

A GRAVE QUESTION.

For many months The Miner has discussed the local smelting situation in all its many phases, with a view to eliminating certain distressful conditions that affect the mining industry.

Before proceeding further, it would probably be well to digress for a short space, in order to make everything clear and prevent an injustice being done in any sense to either the smelters or to the industrial condition of the Kootenays.

This camp is now confronted by a startling object lesson in the matter of smelter rates, and it is to be hoped that it will serve the purpose of finally arousing the people of Rossland and the whole province to a correct appreciation of a state of affairs that is as unnecessary as it is intolerable.

It is not the fault of the Kootenay that that great mine is forced to close down. It is not the fault of the smelter that a better treatment rate cannot be quoted.

Day after day, month after month, we have argued and pleaded for a condition that would allow competitive collieries. This is the only safe and certain means of breaking the Crow's Nest fuel monopoly and at the same time providing an adequate supply of smelter fuel at largely reduced rates.

In the face of all this, how can it be expected that the mining industry can flourish to the best advantage? But it would flourish to an astonishing degree if the cost of coke were reduced nearly one-half by the establishment of competitive collieries.

The East Kootenay coal reserves must be opened without delay. They should have been opened a year ago. The fault that they are not opened lies with the corrupt and incompetent politicians and a public indifferent to its own welfare.

The industrial salvation and general prosperity of the Kootenays rests almost entirely with the opening of collieries in East Kootenay independent of the Crow's Nest Coal company.

NELSON POLITICS.

As a rule provincial newspapers these days have little or nothing to say about B. C. politics, except to report the progress of events. They abstain from comment as to the respective merits of the parties and the candidates, because it is too early in the campaign to deal with such matters.

Houston jockeyed himself into the Conservative nomination at Nelson by questionable methods. But because he has succeeded in that respect, it does not follow that he deserves either the respect or support of true Conservatives or any other element of the electorate.

ADVANTAGES OF B. C. MINERAL LOCATIONS.

British Columbia enjoys a distinct advantage over the United States in the matter of its law which gives mineral locators 1500 feet square with no extralateral rights.

The majority of mining men who are familiar with the United States law agree that the apex theory of vein ownership and the principle of extralateral rights as recognized in the neighboring republic is responsible for much of the interminable litigation with which the mining industry there has been burdened.

A STRIKE AGAINST A GOVERNMENT.

In less than five days the Victorian government completely crushed the strike begun on the state-owned railroads some time ago. The strike was occasioned by the refusal of the ministry to withdraw its order that

the Railway Employees' Association withdraw from the Victoria Trades Hall—the headquarters of trades unionism in the colony. The ministry took the position that as the railway employees were public servants, they had no right to enter into such affiliations with outside labor organizations as might lead to a suspension of the public service through a sympathetic strike.

Probably not one citizen in fifty, if asked the question, what is the amount of our national debt, could guess within ten or fifteen millions of dollars. In the prosperous times of today and for the past few years—long may they continue—we have heard from month to month, and year to year, of our enormous revenue, but little of the debt.

THE LIBERAL LEADERSHIP.

The Liberal leadership in B. C. is still a burning issue. The public will remember that in the account of the meeting of the Liberal executive held in Vancouver some weeks ago it was currently reported that the vexed question of the party leadership was laid over to be decided after the election by the Liberal members returned to the legislature.

Among others a pledge was sent to John Oliver, of Delta, but up to date his has not been returned to the executive, as Mr. Oliver feels at present that he knows no better man to be the Liberal Moses than John Oliver, of Delta, but he is not quite sure as to how near Joseph Martin may be to getting a majority of those elected, consequently he has not signed the pledge.

Now Mr. Martin has once more assumed the role of dictator, and says that if John Oliver does not sign, he will cut away from the Liberal party and run as an independent in Vancouver. The knowing ones in the Liberal ranks in Vancouver say that this is simply a shrewd move on the part of Mr. Martin to avoid going into a Liberal convention at Vancouver, as it is openly stated that if he goes into a convention there "Boss" Kelly will be on hand with his following to see that Mr. Martin is not nominated.

LIVING ON A DIET OF WATER.

This time it is a Brooklyn man who is trying to fast for forty days. He says he is doing so for scientific purposes. According to his story he has for two weeks now taken nothing but water, while all the time he has kept at his work, which is that of a builder of presses. The grave chances are that the man is a liar.

The possibility of living forty days without solid food has been demonstrated, but the conditions have to be peculiar, usually growing out of disease. Nobody with any sense would deliberately make the essay, for there is nothing to be gained by doing so while the stomach lasts. Nobody ever fasted for forty days and attended to his labor during that period, and nobody ever will. A hog or a fat bear is able to survive for a long time without food, but not while in a state of physical activity. The bear is asleep, and the hog is buried under a haystack, or fallen into a dry well.

forty days and never take a bite, they would be silly, indeed, to trouble about swallowing three meals a day, for meals cost money and the consumption of them takes time. An army on the march would have a collection of dupes to bother with haversacks or commissary wagons. They could go into a thirty days' campaign without so much as a cracker, and then have ten days left in which to leisurely prepare a modest repast.

