

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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DEATH OF CECIL RHODES.

The life of Cecil Rhodes has been hanging in the balance for many days. His death, from the tenor of the dispatches received daily as to his condition, is not unexpected. A remarkable man has passed away, and probably no one in the public eye has filled a larger space in modern English history. He has been called a nation builder. He never ceased to work for the great dream of his life, the establishment of a vast English dominion in South Africa, with a British railroad "from the Cape to Cairo," and to include under the British flag everything procurable. He was the prime mover in obtaining mining rights in Matabeleland and Mashonaland, and, as a result of his enterprise, immense tracts of British territory in South Africa are now grouped under the name of Rhodesia. Until 1896 Mr. Rhodes was resident director in South Africa of the British South Africa company, an organization somewhat similar to the famous East India company, which built up the British Indian empire.

Like all men he had his personal characteristics and foibles, but his name will go down in history among the greatest that England has ever produced; a man of masterful resources, of indomitable will and force of character. We shall probably not see his like again.

THE SCHOOL OF MINES.

Rossland has had the school of mines three winters, but last winter allowed it to lapse. A good many things have changed since then, and we can see no reason why a very useful institution, one that would probably grow along with the growth of the mining industry, and be of inestimable value to a great many of our people, should be allowed to die for want of attention. We are led to these remarks from reading an editorial in last Wednesday's Nelson Miner, urging that the board of trade of Nelson take the matter in hand and try and secure the school of mines for that city. Our worthy contemporary properly states that if Rossland does not take enough interest to do its share toward retaining the school, then it is within the province of the city by the lake to take the matter in hand. The legislature is now in session and the time seems ripe to do something.

Would it not be the proper thing for the Rossland board of trade to take action at once? Interest should be revived in the school. There is no reason why it should be removed from Rossland, save our own negligence or apathy. In that event, we do not deserve it, and of right it should go to some enterprising town that will foster its growth. Rossland is surrounded by the greatest mines in the province; it is also the most populous city in the Kootenays; it is easily reached from all sections, and it would seem that it is the proper place for the location of such an important institution.

The benefits accruing from the presence of a mining school are many. Prospectors and miners who have not had the opportunity of taking a scientific course in mining can here receive rudimentary instruction in geology and mineralogy, and be better prepared to carry on their work when delving in the mines or prospecting in the mountains. Our young men, too, can be benefited by the lectures delivered and the tests explained. As is well understood, the school as now conducted is simply in its chrysalis state, so to speak. It should break forth into something more extended and thorough in the near future.

It is time for Rossland to pick up its ears and get a "move on" in this matter.

PLACER EXCITEMENT AT KASLO.

It will be seen by reference to our telegraphic columns this morning that Kaslo and the nearby country is in the throes of a placer mining excitement. The Miner is enabled to give this news through its regular correspondent, a most trustworthy gentleman, and the facts as stated can be relied upon.

The scene of the rush is Cooper Creek, 20 miles distant from Kaslo, and the statement follows that coarse gold is found that yields 25 cents to the pan. Gold was known to exist there before, but was never found in such large

quantities. The rush is on, the creek has been staked for miles, companies are being formed and supplies rushed in, and the outside world will wait for developments.

Kaslo is to be congratulated. A marble of excellent quality is quarried about three miles from town, across the lake, lime rock is shipped to the smelters, and now comes the news of placer diggings.

Why go to the Yukon or Thunder Mountain when we have such a good thing at home?

THE NEW RAILWAY LINE.

Without attempting to discuss in the least the merits or demerits of the bill giving government assistance to the Canadian Northern Railway, it is interesting to sketch that portion of the route passing through British Columbia and to consider the changed conditions that must ensue in the near future. The Miner has expressed its views editorially on giving land and money to assist in building railways, but the trend of legislation seems to be that way, and we will probably see the northern line built with government assistance. The Canadian Northern is a railway system, not a single railway company.

In the report of railways and canals for 1901, pages 148-172, there is a plan of the proposed route and a detailed description thereof, with an estimate of its cost. The plan shows the line to run northwest from Edmonton to Dunvegan, on the Peace river, up the Peace river to its junction with the Findlay river, thence up the Omineca and across the divide to the Skeena. At the Skeena it divides, one branch going down the Skeena to Fort Simpson, and the other up the Skeena, across the divide to the Stikine, and thence to Teslin lake.

