

Rosland Weekly Miner.

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A GROWING CLIMAX.

The Victoria board of trade is the first body of business men to formally protest against the ill-considered revenue legislation which the McBride government is attempting to rush through the legislative assembly. The Victoria board is apparently so alarmed at the untoward nature of the proposed legislation that it is not content with its own influence, but has telegraphed all the other boards of trade in the province to help save the situation.

This formal yet urgent request of the business men of Victoria is very reasonable and highly pertinent. It aims to conserve as much as possible the business stability of the province, the importance of which it is impossible to overestimate. The unseemly haste and crass stupidity of the government has undoubtedly had a bad effect on business conditions generally throughout the province, but we must honestly confess that we had no idea of how serious and far-reaching it was until we learned of this protest from the business men at the capital.

The question is too serious to admit of a mere expression of partisan statement. It calls for the most serious consideration, from all those interested in the welfare of the province. Due care and deliberate consideration are necessary to save the province from a very awkward situation. It is to be hoped that the leading business men of each community will not hesitate to come forward and assist in straightening out the horrible tangle in the quickest and best possible way. It is bad enough to have had past governments shut off practically all channels of inflowing capital, but to have an administration that threatens the very existence of the few industries already established, is something more than the long suffering people of this province can view with indifference.

KOOTENAY CONSERVATIVES.

The long anticipated split has occurred in the ranks of Kootenay Conservatives. At a recent meeting of the Nelson Conservative Association a resolution expressing confidence in the McBride government was turned down after a bitter struggle between the supporters of McBride and the friends of good government.

There can be no denying the fact that genuine Conservatism has suffered seriously in Southern British Columbia since the men who now control the destinies of the party in this section first came to the front. Their repeated attempts to hand the party over to the big corporations has resulted in much protest and dissension on the part of all right-thinking and patriotic Conservatives. There is a strong undercurrent of opinion which is unalterably opposed to this dragging down the splendid traditions and principles of the party, and it is highly probable that a determined effort will be made by this element to purify and popularize it with the electors. Its independence and integrity established, it should be a comparatively easy task for the good old party to achieve much for the welfare of the district and the country generally.

There is, however, good reason to suppose that the gang which now controls what remains of the Conservative party in the Kootenays, will not relinquish their hold without a struggle. With them politics is both a passion and a business. Their love of intrigue is only exceeded by the adroitness they display in using their political influence to advance their material interests with the big corporations—particularly the railways. As "practical" politicians they have, we are sorry to have to admit, so established themselves that they are able to subsidize a newspaper or a member of the legislature without difficulty. Where the funds for these purposes come from is not difficult to guess.

The resentment of the better element of the Nelson Conservative Association against the continued domination of the party by corporations and "practical" politicians is a healthy sign. It is to be hoped the good government element in Nelson will continue to grow until its influence is felt from the Cascades to the Rockies. It may always count on the undivided support of The Miner to do all in its power to further its aims in that respect. Success is bound to attend its efforts if it will only be firm, for it is impossible that the present state of affairs can continue for any great length of time.

AROUSING A WAR SPIRIT.

A reported attempt on the life of Marquis Ito of Japan is ascribed to a feeling of impatience at the neglect to engage in war with Russia. Collective young Japan wants to fight and is confident of victory. The Japanese know that as soldiers they are the superiors of the Russians. They found this out when the forces of the two countries were together in China. The acknowledgement was freely made then that the Japanese were as capable as any troops in the field, as brave and as well disciplined. There was not from any source a similar acknowledgment concerning the Russians.

Whatever the chances of Japan might be in the struggle, there is poor logic in the assassination of one of the ablest men of the empire as a design for arousing the war spirit. The officials of that country are keenly alive to the situation, and are facing it with the best ability. They are not in a temper to rush the government into a bloody conflict, the outcome of which must be in doubt. Conscious of the wrongs to which they have been subjected, they also are conscious of the risks of resenting these fresh wrongs. And whether Japan be at peace or war it has no ito to spare.

THE MINING BUREAU.

The public press, the Provincial Mining Association and the mining element of the population generally, continue to grumble at the shortcomings of the provincial mineralogist and the mining bureau. The complaints most prevalent are to the effect that the conditions and resources of various districts have not been fairly presented, and that all efforts made hitherto by mining men towards the betterment of mining conditions have been met with opposition instead of assistance from the bureau of mines, and it is said, moreover, that the work of the bureau has been apparently restricted to the collection of statistics, while the industry has not received that assistance in the way of scientific study and reports on mineral districts which was expected from the office and which was the main object of its creation. It would seem that a radical change is necessary in the constitution and conduct of the bureau.