CANADA'S DEBT.

In the last year quoted the assets are shown at \$94,529,387, an increase of \$8,276,968, very liberal by the way, leaving the net debt at \$271,829,090. Every year, excepting one since 1895, the debt has been increased from \$2,317,048 to \$5,422,806.

The Laurier government has a magnificent opportunity today, instead of increasing the gross debt of the country enormously by building a line for the G. T. P. R., to extend the Intercolonial, vastly increase the value of that enterprise in which the country has invested over \$70,000,000, and while furnishing the people of Canada with cheaper transportation rates, derive, if need be, a handsome revenue.

There are oysters and oysters, but the bivalve variety will occupy a high-toned position on bills of fare this month. He will repose on a couch of mother-of-pearl and nonè but the rich and great will disturb him—for if reports are true he will cost his weight in ambergris.

According to the almanac summer is over, but the almanac does not take cognizance of our Indian summer that makes September and October the most delightful months of the year in the Kootenays.

Lord Salisbury's death recalls the tribute paid to him by William E. Gladstone, from whom he differed upon almost all questions of public policy. Mr. Gladstone summed up the achievements of his greatest political opponent by characterizing him as "a prime minister whose ancestors were similarly employed to the great benefit of England ten generations ago."

THEY WILL "STAND PAT."

The United States people await the result of the Alaskan boundary commission with perfect equanimity. They are satisfied that they cannot lose, while they have strong hopes that they will win. The Washington correspondent of the New York Post announces that, no matter what the evidence may be, the United States commissioners will "stand pat."

The following jeu d'esprit, says the Winnipeg Tribune, is told of His Honor the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario: While on board the steamship Ionis, crossing the Atlantic last week, His Honor was asked to give a lesson in punctuation to a fellow passenger. The sentence, "Alice a pretty girl has just passed my window," was given in example. "How would you punctuate that?" "I think I would make a dash after Alice," promptly and wittily replied His Honor.

SELIM, THE NEWEST METAL.

The announcement comes from Germany that a Frenchman, Edward Molard, has reported to the state department the discovery of another metal. This new metal is called selium and is both lighter and stronger than aluminum. Its hardness is not quite equal to iron, but is greater than zinc, and its power of resistance ranks between iron and steel.

"cinch" Canada, and they propose to do it.

A GRACEFUL COMPLIMENT.

A graceful compliment was paid to Canada by the British admiralty in giving the name "Dominion" to the latest great battleship and the selection of the Princess Louise to perform the ceremony of christening was in keeping with it. The launching was, however, a reminder that Canada contributes nothing to the support of the navy. It is not flattering to our self-esteem to reflect that the battleship that bears the name of another colony, the "Good Hope," was a present to the navy from South Africa, while the Dominion is a compliment to a dependency that declines to contribute anything to the first line of imperial defence and protection.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A prominent (?) Rossland Conservative adjures The Miner to write down to his ideas. The Miner, however, prefers to write up to the ideals of true Conservatism.

An American statesman says things are in a sad state in Alaska, because every Alaskan is a law unto himself. The trouble with us down here in British Columbia is that each of us wants to be a law unto the other fellow.

The insurgents have captured a Turkish seaport and are giving ships their clearing papers and sanitary certificates. The sanitary certificates mean that it isn't healthy to hang around that port, and consequently most of the ships are clearing.

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Numerous experimenters have tried to obtain metal as light as aluminum, but one which would possess greater rigidity. At first magnalium, which is a combination of aluminum and magnesium, seemed to fulfill these conditions, but a few trials proved that it possessed a very short grain, which destroyed all elasticity. In other words the metal was capable of sustaining a very strong pressure, but breaks easily.

ABOUT LIPTON.

William F. Kirk in Milwaukee Sentinel. About T. Lipton (may his tribe increase!) Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace. And saw an angel with a fountain pen Scribbling upon a sheet of foolscap. Then, Regaining his composure, Tom sat up. And asked the angelic one to have a cup Of his best tea. The angel shook its head, "I'm on the water wagon now," he said. About T. Lipton, you wayed his hand: "I see, But, by the way, what writest thou?" said he. The heavenly vision answered, "Well, I write Here on this little sheet, in black and white, The man whose boat will get the needed place— The winner in the coming yachting race." The gallant Lipton brightened up. "Pray tell," "I'm sorry," said his guest. "It is a shame, But as things stand, I cannot write your name." T. Lipton made reply, "Would I were it! But put me down as one who never quit!" The angel wrote and vanished. The next night He called on Tom again, but not to write. Said he, "I have, on this large, handsome chart, (A fine example of the engraver's art.) The names of some true sportsmen— just the best." And lo, T. Lipton's name led all the rest!

CANADA'S GREAT SEA.

The Canadian nation is the owner of the largest single body of water on the face of the earth. Of the closed in seas Hudson Bay with its 570,000 square miles of water is next in area to the Mediterranean with its 970,000 square miles. The Caribbean sea exceeds Hudson bay in area, but it is an adjunct, and an ill separated portion of the great Atlantic.