Incidentally, it also refers to the "Edmonton-Yukon" route, namely, a proposal for a line from Edmonton to the Yellowhead pass, thence by the Fraser and Parsnip rivers to the junction of the Peace and Findlay rivers as before, and thence by the same way as the first route.

Both these lines go through good districts, terminate at or near Fort Simpson, and bring the whole of the Yukon and east Alaska trade in direct touch with Central and Eastern Canada.

The government proposal is to take a branch from the second route to Bute Inlet and thence by ferry to Victoria.

The opening up of the vast extent of country to the north of us will almost seem like a revelation to the old pioneers of British Columbia. There are those living among us, whose hairs are silvered now, who remember the rush to this country in the sixties in the search for gold. The Cassiar district became a noted region. The Peace, the Skeena and other streams were ascended and their banks washed by the placer miners. Gold was found and brought out in large quantities. It was a far-away region, however, and the usual hardships and privations endured by the pioneer in all lands and times was repeated here. The more recent rush to the Yukon was but a repetition on a larger scale, with the conditions much the same, that marked the stampede to Cassiar nearly 40 years ago.

People little thought at that time that a railway would ever invade this part of the world, but stranger things have happened in the intervening years, and the old pioneer must blush away the mist from his eyes and join the procession. Our northern frontier will soon cease to be a far-away country. Instead of ascending the turbulent and dangerous streams by polling a boat, made of rough material and with few tools, or crossing the ranges with a frying pan and a blanket on his back, the intending settler or miner can ride in a railway coach. It will soon cease to be a wilderness. There are many beautiful valleys that will afford homes for the homeless. And grazing lands are spread out that will give a range for vast herds of cattle, horses and sheep. We also believe it to be one of the richest mining regions in the world. The placer diggings in the sixties were far from being exhausted, but the cost of getting the gold out—that is, the hardships and the high price of supplies—rendered it hardly possible to make it remunerative in all cases. Placer mining will now be revived, conducted on modern methods with modern machinery. And as for quartz mining we can expect to hear a great deal of it. This country will add to the wealth of the world as well as to the renown of British Columbia, and the sooner it is settled and developed the better it will be.

MORE SMELTERS TO BE BUILT.

Our correspondents at Kaslo, Sandon and New Denver have each mentioned the fact that Joseph Ryan was in their respective towns looking over the ground for the purpose of securing the best site for the erection of a smelter. Mr. Ryan is a gentleman well known in Rossland and Trail, and is said to be backed by ample capital. Certain it is, all who know the genial Mr. Ryan will wish him success in

whatever he undertakes. We judge that he represents the Vulcan Smelter Company of San Francisco, which means that a Vulcan smelter will probably be erected somewhere in the Slokan country.

The Slokan is a very rich mining district, and can easily furnish the ore for a nearby smelter. At present the ore is shipped to various smelters, a considerable portion going to the State of Washington. Without saying or doing anything to discourage the work of the smelters already running in the Kootenays, some of which are not running on full time, there is still a demand for more smelters, or will be in the near future, if the signs of the times do not fail. The shipping mines are increasing in number every day and will be followed by others. Besides, the old shipping mines are increasing their output or preparing to do so, in many cases being able, when running to their full capacity, to supply a smelter of their own.

In the country Mr. Ryan is visiting it is a new field so far as a smelter is concerned. It is the richest silver-lead district in the world, and why a smelter should not be there to treat the rich ores near at hand no one can say. There can be no doubt that development of the mines in the Slokan country is hardly begun. The history of all silver mines goes to show that they go down to great depths. It is estimated that the great Comstock silver lode in Nevada contributed from \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000 to the wealth of the world, and the mines there are still being worked, although the prestige of the Comstock has long since departed. The silver mines of Peru, that have for many centuries yielded up their wealth, are still productive, although they are not worked on modern methods with modern machinery. And when we say that the silver-lead mines in the Slokan are not yet developed we but repeat what nature has unfolded elsewhere, and nature's laws are unalterable.

