

CHAT WITH CURTIS

Will Look Into Labor Situation From Business Standpoint.

VISITS NELSON AND BOUNDARY

He Will be Here for Four or Five Days—How It Came That He Accepted a Portfolio—His View of the Present Political Situation.

Hon. Smith Curtis, minister of mines, arrived on the train Thursday from Victoria. His mission is to inquire into the operations of the eight-hour law and to learn what the differences, if any, there are between the 8-hour and the 10-hour working day, and to learn if there are actual losses sustained by the mine owners and to find out what amendments to the law would be beneficial.

In speaking of the matter he said: "I would like to see an amicable adjustment of the question so that it may not be made a political football. Should I make any suggestions of settlement it would be purely on a basis of the merits of the question and not with any idea of political effect; unnecessary agitation, strikes or lockouts must be injurious to both parties and highly detrimental to the business interests of the country. A final determination is very desirable, and if all other means fail the referendum will speedily and effectually settle the matter. That is the great merit of that method in a case of this kind."

"On the proposed plebiscite the only criticism I have seen has been by the Colonist, which says: 'The plebiscite is a phrase that can be applied to every step in government methods, but this is not likely to stagger Liberals, who have already used the plebiscite in federal affairs and in Manitoba, and, strange to say, the constitution stood the stupendous revolutionary strain in both cases very well.'"

"It also states that the average elector is not well versed enough in such an economic question to vote intelligently, but this argument could be applied to another important question which becomes a burning issue at the polls, like a protective against a revenue tariff or the separate school question in Manitoba, which, on several occasions, have divided the electors of Canada."

"By pure chance I happened to arrive in Victoria on business the day the Semlin government was defeated. When Mr. Martin was unexpectedly called upon to form a government, he urged me to accept office. For the sake of the railway policy I finally consented. I had no idea of embarking on a political career, and some of our opponents think it will cut very short, but we shall see as to that."

"There were nearly a dozen aspirants for the Premiership, and when it was found it had gone to Mr. Martin the rage of all the factions with force joined broke over the 'Lieutenant-Governor's' head. That he was acting in strict accordance with precedent in dismissing the late government is now admitted on all sides. It is, too, what many of the papers who reviled him for it, had been urging since the first day of the session. With no party lines and numberless factional aspirants, it was probably hard for him to decide upon a selection. Anyway he got a man with a bold, progressive platform which must lead to an issue on some definite principle, and policy. How had all the other available timber was may be judged from the fact that no would-be leader, faction or party has so far offered any alternative policy, their sole cry being 'Martin is a dangerous man, down with him.' No evidence is offered in support of this general assertion, and of course I don't think any can be given."

"The statement that the Lieutenant-Governor took his official life in his hand when he selected Mr. Martin as Premier is quite erroneous, and would only be true had he dismissed the late government before it had suffered an adverse vote on a question of policy like redistribution. The dismissal of the Mercier government in Quebec by Governor Angers would then be in point and lead to the dismissal of Governor McInnes the Martin government will have to be defeated by the Semlin (now the Cotton) party. That party, after its shameful betrayal of the people by finally agreeing rather than face the electors to contest with a wing of the Turnerites, is dead; and later on, when certain facts of its mis-administration accruing after Mr. Martin left the government become known, I doubt if one adherent of it will be returned."

"The Turner party of course has no standing whatever on the mainland or interior, and will cut no figure there. On the island, in spite of both Victoria papers advising no party lines, leading conservatives urge a straight party fight, and I think their views will prevail. The great mass of the Liberals at the coast are with the Martin government, and it is daily gaining adherents there among moderate conservatives and independents and the outlook is bright."

"The attempt by some seven members of the Liberal executive at Victoria to make use of their official position to injure Mr. Martin will not succeed. Two of these members, Messrs Evans and Sloggett, said to have voted for no party lines and against Mr. Martin, returned to Cowichan and reported to a Liberal meeting there and this meeting unanimously voted for party lines, and to support Mr. Martin and endorsed his platform, so that adverse reports from certain coast newspapers must be taken with several grains of salt."