No diplomacy won this great inland ocean for the British Empire. In 1818 it was regarded as a barren sea of ice, and was thrown to the British side, as a sugar might throw an extra lump of sugar in the scale. But as civilization trickles northward more and more is shown the value of northern lands and northern waters. And in late years, as their value appears, a well defined movement has been observed in the American republic to reopen the closed sea question.

LADY ABERDEEN'S NEW HOUSE.

The Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, who have been in London most of the season, are building a new house for themselves on their Aberdeenshire estates. It is in a different part of the country from their chief seat, Haddo, which gives the title to their eldest son, Lord Haddo. On one occasion Mr. Gladstone visited it, and it has, of course, associations with another prime minister, the fourth Lord Aberdeen. He was premier about the time that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert first went to Balmoral. Lord Aberdeen had a second estate towards that beautiful quarter of Aberdeenshire, and he is replacing the old mansion on it with a new one. As it happens, a neighboring proprietor is Sir John Clark, whose father, Sir James Clark, the eminent physician, had a large voice in determining on Deeside for a royal residence. The west coast of Scotland had been thought about, but Queen Victoria and Prince Albert accepted Sir James' view in favor of the Aberdeenshire Highlands as having a drier and more bracing climate.

HEALTHY BEDROOMS.

Each person requires 1000 cubic feet of air in the sleeping room. Measure the room you sleep in and see if you have 1000 cubic feet. Multiply the length by the breadth, and then multiply this product by the height of the room, and if this equals 1000 you have 1000 cubic feet. For instance, your room is ten feet square and 10 feet high, then you have exactly 1000 cubic feet in your sleeping room. A room of this size, if it is kept well ventilated, is (says Science) sufficiently ample for healthy respiration. If it is smaller than this it is insufficient. If your sleeping room is only 8 feet high, it should be a little over 11 feet square. From these examples anyone can figure up for himself the size of his sleeping room. Generally speaking, however, if more attention were paid in the direction of keeping bedroom windows open all night summer and winter, less attention would be required as to the size of the room.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.

Take Lavender Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25 cents.

the introduction of reforms reservation of the general continent. of war has been the direct the Macedonian policy to anticipation from the Otto-by force and a determina-mpel, if possible, European in their favor. The Mace-to be blind to the fact that t is robbing them of all in the quarters where they arouse it. Greece is ex-decided disposition to join my, Turkey, in suppressing onian revolt, although, un-nt conditions, the bonds of n faith of the insurrection- the Greeks, and their joint the Mussulmans, would have er to support the Macedoni-The drift of popular senti-urope against the Macedon-nd in the declaration made Ricciotti Garibaldi to raise Italians to aid Turkey in the revolution. Europe that there shall be no war, Macedonians seem to be in-irmation in their determi-reate a state of war.

OF JOURNALISM.

posed to found a school of " says Dr. Goldwin Smith, proposal is backed by men nced in political life as An-ge and Secretary Hay. The ch is to secure that a power immense shall be in excel- is excellent. Whether it is in the way proposed, the experiment must decide. is not like law or medi-ular profession, nor can y qualification for it analo-legal or medical degree. make it their calling in life, take it up only for a time, view to dealing with some object. The general informa- a journalist ought to have quired at existing universi- knack of writing editorials be imparted anywhere. The of the work can be learned office. In literary skill, in- vance of news, in editorial strative capacity, the news- as a whole, apparently much to be desired. It be fully on a level with the vels of the age. Yellow jour- is by no means want- ing which a professional in- ould impart. Integrity, in- e, patriotism, freedom from r influences which turn jour- mere tools, are the things to be lacking, and these no- aining can impart."

NESE IMMIGRATION.

amous sum of \$424,891 has eted at the port of Victoria. e head tax during the per- uly, 1902, to August 31 last. e beats all records in Ori- entation to Canada.

uch numbers of these al- Celestials are pouring into ry at the present time is not nderstand, when it is remem- on and after January 1, e will come into effect a Do- tute virtually prohibitive e Orientals in its operation, e tax from \$100—as at pres- 00. That such a tax will eolutely prohibitive is the e best informed; but from ntil the first of the new year, e of the "yellow horde" is ecrease rather than dimin- ed statement of the receipts e fourteen months is as fol-

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1902: \$24,249; 20,943; 12,861; 14,880; 19,078; 10,820. 1903: \$17,758; 21,660; 17,621; 40,235; 51,357; 69,732; 63,944; 31,053; \$424,891.

urrier government made a der when it neglected to e enforcement of the new lately after its passage. Its o so has resulted in a at will be far reaching in its

enger and defender of the up are built and rigged so their owners dare not ven- them over the course with blowing nearly forty miles The little British cutter which was as trim and as a yacht as was ever won the Brenton Reef cup New York Yacht Club's best Dauntless, in a gale and rse exceeding 250 miles in the open sea. America has degenerated into a