

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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WEEKLY MINER.

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THE LE ROI NO. 2 CONCENTRATOR

The Miner is pleased to have had the opportunity to announce the fact that the Le Roi No. 2 has decided to install a concentrating plant for its lower grade ore. It is good news and gives promise of great things for the camp in the near future. For obvious reasons the management of the Le Roi No. 2 is not in a position to fully take the public into its confidence, and hence it is that the Miner cannot at present publish all the details of the plans which are now being perfected. Suffice it to say, however, that Manager Coudrey sees his way clear to obtain an adequate water supply for both concentrator and power purposes, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding. We do not pretend to enjoy the full confidence of Mr. Coudrey, but have sufficiently good reasons for the belief that he will in no way be hampered by the present somewhat complicated situation as regards the present water supply for locally constructed concentration works. It is to be hoped that he will be able to act independently in the matter, and we venture the opinion that such will be the case. It will indeed be fortunate if the Le Roi No. 2 concentrator can be economically operated by a water supply that in no way conflicts with the city or other rights, and Mr. Coudrey is to be congratulated if he has hit upon such a source. The salvation of the camp largely depends upon an ample water supply for concentration purposes. The larger the supply, the better it will be for Rossland. The Le Roi No. 2 and the other mines should receive every encouragement and assistance in getting their concentration works established at the earliest possible date.

THE HOMESTAKE SHIPMENT.

The Miner has been criticised to some small extent for publishing the actual facts in connection with the trial shipment from the Homestake and the temporary suspension of work on that property. To those who object to this sort of thing we desire to emphasize the fact that this newspaper is published without fear or favor and solely in the best interests of the camp and the surrounding country. It will continue in its attempt to follow this course so long as it remains under its present control, for we are determined not to do anything that might detract from its reputation for veracity, enterprise and fearlessness. In our opinion, it is both foolish and unavailing to attempt to bolster up conditions by false and glowing reports. Rossland has a certain and splendid future, and will, within a very short time, be the scene of greater industrial activity than ever. The preparations that are practically completed for treating the enormous tonnage of the Red Mountain mines will soon result in the addition of hundreds of men to the payroll of the camp, and it is only a question of more development to bring the south belt to the same satisfactory condition. If the recent tests of Homestake ore have not come up to expectations, it is probably not the fault of the mine. We are informed on very reliable authority that the shipment was not selected with due care as regards both the character of the ore and the workings from which it was taken. Had more discrimination been exercised, it is practically certain that infinitely better returns would have been obtained. The Miner will have more to say tomorrow about the south belt and the wealth of its ore shoots. Meanwhile we have no regrets to express for telling the actual facts concerning the present condition of the Homestake mine.

THE SOUTH BELT.

Rossland has been several times on the verge of doubling its resources by the discovery of a mine on what is known as the South belt. It is on the verge of such a crisis now. First the Deer Park then the Crown Point, then the Deer Park, now the Homestake have directed attention to that part of Rossland's territory. But the South belt has hitherto been unfortunate.

The people who know most about Rossland mines seldom or never leave Colum-

bia avenue. It is common to hear those street corner experts declare that they would not give 5 cents for any property south of Trail creek. At the present time when the public is attracted toward a South belt property, it may be of advantage to draw attention to the inherent absurdity of such a proposition. When some one competent to talk has proved that there is a characteristic difference between the formation of the North belt and of the South belt, and a characteristic difference in the occurrence of the mineral, it will be time enough to give credit to the somewhat peculiar geological theory that a creek delimits a mineral belt.

