

SOME TALK ABOUT LEAD

Discussion of the Present Operations of the Trust.

A Statement Sent Out Through the Associated Press.

(From Thursday's Daily.)
The following dispatch came to The Miner last night as a part of the Associated Press report. The only exceptional feature about it was that it bore the signature of "Pratt." But even if that signature were not appended it would not require a Sherlock Holmes to discover the real author. The Miner ventures the guess, and defies contradiction, that the composer of the screed is Manager Aldridge of the Trail smelter, while "Pratt" is no other than Louis Pratt, manager of the Last Chance mine in the Slooan.

This would not be the first time that Mr. Aldridge has used Mr. Pratt for his mouthpiece for dissertations on the local lead situation. The game was tried on The Miner about five weeks ago, but failed because this journal was not prepared to give publicity to the arguments then advanced until such time as it could convince itself as to the merits of the question. After due deliberation it was decided not to publish Mr. Pratt's interview, for the reason that The Miner does not wish to be a party to any scheme that would result in the creation of a lead smelting monopoly in the Kootenays.

It is deplorable that the Associated Press should be prostituted in this manner. Meanwhile we publish the dispatch as it was received, and shall deal with it at greater length later.

NELSON, B. C., Feb. 25.—It has been currently rumored that D. C. Johnson, formerly ore buyer and apologist for the Everett smelter and its methods, and now acting in the same capacity for the American Smelting & Refining company, has been doing some quiet lobbying on his recent visit to Sandon and Kaslo in opposition to the proposed increased lead tariff. Is it not a queer coincidence that two years ago, when there was no agitation in favor of an increased duty for Canadian producers but unlimited quantities of Canadian ore for sale to Europe, Chill and the United States, the great American smelting trust, with its hundred million capitalization and plants at every smelting point in the United States and Mexico, withdrew absolutely from the purchase of Canadian ores, which they had been formerly securing over the Great Northern and Canadian Pacific railways, while today, with practically no lead ore being produced in Canada, but with a very decided and healthy agitation to get fair treatment for Canadian producers, the great American trust can afford to keep Mr. Johnson actively engaged in the country in informing miners that their company is anxious to secure an unlimited tonnage of all classes of ore, that lead is going up, silver too, that China is a fine market for Canadian lead, and that the millennium is about to come?

Mr. Johnson spent several years in the Kootenays country, and probably is as well posted on the mining situation as any ore buyer who comes to Canada. He therefore cannot be accused of ignorance on the subject of the present production of lead ore in Canada, which, as he only too well knows, amounts to practically nothing. He therefore takes no chances of securing enough lead ore to hurt him, and in spite of his assurances that the great American trust is now in the market to stay, yet should lead in the London market reach a price which will enable British Columbia to produce as she did two years ago, Mr. Johnson would be the first to have business in China or elsewhere, and his company would certainly discover that freight rates were too high or ores too refractory to suit their purposes.

While Mr. Johnson is probably quietly patting himself on the back, as well as earning his salary from the American Smelting & Refining company in putting up what appears to be the biggest bluff that has ever come into the country, the Canadian miners on the other hand are securing a considerable amount of quiet amusement at Mr. Johnson's expense and now look upon him as being perhaps the King of Ore Jokers.

No one can for a minute blame the American smelting trust for opposing in their usual quiet and underhand way the encouragement of Canadian home industries, especially in the case of lead, when they happen to be the ones who are today bringing Mexican lead from their mines and smelters in Mexico, refining and corroding it in New York and selling the corroded white lead in Canada. The trust evidently has been looking upon Canada as the most promising field for the sale of the Mexican lead which they handle at New York. The proposed change in the tariff would put an end to this business, while the Canadian miner, instead of being forced to sell his product in the markets of the world, like China and elsewhere, would have the benefit of the home market which is now being monopolized by the American smelter trust under the present inconsistent Canadian tariff.

There is still another phase to the question, and that is that it has been repeatedly stated in the United States

that the smelter trust has raised treatment rates on various mines, when they were particularly anxious to secure control of these properties. Is it possible that the smelter trust has an intention of purchasing the British Columbia lead mines and securing them for a mere bagatelle? These arrangements may be quite ripe for making this purchase, and they doubtless realize that a change in the tariff would greatly increase the value of these properties and prevent their freezing out the present owners.

