

Handed to Militia Department Last May

The site granted for the Rossland drill hall has been transferred to the militia department of the federal administration, so that the only preliminary to the construction of the armory is the purchase of the necessary appropriation at the forthcoming session of parliament.

As all the other companies of the Rocky Mountain Rangers have been equipped with drill halls, and as the Rossland appropriation was once in effect with the site provided, there seems to be no reason to doubt that an appropriation will be forthcoming without any special effort.

It has developed that on May 23rd last, Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes, district officer commanding, received from the department of lands and works at Victoria, the agreement deciding the court house block lots to the militia department for drill hall purposes, and that

Colonel Holmes promptly transmitted the deeds to Ottawa. When the point was raised a few days ago as to this transfer, the foregoing information was given from Colonel Holmes, and it will have the effect of putting an end to speculation on the site question.

With matters in their present shape, most citizens favor allowing the drill hall question to work out its solution without further debate, lest the construction of the premises should again be delayed. While some are still disposed to the opinion that the appearance of the court house may be marred to some extent, it is pointed out that the fact of a heavy foundation wall being required for a structure on the present site will make it possible for the militia to have an excellent basement for shooting galleries, bowling alleys, etc., which might be difficult of attainment were the hall erected elsewhere.

Almost 600 People At Rink Opening

With clash of brass and merry laughter of hundreds of skaters, the skating season was formally inaugurated last night at the skating rink. The event was eagerly awaited and the opening night drew out 600 people, most of whom were on the ice for a portion of the evening at least.

The management of the rink has had much to contend with in connection with preparing the rink for skating, but at last their difficulties were overcome, although there is a grave danger of the good work being partially undone if the weather does not stiffen up and a few degrees of frost take the place of the present mild temperature.

Weather permitting, skating will be available daily for the balance of the season. The management finds it impossible to tell in advance at this season whether the rink will be open every day, and a system of signals has been devised whereby the public may

be informed of conditions without walking up to the rink and meeting with possible disappointments. It is proposed to hoist a flag at noon daily if the rink is to be open on the evening of that day. The flag at topmast on the rink will mean, therefore, that skating will be held, whereas the non-appearance of the Union Jack will indicate that the weather is too mild for the pastime. It goes without saying that the management will put forth every effort to have the ice in shape daily, but weather conditions are not amenable to human dictation, hence it may be essential occasionally to close the rink for a day or so. The advertising columns of The Miner will be utilized to keep the public posted with regard to the rink.

It is proposed, as usual, to give various carnivals during the season, and the first of the series will be awaited with keen interest.

Turns City Premises Over to Fraternity

The city fathers held their regular meeting last night and disposed of a variety of matters accumulated during the preceding week.

One of the principal features of the business agenda was the reception and assignment of the lease to be executed jointly between the corporation and the Sons of St. George, whereby the society secures the library premises at the fire hall for the reading room and library which it has undertaken to establish.

The lease provides that the fraternity shall have and hold the library premises for a period of five years, but the document expressly stipulates that the corporation shall have the right to terminate the arrangement at any time upon giving one month's notice, and that the corporation is not to be liable for any damages or compensation by reason of such termination.

The Sons of St. George undertake to

keep the library premises in repair, and not to assign or sub-let without permission. The fraternity is to furnish and maintain the institution as a free library and all furniture, fixtures, books or literature placed in the premises are to become the property of the corporation upon the expiration of the term of the agreement.

The society is given the right to close the library to the public between the hours of 6 p. m. and 12 p. m. on the first and third Fridays of each month. This is the night on which the fraternity meets, and their intention is to devote the funds otherwise required for lodge room rentals to the purchase of literature for the library.

A meeting of the rooms and literature committees of the Sons of St. George took place last night, at which the agreement was submitted. It meets the approval of the society and will be executed forthwith.

Curlers Held Meeting And Elected Skips

The room of the Rossland Curling Club at the skating rink was crowded last night with members of that organization called together for the purpose of receiving the report of the special committee appointed at the last meeting of the club to frame a constitution and bylaws. The report of the special committee was read and adopted.

After the adoption of the constitution and bylaws the election of some thirteen new members was gone into. The taking in of these new members has added considerable strength to the local organization, the total membership being now a little above eighty, which makes the Rossland Curling Club the strongest in point of membership in this section of British Columbia.