It is strange that there should be so many people in Rossland eager to run down the South belt and discourage its development, because its importance to Rossland cannot very well be over-estimated. It forms a big half of the mineral land immediately tributary to Rossland. Granted that Rossland would not be greatly injured by the discovery of no mines over there, and that with the mines already developed and in course of development Rossland is assured of its present standing and of a steady growth, consider the effect upon the town of another range of mines equal in extent to those of the North belt in uninterrupted activity south of the town. The development of the South belt is a problem which means all the difference to Rossland between a camp of moderate productive capacity, and one fitted to rank with the greatest camps of the American continent. One would naturally think then that the South belt would meet with eager encouragement from those interested in the growth and progress of the town. But it is a melancholy fact that those who are not actively hostile to the interests of its development look upon it as a closed book in the history of Rossland mining.

It is a book, however, which is destined to be reopened. It only needs one property, proved a mine, and every prospect in the South belt will again be under development, and a big increase of business and population in Rossland would result. The Homestake may or may not prove the salvation of the South belt. Probably it will. It is devoutly to be hoped so. If so, the greatest possible change will come over the spirit of Rossland's dream this year. But if not the Homestake it will be some other property. The object of this article is to show Rossland people that they have a much bigger asset in the South belt than they give themselves credit for.

And first, what is the South belt? In 1895 when the snow was disappearing prospectors rushed into the thick bush lying east of the R. E. Lee and Maid of Erin and Celtic Queen. The first group of claims located contained the Last Chance, Gem, Uncle Sam and Tiger. Then followed the Southern Cross, Wolverine and Iron Hill; next the Crown Point, White Swan and Hidden Treasure. After them on the west and south came the Trilby, Prince of Wales, Violet and Maggie, and to the east the Spotted Tail, Empress Ida, St. Mary's and numerous others. On May 25th, 1895, a sketch map of the territory extending from the Last Chance to the St. Mary's was published with a descriptive article in the Rossland Miner and called a map of the South belt of Trail creek. Thus originated the name. But it was obvious that this was part of the mineral zone which extended through the Sunset, Nest Egg, Homestake, Gopher, R. E. Lee and so on to the extreme east of the district described, and consequently these claims or rather the district in which they are situated received the general name of South belt. The term South belt used strictly as referring to this particular zone should exclude the Lilly May and Deer Park.

In Rossland boom days it used to be a favorite hypothesis that sunburnt diorite was a sure indication of a rich mine. Iron cap was an elastic term which covered everything from weathered porphyry to decomposed pyrites. Now-a-days it is popular to assume that without values on the surface it is not worth looking for them anywhere else. It is a vexed question. Very often values have been found by going down on a ledge, and the chute containing them has been found coming to the surface, but not in the place where development was begun. But if values which exist must always come to the surface somewhere, the converse should be equally true, that they must continue down to the source of the mineral, for it is impossible to conceive of any form of reasoning, not widely hypothetical, allowing of values evaporating with depth, which would not also account for their existing without coming to the surface at all. And yet it is noticeable that those who are ready to lay down a hard and fast rule that values must always come to the surface, are generally the aptest to argue that they will do, or may give out with depth. The fact is that their opinion is generally modified by whether they are of a sanguine temperament or the reverse, and it is not deducible from any observed consistency in the phenomenon. The safe, practical rule is that values only exist for the miner where he knows them to exist, the amount of speculation he allows himself in looking for them being his own affair.

If we judge of the South belt by this rule it makes a most favorable show-

ing. Good ore was found on the surface or in the first preliminary work done on the Sunset, the Nest Egg, Homestake, the Gopher, the Mayflower, the R. E. Lee, the Tiger, the Crown Point and the St. Mary's, and if the writer has done injustice to any of the others it is from ignorance. If this does not point to a mineral bearing zone having a certain value and worthy of development, it certainly does point to a zone unworthy of the abuse and neglect which it has received on account of ignorance partly, partly abortive development in particular instances, and partly merciless wild-cattling from which last it was not the only part of the district to suffer.

