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ROSSLAND WEEKLY MINER.

Two Dollars a Year.

ROSSLAND, B. C., THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1897.

Third Year, Number 21.

ROAD TO KLONDIKE

John Lucas Describes the Hardships Incident to the Journey.

IN ALASKA LAST YEAR

Trip From Dyea—Dangerous Run Down the Yukon—Life at the Mines—Rich Ground Along the Klondike Undoubtedly All Staked.

The privations and hardships that will have to be endured by the hundreds of men who are rushing pell mell to the Klondike gold diggings were described in detail yesterday by a representative of the Miner by John Lucas, a resident of Rossland, who visited the Yukon country last summer and spent several months in the district. Speaking from his own experience Mr. Lucas declares that the trip from Dyea to the Klondike is one of the hardest and most dangerous imaginable, and those who cannot endure privations had better not attempt the journey. "I left Seattle with three friends on March 4 and arrived at the diggings 90 miles northwest of Circle City on July 4," said Mr. Lucas. "We did not go to the Klondike as it was very little known then and even as late as October, when we left, the big finds had not become much advertised.

"We took with us provisions enough to last six months and we had no more than we needed. At Juneau we changed steamers and went to Dyea, the head of navigation. There we disembarked and packed our stuff on sleds, which were hauled by dogs, 15 miles to Sheep camp, which is at the foot of Chilkoot pass. Great care had to be taken here with our provisions as snowdrifts are very common and parties often lose their entire outfit by failing to exercise proper precaution.

"Everything has to be packed to the summit of the pass. The Indians charge \$12 a hundred pounds for packing from Sheep camp to the summit. They are big, strong fellows and can carry 150 pounds. We descended to Crater lake, thence to Linderman lake, where we packed our outfit on dog sleds over the ice. At that season of the year the ice was good and the trip was much easier than it would be now when the ice is melted. As soon as we struck suitable timber we whipsawed lumber out of logs and built a scow, 22 feet long, six feet wide and about two feet six inches deep. We placed our outfit in the scow and put it on sleds. Rigging a sail on this peculiar craft we sailed over the ice, crossing three lakes from 15 to 30 miles long, and about six miles wide. The ice on these lakes was firm and we made fairly good progress.

"When we reached the Yukon, we launched our boat and then came the most thrilling part of the journey. One place, known as the canyon, is especially dangerous. Here the water flows between perpendicular walls at the rate of 20 miles an hour. Rocks stick up on all sides and many boats were sent through the canyon. We picked up two men who had lost their entire outfit in running the rapids. Occasionally a person is drowned in this stretch of water. It is not more than one-third of a mile long, and the current is so swift that a fellow is through it almost before he realizes it. The best plan is to keep to the right and thus avoid the sharp points of rock on the left side. As long as a boat is on the crest of the wave it will generally get along without accident. But to become sidetracked and come to the center currents and eddies means swamping, sure.

"Below the canyon are the White Horse rapids, which, if anything, are more dangerous than the canyon itself. We did not attempt to run these rapids, but portaged instead over the rapids, and sign stops are placed at the entrance to the rapids to warn voyagers. The current is very swift and the rapids extend for three miles. Five lives were lost in this part of the river last year. "We stopped at a certain point and along the stream, including Fort Cudahy, at Circle City we landed. It is a town of probably 200 log cabins, two company stores and two warehouses, which would be a credit to any town. Supplies are pretty expensive. I paid 75 cents a pound for potatoes, 60 cents for beans, 60 cents for granulated sugar and 75 cents for poor bacon. Whiskey is 50 cents a drink. Nearly all business is transacted with gold dust and every body carries their bag and scales with them.

"From Circle City we packed over a bad trail for ten miles to Crooked creek. This stream is well named. We had dinner one day at a certain point and the same evening, after travelling all afternoon, ate supper not a stone's throw from the same spot. It took us a week to get to the head of the creek, a distance of 75 miles. Here we packed again and covered 20 miles, when we struck the first claim. It was the 4th of July, just four months after we had started. We went to work at \$10 a day, living on our own provisions and on our own tents. As there was nothing to spend the money for, it was easy to save.