"There has been little said against our platform. All the papers against us preach simply the gospel of hate of Martin. The Colonist did assail our railway policy on the ground that our interest charge on cost would be so low that our rates would also be low, and this would greatly injure other railways. The benefit of the people was not worthy of any consideration or creditable to the policy."

Mr. Curtis expects to be here for four or five days. He may go to Nelson and the Boundary creek country to confer with both sides regarding the labor question. Since taking the portfolio of mines Mr. Curtis has been kept very busy, as a great deal of work had accumulated during the session. This will necessitate his returning to Victoria as early as possible.

ble. He has also been acting as minister of finance. The cabinet will be completed in a few days, and then he will have his own department to look after.

NEWS FROM CRESTON.

Township Pretty Quiet—Reclamation Works Proceeding.

Mr. George Winters returned Thursday from Creston, a town in East Kootenay, 17 miles from Kootenay Landing, where he has been spending the winter. He reports that the season has been exceedingly mild in that section of the country, so much so indeed that prospecting has been going on more or less throughout the cold weather. Scarcely any snow has fallen. The town, which practically sprung up during the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway over the Crow's Nest pass, is making progress, but is as yet in its initial stages. There is only one mining property of any great importance in the district, the Alice, which is at present closed down. Much prospecting has and is being done.

There is a reclamation company at work in Creston which has been trying for several years to reclaim the land which is annually overflowed by the Kootenay river and if it succeeds several thousand acres of fine farming land will be gained. The reclamation company has yet another year to run before its lease of the land expires.

Good Templars Elect Officers.

The following were elected officers of the recently formed Rossland Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars: Chief Templar, Mr. J. C. Murray; vice templar, Mrs. D. R. Adams; secretary, Mr. G. H. Playle; financial secretary, Mr. W. W. B. Collins; treasurer, Mrs. E. E. Manchester; past chief templar, Mr. F. W. Bryerton; marshal, Mr. J. A. McLeod; chaplain, Rev. D. McJ. Gandier; assistant secretary, Mrs. A. J. Sharp; deputy marshal, Mrs. F. Pound; guard, Mr. R. W. Morrison; sentinel, Mr. William Seed. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday evening in the lecture room of the Baptist church.

Stalled at Nelson.

A complaint has reached the Miner from several passengers arriving midday yesterday from the east over the Crow's Nest line, that connection was not made at Nelson. The steamer from Kootenay landing was rather late, but something less than one hour. The Kootenay train had however, pulled out without waiting for the incoming boat. The through passengers had, therefore, to stay in Nelson overnight at their own expense. Attention has been drawn to this species of injustice before, but the C. P. R. has vouchsafed no explanation.

FOOLED THE UNDERTAKER.

Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart Does So Day After Day—Relief in 30 Minutes. Testimony paid up where, in cases of heart trouble, all human aid seemed beyond avail, and Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart has stepped in, and, apparently in life's last gasp, has fanned the vital spark into a flame of perfect health, giving relief from most acute suffering in less than 30 minutes. One woman in a recent letter says: "It was akin to raising the dead, for my friends were waiting for my last breath." Sold by Goodvee Bros.

The Open Season for Trout.

Today is the first of the open season for trout, and a number of local fishermen have signified their intention of trying their luck in the streams around this city. The law provides that no person shall use any explosive, poison, net, seine, drag net, or other device than hook or line, nor use salmon row as bait for the purpose of capturing trout in any lake, pond, running or standing water, river or stream in the province under a penalty not exceeding \$250, to be recovered in a summary manner, before any justice of the peace.

PAINS IN THE BACK

FREQUENTLY DUE TO SLUGGISH LIVER OR KIDNEY TROUBLES.