The most important matter to come before the attention of the local curlers last night was the election of the club skips for the season. On a ballot being taken the following members were elected club skips: J. S. C. Fraser, H. H. Smith, Dr. Campbell, W. McQueen, A. H. MacNeill, R. W. Grigor. In addition to the foregoing, the following members of the club were elected skips to play in the club matches: A. W. Strickland, Dr. Kerr, F. W. Pretty, W. M. Wood, J. M. Macdonald, A. B. Mackenzie, A. M. Stewart, T. S. Gilmore, E. A. Rolf, Donald Guthrie, Dr. Coulthard, A. B. Barker and Rev. A. M. Sandford.

The skips then drew for rinks, which resulted as follows:

Norman McInnes
E. A. Rolf, skip
Harry Daniel
Jas. H. Young
Harry Bell
A. Strickland, skip
Principal Bruce
J. H. Wize
L. A. Campbell
H. H. Smith, skip
W. McKay
Dr. Milloy
Eugene Creteau
F. W. Pretty, skip
Judge Boulthée
Robert Lamont
Lee Coombs
R. W. Grigor, skip
W. McQueen, skip
Skip Thomas S. Gilmore has Gordon Logan and George Urquhart on his rink, with another man wanted to fill. New members will be placed on rinks from time to time.

The above mentioned skips are particularly requested to see the respective members of their rinks and arrange for matches, as the club matches will be drawn and played off as soon as possible. The meeting, after going into some other business that came up adjourned at 11 o'clock.

J. H. Watson
Ray Wilson
H. G. Oliver
A. B. Barker, skip
H. H. Johnson
J. A. Macdonald
W. F. McNeill
A. M. Stewart, skip
J. W. Spring
Hiram P. McCraney
Rev. H. G. Gunn
Dr. Coulthard, skip
Dr. Kenning
J. N. Nelson
Chas. M. Oliver
Dr. Campbell, skip
Harry Mcintosh
W. L. McMillan

E. B. Kirby
N. F. Townsend
Col. G. M. King
A. Maenell, skip
G. Gillard
C. V. Jenkins
T. I. Dunn
A. Mackenzie skip
John Robinson
R. W. Drew
Prin. McTaggart
W. M. Wood, skip
Robt. A. Grant
Martin Dolan
James Hunter
D. Guthrie, skip
Dan Bruhn
George Kerr

Man Killed and Works Badly Wrecked

Yesterday was an ill-starred day for the Cascade Water Power & Light company. An employee of the company was electrocuted at the works, and heavy damage was done to the power house through a broken pipe flooding the premises.

Thomas Bagley, of Eastons Corner, Ontario, who had been employed at the works for the past six months, was the victim of the fatality. He grasped a telephone wire which proved to be carrying a heavy electrical current, and was burned to death. It is presumed that the telephone wire had crossed one of the cables carrying the electrical current for distribution, and that the insulation had become worn, permitting the telephone wire to divert the power. For several hours the employer of the company worked over

Bagley's inanimate form, but all efforts at resuscitation failed. An inquest will be held.

The wreck at the power house was caused by the breaking of a valve in the main supply pipe. This released a large quantity of water pent in under a strong head, and the torrent thus set free tore away half of the west wall of the power house.

No damage of importance was done to the valuable machinery installed in the premises, but it is stated that the plant will be closed down for a couple of months until repairs are completed, thus seriously interfering with the company's operations. The Granby and other Phoenix mines and the Granby smelter purchase power from the Associated Press and it is not known to what extent their operations will be hampered.

CITY NEWS

WORTHY MOVE—A movement is on foot to tender a complimentary banquet to Bernard Macdonald, M. E., and William Thompson, M. E., in the very near future.

LAST SAD JOURNEY—The remains of the late Mrs. John C. Murphy were taken to Davenport, Wash., yesterday for interment. Prior to the departure of the train services were conducted by Rev. A. M. Sanford, B. A., pastor of the Methodist church, at the home of the deceased.

WANTS TAXES CUT—Mrs. Nadeau, who owned the Spokane hotel premises burned in the big August fire, has written the city directing attention to the loss she suffered at that juncture and requesting that her taxes be reduced accordingly. The matter will be dealt with by the city council.

DRIVE OVER CEMETERY—The city council, on recommendation of the committee having the matter in hand, has granted certain milkmen permission to run a sleigh road across the city cemetery during the winter months, provided \$25 is deposited to cover the cost of repairs that may be necessary in spring.

