

Rossland Weekly Miner.

Published Every Thursday by the ROSSLAND MINER PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. LIMITED LIABILITY.

C. A. GREGG, Managing Editor

LONDON OFFICE.

C. J. WALKER, 24 Coleman Street London.

TORONTO OFFICE:

CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY, LTD., 83 Yonge St. SPOKANE OFFICE:

ALEXANDER & Co., Advertising Agents, Room First National Bank Building.

EASTERN AGENT:

EMANUEL KATZ, 29 Temple Court, New York

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE WEEKLY ROSSLAND MINER for all points in the United States and Canada is Two Dollars a year or One Dollar and Twenty-five Cents for six months; for all other countries Three Dollars a year—invariably in advance.

THE MINER VINDICATED.

It affords the Rossland Miner a great deal of pleasure to be able to say that after months of fighting in a weary struggle—a struggle in which it found itself entirely alone, as far as newspaper support in other portions of the province goes—it can produce evidence that its policy in respect to the deplorable labor controversy with which this section of the country has been afflicted, is endorsed by no less an authority than the government of the Dominion of Canada. It is within the knowledge of every reader of this paper that we have been denounced, berated and scoffed at by unthinking minds everywhere for the attitude which we assumed in respect to the recent strike. Knowing that we were right in our contention, we stuck to our task of attempting to right a wrong without faltering. When the clouds lowered most darkly we did not show the white feather, but throughout all the distressing contest maintained a bold front; and as everyone knows, ultimately won in the cause for which we were contending. So we say that it is gratifying to us to know that as a result of an investigation by an official of the Dominion government the Rossland Miner has been sustained, and its attitude endorsed. And we cannot refrain from remarking right here that only the weakness displayed by other newspapers in the province is responsible for the supremacy in other sections of an element which aims at industrial strife, and which—it is sad to say—too often succeeds in plunging the country into turmoil and disaster.

For fear some people may have a doubt upon the matter, we take this opportunity of explaining the extent of the isolation of the Miner in respect to its campaign against illegitimate unionism. At the time of the declaration of the strike in July last the Miner commenced a campaign—which it has since vigorously continued—against the onslaught upon an important industry by the professional agitator and his satellites. At that time and since then, up to the present moment, the Miner has not received from the press of the province one word of encouragement, one friendly word of appreciation of its efforts; on the other hand, it has been denounced for its attempt to insure peace and prosperity and an opportunity for business men to conduct their business upon business principles. It has been laughed at, spat upon, figuratively speaking. Its editor has been ridiculed and attacked with a venom born of ignorance of the truth; and through it all it maintained a bold front and fought manfully for what it believed to be right—and now at last it has triumphed. And its triumph has been proclaimed by no less an authority than the government of the Dominion of Canada through its labor commissioner, Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King. We feel just a little bit elated over the outcome, and believe that our jubilation—which we plainly show in this article—is warranted, all the circumstances taken into consideration.

THE STRIKE AND MR. KING'S EXPOSE.

The decent element amongst the workmen in Rossland and throughout the Kootenays will feel that the executive of the Rossland Miners' Union did one good thing in the interest of honest labor—and that was when they telegraphed to Mr. Mackenzie King, deputy minister of labor, and asked him to come to Rossland and investigate the situation. It is true that the result of Mr. King's investigation and report has acted as a boomerang and proved the dishonesty of those who brought about the strike in July last, yet at the same time it is a perfect vindication for the members of the Union who have asserted their manhood and have gone back to work. All honor to the men

who have thrown off the shroud of unionism as exhibited by the Western Federation of Miners. The men who are now earning an honest day's pay for an honest day's labor stand out in strange contrast to the loafers who spend their days and nights in idleness and occupy these idle hours in concocting schemes to annoy their fellow workmen.

