's Eve, the Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines in the British Columbia Legislature, despatched congratulatory telegrams to the Mine Superintendents in the District upon this splendid achievement; the telegram received by Mr. B. Caufield at Coal Creek reads as follows:

Copy
"11erjd 67NL Via Fernie.
Victoria, B.C., Dec. 31st, 1923.
Bernard Caufield, Coal Creek, B.C.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to extend congratulations on your freedom from fatal accidents in the operation of the Coal Creek Collieries during the past year (stop) This splendid showing speaks well for your safety regulations their administration by yourself and staff and the careful compliance with the same of miners and all employees (stop) With best wishes for the New Year.

Wm. Sloan,
Minister of Mines."

1142 1.
Toronto votes on the single tax New Year's. It is not likely to receive enthusiastic support from the bachelors and spinsters.

ELECTION PROBABLE

VICTORIA, Jan. 3.—This city is the political centre of British Columbia. Location and chacean ordained that. So, the average voter in the Pacific Province must naturally look to his Capital City to ascertain which way the political winds blow.

The Twentieth Century has witnessed many momentous years. Comparatively speaking, 1924 may be expected to eclipse all preceding years in many ways, and from a purely political viewpoint this is true.

Before this New Year has given way to another, political history in British Columbia will have been made and recorded. And while politics are often considered apart from national and provincial development, the fact remains that the two are one.

It is absolutely essential that at this stage of British Columbia's growth, a strong, progressive, virile administration should be in power.

The party system of politics has been the foundation of Anglo-Saxon national life. Just as Christianity revolutionized the world, so have Anglo-Saxon principles of government and justice dominated, the latter being the logical sequel of the former. The truth of this is forcefully illustrated by the adoption of those principles by practically all progressive nations.

Where third party—Labor, Progressive, Socialist, Soviet or Independent—have sprung into existence, they have invariably materialized through a temporary disruption of old-time party practices, which have caused a demand for reform—not of acknowledged party principles, but a reform from the digressions directly responsible for that disruption.

Today in British Columbia a third party has sprung into being, but the elector alone can decide the genesis of the movement. If founded upon sincerity it will prevail, but if grounded in self ambition or motivated by the lust for personal profit the movement must naturally fail.

Probably before another winter comes, a general election will be held. The wisecracks names 'September as the logical month. Meanwhile, a royal commission will pass judgment upon the Oliver Government and the Conservative Opposition Leader. That white elephant, the P. G. E. Ry., is the "ace in the hole," and the political prophet, who is often not without honor, even in his own country, forces the complete vindication of the Oliver administration, as well as the Opposition Leader, and the consequent downfall of the aspiring McRae forces.

COLDEST SNAP IN TEN YEARS

Saturday morning, December 29th, ushered in a cold spell which chased the mercury down the lowest it has dropped in Fernie for ten years and up to the time of going to press, the red line has been unable to crawl up above the zero mark.

The readings of the Government thermometer since the 29th have been as follows:

Dec. 29	— 4	Below
" 30	— 13	"
" 31	— 32.5	"
Jan. 1	— 37	"
" 2	— 29	"
" 3	— 35	"
" 4	— 32.5	"

The coldest days on record in the past ten years were January 12, 1916, and December 14, of last year, when the mercury dropped to 35 below. Following is a list of the coldest days recorded in the ten year period:

1914-15	— Jan. 27	— 14.5
1915-16	— Jan. 12	— 35
1916-17	— Jan. 31	— 27.5
1917-18	— Jan. 31	— 29
1918-19	— Feb. 24	— 28.5
1919-20	— Dec. 12	— 32
1920-21	— Feb. 6	— 10.5
1921-22	— Feb. 24	— 23
1922-23	— Dec. 14	— 35
1923-24	— Jan. 1	— 37

The precipitation for 1923 was 137 inches or one inch greater than the previous year.

CHRIST CHURCH

Sunday, Jan. 6, 1924. Epiphany.
11 a.m.—Choral Communion: "Facing the New Year."
7.30 p.m.—Even Song: "Wishing Time."
2.30 p.m.—Sunday School.
3 p.m.—Divine Service at Coal Creek