Mr. Frank Walters of Exeter Tells of Suffering and How Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Cured Him After Other Medicines Failed.

From the Advocate, Exeter.

Mr. Frank Walters is a young man personally known to most of the residents of Exeter, where he has lived nearly all his life. Talking with the editor of the Advocate recently Mr. Walters said: "In justice to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills I think it my duty, in view of what they have done for me, to add my testimonial to the thousands of others that have been printed. For some months I suffered most severely from pains coursing up and down my back. It was thought that these pains were due to liver and kidney trouble, but whatever the cause they frequently left me in terrible agony. The pains were not always confined to the back, but would shift to other parts of the body. As a result I got little rest, my appetite became impaired, and I fell off greatly in weight. I tried different remedies suggested by my friends, which having no effect almost disgusted me with medicine. Then a personal friend urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I was not easily persuaded because I had about concluded that medicine would not relieve me, but he insisted, and finally I decided to try them. I purchased one box at first, and to my astonishment before it was finished I was greatly relieved. Then I got a couple more boxes, and these restored me to my former good health. I do not hesitate recommending this medicine that others may profit by my experience, and not suffer tortures as I did."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure by going to the root of the disease. They renew and build up the blood, and strengthen the nerves, thus driving disease from the system. If your dealer does not keep them, they will be sent postpaid at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

IMPORTANT MEETING

The Board of Trade Discusses the Questions of the Day.

MINISTER OF MINES SPEAKS

Question of Assessment Fees, Kaslo Board of Trade Resolutions, Timber Fees, Certificates of Improvements, the World's Fair Exhibits Are All Gone Into.

There was a very representative meeting at the board of trade rooms Friday evening to meet the minister of mines, and to informally discuss with him the mining questions of the day. Representatives of some of the most prominent mines in this district, leading workers, lawyers and merchants of this city, gave weight to the discussion of the various points as they severally arose and were referred to the Hon. Smith Curtis. The matters which were presented for discussion were the recording fees for assessment work, the resolutions of the Kaslo board of trade, the question of monthly statements from the mines embodied in a letter to the Rossland board of trade from the department of the minister of mines, the delay in the issue of crown grants, the promotion of mining companies, and the advertising of the resources of British Columbia at the Paris exposition.

The first question that came before the meeting was that of the recording of assessment work and the fees charged upon the same. It was pointed out that whereas five assessments works could be recorded in one certificate of work, yet the recorder charged a separate fee for each assessment of each year.

The Hon. Smith Curtis said that he had found a ruling by Attorney-General Henderson, confirming this procedure and that as the matter was one touching the revenue of the province, he could hardly, however he might feel about the matter, go past this. It was a matter for legislation.

The question as to the crown granting of fractional claims was gone into. Mr. A. H. MacNeil stated that the original intention of the act was that each claim should have assessment work done upon it each year. This was altered two years ago, but now the ruling was that work could be done upon one claim to cover that which formally had to be done upon each claim. An exception was made in the case of crown granted claims where work could not be done to cover an adjacent claim which had not been crown granted.

This question arose over the resolutions of the Kaslo board of trade, which were not endorsed. The minister of mines spoke briefly as to the situation, and said that he thought that whereas it was perfectly proper that work done upon a crown granted property should not count in lieu of assessment work done upon an adjoining claim, except, perhaps, in case of a well defined ledge that could be traced from claim to claim, and was already being worked upon that which was already patented, that even in this case it was open to doubt whether such an exception would work in practice; it was however, not to be expected that where a crown grant, amounting possibly to something less than an acre, that separate assessment work should be done upon this small fractional area. A case in point was the very small fraction that lies between the Le Roi and Centre Star mines of this camp.

The speaker proceeded to refer to the matter of a royalty of 25 cents per cord being charged, despite the terms of both the land and mineral acts, on timber cut and used upon a mineral claim. He said that this evidently was not the intention of the framers of the act, and that it would possess his attention on his return to the coast.

