

EAST KOOTENAY LICENSES.

For upwards of a year there have been applications before the department of lands and works for licenses to develop coal and petroleum lands in the Flathead district of East Kootenay. The applications were made by bona fide prospectors who have complied with all the requirements of the law. There is not and never has been any valid reason why the licenses thus demanded should not be promptly granted. While it is true that the provincial government has maintained a reserve on the surface rights of the lands in question, there is no law or departmental regulation to prevent the chief commissioner from issuing the licenses. Still, in spite of all this, the authorities persistently refuse to act, except to do everything possible to induce the applicants to abandon their rights.

The wilful neglect of the present government, as well as the administration which immediately preceded it, to permit the development of the coal and petroleum areas in the Flathead district is a public scandal and a general disgrace to the province, and it has operated most disastrously in all attempts to develop the various natural resources of Southeastern British Columbia. The lands of the Flathead section are rich in extensive deposits of coal and petroleum which would be a valuable asset in the levying of taxes if those who have applied to develop them were given permission. But this is not all. The Crow's Nest coal monopoly will continue to "hold up" every industry in Southern British Columbia to the great detriment of the country until other collieries are brought into competition with it. As The Miner has repeatedly remarked, this section of the province suffers to an incalculable extent from an unnecessarily exorbitant and inadequate fuel supply because it is dependent upon the production of one company. There are times even when from one cause or another there is no coke to be had at any price. This condition of affairs has become intolerable.

One of the reasons why the Prior government became discredited was its stubborn refusal to permit the development of the Flathead country. When Hon. Richard McBride was called upon to form a government it was generally supposed that he would comply with the wishes of a large majority of the people and do what is manifestly his duty by issuing licenses to all bona fide applicants. He went so far as to promise that he would issue licenses immediately after the elections, provided he remained in office. Nearly a month has elapsed since the elections and although he is still at the head of affairs, he has disregarded his pledge.

We have come to the conclusion, and not without good cause, that the present administration is absolutely under the control of the coal monopoly; otherwise, McBride would not dare to have deferred action so long. The monopoly seems to dominate the present premier as effectively as it did his predecessor, and we all know to what extent Col. Prior was financially interested in the Crow's Nest Coal company.

WORSE THAN USELESS.

William Fleet Robertson, the provincial mineralogist, seems to take a delight in decrying the mining interests of the province. It is so seldom that he has a good word for any of the districts that he has earned an established reputation as a sort of a scientific Jeremiah.

The latest district to suffer at his hands is the Poplar creek section, which he damns with faint praise, as he can see nothing apparently in what seems to be the best and richest free milling gold belt yet found in this province that could evoke from him anything in the nature of the faintest praise. Mr. Robertson is either afraid of committing himself or he is a confirmed pessimist, who takes a gloomy view of everything that he sees, and the sombre way in which he discerns things in general colors all of the publications on the mining situation which he gives to the public. Of course, as he says, the Poplar creek section is not yet developed, and who could expect it to be when the rich discoveries made on the surface there were found only a few months since? No man can look into the ground and see that there is metal wealth there, but anyone who could traverse the lodes of the district, pan out the free gold from the rich decomposed quartz and oxides, and find here and there nuggets of yellow gold; who could observe the width of the veins, the regularity of the formation and the other outward signs of subterranean wealth and not become enthusiastic, must indeed be an individual who is devoid of hope, lacks imagination, and has little or none of the instincts of a miner about him.

We hold, and we think that the large majority of the people of the province will heartily concur in the view, that a man of the disposition of Mr. Robertson is totally unfit for the important position which he occupies.

Mining is one of the leading, if not the leading, industries of the province, and the future good fortune of a large number of the people depends upon its being fostered and properly developed. Suppose, for instance, that all of those engaged in the mining industry took the same dreary, hopeless view of mining matters that Mr. Robertson does, what would be the condition of affairs in British Columbia? How can we expect to bring capital for investment in our mines into the province when an official occupying the responsible position that Mr. Robertson does takes so much pains on numerous occasions to actually decry them?

What is wanted in the individual who fills this position is a man of a more sanguine temperament than Mr. Robertson, and one who will give new and undeveloped districts in his public utterances through the newspapers and in his official reports at least the benefit of the doubt. British Columbia cannot much longer afford to have this man, whom we regard as a sort of an incubus on the mining industry, to retard its progress by the very peculiar position and attitude which he is constantly assuming. The Provincial Mining association has had occasion to call Mr. Robertson to account for the wrong-headed attitude which it pleases him so constantly to assume. The sooner, therefore, that Mr. Robertson is removed from his position and a better and more unbiased mineralogist appointed in his place the better it will be for the well being of the mining industry.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dividends declared thus far this year by mining companies amount to more than \$100,000,000.