A COMPARISON.

The cable advices to the effect that the Canadian Pacific has succeeded in raising in London \$14,000,000 at a substantial premium for expenditure on new works, shows that money can be obtained for a project in which the financial men of England have confidence.

This success of the C. P. R. in getting money is in striking contrast with the desperate straits of the McBride government. The railway company already owed \$18,611,049. The present net liability of the province of British Columbia is \$8,539,878. The C. P. R. has just sold \$14,000,000 worth of bonds at 106 and pays only four per cent. The McBride government has to resort to special 10-year warrants bearing 5 per cent interest and repayable in ten annual payments in order to borrow a paltry million dollars. The company owns nothing beyond its railway system and land grant. British Columbia has an area of over 400,000 square miles and has incalculable wealth in natural resources.

The secret lies in the fact that the money market has faith in the integrity and business methods of the C. P. R. and not in the McBride government. Hence it is that the people of this province are compelled to pay exorbitant rates of interest for a wholly inadequate supply of money. The effect, however, is farther reaching than that. By the almost total suspension of all public works the opening up of the country has been brought to a standstill and capital, willing to come here if given a reasonable amount of encouragement, goes elsewhere, while those who have already invested are so discouraged that they would willingly leave the country if they were only free to move.

Premier McBride's incompetence and stupidity are blighting the business prospects of every inhabitant of British Columbia, who is not identified with the railways and the land barons.

HERBERT SPENCER.

In the death of Herbert Spencer the world loses its greatest modern philosopher. Eighty-three years old, he was an invalid nearly all his life. But he was a tremendous worker for all that. His learning was encyclopedic. In every page of his writings, and their name might almost be called legion, are many and apt illustrations taken from some one of the sciences, and showing how thorough was his mastery of the principles of each.

So great a man was Herbert Spencer, and so great was Herbert Spencer's work, that other deep and candid thinkers hesitate to pass judgment upon his philosophy. "We are too near," says one of these; "we are too near to be able to get the perspective necessary to see its true relations. Perhaps at some future time, in decades and centuries to come, when minds are more attuned to the keynote of evolution, it will be possible to form some adequate conception of its comparative relation to knowledge in general. In the meantime we must rest satisfied with the opinions of those most capable of judging."

One broad result stands out clear. Mr. Spencer's development and application of the theory of evolution have more profoundly influenced contemporary thought, in every branch of life, than the work of any other modern thinker. The strength of his writings lies in the absolute perfection of his logic. "Deduction, induction and verification are so perfectly blended that it seems impossible to conceive of their higher development. The constituent parts of this logical method which usually excite the greatest wonder and surprise are the brilliant and unsurpassed power of generalization, which is ever present, and which unites in one whole subjects which at first appear to be as far removed as the antipodes of our globe."

Not a believer in Christianity, Mr. Spencer declared himself anxious to establish rules of right conduct on a scientific basis, as a pressing need. "Now that mortal injunctions are losing the authority given by their supposed sacred origin," wrote Spencer in 1893, "the secularization of morals is becoming imperative. Few things can happen more disastrous than the decay and death of a regulative system no longer fit, before another and fitter regulative system has grown up to replace it." Hence Spencer's famous "Principles of Ethics." His views of religion aside, it is not for no purpose that he has devoted the entire energies of an invalid to give an account to us, not only of the world on which we live, and other worlds which might alone show forth, but "of the whole Universe, containing worlds of which we reek not."

TOTTERING TO DEFEAT.

The legislature adjourned yesterday until the middle of next month. This extraordinary procedure is due to the necessity of Premier McBride fixing his political fates before taking further risk of ignominious defeat. Deserted by John Houston and with the member from Grand Forks estranged almost an open rupture, the government is wholly dependent upon the favor of the Socialists for its retention in office. The country is to be left in its present condition of restlessness and feverish uncertainty while a tottering administration makes a supreme effort to save itself. Driven to any lengths by sheer desperation, McBride seems ready, as of yore, to propound: anything so long as he can get support. It is said he has already sold himself to the Socialists, who in turn are busy making all sorts of deals with the railway lobbyists and charters-mongers. Because of his disregard for the scruples and an utter indifference for the honor of his party, McBride may manage to scrape along to the end of the session, but the chances are that he will be defeated and out of office before the end of January. If, by some unforeseen misfortune, such a thing should not happen, it is to be hoped that the lieutenant-governor will reflect the wishes of the people and demand his resignation.

