

Rossland Weekly Miner

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THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE WEEKLY ROSSLAND MINER for all points in the United States and Canada is Two and one-half Dollars a year or One Dollar and fifty cents for six months or all other countries Three and one-half Dollars a year—invariably in advance.

A COMPARISON.

The editor of the Nelson News, who would hardly be employed to give an expert opinion on a mining proposition, in an article on the two per cent tax says:

... as the average of the tax on the low grade ores of such mines as the Iron Colt, Iron Horse, Virginia, Mascot and Kootenay is eight cents a ton. As none of these low grade mines produce ore of the average value of \$6 a ton, from which is deducted a freight and treatment rate of \$4 a ton before the two per cent tax is levied, the average man cannot be made to understand how the two per cent tax can be made to amount to eight cents a ton on ore that is only worth \$2 a ton at the mine. The payment of the two per cent tax will cut no more figure in the profitable working of the low grade mines at Rossland than it does in the working of the low grade mines in the Boundary.

Regarding the same subject Mr. William Thompson, manager of the Rossland and Great Western and allied mines, and whose opinions are courted and quoted, said in an address at the banquet given to Hon. Mr. Prior:

"Now, let us cross Centre Star gulch and examine Monte Cristo and Kootenay mountains. We find low grade ore there, consisting of heavy sulphide of iron, carrying medium gold and silver values and low copper. These ores carry an excess of iron over their silica contents, ranging from 20 per cent to 45 per cent, making them a most favorable flux for lead smelting operations, and when I say there are hundreds of thousands of tons of this ore blocked out in these mountains in the various mines, such as the Kootenay, Monte Cristo, Iron Horse, Iron Colt, Mascot, Virginia, etc., not a ton of which is being shipped to the smelters, I do not overstate the fact.

"Let us take, sir, for your information a characteristic ore. We will say one-third ounce gold, one ounce silver and one-half per cent copper; such ore carrying an excess of iron is easily smelted, particularly self-fluxing, for which the most favorable smelting rates can be secured. One like this would be worth, at the present New York quotations for metals, \$3.50 per ton, and after paying the smelting charges, with the usual indirect deductions, would yield to the shipper in the vicinity of about \$4 per ton. It would cost probably \$3 to \$3.50 per ton to mine such ore in quantities of about 250 tons per day, leaving only 50 cents profit for the miner. There is no reason why investors in British Columbia should not be satisfied with a permanent profit of 50 cents per ton, for, as we have already seen, the investors on the other side of the line are satisfied with similar profits; and when I say permanent profit I mean permanent profit, because I feel satisfied that we have mines here that would pay from eight per cent to ten per cent profit per annum for an indefinite period under favorable circumstances.

"I want to ask you, sir, what would be the effect of the present method of taxation on such properties as those I have cited? Two per cent on \$4 per ton is eight cents, or about 17 per cent of the net profit which the capitalists would have to turn over to the province of British Columbia as their share for the privilege of extracting this ore."

FALLEN HEIR TO A MILLION.

An interesting case comes through a private source from the vicinity of Republic. Two well-known prospectors, who have made the reservation their headquarters the past six years, prospecting and locating claims, have fallen heir to valuable property in the middle west, said to reach the million mark. The lucky men are C. C. Post and Alexander H. Case, uncle and nephew. They have operated mostly in the vicinity of Iron Mountain and Quartz Mountain, about ten miles southeast of Republic, where they own several claims, and have stuck to the country up O'Brien Creek through good and bad report. During the harvest season they have been in the habit of going to the fields in the Palouse for a time, after which they would return to their first love in the hills. Cal and Alec will be congratulated by many old time prospectors who have eaten bacon and beans with them by the campfire.

MR. HOUSTON'S NEW PAPER.

The Miner is in receipt of a prospectus issued by John Houston stating that he will resume the publication of the Nelson Tribune. He does not state whether it will be a daily or a weekly publication, but we understand from a private source that it will be started as a weekly, and we sincerely hope that he will soon be able to push it into a daily. It is understood that the Nelson Daily News will cease publication after the end of this week, the business men of Nelson falling to come to the support of a daily paper. They will probably soon see their mistake, and may rally to the support of Mr. Houston.