From market reports it has been learned that the American smelting trust now has great influence upon the London market. It has even been intimated that they were responsible for the terrible decline in the London market, having thrown their Mexican and surplus American lead upon the market at a sacrifice. If they are such a factor in the London market, it may be that they feel that by allowing the market to steadily recover as it has been doing lately and by re-entering the Canadian market in the grand spread-eagle style which they are adopting, the British Columbia lead miners will forget the past and once more place confidence in their institution and be willing to drop their present demands upon the government for increased lead duties. If this is their game they certainly will be fooled, for, with all due regard for Mr. Johnson, every lead miner in the country knows that he has as little to say as to the policy and the carrying out of the proposals for the marketing as any clerk in the employ of one of the Sandon mines.

RAILWAYS AT FAULT

LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT LACK OF PROSPERITY.

ASSOCIATED BOARDS OF TRADE TO GIVE MATTER CONSIDERATION.

The citizens of Rossland, irrespective of class or condition, are determined that the railways entering this point shall be brought to a proper realization of the conditions that exist in regard to the marketing of the ores of this camp.

The prosperity of Rossland has been curtailed, not to say diminished, by one cause or another for upwards of four years. Labor troubles here and at the Crow's nest collieries have been a hard blow to the welfare of the community. Then there was the drop in the price of copper, which prevented the extensive development of several mines. These, with the crass stupidity of the Provincial government in its persistent ignoring of the crying need for the repeal of the laws inimical to the mining industry, have tended to kill enthusiasm in the most optimistic, and many well defined plans for extensive exploitation of the great mineral resources of the Trail Creek division were wrecked and made abortive. But for these disasters, all would have continued well. The fame of Rossland as a mining centre had become world-wide. The camp teemed with as shrewd and fine a lot of empire-builders as could be found anywhere. Everybody was in good spirits, and industry and energy was apparent on all sides. Not only was the camp being built up by its own great resources, but Rossland was taking the lead in the exploitation of every district in Southern British Columbia. As a result an immense amount of money was put in circulation and the greatest prosperity prevailed.

When misfortune after misfortune came there could be but one effect. Many of those who were attempting to build up the camp and surrounding district became discouraged and left for fresh air, for the moment, more inviting fields. They did not depart because of any reason for belief that the country was not as rich as ever, but because extraneous conditions foreshadowed a temporary suspension of general activity. Ex-Rosslanders are scattered all over the world, and from time to time word is received of their peregrinations. They all tell practically the same story, and that is that in all their experiences, either before or after their sojourn here, they have yet to find a richer mineral field than exists right in the Kootenays. Still, where one went, ten remained to continue the battle for their personal advancement and the upbuilding of the camp. Probably those who remained here have not fared worse than those who went away, for when we consider the experiences of Rosslanders who chased away to the mushroom booms of Thunder Mountain, Snamper, Buffalo Hump, Seven Devils, Tonopah, Cripple Creek and several seven-day excitements of the Southwest, who who stood by the old camp have no particular cause to regret that we did not go and do likewise. But all the time the mining men and merchants have been struggling about as best they might, the railway companies, who should have a greater interest in these matters than any individual or mining company, have seen things go from bad to worse with the greatest apathy and indifference. Neither the C. P. R. nor the Great Northern has made the slightest effort to help maintain the old-time prosperity. They have continued to charge the last possible cent for both transcontinental and local freight, and they are gradually taking the very life out of the country. The Miner does not know of a single instance wherein either of the railways has displayed the slightest desire to help.

This is the reason that the citizens of Rossland, now desperate and thoroughly aroused, have decided to make an appeal to the head office of both the C. P. R. and the Great Northern in the earnest hope that those in high authority may be induced to adopt a more liberal policy towards the Kootenays, both as regards the cost of hauling ores to the smelters and the tariffs on transcontinental freight. The matter will be thoroughly threshed out at the forthcoming meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia at Fernie, and it is to be hoped that the railways will there be induced to do something to create that prosperity which rightfully belongs to Rossland and the surrounding district.

BLUE GOI DAMAGES

Lion Brewery Secures \$25 Against Bradstreet's Agency.

Other Matters Disposed of Yesterday at Supreme Court.

(From Friday's Daily.)
The Lion Brewing company was awarded \$25 damages and costs against Bradstreet's financial agency at yesterday's sittings of the supreme court. The action is of more than ordinary interest, as it is probably unparalleled in the legal annals of the province.