BARNYARD DIPLOMACY.

To the casual observer it may seem strange that such a representative body as the Rosland board of trade should ignore the urgent and very reasonable appeal of the Victoria board of trade with regard to the interests affected by the proposed amendments to the assessment law. The act as amended imposes "extraordinary taxes upon merchants and manufacturers," but is very lenient towards the land barons and the big monopolies. The Victoria board of trade is composed of all the leading business men of the capital city irrespective of party. When, therefore, their prosperity was threatened by the iniquities of the new assessment act it was only natural that they should make emphatic protest, and in doing so solicit the hearty co-operation of every other commercial body in the province. With the rest, the Rosland board of trade was telegraphed by the secretary of the

Victoria board. Victoria business men naturally supposed that our local board would be guided by purely business reasons and similar motives and do its share towards voicing the sentiments of local merchants and manufacturers. But, as recent developments have proved, they were much mistaken.

In a moment of ignorance the secretary of the Victoria board addressed his telegram to the president of the Rosland board. He evidently did not know that the president of the Rosland board is also president of the Rosland Conservative Association and that as such he might arrange matters so that there should be no meeting and consequently no expression of sentiment adverse to the McBride administration. Be this as it may, it is significant that no meeting—not even of the council of the board—was convened, and there is not likely to be now that the legislature has adjourned.

Thus has barnyard diplomacy achieved another grand victory. Once more we have the gallant president of the board setting the rising generation a noble example in placing party before country. Thus does the president of the Rosland Conservative Association at one deft stroke stifle an expression of the wrongs of local merchants and manufacturers and put up another screen for wild land speculators and the half taxed monopolies. And thus does The Miner have another proof of the truth of its oft repeated contention that the element which controls the Rosland Conservative Association is inimical to the best interests of the town, the district and the country at large.

THE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The dilemma of the Rosland Conservative Association, like that of the Ross government of Ontario, lies in the fact that it does not scrape off the "barnacles." It will be impossible for the association to exercise political influence with any degree of success so long as it is dominated by corporation heels who persistently oppose any expression of sentiment that espouses the cause of the masses. It does not matter whether it is an attempt to rid the district of the blighting influences of the coal monopoly; a plea for equitable taxation; a demand for an honest administration of the various public departments at Victoria, or for equally important reforms, the MacNeill-Goodeve element of the association is ever to be found in strenuous opposition. Their ideas of statesmanship have so far only found expression in class legislation. They have succeeded in relegating true Conservatism to the background, although they will prate incessantly about "the old chief," "the old flag" and generally indulge in the cheapest kind of sophistry. Never once they have been found at the front with ideas that would popularize and elevate the party locally; yet they are ever ready to question and decry the genuineness of others. The high ideals of others must be made subservient to their low ideas, or there is certain to be a demonstration of their barnyard diplomacy. It is ever two for them and one for the party; and their material interests are only exceeded by the claptrap nature of their oratory. But the electors very sensibly refuse to be gold-bricked. It is a significant fact that since the MacNeill-Goodeve element succeeded in gaining control of the Rosland Conservative Association the constituency has elected a Liberal at every opportunity. This is not because there is a preponderance of Liberals but because a majority of the electors refuse to place their confidence in a party that refuses to do the right thing by them. It is a wonder that the association does not recognize this, for in its rank and file are dozens who have at heart the welfare of both the country and the party. Lack of success is not the fault of the rank and file; it is the "barnacles." They are an impediment to the progress of the party and should be removed.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.

The Montreal board of trade has taken up the question of St. Pierre and Miquelon. It is time the dispute with France over these islands and the fishing rights on the shores of Newfoundland was finally settled. The patience of the people of Newfoundland has been sorely tried by the procrastination of the British government in securing a settlement. This difficulty with France has operated powerfully to prevent the union between Newfoundland and Canada. It has also entered into the fisheries question. Canada has therefore had cause to be deeply interested in this dispute. Now that Senator Lodge has advocated the acquisition of these islands by the United States, an entirely new aspect is given to our interest. The United States must not be allowed to acquire these islands. They should be British and they should be Canadian. The Montreal board of trade has decided to call the attention of the British government to the matter, and urge the purchase of the islands from France. By purchase or by exchange for territory elsewhere Great Britain should surely be able to secure the sovereignty over the islands. The proposal from Montreal ought to give point to the general discussion and hasten the solution. The fact that in matters of this kind public bodies in Canada have to proceed by submitting resolutions to the British government points again to the desirability of establishing in the Canadian government a department to have charge of just such questions.

has seemed to be a case of arrested development in clock mechanics. It never yet got anybody up in time, but it has had a power of nagging which denoted an unhappy and dissatisfied make-up. It is plain enough now that the alarm clock has been waiting for the Massachusetts man to explain its true mission. Henceforth the alarm clock and its fulminate will have a warm place in the family affections.