The American hen is doing her best to get to the top of the statistical tables. She now stands higher than the gold mines as a money producer. So every farmer can now own his own gold mine.

The Allan line has ordered at Belfast a 12,000 ton turbine steamer, the first of this kind to be used on the Atlantic. The new steamer is intended for the mail service between Liverpool and Canada, and will have a speed of 17 knots.

The recent advances in the price of silver are creating great interest in the silver producing districts of the west. If the present quotations are maintained, it is certain that a number of the silver mines that have been idle for several years past will resume work in the very near future.

A gentleman has brought suit against the state of Minnesota and the state university for injury done to the constitution of his son, who was assigned to the arduous labor of building an iron fence when he was supposed to be doing light work in the medical laboratory. Just think what might have happened if he had been put to work on the football team!

The spirit of the country is opposed to monopolies. The competitive system is the one under which our industries have been built up, the right of every man to work being at the same time recognized. To this system we should cling, opposing on the one hand the monopolies of capital and on the other hand the equally dangerous monopolies of labor.

Every reader of the Scriptures must be astonished to observe the wonderful change that took place in the tastes and manners of the prophet Elijah between the day when, 3000 years ago, he dropped his mantle on the shoulders of Elisha and ascended to heaven in a chariot of fire, and that upon which he reappeared upon earth to chastise and convert a sinful world in the guise of Dr. John Alexander Dowie.

A Montreal correspondent, who is a Canadian agent for several important British manufacturers of different forms of iron and steel, writing of the low rates of duty imposed upon some of these articles, some of them being in the free list, and remarking upon the effects of the surtax upon German goods, suggests that it would have been more consistent if the discrimination against German goods had been a duty equal to that imposed by the United States upon such articles. No surtax is imposed upon articles that are upon the free list; and the preferential tariff in favor of British goods, and the surtax upon German goods, allows the import of the latter at only double the duty paid on British goods, but there is no difference in the matter of non-dutiable goods.

The German press continues to urge all manner of objections to the adoption of a protectionist tariff by England. The chamber of commerce at Chemnitz, Germany, reports that the increase in import duties into Canada has hit the Saxon textile industry very hard, especially cotton woven gloves and stockings, which were largely exported from Saxony to Canada. The

additional increase of 33-1-3 per cent will completely prevent the continuation of the Saxon export to Canada. The toy industry is also seriously affected, and the whole of this export trade to Canada will be lost if the increase of 33-1-3 per cent duty becomes permanent. The German chamber of commerce urges a friendly arrangement with Canada on the basis of mutual concessions. It points out the serious consequence of a customs war with Canada, as it would endanger German commercial relations with England, and German industries could not stand the consequence of a customs war with Canada.

The United States have pressed their advantages and claims to their full extent. They have demanded and received their pound of flesh, and for ourselves we have no disposition to complain. The whole matter has been undignifiedly a game for the trade and incidentals of the Yukon. They have played their trump cards, and if there are no more to be laid down they have won. Has Canada still a card to play that will deprive them of their victory even while it is in their grasp? There can be no doubt that a railway from a Canadian port into Dawson City would be of this nature. If the Canadian port were the only port of entry for the Yukon territory all the conditions would be reversed. Canadian vessels would then be alone competent to ply between all the ports. Dyea and Skagway would suffer a sharp decline, and the railway would be hung in the air. One need only ask what the Americans would do if the boot were on the other foot to be guided as to what our course should be.

HAVE MONEY TO VOTE

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE AT DEAD-LOCK OVER THEIR BALANCE.

CAN'T AGREE ON DISPOSITION OF \$600 BALANCE IN HAND.

Is the summer carnival cash balance to be devoted to the winter carnival as a whole, or is the sum to be divided between the winter celebration and the city park improvement project? This is the problem on which the executive committee of the carnival encountered this sum should be divided, and which a further meeting will be required to settle. Both schemes have supporters, and of the eight executive members attending yesterday's meeting four voted each way.

The exact balance to be disposed of is in the neighborhood of \$500. It was agreed that this sum should be handed at the Royal Bank to the credit of the members of the finance committee as trustees, three out of five signatures being required to check out all or any part of the deposit. This proposal was approved in view of the difficulty encountered in securing the coronation celebration balance when required for the last demonstration.

The burning issue of the meeting was the disposition of the fund. Two methods were broached. Mayor Dean and W. Harry Goodeve moved that one-half of the balance be given to the winter carnival fund and the other half devoted to clearing a portion of the city park in order that the city might not be left without recreation grounds in the event of the Black Bear park being required by the mines, which may happen at any time. Dan Thomas and A. J. Drewry moved an amendment that the entire sum be voted to the winter carnival.