FAST AUTOMOBILES.

The automobile accident reported in our dispatches yesterday morning, whereby Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fair lost their lives, will perhaps teach a lesson. We are told that the automobile was going at the rate of 62 miles an hour, being capable of going 74 miles. It is not many years since 60 miles by an express train was considered the limit, if not the danger point, and that too on rails with an even surface. The average railway speed may be placed at 30 miles an hour, which is getting over the ground fast enough, and in many places it is not safe to reach that speed. The automobile does not have the even surface of rails to glide on that a railway train has, but must trust to good roads, with occasional uneven surfaces, to travel over, and the wonder is that more accidents have not occurred in the different racing events with them that have come to our attention. France is noted the world over for her long stretches of good roads, but even there there must be a limit to speed.

We hear a great deal nowadays about fast steamship lines, fast yachts, fast horses, fast express trains, fast automobiles, etc., but when speed is sacrificed to safety it is time to call a halt. This remark applies generally where passenger service is given, which in the main is satisfactory, although occasionally we hear of an accident of a train jumping the track through overspeed, and people killed and injured in consequence.

In the case of Mr. Fair and his unfortunate wife it was entirely his own doing, as much as we may dislike to record it. With him it was a bad man, as can be said of many other rich men who own high-speed automobiles. Some of them will probably now take a tumble.

TWO PER CENT TAX.

The Nelson News still continues to explode its opposition to the agitation for the abolition of the two per cent tax and uses the current slang phrases of the day in its argument. The esteemed journal seems to blissfully forget and ignore the question at issue. We might just point out to the News that the agitation is not being carried on alone by the mine managers but also by the mine workers and all those who have interests in this section. The reason for this opposition to the tax is because it has been demonstrated by some of the best mine managers that it is at present impossible to mine and mill the lower grade ores of the camp at a profit largely on account of the heavy tax. The working miner recognizes that on account of the non-shipping of the low grade ores of the camp his chances of steady and regular employment are becoming more uncertain, and the mine owners are aware that if they are compelled to ship only their higher grade ore that the cost of mining the comparatively narrow ledges of profitable ore will gradually become higher. Under the present conditions it is not difficult to foresee that there are many contingencies ahead which will have to be met. If in the course of time the cost of mining the higher grade ores becomes excessive on account of the inability to ship those of lower grade the stability of the camp would be in danger. It is because of this and the comparatively large tax on the net values of low grade ore that the people of Rossland and the Boundary section wish to see the tax abolished or changed. The tax on an ore netting the owner \$10 profit is 2.7 per cent, whereas the tax on a low grade ore which nets the owner 50 cents is 16 per cent. There should not be this disparity. The Nelson News states that the Le Roi mine shipped over 200,000 tons of ore to the smelter, and on this paid to the province \$12,289.68, which it figures out is six cents a ton on the ore shipped, which in this light does not appear heavy. But supposing this ore was worth only \$3.50 per ton—the lowest ore profitable at present to ship—and the smelter charges \$4.50 per ton, it would leave \$4 per ton, or \$500,000 for the company. But out of this they have to pay their mining charges, about \$3.50 per ton, or \$700,000, which would leave a net profit to the company of \$100,000, and from this the government exacts \$12,289.68, or about 12 1/2 per cent.

YOU WILL NEVER GET ON THE SUNNY SIDE BY WAITING FOR THE WORLD TO TURN ROUND.

You will never get on the sunny side by waiting for the world to turn round.

AMONG THE DRY BONES.

The banquet given in Rossland to Colonel Prior, the minister of mines, seems to have caused considerable commotion among the dry bones. The coast papers, particularly, are not through talking about it. The thought of doing something for the mining industry, or lopping off some of the burdens now weighing it down, will probably meet with opposition from certain quarters where they have more fish than flesh to give, but the minister of mines cannot fail to observe, by this time the greatness in store for the province by assisting to build up the mining industry. This remark applies to the coast section, which is rich in minerals, as well as all the Kootenays. The mines expect to pay their just proportion of taxation, but no more.