The Lardeau country is also asking for a smelter, and the coming season will probably witness the construction of one if not two. This is a rich mining division, and now that the railroad has penetrated its confines we will soon hear a great deal about it.

We have faith in our mines. It is only ten years since we first heard about them, and consider what has been done in ten years! Ten years is but a breath when it comes to unfolding what is hidden in the bowels of the earth. It will take many times ten years to tell the half, and the rest we are willing to leave to our children and their children, for we believe there is enough to last for many generations.

The wealth in these mountains was not placed there by the Great Ruler for one generation but for many. Mining is not so much of a gamble as many declare. It is a business and should be conducted on business principles, and when so treated it generally pays. Too many mining propositions are worked in hap-hazard fashion, or as is frequently the case, used as a means to an end. But that is not the fault of the mines. The great mining and investment world will learn more about us one of these days, and when that time comes will help us to bring to the surface the great wealth now buried in our mountains.

We believe British Columbia is destined to be the greatest mining country in the world. It will be diversified and widespread. It will include every mineral found in the earth and rock, to be used in exchange and in the arts and sciences.

AS TO THUNDER MOUNTAIN.

The question is asked: "Is Thunder Mountain being boomed?" Following the trend of dispatches and interviews appearing in the daily press, particularly those issuing from Spokane, it begins to look as though everything printed about that country is highly colored, to say the very least. No one doubts but there are rich claims on Thunder Mountain, but that every one of the hundreds already located reveal marvelous showings in gold is stating it too strong for the credulous to believe. From all accounts snow is still deep on the mountain, and it is safe to say that not one man in ten who have staked claims knows for certain that he has anything carrying gold. It must be recollected that Thunder Mountain is not exactly a new region. The country was prospected and claims located and worked more than 30 years ago. Gold was found, but the argonauts didn't find it lying on top of the ground (or snow) quite so profusely as later day newspaper reports would make the outside world believe. From the present outlook the man who is established in business or who holds a good paying situation would be foolish to throw either aside and go to Thunder Mountain. To the man who has everything to gain and nothing to lose, or who wishes to start off on a Don Quixote expedition, perhaps Thunder Mountain is as good a place as any for him to get his experience. Those of us living in the Kootenays should bear in mind that our own country is not half prospected yet, and the field is wide and open to all.

We do not wish to cast any cloud over Thunder Mountain or any other

mining section. If the gold is there it will be found and the world be so much the richer. But we do wish to impress on the thinking public the thought uppermost at this time, and that is, that certain of the daily press may be working up a boom of Thunder Mountain, in which event they may be well paid for the space devoted for such purpose. The thing has been done before and there is no reason to doubt it will be tried again.

The thoughtful reader should carefully scan these reports, and he will be surprised at the number of silly statements they contain. One report states that one man sampled ore from 7000 claims located on the mountain and found gold in every one. It is nonsensical to publish such trash. No man could sample ore from that many claims in a reasonable length of time. This is but one of many such statements. A word to the wise is sufficient, but there is an old remark that people like to be humbugged.

KETTLE RIVER VALLEY.

Our correspondent at Grand Forks says there is a marked demand for acreage property at and near that place. Many of the leading ranchers are subdividing their land into ten and twenty-acre tracts, many of which have been disposed of. This is one of the best pieces of news we have seen for a long time. It means genuine prosperity. When there is a demand for small patches of ground so that people can go into the business of truck farming or the raising of fruit or berries of various kinds, it shows there is something back of the country aside from mining. The Kettle River Valley is a beautiful stretch of country, containing much good soil and capable of supporting a large population. It is a happy combination of a rich mining division with a first-class agricultural section, the two contributing to the support of each other. A wonderful change has taken place in that part of the world in the past six years.

In the spring of 1896 Grand Forks boasted of about a dozen shacks, with "great expectations." Greenwood was then called "camp" and Phoenix was unknown. Three railroads have invaded the country, well known prospects have developed into famous mines, smelters have been built, bustling towns have grown into being, and the wild land of six years ago is fast coming under cultivation.