"The Klondike fields are from 40 to 80 miles on this side of the international boundary line. Most of the gold has been found in the old channel of the stream. It was known that gold was there when I was in the country, but the discoveries were no richer than those on other creeks. I was offered one claim on the Klondike for \$10 and another for \$30; but there was no reason then why I should prefer them to claims on any other stream.

"I don't understand now how all the people that are going into the country expect to get work on claims. There are from 3,000 to 5,000 men on the stream already. The bed of the stream has surely been entirely staked out before this time. A claim is 500 feet of the river bed and at that rate the Klondike must certainly have been staked out long ago.

the large amount of gold that was taken out by the party which was down to Seattle the other day to understand when they had taken it out as there are but 70 working days in the year owing to the frost in the ground. I suppose, however, that they tunneled in under the frozen surface and dug out the dirt, waiting until spring to wash it and get the gold. It was the custom when I was there to work two shifts and clean up twice a week.

"The scenery in the Yukon country is the grandest on the continent. I don't think it is surpassed anywhere. When I was there the construction of a line of railroad from the head of navigation, Dyea, to Fort Cudahy was being agitated, and if it goes through it will help greatly in getting both people and supplies into the country.

"I returned with my companions in October by the river route, leaving Circle City in October and arriving at St. Michaels, at the mouth of the Yukon, one week later. We remained there a week and then started through the Bering sea, for Seattle, arriving two weeks later, no better off than when I started, considering the time I lost in getting to and from the gold fields."

Mr. Lucas is willing to pilot a party to the Klondike if he is guaranteed his expenses and a reasonable remuneration.

KLONDIKE'S RICH PLACERS.

Government Contemplating a Royalty on Gold—Aliens May Be Barred.

TORONTO, Ont., July 19.—The Globe's Ottawa dispatch says: The reports from the Yukon country of the enormous richness of the placer gold deposits in the Klondike districts have moved the government to consider what steps should be taken to protect the interest of Canada. Whatever dispute there may be as to the exact boundary line between Canada and Alaska, there is no question about the rich Klondike gold fields being altogether and clearly in Alaska. With this in the case the question arises whether Americans or other foreigners should be allowed to come in there and take away millions of dollars without leaving anything in the country or contributing anything to the public revenue.

In the United States no one but citizens of the States can hold a mining claim. Here the Canadian government issues licenses to anybody on payment of a paltry fee. A lot of while ago a dollar a day, into that country and returned with \$50,000 dug out of the banks of the river. He took his fortune to Switzerland, and left \$50 for his license in Canada. The great difficulty the country labors under is the lack of definite information. It takes a year to get a man into that country and back again. Many adventurers have left their bones on the rich sands they went to exploit. Some died of starvation, for food is difficult to obtain. Some died from exposure. If public opinion were expressed in favor of a royalty of 10, 15 or 20 per cent on all gold taken away from Canadian streams in the Yukon country the government would be largely guided by it. The impression is that public opinion will assist the government in reaching a conclusion, and the feeling here is that some action should be taken in time for next session.

THE RUSH TO KLONDIKE.

Alki Took 100 of Seattle's Citizens North—Lucky Mounted Policemen.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 19.—The detachment of mounted police from the Northwest Territories, who passed through Seattle on their way to the Klondike gold regions two years ago, struck it rich. Twenty-five guards returned on the Portland with gold amounting to \$200,000. The other 15 remained in Alaska engaged in mining. One hundred men took passage on the steamer Alki, most of them to take what is called the overland trip to Klondike from Juneau. They go 15 miles further by water to Dyea, then over the mountain passes down lakes Linderman and Bennett to the Yukon river and from that river to the new discoveries.