SOMETHING ABOUT ANCESTRY.

The editor of a Victoria paper has been looking up the ancestry and antecedents of certain "better class" in New York, with the result that he finds that a century ago a Stuyvesant sold handkerchiefs; a Depeyster, beans; a Rhineland, hats; a Brevoort, pewter spoons; a Beekman, molasses; a Roosevelt, lampblack. All of which is nothing to their discredit. If some of their descendants are putting on "dog" a little too thick, the dishonor is theirs, for which their ancestors are in no wise responsible. How about some of the old stock on Vancouver Island? The Victoria editor might tell us something about the good old times when the Hudson's Bay Company ruled supreme there! It might make the under crust laugh.

THE VICTORIAN LOAN.

The following paragraph from the city column of "Today," Jerome K. Jerome's bright weekly newspaper, shows that the general impression made in London by the withdrawal of the British Columbia loan is not that made on certain critics at home:

"The poor reception given to the Victorian loan is not surprising. There have been too many colonial government issues lately, and the public are not in the mood to take up fresh stock of this class. Fortunately for the colony, the loan had been underwritten. British Columbia had intended coming forward as a borrower in the London market, but has been warned off by the Victorian fiasco, and those who had underwritten portions of the loan have been released from their obligations. Therein much wisdom has been displayed, and the chances of success, when times are more propitious will be much enhanced by the proceeding. British Columbia is not a persistent borrower, and has a claim upon us which should not be ignored at the right moment."

OUTLANDERS IN NORTHWEST.

New Westminster Columbian: While the American citizens from the Middle and Western States show no misgivings about their future in British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories of Canada, to which they are moving by tens of thousands, a newspaper in far away New York sees apprehension of trouble. The Troy Budget notes that 25,000 American farmers have this year taken their residence in Manitoba, where the lands "are as good for wheat raising as any in the world," and that "the movement to this Western Canadian province has just commenced. Probably next year it will be larger, and it is likely to increase in volume for some years. The Americans will, provided the movement continues, soon outnumber all the other people in the province. When that happens the British government will have a problem such as the Boers had in South Africa. The outlanders will demand rights inherent to a majority. Progressive and intelligent, the Americans will certainly protest against being made to bear the burdens of a government administered by a minority, and in which they cannot be represented without forfeiting their American citizenship. They will have the same grievances that the British had in the Transvaal. The British subjects and the Canadians will occupy the same position as the Boers did."

While the Budget's prophecies of impending evil will no doubt form the subject of a few days' gossip, reflection will not give weight to the suggestion of trouble. Americans in Canada, like Canadians in the States, have never found the laws oppressive. They are business people and readily adapt themselves to business conditions; while it goes without saying that the Americans as a whole would not back up any demand for the enfranchisement of fellow subjects in any part of Canada while Canadians and other foreigners are denied similar privileges in the United States.

Coming nearer to the scene of this movement of population, we find the speculation in another channel, dealing not with imaginary evil consequences, but seeking to suggest a cause. "The strangest and most important phase of this movement to Canada from

Iowa," remarks the Chicago Tribune, "is that this state is the most bountiful agricultural state in the Union. It stood at the head of the list of states in agricultural products in 1899, with a value of \$365,411,538, over a million a day for every day in the year, Illinois coming second, with \$345,649,611. With almost no resources but those of agriculture, Iowa has built up one of the most efficient systems of state education and one of the best state governments in the entire Union." Thus, with no apparent wrong to right, no grievance whatever, the farmers of agriculturally the most prosperous and politically the best governed state in the Union, are selling out and coming to Canada, a fact altogether complimentary to His Dominion.

SOCIALLY THE SAME.