Last year the Lion Brewing company had a claim on the estate of the Revsbacks, saloon-keepers of this city. Joe Tosse, the cigar manufacturer, also had a claim against the estate. J. A. Mara was another creditor, and in entering action against the Revsbacks to recover his claim, he joined the Lion Brewing company, Tosse and other claimants as defendants. Bradstreet's published the issuance of the writ, naming Mara as plaintiff and Lion Brewing company et al as defendants, the action being described as foreclosure of mortgage. The local concern argued that the report thus issued left the inference that Mara was suing to foreclose a mortgage on the brewery plant, and that the distorted publication placed the brewing company in an entirely false light. It was contended that their credit was injured and the standing of the firm impaired in the commercial world.

The case was tried before Mr. Justice Irving without a jury yesterday. Charles R. Hamilton appeared for the plaintiffs and J. A. Macdonald for the defence. His lordship found for the plaintiffs, awarding damages and costs as indicated.

In Dempster vs. Salmo Consolidated Mining company, the plaintiffs succeeded in getting judgment for the full amount of their claim of \$3,298.97, with costs. The counter claim maintaining that the sum thus secured and handed over to the officials of the company to be disbursed for the company's uses was not so disbursed, was dismissed with costs. Charles R. Hamilton appeared for the plaintiff; J. A. Macdonald for the defendants.

The application for a writ of certiorari in the matter of Rex vs. Geiser was dismissed. Charles R. Hamilton appeared for the application, A. H. MacNeill, K. C., contra. The outline of the action was given yesterday, and the argument of the court practically closes it; the case that has now been hanging for eighteen months. The \$500 fine imposed on Albert Geiser by Judge Boutilbe in the police court proceedings here was paid into court at the time of the conviction, and will probably belong to the crown without further dispute, as the only channel for further recourse by the plaintiff seems to be in the direction of an appeal on yesterday's decision, the period for appealing from the main issue having expired.

SAFETY FOR LITTLE ONES.

Mothers Should Exercise Great Care in Choosing Medicine For Children.

Every little one needs a medicine at some time, and mothers cannot be too careful in making a selection. The so-called "soothing" preparations invariably contain opiates and other harmful drugs, which stupefy the little one, and pave the way to a constant necessity for the use of more and more narcotic drugs. Undoubtedly the very best and the very safest medicine for little ones is Baby's Own Tablets. They are mildly laxative and gentle in their action, and cure all stomach and bowel troubles, relieve simple fevers, break up colds, prevent croup and allay the irritation accompanying the cutting of teeth. Where these Tablets are used, little ones sleep naturally, because the causes of irritation and sleeplessness are removed in a natural way. Experienced mothers all praise this medicine. Mrs. H. H. Fox, Orange Ridge, Man., says: "Baby's Own Tablets are the best medicine I have ever used for children of all ages. They are truly a blessing to baby and mother's friend."

These Tablets are guaranteed to contain no opiate, and can be given to a new-born babe. Sold by all druggists, or sent post-paid at 25c. a box, by writing direct to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

EARLY BIRDS.

Firemen Start Handball Court Early in The Season—First Game Yesterday.

The members of the fire department have taken the season by the forelock and reopened the handball court for the season. Daily games will be played weather permitting, and the pastime promises to be more popular than ever before.

Last season the firemen became quite proficient at handball, and several matches were played in which they were usually victorious. Their most doughty opponents were the War Eagle and Centre Star firemen, but the latter were handicapped through having no court in which to practice. Some talk of constructing a handball court at the mines was indulged in, but so far as is known it was not proceeded with early enough in the season to be of much help. This year the men from the hill should be in shape to give their downtown colleagues a hard fight for championship honors.

Arthur Dutton leaves today for his home in Kingston, Ont., on a visit.

COMMUNICATIONS

THE LEAD QUESTION.

Editor Miner: Referring to an article on the lead situation, appearing in your issue of the 23rd inst., in which, provided "the Federal government recognizes the just claims of the British Columbia lead producers in a reasonable manner," you anticipate brighter days for silver-lead mining in the province; for the reasons that the price of lead in the world's market has risen, and continues to indicate strength, and that there is, apparently, a renewed demand in the United States for our lead ores.

Whilst quite agreeing with you as to the correctness of your deductions, will you kindly permit me to comment briefly on the bases of these deductions.

