

AS VIEWED IN LONDON

The Labor Troubles and Other Hindrances to Mining.

Capital Must Have Assur- ances of Better Con- ditions.

In the last issue of the B. C. Review to hand the following article appears under the heading, "A Demand for Reform":

The intolerable position of the labor situation in British Columbia, coupled with the uncertainty and distrust engendered by a peculiar political situation, has and is causing the gravest apprehension to all those representing the interests of capital invested in local mining enterprises. Nothing is so detrimental to the interests of capital engaged in any industry as a constant uncertainty of the conditions regulating the supply of labor and a distrust in the permanency of the laws and regulations regarding the industry especially when coupled with a disbelieved in the bona fides or good sense of those responsible for the legislation. At the present time there are no stable conditions in British Columbia nor is there any guarantee of a businesslike policy on the part of the government. Labor unions appear to ride roughshod over the community and the labor leaders and walking delegates endeavor to spread distrust among shareholders for their own ends, which are simply and solely personal glorification. They do not personally care whether members of their union receive today a wage of \$3 or \$3.50 but what is of importance to them is that whatever wage they are now accepting they must be taught to become dissatisfied with within a short period as possible. The more frequently agitations occur the greater will be their personal aggrandizement and the greater will be the opportunities for self-advertisement.

The deplorable results which have taken place in Rossland and Northport, are due merely to the determination of the representatives of capital to once and for all settle the question. Are we to manage our affairs in our own way or are they to be run in the interests of and under the dictation of a labor autocracy?

It is without question the labor agitators who first stirred up the strike and it is how the business of the mining companies to make a final and determined stand. In Rossland those in charge of the Le-Lot group of mines, the War Eagle and Centre Star have been working in perfect unity to safeguard the interests of the capital under their charge. In London and in Canada the directors of these enterprises have fully supported the action of their local representatives, and today the representatives of the largest aggregation of Canadian capital invested in Rossland are in London to discuss the position with the directors of English companies. We have lately ascertained the views of Mr. G. T. Blackstock, as representing the interests of Canadian shareholders and also of those chiefly representing the English capital locked up in B. C. mines, and their opinion is unanimous.

The lack of confidence in British Columbia as a sphere for mining operations is widespread and the credit of the province in the money centres is being gravely impaired. To once more rehabilitate the province in public esteem it is necessary that there should be no more trucking to the so-called labor vote, a bogey by which every government of late years has been obsessed. At the same time the interests of the different labor and trades unions are alien to have no vote. Furthermore, the government of the province must be carried on in a more competent manner and follow a businesslike and consistent policy. Until some definite steps are taken by politicians in British Columbia to put their houses in order and their intentions shown by taking such measures as will guarantee industrial peace that will safeguard the interests of capital, it is desirable in the interests of Canadian and British shareholders that the mines in the disturbed districts should be entirely closed down. While the ore remains in the ground dividends may be regarded as deferred, but the mining and shipment of ore under present conditions entails the loss of a substantial portion of their profits to the shareholders who have in many cases already been some years without obtaining a return on their capital.

The impression is very strongly held in mining circles that a mine owner in British Columbia is regarded as the legitimate prey to all parties; the railways charge exorbitant rates, the government exacts heavy fees and enacts oppressive regulations, while the labor unions, fostered and coddled by the government, demand exorbitant wages. It is a well known fact that hundreds of the most skillful miners, many of them not even union men, have left Rossland during the strike where they have been earning \$3.50 for eight hours work and have gone to American mining camps where they have received a smaller wage and work longer hours. Today the mining industry is the backbone of British Columbia and very little local capital has been embarked in it. The rigid closing down of all the mines in the disaffected districts appears to be the only means of bringing the people to their senses. Those immediately affected would be the storekeepers and wholesale houses and it is the trading community, not the labor classes who really control the situation. So soon as they grasp the fact that capital will only come into the country on its own terms, which includes the unfettered management of its own affairs, and the carrying on of its business without embarrassing restrictions and with a free labor market, they will see to it that their representatives in the legislature are men pledged to a consistent and progressive policy. The progress of British Columbia is absolutely dependent on the inflow of outside capital and the surplus of Eastern Canada and the mother country cannot at present regard British Columbia as offering any assurance of a remunerative investment. The remedy for this unsatisfactory position is in the hands of the people themselves.

