

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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A GRAND VICTORY.

It would be hard to exaggerate the importance to Rossland of the victory gained at the polls Thursday by the Citizens' Ticket. To comprehend its full meaning one has but to think over the disastrous consequences which would have resulted from the success of the other side. The Miner has so frequently pointed to these and dwelt upon them at length that it is hardly necessary to review them here in detail. The purpose involved in the agitators' attempt to capture the municipal government was quite openly declared, and it was thoroughly understood by all. The success of that attempt would simply have meant the employment of the civic machinery as a weapon to serve the mischief-makers' ends. Strife, turmoil and disaster would have been the prevailing conditions for a year at least. Vindictive persecution of all who would not agree with the agitators' whims would have been the rule. Contemplation of these results, which would have followed a victory for the league, will make the responsible and permanent residents of the city feel like congratulating themselves and the community the more heartily. Their success means peace, prosperity and progress for the Golden City, instead of the bleak prospect it would otherwise have had to face. Let us all rejoice and be glad. And now that the trouble is over we should all, as Mayor-elect Clute very well said, unite in a determined effort to keep the wheel of progress turning for Rossland.

THE CIVIC GOVERNMENT.

A feature of good journalism is to take defeat gracefully and to bow to the will of the people. Not so the agitators' organ or its violent committee of 15. By the way, is not this name "Committee of 15" somewhat suggestive? We fancy we have read somewhere of a certain other "Committee of 15" that operated in Paris during the "Reign of Terror." Fitting name! Do these people know what happened in Rossland on Thursday, January 16th, 1902? Did they hear anything drop? One would naturally suppose that this clique, having failed to convince the electors of their trumped up charges against the administration would remain silent. However, the evening after the election the attack is renewed in the evening sheet and its baseless and false statements are repeated. The tone is venomous and spiteful and shows deep and bitter disappointment. It is unmanly to "rub it into" a defeated opponent, yet those people invite such action by repeating the same ridiculous and unfounded charges which the majority of the voters of Rossland refused on the 16th inst. to believe. We doubt if any reasonable gatepayer who takes the trouble to enquire will give credence to the calumnies of the World and its fulminations against the civic administration and more particularly against the Mayor-elect for the past two weeks. If, however, there be any doubt on the matter we are at liberty to say that the present incumbents of civic office have nothing to hide. There is no financial muddle, as alleged. There has been no civic mismanagement. The council is proud of its record, and it has a clean sheet. The financial statement to be given in detail is a good one, so much so that for information the same is being printed. We do not expect, however, that it will satisfy the self-constituted and now discredited critics who have been so severely turned down in the recent elections. "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." This was exemplified when a partial statement of the civic finances was recently published and the evening paper attempted to criticize and show large deficits and overdrafts, and cry blue ruin, etc., when all this was shown to be the veriest rot emanating from diseased imaginations. Those crude criticisms and illogical statements were tersely answered in these columns by a statement from the chairman of the finance committee which completely disposed of the mat-

ter, and the citizens have vindicated him and his friends by returning them again to power. "There are none so blind as those who won't see." The fact that the malcontents are unable to tell when they are licked is only too apparent. For sheer obstinacy and crass stupidity they are hard to beat. An object lesson can be seen in the strike. The fact that it is unsuccessful and the strikers beaten is well known and has been conceded for months past, yet the leaders still keep the rank and file in the tolls though the latter are deadly tired and would fain return to work. To return to civic matters, the administration state clearly that there are no matters to straighten out at the city hall, and notwithstanding the trouble-makers' threats to embarrass, hinder and impede the new administration the electors have already expressed their confidence in no uncertain terms. And further notwithstanding the aforesaid trouble-makers' writhings, contortions and unseemly display of bitterness at the thwarting of their schemes the public will refuse to listen to any unsupported statements emanating from that quarter.

JOE, THE WRECKER.

The very interesting announcement comes from Victoria that "Joe" Martin has decided to be a candidate there for the house of commons, resigning his seat in the provincial legislature for the purpose. He will run as an Independent Liberal against Mr. Riley, the regular Liberal nominee, and Mr. Barnard, the Conservative. If he persists in his determination he will undoubtedly take a good many Liberal votes, because he has a certain following in Victoria who are somewhat mysteriously moved to remain faithful to him in any circumstances. The Liberals cannot very well withdraw their regular candidate under his threat, and the outcome of the three-cornered contest is easily foretold. Mr. Barnard will in such event have a practical walk-over and the Liberal hopes of securing one of the Victoria seats will be dashed to the ground. The reason for "Joe's" decision is an eminently characteristic one, if it is correctly stated in the dispatches. "Joe" was moving with all his force to capture the provincial Liberal convention to be held at Vancouver and secure the nomination for the Liberal leadership in provincial politics, as a possible step towards capturing the premiership in the future. Apparently the Liberal executive in Victoria is intent on crossing him in this plan, and therefore he is prepared to wreck their hopes of carrying Victoria at the election for the commons. Nothing could better have illustrated the man's character, and his conduct in this incident may actually be of service to the electors of the province in the event of his being able once more to pose as the leader of a faction in provincial politics. The incident is also illustrative of the condition of the Liberal party in British Columbia—especially the coast section. "Joe" has contrived to introduce discord in the ranks, and evidently he will be both able and willing to keep it up.