Mr. Knapper, a representative of the Minneapolis Tribune, recently made a trip through Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, and has written several interesting articles to his paper, giving his impressions of the country and its people. The following interesting paragraph is from his pen: "Fate has decreed that a continental region occupied by two branches of the same great race, with similar institutions and with such increasing social resemblance to each other that it is almost impossible at certain places to tell from the appearance and talk of the people whether you are in the United States or Canada, should be divided in its political allegiance. From Mexico to the 49th parallel, 77,000,000 people do homage to the Stars and Stripes, and are animated by as intense a patriotism as the world has ever known. North of the 49th parallel there are 5,500,000 people who are as loyal to the flag of the three crosses as are the English themselves, so loyal that they would fight us to the last ditch and die in it if war was to come between the United States and the British Empire. Yet, socially, we can fraternize and mingle with Canadians more agreeably than with any other people in the world."

TRUTH WELL SPOKEN.

Says the World's Work: "The period of the Great Editor—the man who carried on a party debate every morning, and gave his readers a sort of continuous gladiatorial performance—is past. The day of the Sensational Journalist is passing—the man who boasts of his paper's circulation and of his charities—because other sorts of self-conscious millionaires also have risen to play this sorry game; and the newspaper braggart is ceasing to attract attention. Meanwhile, the conscientious, well-equipped army of high-minded men who practice the profession is increasing every year. The truth is, journalism is just now becoming for the first time distinctly an independent and attractive profession. It yet needs a better esprit de corps, a sense of professional dignity, and relief from the quacks and loud adventurers of the craft. There is need too, of still higher pay for those that write well, and of more stable conditions of employment. But these conditions are following the more stable prosperity that the business is taking on."

In a great many of the larger cities and towns of Canada it is the custom to exempt from taxation, or to give other favors in the shape of free water, etc., to manufacturing concerns. The arguments for such a course are based on the fact that such concerns by the investment of their money and the large number of workmen they employ help to raise the value of property and consequently an increase of the assessment of the city to such an extent that the municipality is reimbursed many, many times the amount possible to collect from these establishments in the shape of taxes. This argument might be used in a larger sphere. British Columbia is spending money to induce capitalists to invest in the province, for the reason that such investment will increase the value of the holdings of the people already resident in the province. The provincial treasury in due course receives an additional revenue, and the money spent in this effort is returned many times. The man who invests money in the development of a mining property and in machinery in order to bring it to the producing stage runs a greater risk than is the case with the manufacturer or the man who purchases a farm. When he succeeds, then, in bringing his property to the producing stage it is fair to tax him from 10 to 20 per cent of his profits? We think not, from the fact that his industry and enterprise has helped to create a prosperous and populous centre, and that in a section where no other industry would be possible.

The Nelson News defends the two per cent tax levied by the government after a manner peculiar to itself. It states that the mines of West Kootenay and the Boundary district of Yale yielded to the government the sum of \$73,002.18, from a total output value of \$15,000,000, or less than one-half of one per cent. The statement was made evidently to mislead, and to

defend the action of the government. If the two per cent tax was placed upon the net earnings of the mines of the province, there would be little opposition to it; but, as we stated in our issue of Monday, it is upon the smelter returns. From these returns must be deducted the cost of mining, which on the lower grade ores leaves but a small surplus. Although the tax is not based on this surplus or net earnings, it nevertheless has to be paid from it, and amounts to from 10 to 20 per cent.

All the world loves a lover, so we have been told, and no doubt there is a great deal of truth in the statement. The German Crown Prince may, therefore, be said to be more loved than any prospective ruler in the world. The fact that he is said to be willing to renounce the throne of Germany in order to marry the lady of his choice will gain him admirers among the fair sex, no matter how jealous they might be of his favored one. Kaiser William in his efforts to break off the engagement of his son is finding out that there is a more difficult job than ruling an empire—that of controlling his own family, especially if they have the spirit of their father. The Prince must often envy the liberty of the commoner and bewail the cruel fate that with one hand offers him a throne and with the other holds back the woman of his choice.