Among the crowd are many well known men who have long been identified with the growth of the Northwest. An immense crowd was at the dock and when the Alki threw off her lines and pulled into the bay thousands of the people gave cheers and shouts and bade her God speed.

WAGON ROAD TO THE YUKON.

Proposition to the Government to Build a Road Through White Pass.

OTTAWA, Ont., July 21.—F. H. Wilkinson, on behalf of the British Yukon company, will make an offer to the minister of the interior to build a wagon road through White Pass for \$2,000 per mile. The distance is about 50 miles. About eight miles of the road would be very difficult to build. It would take excavation, to construct this eight miles. At the rate people are flocking into this new region something will have to be done soon to provide a way for getting provisions into them. If this road is built Victoria could be reached from the Yukon in about 14 days.

Royalty on Yukon Gold.

TORONTO, Ont., July 21.—The Globe says of the Yukon: "Wealth such as this is national wealth and the nation should get some advantage from its exploitation. At present there is a fee of \$5 for each claim located. It is evident that this is inadequate. A system of royalties would undoubtedly best cover the case. Customs arrangements should also be made as pertaining as this in a region so remote and so inaccessible is quite apparent and no one expects that time and space can be annihilated."

Has An Area Reached the Pole?

CHRISTIANA, July 21.—A telegram from Stavanger states that a carrier pigeon has been caught in the neighborhood of Soevde, in Lifyke, with a silver ring upon one of its feet and the following stamped on its wings: "North Pole, 142 w., 47.62."

"I was puzzled when I first heard of

IS A CONTACT VEIN AFFAIRS OF THE O.K.

Enormous Ledge Discovered in the Pend d'Oreille District. Statement by J. L. Warner Regarding His Management.

ROSSLAND MEN FOUND IT ORE DISPLACED BY WASTE

Shows Fair Values on the Surface and Could be Cheaply Worked—A Visit to Some Mining Camps That Will Attract Attention.

Last Saturday I ran over to Waneta and Boundary, the former on the British Columbia side of the line, the latter on the American side. The biggest thing in Waneta is the hotel, which is kept by Captain Brown, formerly of the English mercantile marine, and his charming wife. The remainder of the town consists of the railroad depot, a miner's supply store, assay office and a very comfortable residence. A third place is Fort Sheppard. This consists chiefly of a surveyed townsite, though there is one hotel on the ground. Fort Sheppard lies between Boundary and Waneta. It is in British Columbia although south of the Pend d'Oreille river. The international boundary line is but a few hundred feet south of the point where the Pend d'Oreille flows into the Columbia, and it is not often that three towns are crowded into so circumscribed an area.

But strange to say Waneta, Fort Sheppard and Boundary all have aspirations, and not without reason. Each is beginning to feel the impulse of a mining boom which is setting in throughout the region of the lower Pend d'Oreille. Mr. Corbin, of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard railway, has declared he is going to have the Waneta townsite surveyed immediately, and while the lots as a rule will be steep, topographically speaking, there may be found anywhere a room to hang sufficient buildings to make quite a town.

Pend d'Oreille Mines.

It was, however, not my purpose to write about town or townsites, but to say something of the impressions made by a hasty look at the mining resources of the Pend d'Oreille country. There extends a strongly marked and well defined mineral belt from a point back of Boundary in a northerly direction, crossing the Fish creek district on the east side of the Pend d'Oreille and running across that stream and covering a zone on the south and west slopes of Proctor mountain north of the river.

Activity South of the River.

There is much activity in the district back of Boundary. A group called the Lakeview is being developed by a Montana company, which is arranging to put up works on the ground for the treatment of ore. It has five or six prospect holes on the dump, ready for treatment. The ore is a rich chloride of silver. Work has just been started on the Whitecap group, bonded from Florence and Hay the other day by Messrs. Palmer and Massie of Bangor, Maine. This is a silver-lead ore of good grade. On the head waters of Fish creek George Jones, of Colorado, and others have an interesting group. Some work is being done and the showing is excellent. The ore carries gold, silver, and copper. This district is crowded by the most magnificent body of timber I have seen in British Columbia.