But it is the leaders of the Miners' Union who are entitled to the execration and condemnation of all right thinking men. These leaders, or conspirators, brought about the strike without regard to the provisions of the constitution which binds them, and the fact of their exhibiting the haste they did shows that they were in fear and trembling that their schemes would be thwarted. Surely if their cause was a righteous one, and the matter of permanent importance to labor, it was a subject worthy of discussion and the fullest consideration! What would be thought of any organization of men who were about to enact a movement of such importance and fraught with such terrible consequences to all concerned as a strike, if the leader of such an organization should railroad through legislation in the manner the leaders of the Miners' Union did in the instance under discussion? The constitution of the Western Federation of Miners wisely contains provisions purposely enacted to safeguard the interests of its members; and no doubt these are so enacted as to provide against and avoid just such action as was taken by the executive of the Rossland Miners' Union. Men who will ruthlessly disregard and set aside the constitution they are obligated and bound to uphold are capable of pursuing any methods which seem to them justifiable in upholding their base conduct. This is fully borne out in this instance by the methods adopted and policy pursued by the leaders in the present strike. They first obtained verdict obtained by methods no honest man would attempt to uphold. Having obtained this verdict they stop at nothing to bolster up their position and justify their conduct in the eyes of their fellow workmen. The first reason given for the strike is that the members of their sister union at Northport had been unjustly dealt with, and out of sympathy for these brothers in distress they must strike too. Then, when it is brought home to them that it is rather far-fetched to strike out of sympathy for men who are not working at a kindred trade and live in a foreign country and whose justification for striking is, to say the least, mythical, the conspirators shift their ground and say the union has struck because the mine managers in the Rossland camp will not pay muckers \$3 per day. And this last reason is given in the face of the fact that only a few short weeks previously the members of the Rossland Union had by their ballots voted down a resolution to strike for this same cause!

This won't wash. In the first place it is well known that peace and harmony prevailed among the employees of the Northport smelter and there was no friction whatever until a branch of the W. F. of M. was formed at Northport, called the Smelters' Union. The employees of the smelter had no complaint as to wages or treatment, and there was no justification so far as the men were concerned for the formation of a union. But this did not stop the conspirators. Ed. Boyce and his ring of conspirators had been knocked out when the Rossland Union accepted the settlement made by Mr. Ralph Smith and the contract system was introduced in the Rossland mines and was working satisfactorily. This did not square with the idea of unionism as exemplified by the Western Federation of Miners. It did not suit the salaried, soft-jobbed leaders that agitation had ceased and contentment reigned amongst the employees of the Rossland mines. And above all it galled these "exemplars of loafing methods" that men were giving a fair day's work for a fair day's wage. It galled these loafers to think that, released from the shroud of union bossism men were willing to assert their honest desire to do honest labor and earn honest wages. It was in order then to suggest some scheme by which the bosses could put a stop to this state of affairs which, if continued, would soon do away with the W. F. of M. in Rossland. Because it is to be recollected that when the strike occurred on the 11th of July, 1901, it was calculated that 1,400 men went out, and by the greatest stretch of imagination and by counting in men dead, absent and forgotten, the union could only count 700 members! Eighteen months before the union had boasted a membership of 1,200. Where had the 500 gone? The answer is easy. The men who had been members had no use for the union and withdrew and the men who were working in the camp and were not members had no use for the union and would not join. But something must be done to save the W. F. of M., and that something eventuated in the formation of the Smelters' Union at Northport. The idea being that where peace reigned strife could be stirred up and through making trouble at Northport a blow could be struck at the mines in Rossland. The true reason for the Rossland strike was the one first given out, namely, a strike in sympathy with the Northport Union. Something had to

be done; the executive at Denver, Colorado, were desperate, the W. F. of M. was losing ground in the largest camp in British Columbia and unless some justification was shown for the continuation of the "salaried few" in office no doubt the ranks of the union would be further depleted. We have it then that an alien organization having its headquarters in a foreign state can exercise its jurisdiction in a British possession to such an extent as to do violent damage to a whole community! Is this not humiliating, to say the least?

And yet we have men in this same community who are willing to suffer such humiliation sooner than assert their convictions. There is not a merchant, mechanic, tradesman or professional man in Rossland today who, if willing to assert his honest convictions, would not condemn this strike and the men who have brought it about. As yet through a supineness that is lamentable they refrain from asserting themselves. The burden and heat of the day in fighting and thwarting the machinations of the conspirators has fallen upon a few men in Rossland who have the courage of their convictions. All honor to them. On the other hand we can only express sorrow for the painful weakness from day to day exhibited by men who should manfully come out and by word and deed uphold and strengthen the hands of the few bold men in our city. A time will surely arrive when by their ballots the electors of Rossland will have an opportunity of asserting themselves; and if these men who will not come out in the open and fight the conspirators will only take advantage of this opportunity of showing their true feelings they should be forgiven.

UNION MEN, READ THIS!