The land of the Kettle River Valley is well adapted to fruit culture, in addition to the excellent grain and succulent vegetables raised there. The apple orchard of W. H. Covert has become locally famous. At the Spokane Fruit fair two years ago the fruit from this orchard was placed side by side with that grown in the State of Washington, and the British Columbia product was given the premium.

The Kettle River Valley is fast filling up with the home-seeking element, and many beautiful and comfortable homes are to be met with. And the number will increase as the years roll by. Of the mines in that neighborhood volumes could be written, but they are fast getting in a position to speak for themselves.

This region is now in such close touch to Rossland that we think nothing of going there. We jump into a railway coach and in about six hours are landed at Grand Forks. In the old days the shortest route was by the Dewdney trail, and it was a tiresome and laborious trip.

SOME DIVIDEND PAYERS.

Early in March the Ymir Mines, Limited, paid a dividend which makes the total of the profits distributed among its shareholders \$28,000. The North Star, of East Kootenay, paid 1 1/2 cents per share a few days ago. This company has divided \$373,000 among those who hold its stock certificates. It has a reserve of about \$200,000 in its treasury. On March 20th, the Sunset divided \$6,000 among its stockholders, making its total profits circulated \$36,000. The Rambler-Cariboo declared a dividend of one per cent, payable last Monday. This company will now have distributed about \$138,000 among its shareholders.

The good news of the placer mines at Cooper Creek, 20 miles from Kaslo, is confirmed by a second dispatch received this morning from our correspondent at Kaslo. Many prospectors are flocking to the new El Dorado, and favorable reports are coming in. A barge loaded with lumber and supplies went up yesterday from Kaslo. The Miner was the first paper in the Kootenays to receive and spread this news.

An Illinois man who is desirous of getting rid of some of his surplus money has written to the mayor of Vancouver offering to build a smelter in that city providing sufficient inducements were made. He mentions, merely incidentally, of course, the fact that quite a few other towns were bidding for his proposed reduction works, evidently in the hope that this would spur the coast city to offer exceedingly good terms. The citizens of Vancouver have not swallowed the bait as yet.

DOMINION CAPITAL

An Important Deputation from Province of British Columbia.

They Are Respectfully Listened to by the Ministers.

(Special Correspondence.)

OTTAWA, March 24.—Senator Templeman has quite taken his place in the cabinet as the member who represents British Columbia, and is constant in season and out of season in advocating the claims of the province to better terms of treatment. Even at the Press Gallery dinner the other night he made a plea for the consideration of British Columbia and quoted Canada had better annex British Columbia to the Dominion. He explained the idea that the rest of the Dominion was ignorant of the resources and capacities of the great Pacific province. The speaker of the senate who followed, remarked that in the East, especially in the Maritime provinces, they could get nothing because the representatives of the western province were so constant in their urging the claims of their respective provinces.

At a meeting between the representatives of the Dominion Trade Union and the ministers last week, Mr. Ralph Smith brought up the question of the further restriction of Chinese immigration, and urged the government to impose a positively prohibitive tax. It was only a few days ago that the second part of the report of the Royal Commissioners' report on Oriental immigration was handed to the premier, and so far it has not been laid on the table of the house. Notwithstanding that it is generally known that this subject which deals with the less urgent subject of Japanese immigration can only be regarded as an interesting document. Whilst Canada is free to take what steps she deems fit in connection with the prohibition or otherwise of Chinese immigration, imperial interests are touched immediately Japanese come into the question. The importance to the empire of the alliance of Japan and Great Britain is becoming more evidenced every day, especially with the knowledge of the inroads that Russia is making in Manchuria. The imperial authorities have from time to time left no doubt in the minds of the Canadian cabinet of the views they hold on this very important subject, and however much our government might be inclined to act in this direction, any legislation aimed at the limiting of Japanese immigration would be offensive to Japan and would be disallowed on the application of the Japanese ambassador to the court of St. James. Little doubt is entertained here that the government will this session introduce a measure which, if it does not provide a poll tax of \$500 per head on all Chinese immigrants, will at least make the tax \$300, with a provision for a further increase. So far the East has not suffered to the same extent as has the west in this matter, but evidences are not wanting that ere long the question will be as live here as it is there.