It is quite evident that the bicycle is declining in popularity, as is evidenced by some of the leading bicycle makers to convert their plants into automobile factories, and to regard the manufacture of wheels as a kind of a side issue. The automobile is the fad just now, and we have probably not seen the full extent to which the use of it will be put. If the racing mania continues it will probably become necessary to restrict the speed at which they shall be run. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., is credited with having run one at a speed of 74 miles an hour. The danger alone is not attached to those running the machines, as they usually usurp the public highway over which the public must pass.

The International Mining Congress meets in Butte, Mont., on September 1st to 4th. This city will be invited to send delegates to the congress, which will be the fifth annual meeting. We would suggest to the representatives from this province that they make a united effort to have the next annual session held in Rossland. The inducements which this city holds out as a great mining centre would no doubt prove an attractive magnet for many of the mining men of the other side to favor this place.

Our special from Grand Forks yesterday, giving the figures just received from Ottawa of the amount of copper matte shipped to the United States for the fiscal year ended June 30th last, were interesting to look at, considering that the Boundary country furnished over two million dollars' worth out of the total of \$2,990,000. The Boundary promises to be one of the greatest copper-producing sections in the world when all the mines get to working.

Alfred Austin's coronation ode is passing through the hands of the critics, who are handling it without gloves. Comparison is made with Rudyard Kipling's Diamond Jubilee poem, and certainly the comparison is against Austin. Bliss Carman's coronation ode seems to possess the most merit of any given to the public, who wrote really a majestic ode, but the song of Austin seems to be the worst of all.

Canada's new mint building, as planned by the architect, will be a substantial as well as a beautiful structure. It will be nearly three years hence before Canadian coins will begin to flow from the mint, but we can all congratulate ourselves that a start has been made. It will be a pleasing sight to see our own bulion going to our own mint.

A farmer near Macon, Georgia, is anxious to secure a good man to manage his farm, and in his advertisement holds out an original and praiseworthy inducement. He promises such a man a fair share of the profits, a pretty and sensible wife, a home on the farm rent free. He also promises to pay for the marriage license, and the fee of the preacher who performs the ceremony. Unfortunately, this is not a farming community, and we fear Rossland young men are not eligible.

The chief grief in San Francisco over the sudden death of Charles Fair is the probable loss to the city of some five or six millions of dollars that he intended to invest in improving certain property belonging to him. This grief is of the sordid kind, although the city of the Golden Gate does not possess a monopoly of it. It is hardly fair to condemn the city for this one act.

Forty-nine protests have been entered against the return of members in the local legislature of Ontario since the elections on May 29th. If they are successful Ontario will come near having another general election.

WALL PAPER POOL WANTED.

Manufacturers Hoping for One to Raise Prices to a Profitable Basis.

NEW YORK, Aug. 19.—An unusually large number of wall paper manufacturers, salesmen and jobbers are in the city and are making the Hotel Victoria and the Gilsey House their headquarters. The manufacturers and salesmen make a yearly trip to this city to replenish the stocks of dealers. That there is so large a number present this year is attributed to the poor condition of the trade.

The manufacturers agree that there can be nothing done to improve existing conditions in the wall paper business until some sort of consolidation is arranged.

A few years ago a pool was formed, but it only lasted a short time and immediately after its dissolution the manufacturers began to cut prices in the hope of forcing the small companies out of business. These companies met the cut and as a result many of the large manufacturers were heavy losers and the credit of some was seriously impaired. The total output this year's 300,000,000 rolls less than last year, and there has been an advance of from 15 to 20 per cent in prices. The margin of profit is said, however, to be still so small that all the large firms have decreased the output for the last eight months. In spite of the failures there are still enough factories to supply the market and the only solution of the difficulty is taken to be the formation of a new pool powerful enough to fix such prices as would ensure a reasonable profit.

So far, the manufacturers and their representatives in the city have made no attempt to consolidate, although they all seem to agree that some such measure is necessary. An out-of-town manufacturer said yesterday that unless some scheme of organization was adopted before the summer was over a large number of firms would have to suspend business.

AN INTERESTING JUDGMENT.

Unborn Child Heir With Other Children.