The South belt has been largely judged and condemned by the record of the Crown Point. What are the facts? It will not be denied that the surface showing on the Crown Point was sufficient to justify its being bonded for \$75,000. It is also true that after the Crown Point company was formed there was sufficient showing of ore, and that ore carried enough value, to justify a conservative engineer in advising the purchase of the control at a very high figure. So far good. But the Crown Point has not yet made a mine. Still there is a very simple argument connected with an occurrence of ore, too simple for many people; it is that the ore must come from somewhere. It is sufficient for the purpose of this article to contend that the Crown Point ore came out of the main vein of the South belt zone and that in that zone it exists somewhere in place and workable. The Crown Point is a strong argument in favor of a valuable mineral zone in the South belt.

It is an extraordinary thing the extent to which the investment of money is dependent on sentiment, which is usually looked on as a consideration entirely alien to that desire of gain which is the ruling motive of investment. Sentimental objections have for a long time obscured the value and prospects of the South belt of the Rossland camp. The present looks like a favorable opportunity to bring a few facts and a little common sense to bear on a section of the camp whose future is of immense importance to the prosperity of Rossland and of everyone interested here.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Miner is highly gratified with the success that has attended its efforts to promote the welfare of the camp by the co-operation of all elements of the community. As will be seen elsewhere in the issue, the secretary of the Miners' Union, the most influential local body of wage-earners, has come out flatly with the avowal that his people stand ready to support the suggestion. It is also satisfactory to know that the council of the board of trade is anxious to meet more than half-way this evidence of public spirit. We believe, however, that the secretary of the Miners' Union is altogether too modest in his recommendations. He has proposed that his association should be represented on the board by one delegate from every hundred members of the union. Why not one for every fifty? The trades unionists of Rossland have just as much interest at stake as any one else. They are the backbone of the camp. Without them the board of trade cannot be expected to do all that lies within its power for the welfare of the camp. It is not sufficient that the board of trade should devote itself solely to matters affecting the merchants, mine owners and smelters. There are circumstances that affect the wage earners that demand equal consideration. It is up to them to help to protect themselves and advance their prosperity to the fullest possible extent. The more representation from the union, the greater will be the influence manifested in this respect. Mr. Villeneuve, speaking on behalf of his fellow unionists, is unquestionably evincing too much modesty, and it is to be hoped that he and all other Rosslanders will support a more liberal representation of trade unionists in the Rossland board of trade. It is also to be hoped that upon the reorganization of the board of trade, the membership fees will be brought to a figure that will serve to promote less expense and more general subscription.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE C. P. R.

The Provincial government and the C. P. R. continue the role of indifference as regards the threatened coal and coke famine in the Kootenays. The former maintains a guarded silence. Premier Prior and Attorney-General Eberts, being at Ottawa, have had no opportunity to give this important matter their immediate consideration, but The Miner knows positively that all the other cabinet ministers at Victoria have read practically all that we have said on the subject. It may be that the acting premier hesitates to do anything in the

matter until Col. Prior returns. But the astonishing feature of the whole thing is that the government should ever have played into the hands of the C. P. R. and the Crow's Nest Coal company by refusing to issue coal licenses to prospectors who have applied for permission to proceed with extensive development work on the "reserved" coal lands. There is something decidedly wrong somewhere, and The Miner is confident that the C. P. R. is at the bottom of the whole business. The railway company has decided that it and not the general public shall have the right to these lands, and is undoubtedly making its influence felt in certain high places at Victoria. The Kootenay mining industry is to be crippled and all smelters but the C. P. R. works at Trail are to be compelled to suspend operations in order that the C. P. R. may gobble up the cream of the coal lands of East Kootenay and so obtain additional strength for eventually establishing a monopoly in copper and lead smelting in the Kootenays.

The general public of this section is fully aroused. The whole district is closely watching the government. If the people's interest is to be sacrificed in this case and another instance to be added to the long record of exploitations of the public property for corporate gain, the indignation of the Kootenays will be deep and lasting. The life of the mining and smelting industry is involved in the disposal of this matter. There should be no occasion for speculation as to what the government will or will not do, its proper course is so plain and unmistakable. If the ministers regard themselves as the trustees of the public domain, entrusted with the guardianship of the people's welfare, they will not hesitate to open up the coal lands to the public and secure their speedy development in order that the necessary supply of fuel may be furnished. On the other hand, if they look upon themselves as the instruments of certain favored parties they will continue in their present course.

