

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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C. A. GREGG, Managing Editor

LONDON OFFICE: C. J. WALKER, 24 Coleman Street London.

TORONTO OFFICE: CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY, LD., 53 Yonge St.

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A GLANCE BACKWARD.

Nineteen Hundred and One with its sorrows, its trials and tribulations, its hopes shattered and its promises fulfilled, has come and gone, and today we have crossed the threshold of a new year. The measurement of the years serves as mile-stones on life's journey; and, with the passing of 1901, we may rest a moment and take a glance backward along the path which we trod the last twelve months, and briefly review some of the chief incidents which made the year memorable.

Dealing with what has been the experience of the people of Rossland, it must be confessed that the year has been to them one of grave anxiety. It opened inauspiciously. While there was no doubt in the minds of anyone that the resources of this camp were quite as splendid as experience had shown them to be, there was fear that in a short time the citizens would be called upon to grapple with a problem which might well result in plunging the city into turmoil, disaster and perhaps ruin. There were mutterings of the coming storm at the commencement of the year. The threats of unwise labor leaders made it apparent that the time could not be long deferred when the city would be plunged into the throes of a severe industrial struggle. Business consequently was disturbed in all its branches, and a feeling of unrest and disquietude prevailed in all circles. The most strenuous effort was made by the more conservative element in the community to prevent the culmination of the threatening trouble, but to no avail, and early in July last the storm broke. As we all know a most ruinous strike was brought about through the action of certain irresponsible individuals who had their own ends to serve, and the consequences were most lamentable. Hundreds of men were thrown out of employment at a moment's notice, business brought to a standstill, and dissatisfaction, unrest and ill feeling prevailed to a very alarming extent. After the lapse of several months the mine managers who believed that business men should be permitted to conduct their business affairs upon business principles succeeded in restoring order out of chaos. Gradually the mines were filled up with men who refused to obey the dictation of the professional agitator, and at the close of the year we saw the mines working at almost their full capacity, and a restoration of peace and harmony in the community.

But leaving Rossland, for a moment and looking over the province generally, we see that this city was not alone in its apprehensions and unrest. The great drop in the price of silver-lead and copper threatened ruin to one of the province's chief industries in many portions of the country. While the clouds have not yet all lifted, it is apparent that there is a gleam of light on the horizon, and that we may confidently expect that the threatened trouble in this respect is to be averted. This is mainly due to the determination of the mine owners to meet the exigencies of the occasion and make such rates of freight and treatment that will enable the mines to meet the new conditions and continue business on a paying basis. The action of the Canadian Smelting company in determining to erect a refinery at Trail will be placed down as one of the notable events during the latter days of the year which has just passed away.

Turning for a moment from the industrial and commercial troubles of the province we will see that politically much has happened of a notable character. The inability of the DuRoi government to meet the wishes of its supporters in the house in the matter of several large provincial enterprises threatened the province with another

crisis, which, unfortunately, has not yet passed away. But while it is taken as a truism that British Columbia is a storm centre of political disasters signs are not wanting that the future will develop a condition of affairs which will restore peace and harmony, and insure good government in this magnificent country within a very short time.

If we turn to a contemplation of the events which have made the year notable throughout the Dominion as a whole, we will require to say at the first that unbounded prosperity has prevailed throughout the major portion of our glorious Dominion. With the exception of the unrest and disturbances which have afflicted our fair province, Canada has prospered to a marvellous degree. In Manitoba, particularly, has fortune smiled most benignly upon dwellers in that section. An abundant harvest and excellent prices have brought happiness to all its inhabitants; and all circumstances point to the conclusion that Canada is on the threshold of a career of magnificent national greatness.

Perhaps the most notable event to which the mind turns when thinking of occurrences in Canada as a whole which marked the year just closed, is that of the visit of their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales. It afforded an opportunity for an extraordinary manifestation of colonial patriotism, and during the journey of the royal party throughout the length and breadth of Canada they everywhere were shown what Canadian loyalty means; given an opportunity to behold something of the marvellous resources of the country, and carry back with them to England an appreciation of the brightest gem in the crown of the empire which they could not have had had the visit not been made. Their visit is certain to redound to the benefit of Canada, inasmuch as no opportunity will be lost by the royal guests to enlighten the people of Great Britain as to the extent of the resources and characteristics of our fair Dominion.