GAVE FREE WATER—A grant of \$100 has been made by the corporation to the Sisters' hospital. This sum is sufficient to cover the purchase of water for the year, and the appropriation therefore means that the hospital receives free water. A similar course was followed last year.

ENTRANCE EXAMS—The examinations in the public schools for entrance to the high school commence here on Monday next. David Wilson, public school inspector, will be in the city for the purpose of getting the work under way. Mr. Wilson is expected to remain here several days in connection with the examinations.

SALVATION ARMY—There will be special meetings on Saturday and Sunday next, December 12 and 13, conducted by Staff-Captain Taylor of the District of Columbia. Everybody should hear him. The meeting on Sunday at 8 p. m. is public, and the subject for 8 p. m. is "The Greatest Need of the 20th Century." All welcome.

HIS FIRST VISIT—M. H. Murtha, assistant superintendent and trainmaster of the Spokane Falls & Northern road, was in the city yesterday, accompanied by C. H. Prescott, master mechanic. Mr. Murtha recently attained his present post after serving for some time in the capacity of chief clerk at the head office. Yesterday he paid his first visit to Rossland in his new capacity.

WORTH WATCHING—An ever present source of danger to pedestrians during a thaw such as the present soft period, is the presence of several feet of snow on the roofs of buildings. Miniature slides are likely to occur at any moment, and should these slides contain ice an unlucky passer-by might easily meet with painful injuries. The outside of the sidewalk is safest just now.

VERY ILL—The many friends of Dr. Sinclair Logan will be sorry to learn of his severe illness. Dr. Sinclair has been very ill during the past few weeks, and at present shows little signs of improvement. He has been able to move around occasionally, but his sickness took a turn for the worse on each occasion. He is being attended to and on by all the physicians of the city.

FROM SALMO—J. W. Holmes, of the Holmes Mining students of Salmo, has been in the city during the past few days looking after some mining matters. Mining conditions are at a standstill at the present in the Salmo district, none of the properties being worked outside of the Queen mine, a free milling gold proposition that is owned by the Holmes syndicate. Mr. Holmes leaves in a couple of days for Salmo.

MAY LAND CATTLE—Under Certain Restrictions—Announcement of Gazette.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—The Board of Agriculture Gazette today announced that special orders had been issued permitting the Cunard Line steamer Sylvania from Boston November 30 for Liverpool, and the Leyland Line steamer California from Portland, Maine, November 30 for the same port, to land live stock under certain restrictions.

DESTROYED BY FIRE—LADYSMITH, Wis., Dec. 9.—Ingram, a lumbering town of 125 people on the Soo railroad, has been destroyed by fire, according to a message received here today.

THE VENEZUELAN SITUATION

CARACAS, Dec. 9.—All British and German subjects in Caracas were arrested today.

KINGSTON, St. Vincent, Dec. 9.—The British cruiser indefatigable, which has arrived here from LaGuaira, Venezuela, brings reports from President Castro that that country is defiant and indifferent to the threatened blockade. It is asserted that President Castro is prepared even to expel the German and British residents in La Guaira and to close that port.

CASTRO'S STATEMENT—CARACAS, Dec. 9.—President Castro received the correspondent of the Associated Press at Meradores Palace today. In reply to questions the president of Venezuela said:

"The Venezuelan government has not received any ultimatum, properly speaking, but rather simultaneous requests from Great Britain and Germany. The claims Great Britain asks this government to settle are small, and up to the present we have not been aware of them. Never having been aware of them Venezuela has consequently never refused to settle them. Great Britain's action is therefore without justification. The Venezuelan government cannot decide on foreign claims before the revolution has been entirely crushed. At present the government has the re-establishment of public order or other questions which might necessarily be subservient to this object. Nevertheless to prove Venezuela's desire to settle all pending claims in a comfortable manner the government issued a decree during the last session of congress, November 28, creating a committee, to which all pending claims should be referred. No claims have been presented to this committee and no claims have been rejected. There has been no denial of justice, why then should foreign chancelleries intervene thereby ignoring our laws and endeavoring to violate our national sovereignty? We do not understand this action."

The correspondent then said to President Castro:

"What do you intend to do in view of the present attitude of the powers?"

President replied:

"Enforce our rights and explain to the world that Venezuela has laws, and prove that we have never denied our engagements."