The following, taken from Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King's report on the result of his investigations into the Rossland strike, cannot be given too wide publicity. Union men especially should read the two extracts carefully. Here is the invitation to Mr. King to come to Rossland:

Rossland, B. C., Oct. 30, 1901. W. L. M. KING, Labor Department, Ottawa, Ont.— We request your presence in Rossland to act under Conciliation Act, 1900, to investigate and adjust strike here at the mines. Executive Committee Rossland Miners' Union, F. E. WOODSIDE, secretary.

Here is how Mr. King describes his treatment by those who sent for him:

I ASKED THAT A MEETING OF THE UNION MIGHT BE CALLED, AT WHICH I MIGHT MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SITUATION. THIS THE COMMITTEE WAS UNWILLING TO GRANT. I OFFERED TO PUT WHAT I HAD TO SAY IN WRITING, AND TO READ TO THE UNION ONLY THE WRITTEN STATEMENT AFTER IT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THEM FOR THEIR APPROVAL. THEY WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, CONSENT TO THIS. I SUBSEQUENTLY, AT THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE, SAW ONE OF THE OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, TO WHICH THE LOCAL UNION IS SUBORDINATE, AND ASKED, AS I HAD ASKED THE EXECUTIVE OF THE LOCAL UNION, WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD BE WILLING FOR THE LOCAL UNION TO TAKE A VOTE ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE STRIKE SHOULD BE CONTINUED. THIS, HE SAID, COULD NOT BE ALLOWED.

WONDERFUL PROGRESS IN INVENTION.

A year ago with the dawn of a new century it seemed as though a new impetus was to be given the world. The press took on a more buoyant tone as though this old globe which had run down with the dying century, was being wound up again for a fresh start down the years of the coming cycle of time. It seemed as though with the entry of this purely artificial division of time a new era in science and industry and society was to be ushered in. There was, of course, no reason why we should expect any such change in the life of the world. We may mark off the years and the centuries with mathematical precision, but, as Carlyle has said, "no sounding hammer in the horologe, of time passes forth the change from era to era." Yet it does appear as if, with this first year of the century, we really have entered upon a new era—a new era in science, at least. The year has seen some wonderful advances in scientific achievement. New applications of electricity to various fields of industry have been made, with results that presage some amazing revolutions in social and industrial conditions during the next few years, and new methods of transportation have been inaugurated with surprising success. Navigation under the water and navigation of the air are no longer regarded as chimerical schemes. A re-

cent trial of the Holland submarine torpedo boat effectively demonstrated the practicability of the submarine boat. It was navigated under water for 15 hours without connection of any kind with the surface, and the crew state that, if necessary, they could have staid under three months. In regard to naval warfare, at any rate, submarine navigation will henceforth be a most potent factor. Then, too, aerial navigation has been transformed from a dream to a reality this year. Santos-Dumont has sailed his airship over Paris and promises soon to sail it across the Atlantic. On land the automobile and the electric train have become the dominant factors in the future of all transit problems. Electric trains at 105 miles an hour are now running out of Berlin and electric vehicles of every kind are fast superseding last century modes of conveyance in all large cities of the world.

But probably the crowning scientific achievement of the year has come just at the very last. Marconi's feat of sending a message across the Atlantic by means of a wireless telegraph is full of the promise of wonderful developments. The dawn of a new era in methods of communication between nations and across seas is at hand. The application of Marconi's system to the world's commercial life in all its varied forms is almost bewildering in the possibilities it presents. Take just one phase of it—its application to seafaring conditions. Steamships may have as ready communication with shore stations and other ships within a radius of a hundred miles as though they were connected with an electric wire. Sailing vessels, while their power to communicate would be limited by their small supply of electricity, would, if fitted with the Marconi system, be able to report a disaster to all similarly equipped vessels within a like radius. The universal introduction of the wireless telegraph on ships—a consummation towards which the marine insurance companies, captains and skippers will undoubtedly press urgently—should greatly reduce the number of casualties at sea. Even in the case of sudden and complete disaster, it would usually be possible for a sinking ship to report her latitude and longitude and the intended courses of her boats. One need only imagine ship bound to ship on the ocean as town is to town on land by the telephone to perceive the probable significance of this commercial experiment. And in a more imaginative aspect the idea of an ocean over which a thousand messages are crossing and recrossing is pregnant with political suggestiveness. Perhaps Canada, Great Britain and Australia would do well to revise their Pacific cable scheme along the lines of Marconi's invention.

TIME FOR ACTION.