TORONTO, Aug. 18.—The most interesting and unusual point of law, the first of the kind ever raised in Canada, and the second on record, has been determined by Mr. Justice Lount in an action tried before him. His lordship made the important decision that a child "en ventre sa mere," or in other words, conceived yet unborn, is a child in the eyes of the law.

Wm. H. Lethbridge of Southwood Township, Elgin county, died on April 22, 1897, leaving a widow and four infant children. A fifth child was born on August 7th, nearly four months after his demise. His will provided that insurance to the amount of \$2000 in the Provincial Provident Association, should be paid over to the widow and children within ninety days after his death, in equal shares.

The Trusts & Guarantee Company, the guardian of the four infant children, applied to the court for advice as to whether or not Rhea Mary Marguereta Lethbridge, the infant child born after the death of her father, was entitled to a share in the insurance money.

COMPANY'S CONTENTION.

The Trusts & Guarantee Company contended that the period of distribution of money arose at the time of the vesting, and that such vesting was at the death of the deceased, and therefore the child not then being in esse could not partake of any distribution or share in it. They quoted cases of a similar character to substantiate their claim.

In his judgment Mr. Justice Lount said that the cases quoted did not support the contention at all. In the case in point no period of distribution was made by the deceased. The gift was to all the children as being in esse could not partake of any distribution or share in it. They quoted cases of a similar character to substantiate their claim. In his judgment Mr. Justice Lount said that the cases quoted did not support the contention at all. In the case in point no period of distribution was made by the deceased. The gift was to all the children as being in esse could not partake of any distribution or share in it. They quoted cases of a similar character to substantiate their claim.

There was a case similar to this one that was decided in England several years ago. In this Old Country case the descent of an earldom was affected. It was decided then that the unborn child ranked equally among the heirs.

ANDREW D. WHITE.

After His Retirement Will Spend the Winter in Switzerland.

BERLIN, Aug. 19.—Andrew D. White, the United States ambassador, has returned here for a few days before going to Switzerland, via the Rhine country, with his daughter, Mrs. Newberry and her third son. Mr. White, after his retirement (November 7th), will probably spend the winter in Switzerland and Italy, as he desires several months' quiet work on the literary designs which he has in hand. The foreign office has not been informed officially that Mr. White has resigned, though, of course, it is unofficially aware that he has done so. Should Dr. von Holleben (the German ambassador to the United States) not prolong his stay in Europe it is believed here that the state department will make the usual inquiry concerning the new ambassador through him as to whether the person suggested to succeed Mr. White is acceptable.

HE WILL DIE.

Molten Metal Poured Over Feet and Legs of Gasper Tomassewski.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Aug. 19.—Gasper Tomassewski attempted to jack up a three-ton mould in the locomotive works today when it upset and the molten metal poured on his feet and legs, burning them to a crisp. He will die.

Paul Johnson, metallurgist of the Greenwood smelter, is in the city today.

THE

Returns have been made to the owners of the Lake from the last shipment of tons. The gross value is \$3814 and the owners estimate that the tons of ore to be other 15 tons are 15 tons just shipped. This shipment of estimate that the tons of ore to be other 15 tons are 15 tons just shipped. This shipment of estimate that the tons of ore to be other 15 tons are 15 tons just shipped.

MINES ARE

The owners of group are sending ment of ore. The Bismarck eight inches of shipping another smelter this week. Mike McIan returned this week ment on the Hidd owned by them. Great Britain. In foot ledge was eron ton returned. Work on this claim work on the Mount Star, two other c on the same lead, gold, copper, silver nalian.

SLOCAN OR

Fayne... Sunset... American Boy... Arlington... Hewitt... Bosun... Enterprise... Bismarck... Silver Glance... Whitewater... Florence... Neepawa... Monitor (for July Wakefield... Rambler... London Hill... Antoine... R. E. Lee... Total tons...

ORE SH

The shipments for the past two lows: Rambler to Fisco, Whitewater to Neer, Rush to Nelson, Shocan Bay to Neer, Sunset to Nelson, R. E. Lee to Nelson, Antoine... Wonderful... Silver Glance... Total...

THE WES

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FIRST

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