During the week a very important deputation from British Columbia waited on the ministers and drew their attention to several live matters. One perhaps of the most important was that of the coal lands held by the government. The deputation, which was headed by Mr. Buchanan, representing the board of trade of the province, asked that the government would provide competition in coal by granting the use of 50,000 acres of coal lands which remain in their hands to an independent company. This company, they suggested, should be bound to supply coal at prices much below the current rates. The prices suggested were \$5.50 for coke and \$1.50 for screen coal. It was understood that no company had been formed, but from the nature and tone of the conversation it was evident that the proposals of the scheme had more than an inkling of the personnel of the company if their request were granted. Then the question of the lead bounty was taken up. In this it will be remembered that the government last year promised a bounty of \$100,000 for an output of 20,000 tons of lead. The deputation represented that owing to the price of lead the C. P. R. Smelting Company would not be able to turn out more than 14,000 tons this year of refined lead, and they asked that in the face of the ruling prices and the American competition the whole amount be paid on the 14,000 tons produced. This would be equal to a bounty of little more than \$7 per ton. The next question was the duty on white lead and its like, which at present ranges from 5 to 15 per cent, and which they asked to be raised to 25 per cent, so as to give the Canadian product due protection. The ministers listened attentively to the prayer of the deputation and promised that full consideration should be given to their requests. So far nothing has transpired as to the intentions of the ministers, nor is it probable that anything will be done until after the budget date and the Easter holidays.

The budget debate drags its weary length out on the floor of the house. The budget speech of Mr. Fielding was one of the best that has been given for many years, and considering the matter at his disposal was a masterpiece. It is not looked upon as very satisfactory by those who want more protection, though its promise that there would be a revision of the tariff at a very early date leaves even those people some hope. Mr. R. L. Borden immediately rose and proposed an amendment in which the policy of the Opposition is clearly defined, as it

declares for such adequate protection as will keep the Canadian market for Canada, whilst favoring a policy of preferential tariff within the empire. Curiously enough as he was the speaker who immediately followed Mr. Fielding, the budget has not been debated at all in the strict parliamentary view. The amendment has been debated all the week and probably the whole of the budget debate will be upon the amendment. Aulay Morrison in an exhaustive speech dwelt upon the importance of increasing the duty on dry lead. The duty on white lead, he pointed out, is only 5 per cent, and on pig lead it is 15 per cent, and on pig lead it is 25 per cent. Now the American producer, instead of sending in his pig lead, submits his product in value and sends it in as dry lead at the 5 per cent duty. By this means the very important industry of grinding this pig lead is completely killed in Canada. He pointed out that British Columbia had loyally accepted the tariff though it provided a very severe tax upon the province for the advantage of Eastern Canada. He went at great length into the discrepancies between the lead trade in Canada and the United States and hoped that next year when the revision took place the evils would be remedied. He urged an increase in the Chinese poll tax, and pointed out the difficulties of the British lumber trade. Mr. Ralph Smith made an excellent, if somewhat long, address on the subject. He agreed with protection to the extent that it prevents the coming into the country of manufactured articles produced under conditions of labor that are servile and impoverishing, and which come into competition with the products of labor in this country. (Mr. Smith made a strong case in favor of an increase in the Chinese poll tax, quoting largely from the report of the Royal Commission. In fact the whole of his remarks, with little exception, were a masterly arrangement of the facts and figures obtained in evidence by the commissioners. The debate will not be over this week.)

IN THE POLICE COURT

AN ISRAELITE IN WHOM MUCH

GUILE IS AL-

LEGED.

HOW A WIFE'S INTERVENTION

BRED TROUBLE FOR

HER HUSBY.

Lewis Harris blew into Rossland a few days since, representing himself to be in advance for Hon. W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and the Wild West entertainment that has won a position among the biggest traveling aggregations of the period. Some doubt was expressed locally that the show could afford to come into the Kootenay country where the railroad jumps are long and the cities comparatively small, but the question of Harris' bona fides is practically disposed of, for this morning he is a prisoner at the police station charged with obtaining goods under false pretenses. The facts of the case are that Harris, who is a Jew, went to Phil Silverstone with a story that he had a chance to sell a watch on which a division of profits would be equally advantageous. Accordingly Silverstone handed over a \$15 timepiece on the understanding that Harris would complete the sale within a few minutes.