The date of the municipal elections is now only a few days away, and it behooves all who have the true interests of the city at heart to bestir themselves in support of the gentlemen whose election will result in the formation of a strong civic government for 1902. The election of Mr. John Stillwell Clute to the majority seems to be conceded on all sides, the popular impression being that he will be returned by acclamation; but whether the Municipal Labor League puts a candidate in the field in opposition to him or not, no stone should be left unturned in the determination of the people to place in office the man who stands for the protection of the interests of all who have a stake in the community. We are deeply impressed with the belief that the most vital issue in the campaign is whether or no, as a result of the elections, shall be removed the stigma that Rossland is under the thumb of tyrannical demagogues. There is no doubt whatever as to where Mr. Clute stands: He stands for equal justice to all and special favors to none. He has no sympathy with the little clique of agitators who are aspiring to the control of the city government to bolster up aggressive unionism. Nothing more disastrous could happen to the city than to have it eventuate as a result of the approaching contest that the agitating element would be supreme. Mr. Clute, and the gentlemen who will support his policy as aldermanic candidates, can be depended upon to do justice to all classes in the community, and it is certain that they will receive the hearty endorsement of the polls of a very great majority of the sensible workmen.

But as we said before the time has arrived when some special activity should be displayed by the well-wishers of the city of Rossland in order to arrange that the candidates who stand for good, sane government may be elected by overwhelming majorities. Strong committees should be formed at once,

a thorough canvass of the voters made and every effort expended to the end that success may be doubly assured.

SOUND SENSE.

The B. C. Mining Exchange and Investors' Guide, a Vancouver publication, contains an article full of such sound sense in respect to the question of unionism and labor troubles, that it is worthy of production in full in our editorial columns. It is as follows:

While not wishing to be hyper-critical in connection with our late labor troubles yet it must be admitted that this vexed question which has borne so hardly on the development of this young and promising province, was unfortunately precipitated by a set of carpet bag politicians (now, thank the gods, out of office) who succeeded only too well in intensifying the situation and retarding the progress of the country just at the crucial moment when capital was waiting to take hold of our mineral properties and work them, and when a policy of an entirely different character should have been adopted by our legislators in the interests of the province, not of labor unions and cliques such as they pondered to, any more than in the interests of speculators. It is well known that two essentials are necessary to attract capital to any new country, viz., physical advantages or resources combined with cheap labor, the last being indispensable. Particularly does this apply to mining, which in the initial developing stage is precarious and mostly dead work needing encouragement, not the handicapping by prospective labor difficulties.

With respect to the first essential, "resources," it is conceded by the most eminent men in the mining and metallurgical world who have visited, resided in and examined the mineral conditions of British Columbia, that it is undoubtedly one of the richest, if not the richest, mineral countries on earth. This is a recognized fact among metal men, so that it's not a question of matter, so to speak, but of economical development, which the wage question discounts to the disadvantage of our progression and the unquestionable advantage of the professional labor demagogue, who could not exist unless making trouble between labor and capital.

Unfortunately, there's too much union and too little common sense brought to bear in its workings; consequently, not only the district suffers which is affected, but invariably the men themselves. Referring to the actions of the labor unions, a notable mining authority of New York remarks: "There is no more sure way to prevent the future investment of capital than to let it be known that the miners' union is in force and attempts to dictate terms to the owners and their non-union workman."

By such lawless actions the labor element, which contains the largest number, suffers the greatest loss, for their own actions strike back with greatest force and effect against themselves. The fact is that capital is an extremely sensitive plant which requires certain conditions to promote its growth, and those requirements must be attended to or it will not take hold of the ground.

The recent strike in the Rossland district has demonstrated the boomerang effect of the miners' union, when carried beyond the limit of unreason. The disastrous outcome to the men should be an object lesson to them, as the result is a virtual driving of the union from the district. The defeat of the union in Rossland will have a very salutary effect throughout the province, capital will take heart and confidence will be inspired gradually. Certain it is that a turn for the better has come and that buyers are already visiting our mining camps for the purpose of securing properties which are of a satisfactory character under the existing reasonable conditions of price and labor.

Scheder, a noted German economist, wrote: "A country grows rich in proportion as it draws gold or money from the earth or from other countries; poor in proportion as money leaves it."

Quesnay, a celebrated French writer, says: "Let the ruler and the nation never forget that the earth is the sole source of wealth; the increase of wealth assures that of population."

