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PAX VOBISCUM.

Now that the strike is over, there is no disposition on the part of the Miner to keep up any feeling in reference to the matter. We had a duty to fulfil, and, if in the performance of that duty, at times our criticisms were considered harsh, we plead in justification the tremendous issues that were at stake and the desire upon our part of laying bare all the facts in order that a discriminating public might judge as to the true conditions surrounding the matter. We have all read of the disastrous effects that follow upon the declaration of a strike, especially upon a community whose life industry is affected, as was the case in Rossland. During recent months the citizens of Rossland have had a living illustration of what a terrible thing a strike is. The wretchedness and misery that have been entailed upon many an innocent household in this city is enough in itself, not to speak of the terrible harm that has been done to our citizens as a whole, and the blow that has been struck at the mining industry of British Columbia, to call for more than earnest thought and consideration upon the part of those who both rule and are members of labor organizations before they are tempted to follow in the footsteps of those who were and are responsible for the conditions that have existed here since last July.

We have no quarrel with labor organizations and disclaim any antipathy to them. But when the men at the head of a labor organization, such as the Rossland Miners' Union, prostitute the very principles that underlie the foundation of every society organized for mutual benefit and protection, we think that we were fully justified in taking the stand that we did, not only in the interest of the community generally but in the interests of organized labor itself. How can organized labor hope to advance the interests of those it represents if it allows its leaders to disregard the very foundation of its existence, its constitution and by-laws? What organized labor should strive for is the advancement and amelioration of the condition of its members; and this cannot be effected without securing a bond of sympathy between its members and the citizens of the community in which it exists. Union is strength, but strength without sympathy is a negative quantity. There has not been since the inception of the Rossland strike that unanimity of feeling existing amongst the members of the Miners' Union that should have existed. A most respectable minority of the members of the union has been out of all sympathy with the strike; there has been little, if any, sympathy upon the part of the people of Rossland. In the absence of sympathy from both without and within the organization, how could the promoters of the strike look for success?

We trust the warning will have its effect upon the branches of the Miners' Union in other parts of the province and that they will profit by the sad experience of their Rossland brethren.

Let peace and harmony now prevail. Let people forget and forgive. Let neighbors assume their old-time friendships, shake hands and blot out the past. There is work and room for all good people here. A new era of prosperity is about to dawn upon our city. Rossland is acknowledged to be the premier camp in British Columbia; and it should be the duty of all citizens now and henceforth to lend their best efforts towards restoring Rossland's prosperity and in insisting upon bygone being bygone, so that confidence can be restored in all directions.

We commend the good judgment that has at last prevailed and permitted the vote to be taken by the members of the union; and its result speaks louder than words of the feeling that now generally prevails. "Pax vobiscum," we say to the good citizens of Rossland. Pax vobiscum.

THE KAFFIR MINE REVIVAL.

Under the above caption Bradstreet's publishes an interesting article on the incipient boom in South African shares which has been started in London. Symptoms of such a movement were duly noted before the beginning of the new year, and it has now developed into an active speculation which engrosses the attention of the foreign financial public and puts other classes of securities, including American railway stocks, completely in the background. While the rise in the quota-

tions for stocks of the Rand gold mining companies has been on the whole moderate, it appears to be continuous and well sustained. According to the foreign financial newspapers it is, however, as yet mainly speculative. Up to the beginning of the year the principal buying of the Kaffir stocks has been for interests in close touch with such properties, and it was also noted that despite the public prejudice against England's course in connection with the South African war through-out continental Europe, French and German speculators were prompt to recognize the prospect of an improvement in the situation so far as the Transvaal gold fields were concerned, and were heavy buyers of the stocks of South African gold mining companies. There, however, seems to be no reason to doubt that the continuation of the rise and the increased activity shown in this department of the London stock market indicates that the British public has been impressed, and that it is again investing its accumulations in securities of this description.