Proctor Mountain Mines.

The Proctor mountain group of claims must certainly attract attention. They are up the mountain a mile and a half from the Pend d'Oreille, and one can look down from them and see the turbulent river rushing through deep, rugged gorges for miles on its way to the Columbia. This group, consisting of the Banker Hill, Sullivan, North Star, Blue Jay and Golden Dawn, was located by recently and is owned by T. R. Newman, formerly superintendent of the O. K. mine, and Messrs. Monk, Schmidt and others, who worked at the O. K.

A Big Contact Vein.

The geological conditions of the locality are very interesting. From the base of the mountain to a point well up towards its summit, I passed over a solid ledge formation. Higher up the granite comes in. The contact runs northeast and southwest, and between the slate and the granite is the largest and finest silver-lead ledge I have seen in the province. It is over 100 feet wide, and in many places great chutes, or masses of quartz break up through the iron capping which covers most of the ledge.

Banker Hill's Fine Showings.

An open crosscut has been run about 30 feet on the Banker Hill, and large quantities of quartz carrying some iron pyrites have been taken out. It appears to be a solid body of mineral, the entire length of the crosscut. The ore has a good, live, healthy look, and five assays made so far show an average value of about \$5 in gold, with a little silver. The lowest assay was \$3.60 in gold, and the highest \$13.50 in gold. If the ore can be milled and concentrated the values may be sufficiently high to enable the property to be worked successfully. The ore could be mined very inexpensively. It could be quarried out and sent down a tramway to a mill on the river.

North Star is Equally Fine.

Work is now in progress on the North Star as well as on the Banker Hill and the ore appears to be the same on both properties. Through tests with a sample of the ore and a good deal of surface work done. Taking into consideration the excellent geological conditions, the great body of the ore, and the fact that it all appears to carry fair values in gold, it would not be surprising if this group should become the scene of a very extensive mining industry. I have not been so impressed with the external markings of any mineral showing for many a day.

When Reserves Came to Be Mined, The Grade Proved Disappointing—Stopping Continued in Expectation of a Change for the Better.

A MINER representative yesterday called on J. L. Warner of the O. K. mine, on his return to Rossland, and asked him to make a statement regarding his administration of the company's affairs. Mr. Warner did so as follows: "My attention has been called to an article in THE MINER, appearing during my absence, in which my management of the O. K. mine has been called in question and my professional reputation assailed. I wish to state the conditions that may make clear the situation. First—it has been stated that stock has been sold on my statement as to the amount of ore the mine had 'on sight.' That is so, and is the usual and proper manner in offering stock for development. The calculations were made up on interior ground blocked out on three sides, enabling the volume of ground to be estimated, and from the results of the smelter shipments, I computed, by methods always adopted by mining engineers, the value of the reserve of ore. These estimates were considered correct and before we mined the blocked out ground. We would most certainly have accepted offers of \$150,000 cash and much higher figures on bonds had we not been satisfied with our valuations.

the situation, and have since my return filed a proposition with the secretary, offering ways and means of quick payment of the bank's demands and a remedy for the existing conditions, which will, I think, be generally favored by stockholders.

"In conclusion I may say that my resignation of the management was voluntary and for the reason stated and was not asked for by the shareholders. The president and myself have never drawn a salary and I, as manager, have paid my railway fare and board at the company's boarding house. I have great confidence in the future of the property and am still the largest individual shareholder in the company."

Manitoba Flour in Demand.

MONTREAL, Que., July 21.—Millers are reporting a big export demand for Manitoba flour, and it is being introduced in all the leading markets of the world. One miller stated he had now eight or nine countries on his export list, which, he said, he had taken the best brands of Manitoba flour. In running these over he mentioned Australia, South America, Denmark, England, Scotland, China and South Africa. Flour is not selling in these places right along, but this week sales have been made to three of them.

NEAR GRAND FORKS.