And again, let absolute freedom of commerce be maintained, for the surest guardian of internal and external commerce, the most exact and most profitable to the nation and the state lies in the unlimited freedom of competition. Economic science will not admit the right of labor unions to dictate to and monopolize the labor market to the detriment of the country's best interests. Free trade in the labor market and also in commerce is adopting that principal of political economy, which means the greatest good for the greatest number. Labor, like any other commodity, is subject to the same laws of supply and demand, and balances itself accordingly.

A WORD OF WARNING.

It is a matter of common knowledge in the community that within the last day or two disorderly demonstrations have been made by aggressive union men against the men employed in the mines of Rossland at the present time. This was particularly noticeable New Year's night and the following days. Very many people believe, now that the agitators have been driven into a hole, like rats cornered, that they are likely to grow desperate and resort to acts of violence. It is almost superfluous to suggest to the authorities that it would be wise at this time to display considerable vigilance in preserving the peace of the community. One thing which every fair-minded man ought to insist upon is that the laws of the country shall be obeyed. As far as the Rossland Miner is concerned, it does not matter who the offender may be—whether he be a non-union or a union man—if he offends against the laws he should be punished. A number of citizens have spoken to the Miner on this matter, and some of them have expressed the opinion that the police authorities have shown a laxity of action in attending to evils which are evident in respect to the keeping of the peace of the community. There ought not to be any hesitancy shown by Chief Vaughan and his assistants in attending to cases which appear to menace the peace of the city. In fact the greatest elasticity should be displayed in calling down censure upon the heads of those responsible for disorderly conduct. In this connection we might say a word in approval of the remarks made by Mr. Pettit in a communication published in yesterday's Miner. Mr. Pettit takes up the cudgel in defence of the Missourians, who are now employed in this camp, and utters a timely word of protest against the attacks which have been made upon them by the so-called good union men who are walking the streets of the city waiting for something to turn up. We are entirely in sympathy with what Mr. Pettit has to say respecting the status of those in whose defense he speaks and the union men. We hope what he has to say regarding the ill-treatment which has been accorded them by the union will be taken to heart by those in whose charge is placed the keeping of the peace of the city of Rossland.

A GOOD WORD FOR THE C. P. R.

The special correspondent of the London Times, who accompanied the royal visitors on their recent tour through Canada, has a good word to say for the Canadian Pacific Railway company. He thus declares: "That wonderful corporation, the Canadian Pacific, on which a railway journey of 8,000 miles may be taken in restful comfort, is a very potent influence towards the unification of Canada. There are those who object to the Canadian Pacific, describing it as a monopoly and the like; and there are those that think that when you have said 'monopoly' you have begun and ended the whole argument. But I am not one of those, for I judge by results. I find that the Canadian Pacific railway really has opened up the country and really has helped to unify Canada, and to make it prosperous. That the prosperity should be to the profit of the shareholders, who are largely English, is, to my mind, so much the better. Moreover, this much I know and I have so indicated by telegram, when you go further than the Canadian Pacific railway, even in Canadian Pacific railway, you are on a line that does not pay, and you see why; it is because it is ill-managed. Now the line that does not pay its owners is also of very little value to the public, and the line that does pay is really useful to the public. This is why, to use a sporting term, I am a backer of the Canadian Pacific railway."

Cabinet Representation.

It is unfortunate that the jealous opposition of a few Liberals in this province should stand in the way of securing a provincial representative in the Dominion cabinet. When Sir Louis David retired from the office of minister of marine and fisheries to accept a position on the supreme court bench, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, recognizing the right of British Columbia to representation in the cabinet, was anxious to give the position to Templenau, but lower manliness protests to Ottawa with the result that unless the interest of the province takes action, the appointment is likely to go to an eastern man. The interior is not interested in the rivalry between Vancouver and Victoria, but it is interested in having a broadminded, aggressive vice retired from the Dominion cabinet, Templenau would be the most satisfactory to the interior. There is nothing narrow or sectional in this make-up of the western representative in the Dominion cabinet, the mining interests of the interior would have a warm friend. The interior should at once act in the matter so as to offset the opposition of the small politicians on the coast. British Columbia cannot afford to lose the opportunity to secure cabinet representation.—Greenwood Times.

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WALLA

Fear That ing Went the

Statements Bad App the

SAN FRANCISCO has been heard of the Walla Walla it is feared that with the steamer. The statement made to the crew of the Walla Walla. Other members of the crew of the Walla Walla. Johnson's assertion that the French bank conflicting statement, stated by the U. S. and the responsibility fixed.

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A NEW Invention of a SH

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