No accurate reports are yet at hand regarding the probable output of the Rand gold mines during the opening months of the year. All accounts agree, however, that Johannesburg is resuming a normal state and that the population which centres in that district, and which is almost entirely engaged in the mining industry, or in pursuits auxiliary thereto, is fully protected from the danger of interruptions on the part of the Boer forces still in the field. Additional mines have been put in order and recommenced operations, and the impression gains ground that, under British rule, the mining industry of the Rand will be fostered. To the prospect that, even if the war is concluded, taxation will bear heavily upon the mining industry, the plea is opposed that such taxation cannot be in the aggregate greater than the exactions, direct and indirect, which the managements of the gold mining companies had to endure during the time of Boer supremacy. Moreover, it is claimed that in many respects great advantages will accrue from better regulations covering many essential features, such as the matter of native labor, and that in this way companies which heretofore exhibited a small margin of profit will exhibit a considerable increase in their net earning power and thus be enabled to develop a better dividend-paying capacity than in the past. An example of this is afforded by the enforcement of stringent regulations in regard to the furnishing of intoxicants to the native labor employed by the mines, a matter in which the Boer government was described as exceedingly derelict, to the demoralization of the native laborers themselves and to the heavy cost of the mining companies. In the same way lower rates of transportation on the railroads are promised, and, because of this and other changes in conditions, the leading interests identified with the Transvaal gold mining industry express a confidence that they will hereafter be able to work the mines at a greatly decreased cost. It is on expectations of this character, as well as on the favorable results of further exploration work tending to show the continuity of the Johannesburg gold-bearing reef, that the present improvement in prices and activity in the London gold share market is based.

FALSE TEACHERS.

Two authors, a poet and a novelist, have recently indulged in remarkable performances for which it is impossible to assign any other intelligent reason than an insatiable desire for notoriety. "The Islanders," a poem by R. Kipling, published in the London Times, is a fierce attack on Englishmen at home for their alleged lethargy, and for their defective system of military training.

"Ye hindered and hampered and crippled;
Ye thrust out of sight and away
Those that would serve you for honor
And those that served you for pay."

We have always been under the impression that "the Army, Navy and Volunteers" were the idols of the British nation. We are not poets, and only judge by the outward appearance; and when we hear the multitude shouting with delight at the mere "march past" of a regiment, or when we see parliament providing lavishly for their needs, we must now understand that such doling are mere subterfuges, and do not indicate any real admiration for Tommy Atkins. Mr. Kipling seems to regard it as infamous that the rank and file of the soldiers, sent to South Africa, were young men. He stood by, grieved at heart.

"When your strong men cheered in
their millions
While your striplings went to the
war."

And yet, a few lines further on, he derides the striplings who remained at home as

"Planned fools at the wicket
Or muddled oafs at the goal."

We do not suppose that this new military expert means to suggest that all the middle-aged men of Great Britain should have been shipped, holus-bolus, to the war. Nor have we yet heard that there was any dearth of recruits whenever the lists were thrown open. What useless palaver it is to cry down such manly pastimes as cricket and football! Are not such exercises valuable to the youth of any country, even as a training for war? Rudyard Kipling ought to know that it is largely by these very exercises that both officers and men in the British army keep themselves in fit condition. The poet points derisively to the care which Englishmen take of their horses, and the skill which they exhibit in shooting game, and yet he has not the fairness to give them credit for these useful accomplishments.

"Ye fawned on the younger nations
For the men who could shoot and ride."

It may well be that the military system of Great Britain will bear improvement; but we do not think that Mr. Kipling's incongruous and inconsistent attack upon the men of England, old and young, will add at all to his reputation.

The other performance to which we would refer in an address delivered by the novelist, Hall Caine, at the Industrial bazaar of the Trades and Labor Council of Manchester.

Mr. Caine has convinced himself, or wishes us to suppose so, that Socialism (whatever that indefinite term may mean) is the one cure for all our disorders, mental, physical or spiritual. He has also discovered that the press and the church, which ought to be foremost in fighting the good fight of (Mr. Caine's) faith, are cowardly soldiers, or rather that they have not enlisted at all.

