

## MINES AND MINING

By H. MORTIMER LAMB

### THE SITUATION.

The outlook at the present time is anything but satisfactory, the situation being rendered all the more difficult by the latest intelligence that a strike is expected, but which it was believed last week had at any rate been postponed, had been actually declared in the lower land camp. It is, of course, impossible to say how long the struggle will be prolonged, though as from all accounts a large minority membership of the local miners' union is opposed to the recent action, it is to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail ere long, and the men will recognize the inadvisability of striking to obtain a higher rate of wages for muckers at this juncture, when conditions, financial and otherwise, are by no means favorable to the mine operator. If, however, the dispute is drawn out for any considerable time, the probabilities are that the Rossland strikers will be supported by miners' unions in other camps, and the strike may spread to the Boundary and possibly into the Boundary. Should this occur, it is hardly necessary to point out that the blow to the industry would be disastrous to a degree, it is foolish to cry out before anyone is hurt, but looking back even it almost appears that a malignant fate has dogged the footsteps of mining efforts in this country from the first. At every point of advance, and particularly when prosperous conditions seemed best assured, some untoward influence would to the appearance be exerted to hinder or block progress. So far as the present strike is concerned, it is nearly safe to assume that the mine owners will absolutely refuse to concede the demands made on them, and it is to be feared that even a compromise will not be entertained. Shall we then have a second edition of the "Coeur d'Alene struggle"? Meanwhile in Boundary district a steady production is being maintained, last month's output being nearly 30,000 tons. The prospects here are, however, general business is very depressed and the district in company with other localities is feeling the effects of the temporary cessation of the inflow of fresh capital. The Sloan is very quiet. In the Lardeau and Nelson districts, however, there has been some recent activity and the Fish Creek camp in the latter territory is likely to receive a good deal of attention in the immediate future. On the Coast the closing down of the Van Andia mine is reported, though the effect of this will in some degree be counterbalanced by increased activity at Marble Bay. Affairs at Mount Sicker are exceedingly satisfactory and there can be no doubt that before long the merits of this district will be better recognized, as would have been the case much sooner if the mines had been situated in the interior.

### THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET.

Business this week in Victoria has been somewhat slack, though transactions involving the transfer of approximately 100,000 shares are reported. Locally Noble Five has been in chief demand, the price remaining very firm and steady at from 8 1/2 to 9 1/2. There has been, however, little if any outside buying, though at the same time the stock is quite unobtainable either in Spokane or Toronto at current quotations. But it is a well established fact that the Toronto telegraphic reports are at present utterly unreliable, there being practically no speculation in the East, and the quotations therefore being little more than nominal. The principal features of the week are the rise in Rumble-Carbo, which has sold in Rossland at from 34 to 34 1/2, and in Toronto at 35; the extraordinary fall of Payne 15 to 12 1/2, and the slump in Republics. As the position at the Payne mine has not changed, the company having also a large cash balance in hand, it is difficult to account for this sudden drop, except as a further evidence of the complete want of confidence among Eastern investors in British Columbia mining securities. The decline in Republic has been accelerated by the closing down of the mine, and the circumstance that the concern is some \$180,000 in debt has also undoubtedly caused many to sacrifice their holdings. When, however, the railway now under construction to the camp is completed, a sharp recovery in the Republic stocks is likely to take place.

Centre Star has again declined a few points, and in consequence of the strike in Rossland the downward movement will probably be hastened, while War Eagle has sold during the week as low as 16. Boundary stocks have been very inactive, no sales being reported. Carbo-McKinnon is steady at from 34 to 35, while Waterloo has disappeared from the list altogether, the directors having announced that as no response was made by shareholders to a circular sent to them convening a meeting to provide for the securing of necessary additional capital, there is no alternative but for the company to go into liquidation.

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first mortgage debentures. You know, of course, that G. Kydd, manager of the Royal Bank of Canada, at Nelson, B.C., is trustee under the mortgage of all the assets of the company, and that it would not be possible to pay any dividends, or make any distribution of profits, to anyone, other than the debenture holders, until these mortgage debentures are all paid."