The minister of mines then went on in reference to his own letter with regard to the advisability of a monthly statement from the mines. He stated that if such was the case here the public would be thoroughly informed as to the situation of the principal properties, and there would be no such sudden drop in shares, as has recently occurred in War Eagle stock. He pointed out that Stratton's Independent published such statements monthly at Cripple Creek, and that the amount of English attention and capital that was going to Cripple Creek was undoubtedly owing to these statements. He advised the board of trade to make some resolutions on this matter, which would eventually crystallize into legislation.

These sentiments were endorsed by the meeting in general, both Mr. J. S. C. Francis of the Board of Montreal, and Mr. D. Dally Morkill of the B. A. C., commending the suggestion.

Mr. R. Dally Morkill then drew the attention of the meeting to the unwarrantable delay that always supervened over the issue of crown grants. He stated that he had been waiting himself five months for a crown grant, the certificate of improvements having been sent to the department of lands and works last autumn.

The Hon. Smith Curtis said that he had found a congestion of work in the department censured. Upwards of 200 certificates of improvements had been unattended to. It was true some of these were incomplete, and therefore could not be passed. The examiner had declared that he had much work on his hands, but that he had been finally forced to place a date, April 1st, when arrears would have to be overtaken. After that date fresh certificates of work would be attended to at once and crown grants issued, supposing that the certificates were complete, within a fortnight of receipt.

Mr. F. A. Hewer said that the present method of allowing shares of treasury stock in newly floated companies was often such that only 10,000 or 20,000 were sold at a low figure, and that consequently the money resulting from such sale was not enough to prove the property. The new mine then shut down, and the invest-

or placed another wild cat to the credit of Rossland. He suggested that, following old country practice, no shares should be sold until at least 100,000 had been allotted in the ordinary million dollar companies to give the public a "fair run for their money."

The minister of mines agreed with Mr. Hewer, but said that this was a matter for legislation, and suggested that the board of trade should present a resolution on the question.

The matter of properly advertising the section of the country at the Paris exposition was then gone into at some length. The Hon. Smith Curtis showed how the matter had been left by the late government and made some excellent suggestions which were heartily endorsed by the meeting.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the minister of mines by Messrs. R. Dally Morkill and A. H. MacNeil. The Hon. Smith Curtis, rising to reply, gracefully said that the thanks were really due to the gentlemen who had come and helped by their presence and their suggestions.

THE MINERS LEAVING.

Between 450 and 500 Have Gone to Other Points For Work.

The miners are leaving here rapidly for Butte, Cripple Creek, Sumpter, the Coeur d'Alenes and other points in the United States, while not a few are going into the Stobee, Boundary Creek and East Kootenay sections, and some are waiting the opening of navigation and will go north to Cape Nome as soon as the steamers commence to leave the coast cities for the north. The passenger agent of the Red Mountain railway says that for the past ten days the miners leaving for points in the United States averaged 35 a day. These, added to those who left previously, since the mines shut down, and those who went to other British Columbia points via the Columbia & West-ern, would bring the total number of miners who have left the camp since the three large mines closed down, up to about 450 or 500.

In talks had with them they said that mining was brisk in all of the mining camps of the United States, and that they did not care to lose their time waiting for an adjustment of the differences that have arisen. They could go to work elsewhere and there would be no question of contracts, and where they would be paid for a day's work when they had done one. They claimed that there was a period of great industrial activity all over the continent, and that there was more work than there were men to do it and, under the circumstances, they thought it would be foolish to remain here until the trouble had been adjusted, as it would simply lead to a loss of time and money on their part during a period when there was no necessity for doing so.

Will Double the Power Capacity.

Important improvements are under way at the Bonnington Falls power house. The grade for a new pipe line to tap the upper falls is complete, 2,500 feet of work having been done. The new pipe line will be 6 feet in diameter. The work will not be continued for the present, the unsettled condition of the iron trade being alleged as the reason for delay. The proposed changes will double the capacity of the power house.