If we turn our minds to the task of reflecting upon conditions across the border, we immediately remember the sad incident which cast a gloom over the whole world in the assassination of President McKinley. That event was sufficiently grievous to have thrown the nation into panic and despair, but the severe test was stood with remarkable fortitude, and though the nation was deeply bowed in woe, the government of the country was continued peacefully and uninterruptedly. Another notable event in the affairs of the neighboring nation was the occurrence of extraordinary labor troubles of a very important character almost throughout the length and breadth of the country. Strikes and lockouts brought about a condition of industrial paralysis in many sections, thousands of men were out of employment, and the monetary loss must be told in millions. But this situation was successfully grappled with, and today the nation is enjoying a period of unexampled prosperity.

Taking a superficial birdseye glance at 1901 as it affected Great Britain and the empire, the war in South Africa calls for first attention. The most pessimistic of us at the outset of 1901 must confess with great regret that our worst fears were more than realized during the progress of the campaign up to this date. The hugeness of the task set British generals is only just now commencing to be appreciated; and in view of what we have witnessed it seems idle to suggest that any early solution of the tremendous difficulty can be expected. That Great Britain will continue with that dogged determination for which she is famous, in the great contest in which she is engaged, and ultimately triumph, there can be no doubt. In politics, Great Britain has had indeed sufficient to occupy her attention. The government cannot look at 1901 as a season of prosperity for them. The incidents which were notable in the political crises of the year in Great Britain were the attacks on the government by Sir Redvers Buller and Lord Rosebery. It is difficult to refrain from remarking that these men displayed a woeful lack of patriotism in attacking a government at the time when it finds itself in dire straits through the onslaughts of a determined foe. Taken altogether the year looked at

in a world-wide aspect, was one pregnant with occurrences of surpassing interest and of the ushering in of 1902 there is sufficient of significance in the outlook to cause anxiety and care to statesmen the world over; but as "hope springs eternal in the human breast," we all look forward to a season of prosperity as we pass the mile stone of 1901. As for the outlook for Rossland we think it can be said in all truthfulness that it is an excellent one. We have gotten over our chief troubles. Our fears of a continuance of unrest in respect to labor disturbances have been allayed; the progress of mining in the camp has been rapid, all circumstances taken into consideration, business is improving, and the outlook is promising indeed. Let us all join in the hope that our aspirations for civic progress and civic prosperity will be achieved. To one and all the Rossland Miner extends the wish that 1902 may prove to them a very bright and prosperous New Year.

TIMELY PATRIOTISM.

Within the last day or two the Miner has been favored with the views of some correspondents which are very interesting. This circumstance is one worthy of some special mention, inasmuch as during the trying times which the Miner experienced in dealing with the recent strike it witnessed a considerable paucity of interest on the part of such self-sacrificing individuals as have recently favored the public with their communications and views. It is very nice and appropriate that at this time, when we are facing the New Year, we should be reminded by the correspondents of the hopeful outlook; but the management of the Miner is somewhat human in its make-up, and it cannot refrain from commenting upon the fact that through this whole fight it had very little support or sympathy from just such correspondents as have come forward most patriotically in the last few days. The Miner does not intend to be the least bit bashful in proclaiming what its position has been in respect to Rossland's future. It has been called upon during the period of the labor troubles to fight a very fierce battle. It entered into that fight with vigor and determination; and while the issue was in doubt it received very little sympathy from any of the gentlemen who sat upon the fence and watched the contest. It knows all the circumstances attendant upon the conflict and it does not purpose forgetting them. Through a very fortunate circumstance for the province, the battle was won as the Miner wished; that is to say, an outrageous plot to hand this town once and for all over to rampant unionism was discovered, exposed and defeated. If the gentlemen who are looking so optimistically into the future in respect to Rossland would care to put their minds upon a theme which would prove of surpassing interest, we would suggest to them that they might attempt to estimate the particular amount of benefit which will accrue to Rossland and this section of British Columbia as a result of the efforts of Bernard Macdonald in maintaining successfully the right of business concerns to run their businesses upon business principles, free from the interference of an alien organization, whose every method has been based upon a false supposition in respect to men's rights. We make this suggestion at this time in order that the correspondents whose contributions we have had the pleasure of printing the last day or two may not find a lack of subjects upon which to dilate at this promising season. But in respect to Rossland and the desirability of every person in the community working to a common end—that is, the success of the city, the Miner heartily agrees. Without any too great display of egotism, it may say that for some months it has made considerable sacrifices to the very end "C. E. R." and H. W. C. Jackson are striving so loyally and with such a most conspicuous display of patriotism to accomplish.