The president was then asked what reply the Venezuelan government would make to the requests handed in by the German and British envoys. He replied, after reflection:

"The Venezuelan government is astonished after the notes which were transmitted by the diplomatic representatives of Germany and Great Britain. These envoys should leave Caracas without awaiting the reply of the Venezuelan government."

The correspondent then asked President Castro what course he intended to pursue should the powers declare a blockade.

The president excused himself from answering this question.

No ultimatum had been delivered to Venezuela up to 2 o'clock this afternoon. Should Venezuela refuse or fail to reply to the notes of Great Britain very much resembling the "Black Maria" ultimatum will then be delivered. The ultimatum would possibly be transmitted by Admiral Douglas, commanding the combined British and German fleets, or by the captain of the British cruiser Retribution.

ULTIMATUMS TO VENEZUELA—LONDON, Dec. 8.—Great Britain and Germany have presented ultimatums to Venezuela, which will be followed up by the seizure of the customs unless a satisfactory settlement is forthcoming within a brief period. The ultimatums have a time limit, but the exact date cannot be ascertained here. The foreign office states with regard to the time limit:

"It is a reasonable time in which Venezuela can satisfy the injured governments. Both notes are practically identical, but the amounts of the claims are different. The notes merely reiterate the continued disregard by the Venezuelan government of all our representations specified in our claims, and demand immediate action on the part of President Castro's government there-with."

The British government's case is practically identical with the statements made in previous dispatches from London, in which it was announced the present action was a hostile reception. British Minister Haggard has already been instructed to go aboard a warship, or, if that is impracticable, to go into the neighboring British colony.

The foreign office, however, would not appear to anticipate such a contingency for a moment nor does it look forward to any startling development within the next few days. Premier Balfour's announcement in the course of comment today is regarded as merely the obvious culmination of the situation, which has been becoming critical for the last three months.

The Associated Press correspondent learns that complicated circumstances have arisen in the ability of the foreign office to communicate with Minister Haggard. The officials here believe that he is still in Caracas, but owing to the reported break in the cable they are quite ignorant as to what steps are taken or what the Venezuelan government intend to do.

The foreign office is hourly awaiting important dispatches from Caracas, but up to a late hour tonight none had reached here. While the government is rather worried at the inability to get an answer from Minister Haggard, they are in no way seriously alarmed, especially as inquiries have revealed the fact that the Venezuelan representatives are in a similar situation. The foreign office says:

"There is not the slightest desire to coerce Venezuela, and if an answer had been made to our repeated demands and

SENATOR O'DONOGHUE DEAD—TORONTO, Dec. 8.—Senator John O'Donoghue, liberal, died yesterday, aged 78 years. He was appointed to the senate in 1882.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE—TORONTO, Dec. 8.—Julius Kamm of the Davenport road shot himself in the mouth with supposed suicidal intent Saturday, and is now in St. Michael's hospital at the point of death.

DIPHTHERIA NEAR QUEBEC—QUEBEC, Dec. 8.—An epidemic of diphtheria at Deschambault, near here, a number of deaths have occurred. Dozens of children are laid up with the malady, which is of a most severe type. There were eight or ten deaths from the disease last week.

ROS

Per Year \$2.50.

YEAR'S GAIN

Ore Production Shows Gain Tons Over Last Year--T Rossland's Big Mines--P

Increased shipments from the Le Roi and Centre Star mines makes last week's production in the Rossland camp somewhat larger than for the preceding period. Over 7000 tons of ore were sent to the various smelters, thus maintaining the normal average of the camp.

The Velvet mine resumed shipments during the week, the first test ore reaching the Northport smelter about the middle of the period. The management, wisely desisted from attempting to ship ore while the wagon road was doubtful, but now that the road is in admirable shape, ore is being moved as before. The probability of a long steady winter points to extensive shipments from the Velvet. It is stated that the standard established during the fall—\$20 per ton—will be maintained.

The old trouble of meagre coke supplies is still vexing the Northport smelter, and probably has some effect upon the plans of the Le Roi. Three furnaces are in operation out of the battery of six, and until the whole plant is in operation the Le Roi is not likely to increase its shipments. The calciners at the smelter are also being used.

Centre Star and War Eagle shipments remain about where they have been for some weeks. The past week saw the Centre Star's tonnage somewhat increased as compared with the preceding week, while the output of the War Eagle dropped slightly. The month's aggregate is maintained however.

The White Bear and Homestake are working steadily, on development exclusively, of course. Their operations will be followed with more than ordinary interest for reasons obvious.