The novelist is reported to have said:

"The labor movement in Great Britain is contending against two unexpected adversaries—the press and the churches. Strange and pitiful anomaly that the press of a country, which is the voice of the people, the press, which is the parliament of the people, is often the first to oppose the people, and all but the last to join them. Strange still, and yet more pitiful, that the church, which is the tribunal of the people, because it is the platform of the church, and ought therefore to be the sounding board of the teachings of Christ, is too often the enemy of the people where they come into collision with the powers he came to destroy. Yet so it is, and though, as a journalist who thinks the debt of the public to the press is deep and lasting, and as a believer who thinks religious faith, essential to the welfare of humanity, I should be sorry to do anything to reduce the authority of the press or of the churches, I cannot but say that both have been impediments to the movement in which the people are struggling for their rights."

"The English press is the reverse of a corrupt press, but it would be folly to pretend that it is an independent press. Its interest always lies on the side of the existing order, and it cannot be expected to play the part of pioneer in a social and economic change. Its foundation is a commercial foundation, and it must not be looked to as a possible martyr in any social cause whatever. Every cause requires its martyr, but the English newspaper press is not built for martyrdom."

"The labor program is a profoundly religious and Christian propaganda; whoever and whatever its leaders may be, and the powers that are against it are profoundly irreligious and pagan, whoever and whatever their advocates are. Let us adhere to this claim, no matter what opposition we meet with. Whatever they call us—Democrats, Socialists, even anarchists if they please—let us continue to claim the Gospel for our charter, and the teaching of Christ as the basis of our social message. With this message, as it expresses itself from time to time in the problems we are called to consider, let us meet all our difficulties, knowing that our appeal is to the conscience of man, that the conscience of man is the true expression of the divine, and that sooner or later in God's good time, the divine must prevail."

One can well imagine the applause which would greet the above denunciations from the particular audience which Mr. Caine was addressing, men who probably read the Times as seldom as they attended church. We do not think the reading or church-going public will take much stock in such utterances, for they know the falsity of them. If by the term, the Press, Mr. Caine only means the London Times and a few other newspapers, let him say so, and we can at least accept his statement as to the views taken, rightly or wrongly, by these journals. But if he means all the press, his statement is palpably untrue, for even Socialists have their friends and their journals.

Then with regard to the churches. What would this new teacher have them do? Liberty of thought, which we all recognize, entitles Mr. Caine to his belief that the labor program is a profoundly religious and Christian propaganda. But it also entitles other people to believe that the labor program is nothing of the kind, but is in truth a plain business proposition from beginning to end. "What are the churches doing," asks Mr. Caine, "at this moment to promulgate in the midst of the war the doctrines of peace?" One must either suppose that Mr. Caine never attends church, and never hears the Gospel of peace read or preached, or else that he thinks the churches should take sides whenever a war (whether national or industrial) arises.

The duties of the churches, as we understand them, are to teach the principles and practices of the Christian life, as laid down by the Great Teacher,

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whose authority Mr. Caine professes to recognize. Did He take sides in individual quarrels, and pronounce in favor of one or the other party? By no means. When He was appealed to by a disputant in regard to an inheritance, His answer was: "Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?" In other words, Christ taught the principles which must be applied to all human conduct, and the churches simply follow His example.

DEATH OF J. RODERICK ROBERTSON.

The news of the tragic death of J. Roderick Robertson in New York yesterday came as a great and sudden blow to the people of British Columbia. He was perhaps the best known mining man in the province—not only because of the interest which he took in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the industry, but because he himself as managing director of the London & B. C. Goldfields company, had been eminently successful in all his undertakings and personally did much to maintain the prestige of British Columbia as a mining centre of importance. In the prime of life, of a cheery, genial and whole-souled disposition, everywhere J. Roderick Robertson went he was welcomed by a host of friends; and on all sides yesterday the one expression was: "British Columbia has met with a great loss." It has. Mr. Robertson did a great deal for British Columbia. He had great faith in the mineral resources of the province, and was so fortunate as to be able to demonstrate to the capitalists who entrusted him with the expenditure of their money that his faith was well grounded. He will be much missed; and the sympathy of a host of friends will be extended to the bereaved widow and family of the deceased in their hour of sudden and terrible sorrow.