TO THE BITTER END.

The opening of the session of the Imperial parliament was attended by circumstances which make it quite a notable event. It was entirely natural that there should be keen speculation as to the proposals which the government would lay before the members of the two houses, for the long continuation of Boer resistance and other complications have given origin to problems needing very serious efforts for their solution. On the central point of the situation, the pacification of South Africa, there is evidently to be no drawing back by the government from the position it has so consistently occupied. The remarks of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain are conclusive on that point. Indeed the decision of the government could not well be otherwise. To adopt the suggestions of the pro-Boers and put on the appearance of yielding would be to lose all the ground that has been gained at the cost of so much blood and treasure. The proposition is so absurd that it could not be entertained for a moment. To any unprejudiced onlooker it must be evident that the complete subjugation of the Boers is the only possible plan. What sensible and dispassionate outsiders think of the situation is shown by the following editorial utterance of the Spokesman-Review: "King Edward has publicly expressed the belief that the South African war is in its final stages, and an early declaration of peace in South Africa may be anticipated. It is hoped this expectation may be verified. The Boers have played a desperate game, and lost. Their capitals have been taken; their cities captured; their armies routed, and their governments annihilated. Their cause has degenerated into guerrilla warfare which can achieve nothing beyond harassing the British and prolonging the distress of their own people. Under these circumstances it is cruel to foster false hopes and encourage hopeless resistance. The pro-Boer agitation on the continent of Europe is all but criminal. Its obvious purpose is to in-

volve Germany in a war with England, but the attempt will probably fail there as a like attempt failed in the United States." If the pro-Boer agitation on the continent is "all but criminal," what should be said of the agitation carried on in Britain itself? The people who engage in it and thus encourage the infatuated followers of Botha and De Wet are actually murderers in effect, if not in intent. Their blindness to the certain results of their efforts is incomprehensible. Fortunately the indications that the malcontent Boers are nearly at the end of their resistance and that pacification of the country is at hand are daily multiplying. Even if it does end soon the war will have left a serious legacy of trouble for Britain, but the country is strong enough to bear with it.

NOW LET US HAVE PEACE.

Now that the smoke of battle has cleared away and the din is hushed, let us make up our minds to dwell in peace and harmony, and exert our every effort to the advancement of the best interests of the city of Rossland. It has been a most exasperating conflict. For months the bulk of us have been engaged in disputes and wrangles over a very distressing issue; and the Miner has been in the thick of it—where the missiles were the most numerous. But it was an issue that had to be met and dealt with; and the question involved was hardly of a nature which permitted the use of honeyed words or phrases. We confess we did not use many of them, but struck out boldly for the success of the cause which we were championing.

But now that the question has been settled—let us hope once and for all we should shake hands, and forget it. God knows our individual lives are full enough of worry and perplexing problems without our needlessly nursing public controversies. Peace is always better than War; and the Rossland Miner sincerely desires Peace. It has had some hard things to say of its opponents in this just-concluded fight; but it hopes it has not uttered one word which could be construed as a personal affront to any man. It has discussed methods, not men.

So much for the past. Now let us turn to the future. What is the outlook? Is it not a good one? We think so. And we address these words now more particularly to those engaged in business in this community. They have had a most trying time. The Miner realizes that quite fully, and sympathizes with them most heartily. There were periods when the clouds lowered most heavily over the city, and when it seemed that disaster was imminent; but we do say that the citizens of the banner mining town in Canada displayed a remarkable fortitude under most trying circumstances. We doubt, indeed, if any collection of business men can be found in any similar-sized community in the world who have borne up so bravely under circumstances so distracting. But it has been a case of being "purified by fire"—let us hope.