For the park proposal a number of arguments were used, principal among these being that the city might be left at any time without recreation grounds, in which event any future celebration could scarcely be successful, that the city park would fill the bill admirably and that if a start was made the work would certainly be finished.

Dan Thomas was spokesman for the element in the meeting that opposed the park scheme and recommended the voting of all the funds to the winter carnival. Mr. Thomas' strong point was that the money was subscribed for the special purpose of putting on a celebration and that a breach of confidence would be committed were the committee to divert a portion of the balance to fix up a park before the completion of the bill.

W. J. Nelson, chairman, took the ballot on the amendment as follows: Yea—Thomas, Drewry, Villeneuve and McDonald. Nay—Dean, Goodeve, Strickland and Nelson. This made a deadlock. Mr. Nelson voted to make for the reason that in his opinion the point might be left over until a more representative meeting of the executive committee could be secured. This further meeting will be held shortly.

MYSTERIOUS ATTACKS.

Chicago Federation of Labor Men Beat on Thugs.

CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 27.—Wm. Russell, member of finance committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and former business agent of the international association of machinists, is at his home suffering from an attack made upon him by four unidentified men. Russell, after being dragged, was horribly beaten by the quartette who then left him lying in the gutter for dead. The circumstances of the attack are similar to those of the attack a few weeks ago on Michael Donnelly, president of the Amalgamated Meat Canners and Butchers' organization. President Schardt, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, has also been receiving threatening letters recently.

THE MEMBER FOR NELSON

Statement That the Governor Kept Him From Office.

Developments Are Promised by Premier in a Day or Two.

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—Statements made by John Houston in Nelson, to the effect that he had been turned down by the governor, who had refused to accept him as a minister, were made public here this afternoon and caused intense interest.

The matter was brought to the attention of the different ministers, including the premier, but none of them would discuss it. The announcement, however, seemed to occasion no surprise.

Governor Joly, when asked if the report was correct, intimated that he could say nothing, and that any statement given out regarding the matter must come from the premier.

Houston, before leaving Victoria, dropped no remark which would lead to the belief that he regarded the governor as the cause of his trouble, and in fact he ascribed it all to McBride.

The question has arisen: If the governor refused to accept Houston as a minister, does it not indicate a lack of confidence by the governor in the McBride ministry, and will it not be followed by the latter's dismissal or resignation?

Mr. McPhillips was questioned on this point today, and before giving his opinion was careful to safeguard himself by stating that he was not giving an opinion on facts, but on a stated case. He said that if the circumstances were as alleged by Houston, they would not necessarily involve lack of confidence, as would be the case if a question of policy were at issue, and only some personal matter.

Parliamentarians here say if the report is correct, doubtless Houston's action two sessions ago in insulting the chair and refusing to retract or apologize, and some influence with the governor.

There is much suspense around the government offices today, and the resignation or dismissal of the ministry, were it to follow in a day or two, would scarcely be surprising.

The premier, while declining to say anything about the Houston matter, intimated that there would probably be some developments in the next day or two. What form these will take is of course still a matter of speculation.

Price Ellison of Okanagan and G. A. Fraser of Grand Forks are here today, but it is questionable whether their presence has anything to do with the awarding of portfolios.

Col. Wolfenden, king's printer, was presented at noon today with a gold watch by the employees of the printing department, to mark the 40th anniversary of his connection with the department.

IN CAMBORNE CAMP

SUCCESS IN PROSPECT FOR VARIOUS FREE GOLD PROPERTIES.

OPERATION OF EVA MILL—DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERAL GROUPS.

CAMBORNE, Oct. 25.—The ten-stamp mill of the Oyster-Criterion, owned by the Great Northern Mines, Limited, is finished and ready for operation. The 3500-foot aerial tramway which delivers the ore from a point 140 feet below the main tunnel and 1800 feet above the level of the mill, is also completed and the ore bunker of the mill is about filled with ore ready for treatment. There are several hundred tons of ore in the dumps at the mine, and 1900 feet of development work has been done, so that once the crushing of ore is commenced it can be kept up continuously. The trouble is in a delay caused by the non-arrival of part of the steel pipe for the water pipe line which is to furnish the motive power for the mill. As soon as it comes to hand the mill will be started. The mill is an up-to-date Fraser & Chalmers 10-stamp mill. It is provided with three Frue vanners. The ore is to be handled automatically from the time it starts through the rock breaker until it emerges into the dump for the tailings. In the mill is an air compressor, which is also to be operated by water power. This has been connected with the mine by means of a pipe line, and as soon as the water pipe line comes to hand four machine drills will be put to work stopping ore and doing advance work.