"FATHER PAT."

"Father Pat" is dead. We believe it is not possible by the use of four words to convey sadder tidings to the residents of southern British Columbia. The news of the passing away of a man whom every one loved came most unexpectedly. He was on his way home to the old country, having left the Fairview district only a few weeks ago; and the news of his untimely death under peculiarly distressing circumstances at Montreal came as a shock to his host of friends and admirers in this section of the country. "Father Pat," or, to speak more correctly, Rev. H. Irwin, was a remarkable man. If one were to attempt to say in which respect he differed from his fellows, one could not put it better than to say he lived every hour of his life up to the golden rule—"Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you." He was a believer in the putting into practice in every-day life of practical Christianity. Wherever sorrow was manifest or sickness had stricken down the unfortunate, there was "Father Pat" with his cheery smile and open purse to help the distressed. It is quite true to say that he was the most beloved man in British Columbia. It would require columns of space to recount the noble deeds performed by the noble man who has just passed away. We sincerely hope that some one who knew him more intimately than the writer will take early occasion to write a faithful history of the remarkable career of one whose name ought to be perpetuated for all time in the annals of the province as a man who gave the best of his life to the aid of all who came under his notice who were in need of human assistance.

With commendable promptitude the citizens held a meeting yesterday evening for the purpose of discussing how best to do honor to the memory of noble "Father Pat." The decision to take active steps at once towards making some public recognition of the splendid services he rendered to his fellow-man in this section of the province will without doubt meet with hearty approval everywhere, and the necessary funds for the carrying out of the purpose which the committee has in view will be forthcoming immediately.

CONDITIONS IN THE YUKON.

Henry A. Miers, D. S. C., F. R. S., Waynflete professor of mineralogy in the University of Oxford, in an official report to the minister of the Interior, Hon. Clifford Sifton, has much to say of interest regarding conditions in the Yukon. Regarding the failure of English capital which has been invested in the country to get returns, he says that it is a matter of common knowledge that the failures connected with English capital have been particularly disastrous; a peculiar fatality seems to have pursued English capitalists in the Klondike region. It is frequently remarked upon in the district and always deplored that it was not necessarily due to want of judgment in selecting claims. This is clear from the fact that in several instances the very ground which failed to yield a return to an English company has subsequently been taken up and profitably operated by others. The workers on the creeks who are in

a position to know are not only unanimous in confessing the fact, but they are also unanimous in ascribing a cause to it. They declare that the men who were sent out to represent the interest of the English companies either in many cases lacked the judgment and the stability of character which were needed, or had not the interests of their employers at heart. There is probably no place in the world where a young or inexperienced man may more easily lose his balance, spend his money and forget his business, than in Dawson. From all accounts, companies which possessed really fine property were in some instances wrecked because their affairs were ruinously handled by their representatives. A short visit to the country is sufficient to convince anyone that these disasters did not take place because the district was poor or in any sense played out, but that the capitalists have themselves to blame. Nothing is more remarkable than to witness the successful operations of those enterprising men, who, without previous experience in mining, or even in the employment of labor, have come to the front as directors of large mining concerns, involving the construction of machinery and the organization of labor. Prominent examples are afforded by some of the workings alluded to above. Unless English and other companies realize that the conditions are new, and that in order to master them energy, enterprise and adaptability are required; unless they send out industrious men possessing these characteristics devoted to the interests of their employers and capable of profiting by the experience of the inhabitants, they will either fail to acquire good properties or will mismanage those which come into their hands. There is an abundance of men in the Klondike who have proved themselves capable of mastering the new conditions, and there is room for many more.