Business at the Coast.

Mr. Frank Mendenhall of the Jencks Machine Company, has returned from a visit to Vancouver and other coast points. Business, he reports, is almost at a stand still on account of the political situation. He returned by way of Seattle, and found that the excitement there in regard to Cape Nome is at fever heat, and that it has materially added to the business of that city.

On a Tour of Inspection.

Mr. William Gill, inspector of internal revenue, with headquarters at Victoria, has been in the city for the past two days looking into the affairs of the local office, which he says is in first class condition. He leaves today for Grand Forks and from thence goes to Grand Forks and then to Cascade. After he has finished the inspection of offices in the town mentioned he will leave for Vancouver.

Republic Quarantined.

Dr. Fagan, the provincial health officer, returned from Grand Forks and the Boundary country yesterday. Fourteen cases of smallpox having been discovered at Republic, a very strict quarantine has been established, no person being allowed to come in from this Washington mining camp, the more especially as it has been stated that the Republic authorities have been lax in the precautions taken.

LIBERAL CONVENTION.

Vancouver Liberal Association Has Called a Convention for April 5. It is understood that the Vancouver Liberal association has called a convention of the Liberals of the province to meet in Vancouver on the 5th of April next.

Loyal Temperance League.

The L. T. M. met on Friday. After the exercises Mr. Morden gave a very interesting address, speaking on the importance of children being early trained in the principles of temperance. The object of the Loyal Temperance League is to train boys and girls in the principles of total abstinence and purity, and by enlisting them as workers, to lead them to "lend a hand" in every effort to help others and to overthrow the liquor traffic.

Poison the Blood—Food fermentation means Indigestion—Indigestion leads to Dyspepsia, Dyspepsia means poor blood, poor circulation, broken health, chronic depression, smashed nerves, perpetual invalidism. Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets nip the fermentation in the bud and prevent all the ills that are bound to follow neglect of the digestive organs—60 in a box, 35 cents. Sold by Goodvee Bros.

Mr. George Earle, the well known contractor, came in last night from Grand Forks. He is at the Kootenay.



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Trains depart from Spokane: No. 1, West Bound at 9:55 p. m., daily. No. 2, East Bound at 7:30 a. m., daily. For information, time cards, maps a ticket apply to agents of the S. F. & N. E. W. RUFF, Agt. R. M. Ry., Rossland, B. J. W. HILL, General Agent, Spokane, Wash. A. D. CHARLTON, Asst. Gen. Pass. Agent.

Canadian Pacific Nav. Co

(LIMITED.) Time Table No. 47, taking effect Jan. 1st, 1900.

VANCOUVER ROUTE.

Victoria to Vancouver—Daily, except Monday at 1 o'clock a. m., Sunday at 11 o'clock p. m. Vancouver to Victoria—Daily, except Monday at 1 o'clock p. m., or on arrival of C. P. R. No. 1 train.

NEW WESTMINSTER ROUTE.

Leave Victoria for New Westminster, Ladner's and Lulu Island—Sunday at 11 o'clock p. m. Wednesday and Friday at 7 o'clock. For Plumper Pass—Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 o'clock. For Moresby and Pender Islands—Friday at 7 o'clock. Leave New Westminster to Victoria Monday at 12:15 o'clock; Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 o'clock. For Plumper Pass—Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 o'clock. For Pender and Moresby Islands—Thursday at 7 o'clock.

NORTHERN ROUTE.

Memberships of this company will leave for Port Simpson and intermediate points via Vancouver, the 1st and 15th of each month at 8 o'clock. And for Skidgate on 1st of each month.

BARCLAY SOUND ROUTE.

Steamer Tees leaves Victoria for Alberni and Sound ports the 1st, 10th and 20th of each month.

KLONDIKE ROUTE.