In the first place, it may not be generally known that the calculations as to what duty on lead and its products, imported into Canada, will be necessary to secure such a price as will bring into activity all classes of our silver-lead mines rather than the limited number exceptionally favored as to silver values, together with the arguments submitted to the government in support thereof, were based on the average price of lead in the world's market for the past twenty years, namely, say £12 4s. (in other words, the price to which lead has risen, in that market, at this date), and not on the price ruling at the time of the visit of the lead delegation to Ottawa.

The existing price, £12 4s. per ton, is equal to \$248.12 per 100 pounds in London, or \$1.63 1-2 at the smelter, in this country, instead of \$1.70 to \$1.80 per 100 pounds as stated in your article.

Careful investigation has shown that with this average price as a basis no lesser duty than that requested by the Sandon convention, always allowing for the preferential tariff of one-third accorded Great Britain, will afford our silver-lead producers, in general, a living price.

Upward fluctuations of the world's price will afford periods of temporary relief and activity, but no stability can be possible for the industry until the inconsistencies of the existing tariff on lead and its products are removed and these products of Canadian labor are protected in the same manner as are the necessities of the Canadian lead operator and those employed by him.

If it be correct, as stated by you, that the consumption of lead in the United States now exceeds the possible production, rather than the production permitted by the trust, there is no apparent reason why, if the trust desires Canadian, rather than Mexican, ore to meet this deficit, it cannot act as you suggest, and pay to the Canadian producer 2 cents per pound net for his lead, being 2.5 cents gross less their duty of 1.5 cents, thus stimulating the immediate production of ore which they press to urgently need. So far, however, I have not learnt that the trust is offering a better price for lead than our domestic smelters are able to do.

The enactment of the suggested amendments in the existing Canada tariff will undoubtedly prevent American smelters from being able to compete with Canadian in the purchase of such ores as will be required to supply the domestic market, but admitting that British Columbia, under favorable conditions, is capable of producing more lead than Canada can at present consume, our surplus would be open to purchase for consumption abroad, and nothing in the suggested tariff amendment will prevent American smelters from purchasing such surplus in the manner you suggest.

As you point out, such a condition is much to be desired as likely to stimulate the lead mining industry by increasing the average price which the producer will be able to obtain for his lead, but any tariff legislation affecting the lead industry should be so framed as to encourage and protect Canadian lead smelting, refining, and manufacturing works, in order that the producer may not be left entirely to the mercy of foreign reduction works, which will in the future, as in the past, afford him a market only when it suits their convenience.

JOHN L. RETALLACK.
Spokane, Feb. 25.

YIELD OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The Financial Chronicle publishes the annual estimates of the world's production of gold and silver for the year 1902. That of gold footed up \$304,589,862, against \$266,559,884 for the year before. The highest yield of any year (that of 1899) was \$314,650,233. It is specially remarkable that the world's production is now within \$10,000,000 of what it was when the South African yield was at its highest. In 1899 the output of the latter was \$73,227,100. In 1902 it was only \$40,000,000.

When the Transvaal mines are turning out their usual quantity, the total annual production will probably be \$25,000,000 larger than that of last year, unless there should be a falling off in other countries. There has been some decline in Canada, due to the Yukon's falling off, and the Dominion's production for 1902 was only \$13,500,000, against \$24,400,000 in 1901 and \$27,900,000 in 1900.

On the other hand, the output of Australia has increased about \$7,000,000, and that of the United States about \$2,000,000, as compared with 1901. More remarkable than the world's production of gold, however, is that of silver, which has shown a steady increase in the face of declining prices. The output of the year 1891, and of the past four years, was:

Year	Ounces.	Value.
1891.....	137,965,412	\$124,474,000
1899.....	167,224,243	93,125,460
1900.....	172,838,873	98,871,940
1901.....	174,998,573	98,244,340
1902.....	178,866,084	87,421,580

It is significant that the largest production of silver the world has ever known in a single year (1902) took place when the metal was selling at the lowest price ever known.

BOUGHT AT NELSON.

The Kootenay River Lumber company, with Joseph Genelle as managing director and John G. Billings, secretary, has acquired the plant of the Nelson Saw & Planing Mills Co. at Nelson. The new concern will increase the capacity of the plant to 40,000 feet per day, and install sash and door machinery.

A MILITARY SEND-OFF

LIEUTENANT LOGAN DINED AT THE HOTEL ALLAN LAST NIGHT.