Of one fact the ministers may be well assured—continuance in their present course will secure for them the severest condemnation of the Kootenays. The people of these districts understand the situation so well that there is no chance of misleading them or covering up the iniquity that seems to be in contemplation. If the members of the government are not to be moved by a proper sense of their duty to the public, they may be moved by considerations of self-interest. For that reason it is well that they should be left in no doubt as to what the great majority of the people desire.

DECIDEDLY "YELLOW."

One J. H. Curle, whose name and personality are more or less familiar to Rosslanders, lately undertook to afford the English investor information respecting the stocks of various mines as investments. His effusions appeared first in the London Economist, and one of them, dealing with local mines and others elsewhere in America, was copied in the last number of the Engineering and Mining Journal. It is extremely unfortunate that his lucubrations should have been given a place in the columns of those two reputable and influential papers, because that is the one circumstance that is calculated to give them any effect. In respect to local properties Mr. Curle says:

"It is painful to realize that today, so far as is known, mines like the Le Roi, Le Roi No. 2, Rossland Great Western, Kootenay and Ymir, are apparently valueless. . . . So far as can be seen Le Roi has nothing now but a big tonnage of low-grade ore in the upper levels, which may or may not be just pay for working. In depth it is, I believe, almost blank. The No. 2 is as bad. The other mines are worse. Such mines as Centre Star, War Eagle and Iron Mask, owned in Canada, carry the continuations of these ore bodies, but I do not for a moment consider them as real mining investments."

Thus does Mr. Curle cavalierly wipe out the whole value of the mines of this district, leaving not a shred of comfort for the poor owners and for those whose interests are bound up with the prosperity of the properties. Be it noted, in the first place, that he does this without the trouble of a personal investigation of present conditions, and apparently without gaining even second-hand information. It is hardly possible that any man with locally acquired knowledge would be so great a fool as to furnish Mr. Curle with a basis for his glaring mis-statements. That gentleman was evidently romancing, with what object is probably known only to himself. His achievement in this line is one calculated to fill other members of the "yellow-legged" class with envy, the more so that he has been able to get the peculiar product of his brain introduced to the public in such respectable company.

The facts made public here almost

from day to day are sufficient refutation of the Curle slanders. It is very well known that the Le Roi has been making a substantial profit on its operations during the past months—about \$600,000—and no one knows of any reason why the profits should suddenly cease. Hampering conditions are imposed by the shortage in fuel and other outside influences, but none by the mine itself. It is also well known that the War Eagle and Centre Star have been operating satisfactorily so far as the mines are concerned, and they are steadily earning a handsome profit over and above all working expenses. The only trouble with them lies in the fuel shortage and the inability to secure shipping facilities. Not only is there plenty of good ore in the mines but the stopes are actually encumbered with it because of the trouble in procuring cars. Local evidence is in fact sufficient to show that Mr. Curle was writing either in ignorance or in malice.

A few years ago Mr. Curle wrote and published a book, entitled "The Gold Mines of the World," in which he had much to say in praise of the Rossland mines. From personal observation then he considered that "The Le Roi is undoubtedly a very fine mine, much the best in British Columbia; in fact it may be classed among the great gold mines of the world." He further said: "The future working of the already known chutes, even to a great depth, would seem to be an assured success. . . . I think it more than probable that during the next two years so much ore will be discovered in the Le Roi mine that the future will be absolutely assured for many years." As to the War Eagle he found "There is a good deal of low-grade ore in the mine, and the prospects of continued rich ore being found on the main chute in depth are excellent." The Centre Star was described as having an immense amount of ore in sight, but mostly low grade. The cost of freight and treatment being at that time much higher than they are now, the circumstance is tantamount to an improvement in the grade of the ore. Mr. Curle quotes no evidence whatever in support of his change of opinion since his book was published, for the reason that he could not produce any. There need not be any surprise at his now setting out to malign Rossland properties, since the freakishness of his species is well understood. There is some cause for wonder, though, that a paper like the Engineering and Mining Journal should take the trouble to copy the vapors of a man who gives opinions that are not based on knowledge. In doing so the Journal was in fact making an assault on its own reputation for carefulness and fair dealing. It would surely not make an editorial onslaught on any property without first looking into the facts.