Fine Ore Showings on the Mines of Evans Camp.

GRAND FORKS, July 20.—[Special.]—There is probably no section in this district in which an amount of work is being done to compare with that on Pathfinder mountain in Evans camp, 15 miles north this city, on the east side of the river. Several of the properties are being extensively developed and on a number persistent prospecting is being done with a view to making the surface showing as complete as possible.

The principal claim on the mountain, and the one from which it takes its name, is the Pathfinder, which was located by Thomas I. Parkinson and Wm. A. Pfeiffer in company with J. E. Walker, secretary and treasurer of the Pathfinder company, your correspondent visited the property and found that during the past two months a marked change has been wrought in the external appearance of the Pathfinder. A board house to accommodate 25 men has been built, as well as substantial stables, shaft house, blacksmith shop, and an area around the workings has been cleared.

The double compartment shaft is down more than 40 feet, and at a depth of 50 a crosscut will be run to determine the width of the ledge and ore chute, then the sinking will be continued. On the surface the lead shows over 50 feet in width, and it has been discovered by test cuts for a distance of 200 feet.

The ore is quartz showing copper and pyrrhotite, and with it occurs pyrrhotite in massive form. The crosscut to be run at the 50-foot level will undoubtedly show one of the finest bodies of ore in British Columbia. The Pathfinder lead occurs between porphyry dykes.

This property lies 1,250 feet above the river, with no intervening hills, so that it is an ideal place for a bucket tramway or a tram road should a smelter be located by the river. Pathfinder mountain lies opposite the mouth of Pass creek, which is the outlet for a large number of properties on the west side of the river.

The Hidden Treasure.

Recent work on the Hidden Treasure, consisting of a number of open cuts, and a shaft, shows a fine body of quartz from which flatter assays have been secured. Not enough work has yet been done to prove the value of the property, but the present showing is to say the least, very encouraging. The Hidden Treasure adjoins the Pathfinder on the north. It is owned by Frank Guse of Rossland.

The Standard.

The Standard, adjoining the Pathfinder on the east and owned by Evan Evans, has been prospected by two shafts, 12 feet deep, and an open cut. Quartz is shown in a strong lead, from which satisfactory assays have been obtained.

Down the hill to the west of the Pathfinder, forces of men are doing surface work on the Stenwinder, Little Winnie and Gold Nugget, owned by C. E. Huff.

The Diamond Hitch.

Second in importance to the Pathfinder, considering present showings and the amount of work done, is the Diamond Hitch, owned by the Ralston Bros. and Frank Guse. Two open cuts have been run on the ledge and a shaft sunk 25 feet. The ore is massive pyrrhotite and quartz, and honey combed iron which taken from the Nickel Plate at Rossland. About 100 feet from the shaft a similar quality of high grade ore is found in an extension of the ledge just recently exposed.

On the Mammoth, adjoining the Diamond Hitch on the north and owned by Evan Evans, two leads occur, with ore similar to that on nearly all the properties on this mountain, quartz and pyrrhotite. No work is being done on this claim at present.

Last Saturday a rich pay chute was encountered in the open cut on the Ontario Boy, owned by M. T. Folger of Spokane.

The Milda and Bertha, adjoining the Mammoth are both working, as are also the Nellie and Stella, belonging to Fred Oliver of Rossland, and the Index, the property of Frank Stoechech of this city.

A MURDEROUS YOUNGSTER.

Poisoned His Benefactor With Paris Green as a Result of Pique. HUNTSVILLE, Ont., July 21.—Robert Webster, an 11-year-old boy, made a fiendish attempt yesterday to murder his benefactor, Henry Lewis, a farmer living in Brinell township. Lewis refused to allow the boy to accompany him to Huntsville. This angered the miscreant and he put Paris green, so it is alleged, into Lewis' tea. The farmer's life was saved by a physician. The boy admitted his guilt and says he wanted to "fix" Lewis for not taking him to Huntsville.