The outlook for the city is splendid. There ought to be an immediate improvement of business in all directions; and we believe there will be. Rossland is peculiarly well situated to prosper as a city. Its tradesmen are brought into direct touch with the everyday life of a grand body of wage earners; and as a consequence business relations of a most intimate character are established. This is an advantage which few mining towns possess. If we compare conditions in Rossland today with those which prevail in other sections of the country we will find that Rossland—with all the disastrous perplexities with which it has been afflicted—is in a much better shape. The Miner does not say this with any idea of boasting on behalf of the town in which it is published—because we deeply deplore that market conditions affecting the product of our mines are of such a character as to cause grave anxiety to those having the best welfare of the general mining interests of British Columbia at heart.

If we attempt an estimate of what the future holds for us in respect to business conditions here, we think that few will be inclined to dispute that the city is on a very solid basis, with an assurance of a good degree of prosperity for many years to come. We are inclined to that belief for this reason—we have it on the authority of some of the best mining engineers in the world that Rossland camp possesses properties which are marvelously rich. We have it also on the authority of the gentlemen in charge of the mines that the

operation of those properties is to be carried out on a larger scale than heretofore attempted. This will mean the employment of thousands of men, earning excellent wages, who will become permanently identified with the life of the community. And for these reasons we say that the outlook for Rossland is a very excellent one indeed.

As the writer of this article pens these lines he is imbued with the thought that it would not be inopportune to say one word in respect to the part he has played in Rossland's problems since he assumed control of the Miner. About the most unpleasant thing which can happen one in this world is to be called upon in the performance of one's duties to make enemies. Were critics of a situation to comprehend the intricacies of journalism they would not be disposed to deal harshly with the men who wield the editorial pen. The editor of the Miner has felt very keenly the displeasure engendered in the minds of those whom he was called upon to oppose in the recent fight. These words may seem out of place here, but they come from the heart.

One word in conclusion: Let us all make up our minds to dwell in peace and harmony together; let "the dead past bury its dead" and let us extend the hand of fellowship and go forward to our common destiny, with feelings of mutual respect and in an earnest desire to be mutually helpful to one another.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

An interesting story comes from Telluride. The boycott of the Miners' Union against the Telluride Journal extended to the firms who patronized that paper with advertising. Having failed to compel these merchants to withdraw their support from the paper, the following notice was posted on the public streets:

"Notice—To all members of organized labor and to their friends thereof. Adams & Hilbenhaus, Tomkins & Hunt Hardware Co., Stubb and Jackway Hardware Co., Hutt saloon, Hannan & Erickson, proprietors; Telluride Iron Works and Repair Shop, H. M. Sackett, proprietor; R. H. Washburn, dentist, the above named firms having continued their patronage of the Telluride Journal, giving them their moral and financial assistance in its fight against the interest of organized labor here and elsewhere, these firms have stamped themselves as unworthy of the support and patronage of the members of organized labor or its friends, and all members of organized labor are requested to withdraw all support from said firms. (Signed)

"VINCENT ST. JOHN,
"O. M. CARPENTER,
"K. McLEAN,
"Committee."

As soon as this notice was read by Dr. Washburn he immediately went to the office of the Journal and ordered his advertising space in the Journal doubled. Two firms that withdrew their advertising at the beginning of the trouble have replaced it. These firms are the Telluride Transfer company and Woods & Davis, dealers in hay and grain. The general sentiment appears to be against the union, and it is believed that it is only a question of a little time when the officers of the union will see their mistake and declare the boycott off. The general opinion among many of the people of Telluride is that the attempt of President St. John of the Miners' Union to injure the Telluride Journal will not be very successful. While many of the merchants have ostensibly withdrawn their patronage from the paper they are still supporting it in a quiet way and it is a noticeable fact that the outside subscriptions have considerably increased. Mr. Curry still continues his vigorous attacks on Mr. St. John's methods of getting even for his defeat last fall, and the extension of the boycott to the firms whose advertisements still appear is not regarded as serious. In fact, it is felt in conservative circles that Mr. St. John is carrying his fight too far, and is not obtaining the sympathy he expected. The Tomkins Hardware company is one of the largest business houses in the district, and Mr. H. H. Tomkins, the manager, announces his intention of continuing his support to the paper, on the ground that he is exercising his right as a business man to advertise his wares to the public and that he is not responsible for the editorial utterances of the newspaper in which he places his card.

DEATH OF CHIEF JUSTICE McCOLL.

News of the death of Chief Justice McColl, of the supreme court of the province, comes with startling suddenness. Recent reports had not indicated that the honored jurist was in serious danger, and the public was hardly prepared to hear of a fatal termination of his illness. The tidings of the sad event will be received with very general regret.

THE NEW COUNCIL.