STEAM WAGONS.

Substitution of steam wagons for mule teams in the transportation of mine products to the railroad in the big borax mines of Calico, in San Bernardino county, Cal., has been declared entirely successful and the result marks another milestone in the encroachment of steam power on the domain of animal labor. The picturesque description of a long line of mules hitched to big wagons loaded with borax, moving across the burning sands of the desert will be relegated to the past, like so many mining incidents in the history of the West. The use of steam wagons for hauling ores to mills or railroads is not a novelty by any means. For several years steam wagons have been used for such purposes in many localities, notably at the North Star mines, Grass Valley, Cal., and extensively in the lumber camps of Placer county, near Dutch Flat, in the same state. In almost every case they have been found to be economical substitutes for mules, horses and oxen, where the roads are reasonably good, and even in other cases where steam wagons are so built as to be adapted to the routes over which they run. The cases are not numerous where the ores from quartz mills are carried for any considerable distance, except where custom mills or custom reduction works are used. In some cases, however, hauling is a considerable item of expense. With hay in some localities from \$25 to \$40 per ton, the economy of using steam wagons is no doubt very apparent and their future in such localities is beyond all doubt.

THE WALTERS CASE.

Several citizens have expressed to The Miner their indignation at the nature of the punishment meted out to Albert Walters, the man who was up before Magistrate Nelson last week for his brutal and inhuman abuse of his infant child. The evidence in the case showed that Walters had subjected both his children to shocking ill-treatment on several occasions. It was also shown that he had beaten his wife on a previous occasion. The elder child is a tot less than three years of age, and the other, upon whom he committed the assault that landed him in the police court, is an infant in arms a little more than a year old. The baby showed bruises on both its little hands, and its neck and ears were scarred with what were apparently bites from the teeth of the monster of a father. As already chronicled in The Miner, Walters was not sentenced until the day after the trial, in order, it was supposed, that the magistrate might arrange for his proper punishment without working an unnecessary hardship on the wife and children. Contrary to all expectation, Magistrate Nelson sentenced Walters to a fine of \$25 and ten days in jail. The Miner cannot imagine by what process of reasoning Magistrate Nelson arrived at the determination to sentence Walters as he did. To our mind the term of imprisonment is ridiculously insufficient, while the fine of \$25 is no particular punishment to the father and only serves to add to the distress of the family already deprived of its regular means of support. If the prisoner had \$25 at the time he was sentenced it should certainly have gone to his unfortunate wife and children, who needed it, rather than to the coffers of the court. There can be no shadow of a doubt about Walters' guilt, and the only circumstance that should have operated against his getting the full penalty of the law was the question as to his sanity. If it were ascertained that he was insane or liable to fits of insanity, he would then have been a subject for pity rather than punishment; but there is no evidence to show that he had ever shown symptoms of insanity. If he had got the full limit—three years—the sentence would have been light enough. There are mining camps where a brute of the Walters type would never have had a chance to enjoy the stupidity of Magistrate Nelson. Walters may thank his stars that his case

THE "YELLOW LEG" AGAIN.

It is indeed regrettable to find the British Columbia Mining Record, a journal supposed to be devoted to the promotion of the mining industry of this province, making insinuations concerning the men and mines of this district that are unjustifiable. The attack of the Record on the Lucky Jack and other Poplar Creek properties is nothing short of disgraceful, and we must confess that the circumstances which seem to have prompted it are open to censure. Neither the Record nor the country had anything to gain by the aspersions cast in this instance. The whole business smacks of malice.