C.P.R. AND ROSSLAND

Executive Agent Brown Reiterates Shaughnessy's Statement.

POLICY AS TO SMELTERS

Assurances Given That Fuel and Fluxes Will Cost Less Than at Northport—Parallel Line to Robson Will Be Built if Necessary.

George McL. Brown, until recently district passenger agent of the C. P. R. at Vancouver, but now executive agent of the company in British Columbia, is in Rossland. A MINER representative interviewed him yesterday regarding his appointment and the much discussed smelter question. The creation of the position he now holds was prompted by the desire of the C. P. R. to get as closely in touch with the people of British Columbia and their requirements as is possible.

"What do you think of Senator Turner's telegram, published in today's Review," was the first question asked him. "To my mind it but indicates that all the advantages are in favor of British Columbia so far as smelting its own ore is concerned, and with reference to Col. I. N. Peyton's telegram to THE MINER, I can only say that his statement that by locating on the Canadian side the cost of smelting would be increased is not borne out by the facts. At the present moment the Canadian Pacific is delivering coke on the Columbia river at as advantageous rates as can be obtained to Northport via the American lines. And these rates, now in effect on the Canadian Pacific, will be necessarily further reduced on the opening of the Crow's Nest line. The conditions obtaining in the matter of supplying coke also exist as regard coal, wood and fluxes."

"But what about the rate on ore from Rossland to a suitable site on the Columbia river?" "That is a question now under discussion between our management and the Columbia & Western railway, and of this you may be satisfied, that if satisfactory arrangements are not arrived at our company will consider other means of carrying out their determination to enable the Rossland camp to have its smelting done in British Columbia to benefit advantage than in any other place in the world."

"Has there any reason why your company should not construct its own line to Rossland, and have you not already a line surveyed?" "In answer to your first query none except that the management naturally does not favor a policy of paralleling the Columbia & Western unless it becomes actually necessary. In answer to the second, yes, I understand a very good line has been located."

"It seems to me very unfortunate that an erroneous interpretation of the interview between our vice president and a representative of the Le Roi smelter, should have been published, but it was gratifying to note the prominence you gave to Mr. Shaughnessy's correction. "To sum up." In view of the fact that coal, coke and fluxes in unlimited quantities are in closer proximity to, and can be laid down cheaper at smelters established in British Columbia than in Washington, and that smelting machinery is admitted to Canada free of duty, it seems incredible that any argument can be advanced favoring the establishment of a smelter south of the line for the treatment of British Columbia ores."

PILOT BAY SMELTER.

Omaha & Grant Smelting Company Has Purchased It.

SPOKANE, Wash., July 20.—[Special.]—The Pilot Bay smelter was purchased yesterday by the Omaha & Grant Smelting company of Denver Col., and Omaha, Neb. Its capacity will be increased by two stacks and the company will operate it as a custom smelter for treating Slocan and Rossland ores.

The plant of the Pilot Bay smelter consists of two 80-ton stacks and a concentrator, with a capacity of from 300 to 500 tons per day. The concentrating machinery was brought from Butte where it had served in the old Butte smelter. At one time 120 men were employed in the plant but at the time it closed down only 60 men were working. The original company erected a brick building 60 by 120 feet, in which it was intended to place refining machinery, but the machinery was never installed.

There are several fine residences on the smelter company's ground, which in all includes 140 acres on Pilot Bay, about midway between the upper and lower ends of Kootenay lake and opposite the outlet. Considerable money was lost by the company that attempted to operate the smelter, owing to the low grade of the ore of the Blue Bell mine, which is about all it ever smelted. On the 19th of June, 1896 the smelter shut down and since then not a wheel has turned.

\$50,000 THIS MONTH.

Le Roi Declared Another Dividend of \$50,000.

SPOKANE, Wash., July 20.—[Special.]—The Le Roi company declared a dividend of \$25,000 at its meeting tonight, payable at once. This brings the total of dividends to date to \$475,000.