Now it is alleged that Harris didn't come back with watch or proceeds, and that instead of doing so he took a train to Trail. The matter was reported to the police, who took prompt action. Chief Devitt was communicated with at Trail when it was found that Harris had left town, and the Trail chief ascertained that Harris had purchased a train ticket at an early hour yesterday morning, securing passage on a locomotive running light to Robson. The word was passed along to Chief Allan Forrester at Robson, the warning telegram being brought across the river in a skiff by the telegraph operator. Chief Forrester crossed the river and captured his quarry as the latter was alighting from his special train. Harris was brought back to Rossland on the noon train under arrest. His case will be heard this morning before Judge Boulton.

The police had a case in court yesterday which attained some publicity on the previous evening. A man named Fred Marr was drinking in a saloon and his wife came to the police asking them to arrest the husband. The policeman consulted, Patrolman Stewart, sent for Marr and when the latter came out suggested that it was time he went home with his wife. Marr was disposed to be argumentative and did not receive the constable's suggestion in good heart although it was tendered in the best spirit. Finally Marr made such a scene that the officer compelled him to move on, the argument between man and wife having drawn a couple of score of spectators. Near Spokane street Marr became abusive and wanted to take a fall out of the policeman, but took a fall himself instead. This started the woman shrieking and the crowd became doubly interested. Then Patrolman Stewart was compelled to run the man into the cells which he did, the wife going along. In court yesterday morning a \$10 fine was assessed.

A WALKING DELEGATE.

The possibility of Victoria having a trade union business agent will put some interest in what James Lynch, the first walking delegate in the United States, has to say:

"In desperation, it was decided to pay a representative, so in July, 1883, a walking delegate of the carpenters of New York City was appointed. * * * I became their first walking delegate. "I found the position of walking delegate anything but a pleasant task. Although naturally of a peaceable disposition, I was plunged into a continual war. My presence on a job was an irritation to the employer as well as the non-union men, and not infrequently some of the union men invited me, not realizing the sorrows of my lot. I retired, after serving four to six."

THE

(Ymir Minr)

The London and company's bond near Salmo, and the property this

Foreman Goodie Union Jack the ports that work factory. They are ore, and are fast Queen tunnel.

Superintendent from the New V brought with him piles of ore. A ship pared for a prac

Development w Queer, bonded to cate for \$20,000. a great many of the average returns o was taken from t in about 60 feet.

Con. Roberts, creek, near Ymir, came to town, a valuable suggests a great many of the ore, and are fast some very rich

Everyone is cou ing season will b in the history of development work g eral claims, and gle failure. Claim pecks, and these p ing into mines.

On Lost creek t so far are the W Crown. On the b been run by Char of 75 feet on a to less ore. The Cr silver property, o lin and Needlan vein has been cut tending, and showa per besides high

It looks as if th able activity in t this season. The cently bonded by for \$100,000, will, tively worked at adjoining claims f for \$50,000. To a trail will have distance from the road.

ORE SHIPMENT

The following a from Sandon for Mine.

Slocan Star Wonderful
Sunset Reco
American Boy

Total PLATINUM IN

Platinum in c has been detecte taken from the near Princeton, and the Olympia tain in the same ries values in go as well. The a Baker & Co., g ers, Newark, N. publishes the rep nature of the ore tending to know found in Wyoming gold, copper and platinum appear the increase of the ore.

SUNSET

Another Payroll the List.

Every since th over the Bounda have been work the same ready mine is ready to tons of ore a da rush orders for large gang of w pleading now for getting the plant carpenters, ma have been work thing in readi smelting. It is few days now u nce will be gl ore pouring out The Sunset p faculty of man ment in the ch-charge. Intell unending in e payment, they popular in Gree tain no doubt the returns for the dividend sheet e able to please wood.—Boundary 28.

NICOLA

To Build Into Sir

The report o the Canadian B ply to the Briti at its present a build a railway minus of the r West Fork an kameen via Similkameen, t ceton, the roa Nicola to Spen ing the main li for a long time