Steamers leave every Wednesday for Whangai, Junction Dyes and Skagway. The company reserves the right of changing this time table at any time without notification.

C. S. BAXTER, Pass. Agent. G. A. CARLETON, Gen. Freight Agent. Victoria.

Kootenay Railway & Navigation Company

OPERATING Kaslo & Stocan Railway-International Navigation & Trading Company.

Schedule of Time Pacific Standard Time Effective Feb. 1, 1900

Kaslo & Stocan Railway

Passenger train for Sandon and way stations, leaves Kaslo at 8 a. m., daily; returning, leaves Sandon at 1:15 p. m., arriving at Kaslo at 3:55 p. m.

International Navigation & Trading Company

Operating on Kootenay Lake and River.

S. S. INTERNATIONAL

Leaves Kaslo for Nelson at 6 a. m. daily, except Sunday. Returning, leaves Nelson at 4:30 p. m., calling at Balfour, Pilot Bay, Ainsworth, and all way points. Connects with S. F. & N. train to and from Spokane at Five-Mile Point.

S. S. ALBERTA LARDO-DUNCAN DIVISION

Steamer "Alberta" leaves Kaslo for Lardo and Argenta at 8:30 p. m. Wednesdays. Steamers call at principal landings in both directions, and at other points when signalled. Tickets sold to all points in Canada and the United States. To ascertain rates and full information, address ROBT. IRVING, Manager, Kaslo, B. C.

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E. W. RUFF, Agent, Rossland, B. C. SMITH & TAYLOR, Agents, Trail, B. C. H. A. JACKSON, C. P. R. Spokane, Wash.

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Atlantic S. S. Lines

From Portland, Maine. Allan Line—Buenos Ayres... March 17

Allan Line—Numidia... March 28

omion Line—Cambomer... March 14

Dominion Line—Vancouver... March 25

Beaver Line—Montrose... March 15

Beaver Line—Lake Huron... March 22

Beaver Line—Montrose... March 14

Beaver Line—Lake Huron... March 21

From New York, N. Y. Cunard Line—Etruria... March 17

Cunard Line—Campana... March 24

White Star Line—Oceanic... March 21

White Star Line—Teutonic... March 28

American Line—Westminster... March 21

Red Star Line—Kensington... March 14

Anchor Line—Astoria... March 24

North German Lloyd—Lahn... March 20

Allan State Line—Sarmatia... March 22

Passages arranged to and from all European ports. For all the latest information apply to C. P. R. depot agent.

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4:30 p. m.	F.A.S.T. MAIL—For Moscow, Pullman, Walla Walla, Portland, San Francisco, Baker City and the east. F.A.S.T. MAIL—From Baker City, Dayton, Pomeroy, Colfax, Moscow, Coeur d'Alene and the east. 7:00 p. m.	

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For through tickets and further information apply to any agent S. F. & N. system, or at O. R. & N. Co.'s office, 430 Riverside Ave. Spokane Wash.

H. M. ADAMS, General Agent. W. H. HURLBERT, Gen. Pass. Agt. Portland Ore.

"As it is, the balance the profit and loss account, \$4, 1d., which I hope you not unsatisfactory and please.) Out of the average dealt with at the directors' meeting, we have 10 per cent. free of interest, payable on the shareholders on the 10th of this month, which will absorb 1000, leaving a balance of which we propose to carry next account. In conclusion, may congratulate the shareholders that in their own hands they have given an equally good record. I have pleasure that the report and accounts adopted, and that I recommended and that I am sure you will find that referring to the most important of the property land districts, and it is in the near future we will you together again as I have to do with regard to these, because they are and our most sanguine. We have had one or two there, and our consultants generally come to London in detail, and he assures me that there exceeds the Le Roi, and we have to the Le Roi, in addition to the Le Roi, the last

THE MINING

What Was Said and

A DIVIDEND WAS

The Le Roi Reported to be in Progress of the Stopped Down Mines of Notes.