THE DOMINION SESSION.

An Ottawa dispatch yesterday outlined the probable program of the parliamentary session which is to open on the 12th prox., conveying also the intimation that the houses will likely remain at work for most of the summer. The business mentioned in the dispatch might appear too small in quantity to require a prolonged session, but a glance at its character may well cause a different impression. Redistribution will itself occupy the attention of the commons for a considerable time, for that is a matter which most closely touches party interests. The fact that some of the provinces, including Ontario, will be obliged to lose seats, while others are to gain, will necessarily add complications to the task of redistribution. British Columbia is amongst the gainers, and local interest in the apportionment of our additional representation will be more or less keen. The greatest increase of population is shown in the southeastern part of the present district of Yale and Cariboo, so it may be expected that there will be a radical change in the representation of this portion of the province. It is not at all likely that any measure devised by the government will commend itself to the opposition, but the latter will have to depend on its strength in the commons to effect any desired changes. When the Laurier government attempted a redistribution a few years ago the bill was thrown out by the senate; now the government has a majority in that house.

The railway commission and railway arbitration bills, mentioned in the dispatch, may also be counted upon as time-consumers. Both questions have already been before the house, and in regard to the arbitration measure the announcement was made not long since that the government had decided, in deference to the wishes of the railway employees, to substitute the voluntary principle of compulsory arbitration. The Alaskan boundary treaty should not occupy much time, since there is no prospect of changing it and Canada is much interested in securing a settlement of the vexed question in some way. It seems to be a matter of "Hobson's choice" with us. On the other hand, the Grand Trunk Pacific project may occasion a long debate, if any measure of public aid is proposed. The rival railway interests may also be depended upon to do some energetic lobbying.

The dispatch says nothing of the tariff, and it is very probable that the gov-

ernment does not propose to offer any radical departure from the present fiscal system. A number of the manufacturers, however, are intent on securing an increase of the duties that immediately concern them, on the plea that they are now exposed to injurious competition from abroad. Their views will undoubtedly be voiced by the opposition—and by Mr. Tarte—with what effect remains to be seen. There will, at all events, be more or less discussion. The point of local interest is the question of increasing the lead duties, as presented to the government lately by the British Columbia delegation. There is a good prospect of a long discussion on the tariff, though the resultant changes may not be very great.

THE OYSTER AND SCIENCE.

Another exceptional ore is reported from Erie. The property is under lease—an arrangement giving satisfaction to Manager Atwater. Ymir and taken charge of by a gentleman of whom it is expected to be prosecuted with renewed management. The Canadian King carload of ore to Trail. At the mining record day the following were mentioned, Grey Bird, Cole and F. A. Jones, ate on Salmon River. Bird. The Junction. Ole Scattebo, situated Transfers, the Sydney claims, from W. G. Rowley, consideration mineral claim, from James B. Rowley, etc. Judging from the who live on gambles must be a terrible lot. It is expected that land fraternity will in the Ymir Mirror.

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TO SEE HER CHILD.

MENTONE, France, Feb. 3.—Former Crown Princess Louise of Saxony, accompanied by Prof. Giron, left here this afternoon for Geneva, where she will consult her lawyer with the view of obtaining permission to see one of her children, who is ill.

TURNED OUT FAILURES.

BERLIN, Feb. 3.—Herr Kraetke, minister of posts, informed the budget committee of the retching today that automobiles have turned out failures in connection with the mail service.

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