PRESENTED WITH SPLENDID BINOCULARS BY MILITIAMEN COMRADES.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

Genuinely pleasant and whole-souled was the complimentary banquet tendered to Lieutenant Gordon Logan, of the Rocky Mountain Rangers, at the Hotel Allan last night. The members of No. 1 company were present in uniform almost to a man, several South African veterans in the khaki campaign outfits were in evidence, and the balance of the banquetters represented civilian friends of the departing officer. The function went off, smoothly and afforded all in attendance much pleasure.

Judge W. J. Nelson presided, wearing on the lapel of his dress coat the miniature medal for the Northwest rebellion of '85, through which he served in the ranks of the Queen's Own Rifles. To his right was Lieutenant Logan and to his left Bugle-Major Barrett. Facing the chair were the South African veterans, wearing the medals and clasps granted for active service.

The dining room presented an attractive appearance, with its flags, flowers, plants and the wealth of bright silverware and spotless napery with which the tables were laden. The menu cards were a work of art, each bearing a photograph of the guest of the evening in a lieutenant's uniform of the corps.

Around the table were the following guests: R. Anthony, J. Anderson, D. Bruhn, J. Butler, W. G. Carpenter, L. A. Campbell, Max Crow, E. Dewdney, W. Dunn, W. P. Dockersell, H. Ewan, F. Graham, G. P. Grant, R. A. Grant, H. Goodeve, T. H. Gowman, J. Hooper.

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The empty envelope, when returned, will be accepted as 25 cents cash payment on any order amounting to one dollar or upwards, for Seeds selected from our Catalogue.

We expect to pay something for an introduction, but an offer of this sort is necessarily limited. The demand for the free packages last year was away beyond anything we had anticipated, and some people were disappointed. This year, with double the quantity, we think we've enough to go 'round. First come, first served. Orders filled in rotation as received. Mention this paper.

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CONVENT

Officers Elected Mining Association Delegation

The Nanaimo Miners Return to Work

VICTORIA, B. C. Mining convention sessions being held at Kaslo, was elected Mortimer Lamb secretary, practically limited to committees that time son made a stirring appeal to business, and no doubt will be the most in held in the province, the mining industry is are 250 delegates in The Nanaimo coal off. The men return. The proposition of the proved by the action by the men this morning. The British ship today, 38 days from of the tug Tye. As ing port, rounding Ra a narrow escape from Orient-bound liner H which crossed her b yards away.

Captain Balcom, of today from Halifax, the schooner St. Clair to the Falkland island fifth vessel sent from business by Victoria. The city hall was the smoker given to the Afterwards the visit boxing match between and Hall of Victoria made at the city hall less, Gilmour, M. P., Mayor Dean of Ross Burrell of Grand F made an urgent appeal settlement of the Na the settlement of the this country on a per

VICTORIA, Feb. 28. nal spirit is manifest bers of the mining as discussion of yesterday of some of the spirit was inevitable in such ing. The consequence progress was made the resolutions of great im proved. One was for a 2 per cent tax on the approved the stand t mine owners at the s in asking for protecti which they repr members are not un burdens was shown i another resolution fath and Olive Phillips, that the representatives to taxation of mines bas. Smith Curtis l tried also declaring i the net profits of the v journalment resolutions asking the Dominion a point a minister of mi discussed tomorrow. appointed, consisting o ers and five capitul reach a common bas preventing strikes in t A constitutional aut today said that the government must be la constitutional etiquette stitutional knowledge, action in calling pas date for the dispatch then for another, w satisfactory basis.

It was announced to mnr and Sons will reo mines at South Wellin smith. New bunkers o old bunkers were torn when the mine was labor troubles with t out of a project to ma of all the island mi ton Colliery company for coal four and a h Ladysmith. At Ext may be increased by third shift, employi Letters received fro that a fire occurred on Wellington when she Charlotte sound on he with coal, as the rest of a lamp in one of t The damage is said \$2,000.

VICTORIA, Feb. 2 on the relations of are hopeful of being Fernie strike before The members of it, w vided between capita been most forbeari Tonkin, of the Crow and Ch. Foley are b cipals in the strike trolly represented. The convention this to tackle the relat and labor generally, a committee on the con with the one just men to reaching a basis.

The net results for tings of the conventio tion of the Domin mines in the Domi solution asking for mine signal code, a for the abolition of on mineral claims fo The sentiment on a overwhelmingly in fa