HE FOUND THE CACHE.

A Peculiar Story of Robbery Comes From Republic.

REPUBLIC, Wash., Oct. 10.—Michael Smith, employed for several weeks on a ranch by Frank O'Brien near Republic, was assigned the work of cleaning out a chicken house on the ranch by Mr. O'Brien last Monday morning. In prosecuting this work he unearthed a cache of about \$800 in gold coin which had been placed under one of the chicken house by Mrs. O'Brien for safe keeping. He kept this knowledge to himself, and during the fore part of the same night he returned to the chicken house, dug up the can containing the coin, appropriated the contents and came to Republic. He hired a team and was driven to Nelson, Wash., where he hired another team and was driven to Columbia, B. C., leaving that place by train at 1 p. m.

On entering the chicken house Tuesday morning Mrs. O'Brien discovered the empty can that had contained the coin, and also remembered that the hired man had not been seen that morning. She immediately came to town and notified the officers. Sheriff Lowry learned that Smith had boarded the train at Columbia, B. C., notice of which was promptly telegraphed to the provincial constable, W. H. Bullock Webster, at Nelson, B. C., who intercepted the train at West Rossland, where he promptly captured the man.

The officers found \$470 on Smith when they arrested him. Smith was taken to Nelson, B. C., where he is held in jail.

Sheriff Lowry left to bring Smith back to Republic.

County Court Judge.

The county of Yale includes the districts tributary to Kamloops, Ashcroft, Vernon, Princeton, Fairview, Greenwood, Grand Forks. His Honor Judge Spinks held court at Kamloops. It takes three days to travel by rail from Vernon to Greenwood. It takes four or five days to reach Princeton and return to any point on the line of railway. So much time was taken up in travelling through the district that the county court business became seriously congested and cases that ought to have been tried were postponed from time to time, often at great expense and serious loss to litigants. The evils attaching to giving a judge a larger territory than he could handle are not recent, they have existed for several years. When people become dissatisfied they are bound to make trouble. General complaints became complaints against the resident judge resulting in an investigation that proved nothing against the judge but cost the county a large sum of money.

Those who knew the situation continued to make representations to the government until their requests were granted and Mr. Leamy was appointed a county judge for the Boundary district. In gazing, the appointment was made in the county of Kootenay instead of the county of Yale. Judge Leamy consequently has no jurisdiction in the territory for which his appointment was intended and he holds court here because requested to do so by Judge Spinks. The reasons which led up to Mr. Leamy being appointed are today more pronounced than they ever were. The amount of legal business to be transacted is greater and a possibility of being satisfactorily transacted by one judge still less. If the mistake of the government is not rectified Judge Leamy will be forced to reside in the county of Kootenay, and the Boundary district will be in as bad a position as it was before his appointment. It is difficult to understand why there should be such delay in rectifying the error in gazing. The government did not appoint Judge Leamy simply to make a new appointment. A judge was appointed because strong representations were made to the government that a judge was needed; because the government was convinced that unless an additional judge was appointed judicial business could not be satisfactorily transacted. If the appointment to another county is to hold, the congested state of county court business is not relieved and is as bad as before the appointment was made. Surely if the appointment was made on certain statements of facts made by those acquainted with the situation, the error in gazing should be rectified on the representations of those who are instrumental in inducing the government to make the appointment.—Greenwood Times.

U. S. PACIFIC CABLE.

Attorney-General Knox Reports on Legal Aspects.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Attorney-General Knox made a verbal report to the president and cabinet regarding the result of his investigations into the Pacific cable question. His conclusion was that under the law of 1896 any domestic company could land any cable on the shores of the United States or its possessions. The president and cabinet were convinced by the verbal report that no executive action is called for at this time.

The president will go over the subject more in detail with the attorney-general and will review the whole matter in his message to congress. The law of 1896 is the same law under which the Postal Telegraph company claimed it had the power to land a cable at Havana, but the claim was disregarded at the time by the secretary of war. Five members of the cabinet—Secretaries Long, Hitchcock, Wilson, Attorney-General Knox and Postmaster Smith—were present at the meeting, which was devoted largely to the consideration of appointments under the various departments. The question of southern appointments generally again came up and the president reiterated his policy of appointing Republicans, if suitable applicants could be found, and if not, of appointing good Democrats. His policy in this respect meets the approval of the cabinet.