The scene enacted at the city hall yesterday, when the council of 1901 stepped down and out of office to be succeeded immediately by their successors, the mayors and aldermen elected for the ensuing year, was of a most interesting nature, and the pleasant manner in which the ceremony passed off augurs well for the civic administration of 1902. It is evident that the new council is harmonious and that its attention to the corporation's business is not to be distracted by petty side issues that might have been introduced under certain circumstances. It is apparent that the interests of ratepayers generally are to be the sole ward of the new civic administration and that this administration will be operated on strictly business principles. This will be an important factor in the future success of the Golden City and the entirely satisfactory manner in which the municipal elections resulted must be borne in on every resident.

Ex-Mayor Lalonde took a prominent part in yesterday's formal proceedings. His address of farewell to his colleagues of the council of 1901 was neatly worded, while his remarks to the incoming board were marked by sound commonsense. In his suggestions as to certain points the new board should keep in view Mr. Lalonde did not overstep the bounds of propriety, as might easily have been done under the circumstances. There were certain matters arising in the course of last year's business with which he was, by reason of his position, particularly well acquainted, and no better opportunity could have been chosen to inform his successors of this special information than the juncture chosen by Mr. Lalonde. The congratulatory references to the retiring chief magistrate by his fellow members of the old council were in equally good taste and rounded out the tale of felicitation.

The principal interest in connection with the event naturally centres about Mayor Clute's address to the council of 1902, and it was generally remarked that a more manly and businesslike inaugural address had rarely been heard in Rossland. It will be especially noted that His Worship refrained from any remarks reflecting on any of the elements that opposed his candidature, in fact the whole tenor of his address must convince the reader that the administration of 1902 is to be conducted by business men in the interests of the citizens as a unit without respect to classes, creeds or races. The effect of such municipal government will be felt and appreciated at home and abroad, perhaps in a greater degree outside of the city itself than the majority of citizens realize at this time.

There are no discords in the council of 1902. So far as can be gathered at this juncture the mayor and the aldermen are a unit in their intention of devoting their time and talents to the conducting of the city's affairs in such a manner as will substantially assist in advancing the Golden City in the estimation of the world. With harmony in their counsels and an eye single to the interests of the community as a whole, the council's efforts in the direction indicated are more than likely to be attended by the desired results.

In his inaugural remarks Mayor Clute touches on a number of matters of considerable local importance. It will be recognized that he touches the keynote of the situation in his reference to the pressing need for the strictest economy during the year. There is in the Golden City ample scope for a large expenditure in desirable public works and utilities, and in view of the pressing necessity of many of these features there is a temptation to expend moneys beyond the limits of the corporation's revenues. It is apparent that only necessary repairs and other items requiring comparatively slight expenditures will be possible this year, but it is safe to predict that a year of the strictest economy will place the city in a decidedly more satisfactory position with respect to public improvements. In the meantime the interests of the city can be safely left in the hands of the men who took the oath of office yesterday. Their presence in office affords ratepayers a guarantee of clean, honest, capable government such as the city requires to tide it over the effects of a period of unparalleled depression.

A HOT TIME AT VICTORIA.

The coast capital, during the next few weeks, will be the scene of two very fierce political contests of material importance to the whole of British Columbia. Joe Martin—the irrepressible Joe—will be right in it. It is very difficult to understand what the stormy petrel of Canadian politics has in view this time—perhaps he is only determined to keep himself prominent in the public eye at all cost. He certainly cannot expect to be elected in Victoria, though he may get a considerable following. But when he knows he cannot get elected, Joe is always content to destroy some other candidate's chances, especially when that candidate is an opponent of his belonging to the same party. In the contest for the vacancy in the Federal house this time in Victoria there will be drawn up against each other George Riley, president of the Victoria Liberal Association, Frank

Barnard, the chosen of the Conservative element, and Joe Martin, who represents Chaos and disorder in matters political. Had the latter not entered the field Riley would have had an excellent chance of being elected; but as it is now the victory will no doubt fall to Barnard, the Conservative candidate, as Martin will split the Liberal vote with Riley. Whatever may be the termination, the people of British Columbia will fervently hope that Martin may get a sound drubbing. In all seriousness, there is no place for him in Canadian politics. He has shown himself a man devoid of principle, one always willing to sacrifice his country's interests for the sake of revenge; and such a man is a menace to the wellbeing of any land where he may "operate."

In the contest for the vacant provincial seat E. V. Bodwell will make an exceptionally strong candidate; and it is difficult to see how his opponents can hope to defeat him. However, as there is apparently a division among the Liberals regarding the expediency of his candidacy at this time, it would not be surprising if it were done.

THE COPPER SITUATION.