MR. HILL AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

Some remarks which appear in a recent issue of the Vancouver Province in respect as to how Mr. James J. Hill, the great railway magnate, regards British Columbia are in line with the views previously expressed by the Miner upon the same point. The Province thinks that the statement which Mr. Hill has given the Associated Press regarding the recent consolidation of railway interests in the western United States should be read with much care by the people of British Columbia. Of course, Mr. Hill does not refer in the most retrograde degree to any lines or projected lines which he may have in this province. What he possesses here is not

yet of sufficient importance to him. He is dealing with his great interests, with the line which he is seeking to make the greatest transcontinental road on this continent, and he is dealing with the country through which that line passes and on the development and thorough settlement of which the accomplishment of his plans to a very large measure depend. But the people of this province, by a close scrutiny of this statement which is given largely to satisfy the districts which are regarded as forming Mr. Hill's railway territory, will gain an impression of how intensely desirous Mr. Hill is of building up those states west of St. Paul and immediately south of the international boundary line and how all his policy is directed to that end. There has been considerable criticism of those in this province who believe and have had the courage to declare that any lines which might be constructed by Mr. Hill in British Columbia would be operated not for the benefit of that country through which his trunk line passes. In his statement there is that which will bear out the arguments that this is his intention with regard to British Columbia. In assuring the people of St. Paul, of Spokane and of Seattle that there will be no consolidation of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, but that these lines will be operated independently of each other, he makes a direct appeal to his audience and impresses upon them his intention to be loyal to their interests in his conduct of his great trunk line, and in referring to the purchase by the Union Pacific of Northern Pacific stock, which was done for the purpose of gaining a controlling interest of that line, Mr. Hill abundantly shows his belief that railways, in properly serving and building up the country through which they pass, industrially and otherwise, serve their own best interests. He asks a few questions which he says he wants every honest and candid man to answer for himself. Among these questions are the following: "Did the Union Pacific railway people, with their railway lines extending from Omaha and New Orleans to California and Oregon, through the several states in the middle, west and south, purchase a majority of the stock of the Northern Pacific company for the purpose of aiding that company and increasing the growth and prosperity of the northwest country, or was it for the purpose of restricting such growth and aiding the development of their enormous interests hundreds of miles to the south? Did they purchase the Northern Pacific and its interests in the Burlington for the purpose of building up the Asiatic trade between the northern zone lying from St. Paul and Minneapolis to the Pacific coast, or in order to control the Oriental trade for their own southern railroad lines through their own seaports, over their own ships? In defeating their control of the Northern Pacific and retaining it in the hands of those who had built it up, and with it the entire northwest, did we injure or benefit the people of the northwest? Did I, by inducing my friends to hold their Northern Pacific common stock, and act jointly with Messrs. Morgan & Co., when this stock was selling at \$500 and \$1,000 a share, thus preventing the Union Pacific from controlling the northwest, injure or benefit every interest, agricultural, or otherwise, of the entire country between Lake Superior and the Pacific coast?"