James Lade is in charge of the mine and mill, and under his direction the work is going on in a systematic and business like manner. The mill of the Eva, which also has 10 stamps, started up early in the month. The valve of the water pipe line broke under the pressure and caused a shut down of several days. The mill, however, has been operated steadily since the 8th, and as the ore is of an excellent grade a clean-up which will be more than satisfactory is anticipated about the end of the month. The Eva mill is provided with four Frue vanners and the best of conveniences. It is crushing about 30 tons per day of good grade rock. The

management is in every way satisfied with the results that are being produced.

These two mills, together with a third stamp mill, the property of the Northwestern company, when they are all in operation, will show the free milling possibilities of the Camborne section and lead to the development of many other free milling properties in the district and give the section a greatly enlarged prosperity.

Work on the McMinville group, which adjoins the Eva and Kingston in the Camborne camp, is making good progress. A force of men is engaged in operating the property under the direction of E. Wright of McMinville, Ore., who is the managing director. The work now in progress consists of a tunnel which is being driven along the main vein, which is 14 feet 6 inches wide. The ore from the ledge, a free milling gold quartz, runs from \$10.74 to \$15 per ton. This property, which consists of two claims, was purchased recently by the McMinville Gold Mines from Professor F. R. Blochberger. The company has ample funds, will push development and as soon as there is sufficient ore in sight will erect a stamp mill. The success made by the Eva, which is now turning out bullion from the 10-stamp mill, has given the McMinville company the utmost confidence in the value of their property, and they feel certain that it can be made to yield good profits.

The Kingston group, which adjoins the McMinville, is considered to be one of the most promising properties in the Camborne camp. Considerable tunneling has been done, and Professor Blochberger, who visited the group a few days ago, says that the company owning the property will resume work in a few days. He intends to return within a short time with Portland capitalists who are heavily interested in the Kingston company.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH

CONVENTION OF SANITARY EXPERTS COMMENCES AT WASHINGTON.

OPINIONS ON THE SPREAD AND THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—The first regular session of the 31st annual meeting of the American public health association was held here today, prominent bacteriologists and students of sanitation from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba being present.

Surgeon General Sternberg, U. S. A., retired, delivered an address in which he dwelt at length on the efforts which have been made to stamp out disease and to guard against epidemics. He digressed from his paper to remark that since cholera written the present attack of yellow fever in Texas had developed, and declared he would not have believed it possible, with the association's present knowledge, that yellow fever would have been allowed to obtain a foothold there.

"Somebody is responsible," he said. "Although cholera, yellow fever and bubonic plague," he continued, "are no longer feared by sanitation, we have not yet conquered our epidemic filth diseases. Typhoid fever and tuberculosis still claim nearly 150,000 victims annually within the limits of the United States."

The report of the committee on animal diseases and food was presented by Dr. Salmon of the bureau of animal industry, Washington. Clinical evidence, statistical and experimental, he declared, all favored the conclusion that bovine tuberculosis was a factor in human tuberculosis. The milk supply, he urged, should be carefully attended to.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. Juan Gutierrez of Havana, the yellow fever expert, said that although in Cuba the invariable custom is to boil milk, he believed infantile tuberculosis in Cuban children is as frequent as anywhere else.

The committee on car sanitation reported by Dr. J. N. Huntly. There is a unanimity of opinion, he said, regarding the transportation by common carriers of persons sick with smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, leprosy, yellow fever and typhoid. Leprosy, he declared, is not as easily transmitted as tuberculosis, and cannot be compared to the latter in its destructiveness of human life. It amounts to nothing at all. Yet he said a riot would follow the introduction of a leper into a railway car.

"The house on wheels," he declared, "is a potent factor in the transmission of consumption."

MORE SUNSPOTS.

Reported Discovery by a Boy Astronomer at Denver.

DENVER, Oct. 27.—Herbert S. Howe, the 15 year old son of Prof. Herbert A. Howe, instructor in astronomy in Denver University, is said to have discovered at the upper edge of the sun's disc a new group of sunspots as great in magnitude and importance, it is said, as the group discovered by the scientists of Washington observatory some weeks ago. The boy made his observations with a six-inch telescope in the observatory at University park in this city.

COUNT LAMSDORFF.

The Russian Foreign Minister to Reach Paris Today.

PARIS, Oct. 28.—Count Lamsdorff, Russian minister of foreign affairs, who is coming to confer with Foreign Minister Delcasse on questions relating to the east and far east, will reach here early tomorrow. A dinner will be given in his honor at the Russian embassy, at which Count Cassini, Russian ambassador at Washington, will be present. It is believed that Count Cassini will discuss American questions in the far east with Count Lamsdorff and receive precise instructions as to policy.