The Nickel Plate and Kootenay mines are being submitted to a thorough inspection by C. Williamson Milne, chairman of the board of directors, who has spent the week in the city. Mr. Milne is examining the situation from every aspect and the report which he will make to his directors will undoubtedly have an important bearing on the nature of the company's intentions with respect to their Rossland properties. The interesting feature in connection with the Kootenay mine is, of course, the detection of a system for treating the ores and the establishment of reductive works on the plans adopted. It has been stated that tests indicate that Kootenay ore is admirably adapted for smelting on the pyritic system—an ideal ore for this process, in fact—and that it will yield a handsome profit after paying the low costs of treating it by pyritic smelting. It has also been asserted that the problem of realizing on these ore deposits is now under advisement.

COMMENT OF LONDON PAPERS—LONDON, Dec. 9.—The London papers this morning comment on the ultimatum to Venezuela. They show no further concern regarding the attitude of the United States, which it is taken for granted will be on the side of a friendly neutrality, but the papers are concerned as to the extent to which Germany and Great Britain are acting in unison. Premier Balfour's rather evasive reply to the question whether the ultimatum was joint or identical, together with the fact that the German official statement, unlike that of Mr. Balfour, did not mention Great Britain as acting in conjunction with Germany, and, in fact, hardly mentioned Great Britain at all, is considered, to say the least, curious. Some complaint is also made in the press that the government is not prepared to lay papers dealing with the question before parliament, but on the whole it is not considered that there will be any necessity to employ force. It is assumed that once Venezuela is convinced that she has no show of support from the United States she will find means to satisfy the Anglo-American demands.

THE POWER OF THE TRUSTS—Satan stepped into the furnace-roop, gazed into the bottomless pit for a few minutes, and walked over to the thermometer.

"Here!" he thundered when he had noted the figures, "above in more care, drive your gentlemen down there they will be having influenza!"

"We can't, your majesty," responded Azrael, the head fireman; "there is none."

"No coal?" stormed his majesty.

"No, sire; not since the coal trust gentlemen arrived. They've organized a combine and we can't get a lump."

"Oh!" laughed his majesty; "they're at their old tricks, are they? Well, just dump a few barrels of oil. That'll make a cheerful fire."

"The oil trust magnates have also arrived, your majesty," explained the faithful Azrael.

The brow of Satan grew black.

"Chuck in a lot of hams and shoulders and send an imp up to sit on the safety-valve," he commanded sternly; "for he had had experience of a Mississippi river steamboat and knew his business."

Azrael trembled, but he could not tell a lie. "The pork packers' combine has been with us for several days, your majesty," he said briefly.

"Satan gave Cerberus a kick in the ribs which almost stopped the animal's vitality, and started for the door. "Well," he explained, "these trusts beat hell, and no mistake!"

And Azrael, bowed by the weight of combinations, leaned on his shovel and gazed upon the ground.

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The Continent Continued

Herr Albert Klockmann of Spokane is in the city for a few days in connection with his local interests. Herr Klockmann has recently returned from an extensive trip to the east, where he was in consultation with the directors of the Continental mine in regard to the program for the ensuing year.

Great hopes are entertained for the Continental mine, the Idaho silver-lead property with which Mr. Klockmann became identified some years ago, and which is now in the hands of a strong corporation headed by Duluth capitalists with Mr. Klockmann as manager and one of the largest individual stockholders. The development to date justifies the corporation's outlay, and has induced them to proceed with further expenditures, the effect of which will be to make the property an important factor in the silver-lead producing mines of the Northwest States.

The principal feature of the program for 1921 in connection with the Contin-

Enjoyable Dances The Ra

One of the most enjoyable dances of the year was given last night at Odd Fellows' hall by Maple Leaf Temple No. 4, Rathbone Sisters. The dance was the second one given in this city of the order, and proved not only more successful than the previous dance, but more enjoyable as well. Odd Fellows' hall was comfortably filled by the time the first dance was announced. By 10 o'clock all the available space was taken up, which speaks well for the success of the dance.

Before issuing the invitations the Rathbone Sisters at their last meeting decided to appoint a special floor committee to prevent confusion. The committee in charge last night and appointed by the Rathbone Sisters were Mr. and Mrs. D. Thomas, Mrs. Schott, Mrs. McKeown and Mrs. Roberts.

As there were quite a few people who dropped in and then left, nothing like