The Record criticizes The Miner for speaking well of the Lucky Jack and the Poplar Creek camp. If the Victoria journal would follow our example there would be no complaint from any source. All that The Miner has had to say concerning Poplar Creek is truthfully reported and we are glad to have had an opportunity to speak well of the new camp. It is the custom of this paper to speak well of everything and everybody in every instance compatible with the truth. We also earnestly desire to encourage the development of the local mining industry as much as possible and believe that we are doing so when we publish the bright side of the attempts that are being made in that respect. A

thoroughly competent representative of The Miner spent three consecutive weeks at Poplar Creek last autumn and made a special study of the situation there. Can the Mining Record say as much? Why, then, does the Record have the temerity to criticize The Miner's knowledge of the district? The Record would have been better employed if, instead of trying to find weak points in the merits of Poplar Creek, it had referred to the gratifying results that have attended the display of Poplar Creek ores at various public exhibitions in this country and the United States. In every instance Poplar ore has taken first honors for richness and quantity and it is now generally admitted that it is the best of its kind ever seen in the West. Surely this is something for British Columbia to be proud of and it is worthy of notice in a mining journal published in this province.

It is a growing conviction with us that the Mining Record and William Fleet Robinson, provincial mineologist, are on a par with each other, and that the less we hear of either the better it will be for the mining industry of British Columbia.

THE PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN.

It is becoming more and more evident that Canadian business men lay aside their partisanship and study politics from a business standpoint only. The recent long session at Ottawa was designed by professional politicians and grafters to scare business men out of parliament. These wily individuals desire to keep business men and independents at home so that the professional will have entire control of the country's revenues. They know there are few business men who can afford to spend eight months of the year in Ottawa, and that a few eight-month sessions will drive the business men out of parliament. The attempt should be frustrated. This can only be done by business men using their influence with the press and the electors to frown down this contemptible trickery. The majority of the next house should be business men pledged to shorter sessions—business men of both Conservative and Liberal leanings. The battle must begin in the conventions. These will soon be held all over Canada and now is the time to plan the reform. The professional politicians; men with no special calling, no visible means of support, should be beaten in the conventions. Only thus can the house of commons be kept wholesome and efficient. It is a duty which lies upon every merchant and manufacturer in the country.

A CRUEL E

Mr. Carncross, of Vancouver, has written to the Vancouver Herald which exposes the hardships contained in the land act as in legislation by the Minister. This bill puts a tax of \$100 on shingle or other fir or spruce, with a rebate of \$50 per cord if manufactured in the province; on logs \$5.50 per M., with a rebate of 50 cents per M., if used in the province; and, from one cent per cord M., with a rebate of one cent per cord if used in the province. It is claimed that to make the big corporations pay increased taxation; but that, it looks very much as if the Minister had a hand in helping chief commissioner to quitous bill.

It is a well known fact that bunches of timber are being cut by the big milling companies not in any way affected by the act, but the act covers which no royalty is required applies directly to the small settler's make homes. In almost every instance which there was sufficient timber to justify held under lease by companies, but those was not considered to pay for its removal be homesteaded by a few years ago that of Aulay Morrison, M. government granted to timber on their home have been struggling some day to be able to their timber to as port until he could from the land.

In the last two or three years have come over from national boundary to land and, securing from some of the but in a small log it off, paying double the stumpage there would pay, but a tributary the mills here balance of the timber der burns it (which

There can be no shadow of a doubt about Walters' guilt, and the only circumstance that should have operated against his getting the full penalty of the law was the question as to his sanity. If it were ascertained that he was insane or liable to fits of insanity, he would then have been a subject for pity rather than punishment; but there is no evidence to show that he had ever shown symptoms of insanity. If he had got the full limit—three years—the sentence would have been light enough. There are mining camps where a brute of the Walters type would never have had a chance to enjoy the stupidity of Magistrate Nelson. Walters may thank his stars that his case

came up in a country is paramount, even if it is at times with too much. This is but another glaring inconsistency of time to time in the local. Last summer a man was paid a fine of \$100 and jail for biting another's barroom brawl. Last week sentenced to pay \$25 a jail for biting and other his infant child. All of show that if you must practice it upon a defers arms rather than upon a size.

It is to be regretted does not provide a whole creatures guilty-of Wa

BRITAIN'S FISCAL

From an English political condition of England has been the help England has opened his products of the entire going broadly wines, spirits—while every other world (not forgetting his has been excluding all from their markets by lifts those countries and in their own interest while this interesting going of English laboring employment, England well night destroyed, ports steadily declining land's markets have been the natural and man-made products of foreign countries free!

Curious, is it not? s'neome will naturally the English people see this course before ne years under free trade flourished exceedingly; did the manufacturing world, and the entire ner, being obliged to or go without. Since conditions of things have only now is the world for itself, but is through wares on the English p often much less than the ish artisans to make, wish workman has for in the market place, no to what was the matter to get even with the whenever the opportunity is at British workman is neglect it.