Houston's annual copper circular issued in New York under date of January 9th last contains information which throws considerable light upon the circumstances which produced the remarkable decline in copper. These it is claimed "were due to under-consumption in Europe, and the consequent falling off in American exports; an accumulation of copper in first hands, and inability to market the surplus stock at the figures holders thereof were formerly asking. While the controlling copper interests were maintaining a firm market other sellers in New York and abroad were disposing of their product by shading terms, and the demand not being sufficient to take all the copper produced the bulk of the orders for a time naturally went to the lowest seller. Through this process some producers managed to keep pretty well sold up, when at the same time other holders who kept their price a fraction higher than their competitors were left to carry the surplus as well as the umbrella. The umbrella has been taken down, the surplus confronts the market and the other features of the sequel are known. A partial curtailment of output all round until a return to normal conditions abroad might have prevented the present demoralized and complex situation, and allowed the market to settle on a reasonable basis where every legitimate copper interest could enjoy continued prosperity. As it is now the whole market has been thrown into confusion and an effectual damper placed upon it with no indications at the moment of immediate return of enthusiasm. Although existing conditions make it necessary to record the foregoing statements, nevertheless, we feel confident that the copper situation will ultimately right itself, and that the market will yet emerge from its depression sooner or later to enter upon an era of great prosperity. But recent events have been such, however, that a review of the market makes the presentation of the facts given requisite. Consumption of copper in this country during the past year has been of a most gratifying character and exceeded that of the year previous. The home brass and copper manufacturers are equipped to maintain the ground gained, and are prepared to handle business on the largest scale known. The lowering of the price of copper should stimulate the increased domestic use of the metal and foreign demand also, and it is to be hoped that the various channels of trade will soon be able to absorb whatever surplus exists as well as furnish avenues of distribution for current output. A modification of the latter, however, in present exigencies should recommend itself until the world's consumption is able to keep step with production. Sales have been restricted since the market began, and buyers have been extremely conservative. The tendency is to buy only for present needs.

"During last month the London copper market fell £14 12s. 6d. per ton for cash standard between the 2nd and 23rd ultimo, and at £47 for spot touched the lowest point since May, 1897. The price of cash standard at the beginning of the month was £61 12s. 6d. per ton, and closed at £49. The weakness of the market was the feature, and the sales were in large volume. The free selling kept pace with the downward tendency of the market until the lowest price was reached, after which the transactions were much smaller. The past year closed £23 17s. 6d. lower than on December 31, 1900."

The lack of tidings of the overdue warship Condor, which left Victoria on December 2nd for Honolulu, induces the belief that the sea has claimed another victim. If the surmise proves correct the loss of life will be very great.

If press dispatches are to be believed E. P. Davis, K. C., the eminent barrister of Vancouver, has consented to take the vacant chief justiceship if the post is offered him. As he is strongly supported by the Liberals and has great ability he will probably receive the appointment. His selection would give general satisfaction.

PAR

A Grand

Sharp Re

LONDON, Ja

opened parliament in all essential features of February last. House of lords was earlier as that with the opening of the King Edward's upper house was paeantry, the and the same r. After robing, King Alexandra entered occupied canopy, with the of Wales on either side, members of the speaker and house of commons speech from the then retired amper and attend ceremony as ad into the house.

They were seated as they sat in golden pinnacles the trees in the ward and Queen all the world III of Henry VIII looking spouses, both looked extra. So far as reasm was concerned nothing to what day, when the left their barba Africa. The guard the dark streets o'clock in the an uproarious singing songs to bands. The song did not drown the clung to the m most every man.

On sighting the houses of Victoria tower, King Alexandra were of state and wearing rooms. Havg geous robes the ed, and precede vantage, lord p bearing the Im heralds and pu the house of p trumptets.

The scene in very brilliant, dons and minis form and yach colored robes fil The King, be field marshal's dress was of b by a robe trim peresses all w white hat, and white robes of white satin, he The display of dazzling.

The only deply decorous dings occurred to the humanty in South Africa ocated scene Peers and peer state broke ou which was agai the ev Majesty, but o officials of the throne referred world tour of of Wales.

They were King "retrospc liveliest affecti that their bes closely the bon loyalty by whi pure is mainta Referring to with foreign "My relations continue to be reference to th nite as the s made in the from the thry Majesty, "that is not yet con of operations arrangements, gely reduced, resumed in r of the tedious pain, my s displayed a c ance of the h rila warfare, their own de of the enemy highest praise those of felt the stru the opportu self of the l my colonies, will shortly Dominion of wealth of Au After some conference o "I have com of the Inte visions of construction under guar will be ma be open to t of all nation Next Brazil Anglo-Brazl ring of the