THE "FATHER PAT" MEMORIAL.

No doubt a very ready response will be made by the people of British Columbia generally to the call issued by the citizens of Rossland for subscriptions to be utilized in the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of good "Father Pat." We do not think we misinterpret the situation when we say that it will be unanimously agreed upon by the residents of this section of the province that Rossland should be chosen as the spot in which may most appropriately be erected this suggested mark of recognition of the deeds of a noble man. Opinions differ as to how best to commemorate the memory of one who strove so successfully to carry out the teachings of the Great Master. Among the suggestions that have been offered we think by far the best one is that the fund raised should be utilized for the purpose of erecting a memorial clock in some suitable place in the city of Rossland. If the idea were carried into effect it is likely that with the consent of the Dominion government an arrangement could be made whereby a clock tower could be erected upon the new postoffice building in this city and facilities thus obtained for the placing in a prominent position of the "Father Pat" memorial clock. As far as the Miner is concerned, it believes this to be an excellent idea. And in this connection we may here state that it has come to our knowledge that Mr. Lorne Campbell, of the West Kootenay Power & Light Company, has very generously come forward with the offer, on behalf of his company, to light the clock for a period of five years free of charge. It is eminently fitting that Rossland should be chosen as the point for the erection of a memorial in honor of good "Father Pat"—not only because it is the pioneer mining camp of the Kootenays—but because it was here that he performed most of his self-sacrificing acts in the relief of the distressed and the unfortunate. He enjoyed more than a local reputation for his kindly deeds and whole-souled Christian sympathy to the unfortunates who came under his notice. And for that reason we anticipate a speedy response to the appeal which has been made to the people of British Columbia to come forward and assist in erecting some suitable mark of appreciation to the memory of a good and noble man. But local sentiment ought to cut no figure in the matter at all. If it be contended in reason that some point other than Rossland should be chosen as the site for the erection of the suggested memorial the people of this city—if we accurately judge their feelings in the matter—will not indulge in any quibbling. The chief idea in the minds of all of us is to arrange that Southern British Columbia shall show that it is prepared to honor the name of a man who gave the best of his life to the betterment of humanity, in so far as he was able. We suggest that the various newspapers throughout the province take this matter up and open lists for subscriptions.

THE PREMIER'S VIEWS.

We publish in this issue, from the columns of the Victoria Colonist, a letter which Hon. James Dunsmuir has made public over his own signature, in which he states very clearly the position of his government in respect to the relation between the Dominion and the Province. With much of what he says we fully agree. He contends—and we think very properly—that justice has not been done and is not being done this province by the Dominion government. And he pleads for better treatment in the future. On that point we are all agreed. Looking at the matter calmly and soberly, it is hard to understand just why British Columbia should be made the milch cow for the rest of the Dominion—but so it is. It is a matter of common knowledge that the revenue obtained by the Dominion from British Columbia is enormously greater per capita than from any other province in the federation. Mr. Dunsmuir very properly points out that at the time of entering confederation British Columbia occupied an unique position compared with the other provinces—for this reason: It was a virtual terra incognita, had a sparse population, widely scattered, and at the same time required enormous expenditures of public funds in order to provide the ordinary facilities for communication between different sections and opportunity of the country. As a consequence each government of British Columbia found itself hampered for funds. The revenue did not meet the expenditure, nor could it logically be expected to; but at the same time the Dominion government was drawing enormous revenue from what may be termed its federal franchises. Premier Dunsmuir protests against the continuation of this condition of affairs; and we are in hearty sympathy with him. His letter, which we publish in another column, is well worthy the perusal of all who have the true interest of British Columbia at heart.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts State Board of Trade held recently in Boston to discuss the subject of reciprocity with Canada, one of the speakers, Col. Albert Clarke, had a word to say in praise of Canada. He said: "The most and best we can do is to declare our general willingness to try to find common grounds for improving present conditions and to cultivate all the amenities of friendly competition. Whether Canada is doing better or worse under one political and commercial relation than it might do under another, is no concern of ours. It is a great country, inhabited by a noble and progressive people. We rejoice and profit in their prosperity, and we desire nothing that would in the least impair it. Years by years our relations become closer and closer. Canada occupies only fourth place as our best customer among the countries of the whole earth—the United Kingdom being first, Germany second, and France third. From this and other causes our relations with the Mother Country are friendlier than ever before. There ought not to be any great difficulty in three such peoples coming together, and removing all slight causes of friction and all obstacles in the path of mutual progress. It can never be done by outwitting each other, or by any form of coercion, or by sacrificing any of each other's interests. It must be done upon the basis of mutual respect and the conservation of each other's several industries. Thus the prosperity of each will be minimized instead of magnified, and by and by it will be possible for the great kinship, whose liberty and progress date from the Magna Charta, to do anything which it may need to do to help the world along."