STATE OF BUSINESS

EASTERN WHOLESALES SATISFIED WITH THE VOLUME OF TRADE.

THE CONDITIONS AT PACIFIC COAST CENTRES ARE IMPROVED.

TORONTO, Oct. 11.—The wholesale trade at Montreal this week has been rather more active. The certain approach of cold weather has brought in a good many sorting orders for late fall and winter goods, and the jobbing trade in such lines for sorting stocks is expected to be large during the balance of this month. The shipping trade is quite active, and is sure to become very brisk the next two weeks. It is felt that money will be much more plentiful through the increase of sales at an early date. There is a good feeling in trade circles, and while business men generally continue to advise caution they consider the future promising.

At Quebec business in general is reported as good as for the preceding week. Fall trade is picking up, and retailers are doing considerable in heavy goods. Some of the larger shoe factories have received several orders during the past week, and it is expected that ere long all will be running full time. Large quantities of foreign goods arrived during the week from the west to shipment per steamship Iberian. From Chicago alone came 15 carloads of beef, one of hogs and three of canned goods, besides five hundred head of cattle. This is the fourth steamer of the line which has carried out freight of this kind, and which from appearances is going to be a general feature of export from this port.

The business week at Toronto has been broken by the festivities attending the royal visit. The low fares on the railways, however, brought in a good many country merchants who visited the wholesale firms, and while the fact that many travellers returned to the city in the middle of the week lessened the volume of orders, house sales were larger, and that with mail orders made the week's movement quite a large one. The fall sorting trade is quite active now, and the prospects are that this month will in many lines prove the most satisfactory October of many years. Values of staple goods are generally steady. Leather is firm, with an advance in sole hides are steady, wool is dull, live and dressed hogs are lower. Owing to the light stocks of produce prices are no lower. Country remittances are fair, but should materially improve when the farmers get in their crops, on which they are now working. Business at Hamilton has been quite active this week. Travellers' orders from many sections of the country call for large shipments, and in many cases prompt deliveries are asked, showing that retail stocks are pretty well broken up. There is a cheerful feeling in wholesale circles and every confidence in the future conditions of trade.

Trade at the Pacific coast centres shows a little improvement. Reports show a fair inquiry for fall and winter goods, and the prospects favor a steady development in this respect. The prospects for business are not discouraging. Payments are not particularly good. The unsettled weather in Manitoba has made some impression on trade, but there is a good deal of activity in jobbing circles, which shows the country retailers have confidence in the immediate future of trade. Values of staple goods are being well maintained. Trade will develop much activity when the grain movement gets larger.

Bank clearings in the different cities this week were:

Montreal, \$20,450,105; increase, 36.0 per cent.
Toronto, \$12,862,397; increase, 19.1 per cent.
Winnipeg, \$3,213,476; increase, 55 per cent.
Halifax, \$1,665,946; increase, 6.9 per cent.
Vancouver, \$1,204,303; increase, 81.1 per cent.
Hamilton, \$915,492; increase, 2.4 per cent.
St. John, N.B., \$820,175; increase, 2.2 per cent.
Victoria, \$656,484.
Quebec, \$1,530,135.

AT GRAND FORKS.

Minneapolis Capital—A Laborer's Bad Accident.

GRAND FORKS, B.C., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Dr. Hindley of Minneapolis has organized a company in that city for the purpose of acquiring the Royal Banner group, Summit camp, from Dr. G. W. Averill of Grand Forks. Development work will be commenced immediately.

Kess Stone, a laborer, had his skull fractured by a falling rock while engaged yesterday in blasting operations on the V. V. & E. railway near Gilpin's. He was removed to the hospital here, where an operation was performed by Dr. Northrop, assisted by Dr. Dutton. He will recover.

H. N. Galer, of the Granby smelter, returned today from an inspection trip to the Granby group at Phoenix.

E. W. Liljegan, formerly superintendent of the Humming Bird mine, has gone to Minneapolis on mining business. Hugh Cannon has returned from Franklin camp, where he will keep a small force at work all winter on his various mining claims.

At the Owl hall last night Danny Dean of Phoenix and Al. Jones of Winnipeg had a 10-round boxing contest, and though unable to knock out his opponent was awarded the decision and first money by Dal Hawkins, the referee.

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