### RECONSTRUCTION OF DUNCAN MINES.

There seems to be every reason to believe that under the new scheme of reconstruction the Duncan mines and its subsidiary companies will be placed in a position where profitable operations in the future will be both possible and probable. At the extraordinary general meeting held in London the other day the resolution for reconstruction was unanimously carried and already arrangements have been made to carry the scheme into effect. The new company to be called the Duncan United Mines, Limited, and will have a capital of \$300,000 in shares of 21 cents each. These shares are to be issued in the proportion of one new share for each old share, credited with 15s. paid, and 6d. per share payable on application, and 6d. per share on allotment. Meanwhile Mr. Woakes, the manager of the Granite mine, at Nelson, is very hopeful of success. The probable influence of the new scheme, by means of a tunnel through the Poorman ground, which will prove the continuity of the vein to a considerable depth.

### OTHER FREE-MILLING MINES NEAR NELSON.

The Onondaga mines of Syracuse, of New York, owning the Maud S. and other claims near Robson, which have been ready since in the neighborhood of \$100,000 on the properties, has now commenced milling operations, with a ten-stamp battery. The cost of this mill, however, general business is very depressed and the district in company with other localities is feeling the effects of the temporary cessation of the inflow of fresh capital. The Sloan is very quiet. In the Lardeau and Nelson districts, however, there has been some recent activity and the Fish Creek camp in the latter territory is likely to receive a good deal of attention in the immediate future. On the Coast the closing down of the Van Andia mine is reported, though the effect of this will in some degree be counterbalanced by increased activity at Marble Bay. Affairs at Mount Sicker are exceedingly satisfactory and there can be no doubt that before long the merits of this district will be better recognized, as would have been the case much sooner if the mines had been situated in the interior.

### THE BONDING OF THE EVA MINE.

That a well conducted exploration and development company has great opportunities in the way of profit-earning was sufficiently demonstrated in the case of the Imperial Development Syndicate, largely composed of Nelson miners, whose directors succeeded in bonding the Eva group of mines in the Boundary district. The syndicate, in the case of the Imperial Development Syndicate, largely composed of Nelson miners, whose directors succeeded in bonding the Eva group of mines in the Boundary district. The syndicate, in the case of the Imperial Development Syndicate, largely composed of Nelson miners, whose directors succeeded in bonding the Eva group of mines in the Boundary district.

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resolution of your company being passed to this effect. And upon the condition that all the stock forfeited for non-payment of the assessment about to be made shall be offered to Mr. Gooderham at the assessment price of 3 cents per share. Mr. Gooderham agreeing to pool it with any other stock that may be pooled."

### AN ENCOURAGING STATEMENT.

The following circular from the secretary of the London and British Columbia Goldfields was recently sent to the shareholders: "I am directed to inform you that the financial position of the company is completing the works of the Kettle River Power undertaking have been carried out. From the Prospects of the Kettle River Power company, I am directed to inform you that the works of the Kettle River Power undertaking have been carried out. From the Prospects of the Kettle River Power company, I am directed to inform you that the works of the Kettle River Power undertaking have been carried out.

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### COUPLE OF DAVID HARMS

How the Two Knowing Old Men Swapped Their Old Plugs.

The little old man came fishing his horse up to the hitching post. His arms were akimbo, his hands were drawn all most up against his breast, his mouth was yawning around with a sort of blasé, and every time he twinged on the reins he let out of the corner of his mouth a little "clerk, clerk, dang ye-cleek, cleek."

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nessed the respective horses and reharnessed them in their own rigging. Then they unharnessed into their respective wagons and waited for each other to start. Neither showed an especial hurry.

At last, when Uncle Jim saw that Silie was giving evidence that he proposed to stay beyond "chose time," for he leaned across his wheel and said, plaintively, "Wal, Silie, I reckon the boys here is goin' to give me the lat, anyway. But I do wish ye'd tell me the out about this ere hoss. I s'pose of course he's got an out. Is it a dangerous one?"

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Being smooth it is strong—free from knots or flaws.

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John Jameson & Sons, Dublin.

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Sole export bottling agents to J. & S. C. DAY & CO., LONDON

MINERAL ACT—(Form F.)—Certificate of Improvements.

NOTICE—Magnetic Fractional Mineral Claim situated in the Victoria Mining Division of Seymour District.

Where located: On the western slope of Mount Sicker.

Take notice that I, Clement Livingston, acting as agent for the Free Copper Company, Limited, have filed a Certificate of Improvements, for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the expiration of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this thirteenth day of May, A. D. 1901.

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