The election of Mr. George Riley, the Liberal candidate, to the seat in the commons rendered vacant by the resignation of Colonel Prior, at Victoria, yesterday, will cause great rejoicing in Liberal circles throughout the province. To Mr. Riley belongs the honor of rescuing Victoria from the clutch of the Conservatives for the first time since confederation—and this is an achievement which may well cause rejoicing among the Liberals. Most people thought the Conservative candidate would make a better showing.

The Yukon council has forwarded to the governor-general-in-council a memorial in which it presents the following requests: Representation in the senate; the addition of five elected members to the present Yukon council; the division of the territory into electoral districts, and the setting apart of money for election expenses and members' traveling expenses; control of the liquor traffic in the Yukon; the nomination of an inland revenue officer in the Yukon; the right to establish breweries; the setting apart of funds for the maintenance of schools and roads; the right for the Yukon council to adopt all ordinances relative to Yukon matters independently of the Ottawa government, which, however, should retain the right of veto on Yukon statutes.

J. R.

The Mana fields

Crushed Hotel

NEW YORK, J.

The neighborhood street and Fourth Avenue were crowded with five people were hundred more or terrific explosion of dynamite in the derelict excavation at the corner of Men and women who the three big hotel on the corner of Manhattan, in which were blown out at Every store and private dwelling shook from the eaves and doors, and persons were injured. Murray Hill hotel and the Grand Central station. One guest of the Robertson, a wealthy man, was killed in the floor at the corner of the explosion. He and crushed him down was also small iron stones of a terribly mangled man possibly instantly by Father Smith, department.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. In the Park avenue Transit tunnel in after noon caused persons. At least serious damage, including the Manhattan eye the Grand Union street station on street.

J. Roderick Robertson, B. C., was killed by his room in the Murray Hill hotel, the London & British Columbia company. He and leaves a family of children.

The approach to the tunnel, used by the line, cuts through the shaft for the subway was run down the intersection of East. The street railway housed over with a for the operating Transit contractors. Ings for storage purposes were thrown up a structure at the end and there the exploded a great street, demolished buildings and passenger structure and sent timber and iron high of the went against the hotel, and although structure of that shock, nearly every of the house was abandoned. The partitions in the Grand Union Hotel were shattered. The towers of the station their cases. Thousands of them were tunnel shaft, were shower of broken debris injured a great number. Every available district was quickly and numbers of people treated on the spot.

The cause of the definitely known. Several advanced, but take an official matter up. The mine was that a fire powder room, in which dynamite was stored, that Master Mechanic was killed after an attempt to quench reached the explosion. Jerome visited once and commenced. He examined witnesses, and the Grand Union Hotel, engineer work at Park avenue, foreman, and Martin, distant foreman, arrested charged with the damage.

The first estimate of the damage placed the loss at \$40,000. If the building was lost on it will be a loss to the Grand Union of \$40,000, and a loss to the Grand Union of \$25,000.

Fortunately the people were in the Grand Central station. These were slight damage, four killed. The offices of the did not suffer as have offices. There was a clash between District