CAUGHT HIM NAPPING

SPOKANE CHINAMAN HELD UP FOR \$100 HEAD TAX HERE.

HE ALSO LOSES RIGHT TO RE-ENTER THE UNITED STATES.

Wun Lung, a Spokane Chinaman, was arrested here yesterday evening and only released on payment of the head tax of \$100. His arrest is the sequel of an interesting case in which United States immigration officials bore a hand. Hon. J. E. Daniel, United States collector of customs at Northport and chairman of the board of inspection under the immigration laws, with C. L. Dooley, immigration inspector and a member of the Northport examining board, were in the city over night, their mission being in connection with the Spokane Chinaman's case.

The smuggling of Chinamen from Canada into the United States is a regularly organized traffic, and the immigration officials are exceedingly keen to put down the practice. As a means to this end, and also to exclude Chinamen as a whole from the United States, the American regulations are especially severe. For instance, a Chinaman who wishes to leave the country having once got in is required to depart from certain ports. The port of departure in this district is Port Townsend, and here a Chinaman must deposit his certificate together with a photograph of himself, certain measurements for identification and a statement signed by two reputable merchants of the town where he was last located. He is given a receipt for his certificate, and is at liberty to leave the country for a year, presenting his receipt on return and obtaining his certificate, which re-admits him to the United States. This law is well known, and when Chinamen don't observe its conditions the immigration officials smell something crooked.

The Chinaman who met his Waterloo in Rossland last night was properly equipped with his American certificate, but he didn't observe the regulations in the matter of registering his departure from American territory at Port Townsend. Instead he came nearly to Northport, left the train there and came to Rossland above or afoot. At any rate he entered Canada clandestinely, and neglected the little formality of paying \$100 head tax into the Dominion coffers.

The United States immigration officers suspected the man's mission was to head a smuggling party into United States territory, and Inspector Dooley having caught a glimpse of the man shadowed him into Canadian territory, tipped the thing off to the local police, and R. B. McDonald, collector of customs, demanded the head tax, which was paid and the man liberated.

This settles the question so far as Canada is concerned, but the Chinaman's troubles will commence if he ever ventures across the border and into the ken of the watchful United States immigration inspectors. He will be promptly apprehended, the necessary proof will be forthcoming after yesterday's proceedings here that he left American territory without surrendering his certificate and without attending to the other precautions. The punishment for such remissness is irrevocable—the Celestial goes back to the Flowery Kingdom on the next ship.

If the Chinaman arrested here yesterday was engaged in smuggling, and his movements were suspicious, his smuggling days are over and he has no recourse other than to settle down and be a good Canadian Chinaman until he makes his fortune and goes home to buy a mandarin's yellow jacket to comfort his old age.

KNOB HILL VICTIMS.

An Inquest Deemed Unnecessary—The Funeral.

Phoenix, Oct. 27.—As a result of a consultation between Provincial Constable Darragh and Coroner Foster it was decided on Saturday that an inquest on the remains of Thomas Malloy and James Crabb, who were killed in a slide in the Knob Hill mine, was unnecessary. The shiffoes and fellow workmen declared that the place where the accident occurred had been examined previous to the accident, and in the opinion of all was safe.

A double funeral was held here on Sunday, the remains of the two victims of the accident being interred in the Phoenix city cemetery. Rev. W. J. Wood, of the Church of England, was the officiating clergyman, and a large concourse of miners and friends of the deceased followed the remains to the grave. The pall bearers for Malloy were J. Flordan, George Catnach, Alex. Milne, Hugh Hood, Alex. Hood and Colin Ross. The pall bearers for Crabb were G. W. Rumberger, Geo. McNichol, W. C. Fraser, James Wright, John Pierce and J. G. McKeown.

DOMINICAN TROUBLES.

The Government Cruiser Preventing Steamers From Landing.

CAPE HAITIEN, Hayti, Oct. 27.—The Dominican government cruiser Independencia appeared off Puerto Plata today and prevented the Cuban mail steamer Maria Herrera from entering that port. The Independencia then left Puerto Plata, going towards the American steamer Chococoe coming from Monte Christi to prevent her from touching at Puerto Plata.

A BIG MORTGAGE.

NEWARK, N. J., Oct. 27.—A mortgage for \$250,000,000 given by the Lehigh Valley railroad to the Girard Trust company of Philadelphia was filed today. It covers everything owned by the Lehigh Valley, and is given to secure an issue of bonds.