If Mr. Hill, in the interest of his trunk line and the country through which it passes, is so intensely anxious even at the loss of millions of dollars to himself personally, to defeat the schemes of a railway to the south which would divert the trade in that direction, does it stand to reason that in any consideration of railway building to the north of his trunk line he will be equally desirous of serving the interests of the country for which he has already made such sacrifices?

In speaking of the objects and aim of the Union Pacific in attempting to control the Northern Pacific, he discloses his understanding that it is thoroughly good railway business to develop the territory in which a road is dominant at the expense of every other territory. And this is what Mr. Hill would do with British Columbia. He has no other aim in view. His whole object is to render the Kootenay country, industrially and commercially, tributary to the cities and states immediately south of the boundary, in which his great interests are centered.

THE WORLD'S POPULATION.

In the Current Cyclopaedia for December the latest statistics of the world's population are published. According to these estimates the total population of our old planet is placed at about fifteen hundred millions, distributed thus:

Table with 2 columns: Region, Population. Europe 372,925,000, Asia 380,555,000, Africa 170,050,000, America 132,718,000, Polynesia 6,000,000, Polar regions 82,000, Total 1,512,333,000

Table with 2 columns: Country, Population. Austro-Hungary 46,900,835, France 38,641,333, Germany 56,345,014, Italy 32,449,754, Russia 196,154,607, United Kingdom 41,454,219

The British empire contains more than one-fourth of the world's inhabitants. About 390,000,000 persons live under the British flag; of these nearly 300,000,000 are Asiatics and 40,000,000 are natives of Africa. China contains about the same number of people. The population of the Russian empire is 196,154,607; of the German empire, 71,082,014, while France and all her dependencies contain 94,781,014.

It is estimated by the Washington Bureau of Statistics that 600,000,000 of the earth's inhabitants live in colonies or dependencies, and of these people less than 15,000,000, or 3 per cent, are natives of the governing countries. Almost all of these widely scattered people are people of British stock. It is estimated that the English-speaking population of the earth is 133,000,000. They are outnumbered only by the people of China and India. English is rapidly becoming the world language.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

John S. Trowbridge, director of the Jefferson physical laboratory at Harvard, and one of the best physicists in the country, thinks it is an open question whether Marconi's message across the Atlantic was transmitted through the air or through the earth. Prof. Trowbridge has been working on the question of wireless telegraphy for some time, and has infinite faith that the undertaking will be a success. "It is bound to come, sooner or later," he says, "and if Marconi says that he has received a message across the Atlantic without the use of wires, I accept his statements without hesitation. Marconi is a clever man, and has always been successful with his experiments. He, if anyone, will succeed in the matter, but, personally, I think it is an open question whether his message was transmitted through the earth or the air."

The reasons for this statement by Prof. Trowbridge are based upon his own experiments and upon the spherical shape of the earth. He argues that between St. John's and Cornwall the curve in the earth's surface would be many times greater than the height of the pole from which the messages were sent, so that air waves sent off from the transmitter would pass far over the receiver, striking off in tangent from the surface of the earth. In other words, the earth itself would intervene as a direct obstacle to waves passing between transmitter and receiver.

Prof. Trowbridge has for some time been in communication with his home, a distance of about a mile from the laboratory by means of wireless instruments. These instruments have been connected with the ground by means of ordinary lead pipes passing through the buildings, and have given perfect satisfaction. The plan is identical with that used by Marconi. The only difference is that whereas the inventor thinks he is utilizing the air, Trowbridge is almost certain that he is using the earth as his chief instrument.

Prof. Trowbridge has many arguments which he sets forth to show that the earth is the natural medium for wireless communication. Chiefly, and above everything else, he says, it is more easy to experiment upon and more easy to use in case these experiments prove a success. The idea of establishing stations at stupendous heights in the air presents a difficult question, and, even if the air can be used in the sending of wireless messages, he argues that this difficulty will prove a decided barrier to complete success. On the other hand, if experimenters will turn their attention to the ground as a medium, they will have something which they can make use of with the greatest convenience, and which will aid them, as it were, by its very proximity and accessibility.

VERY GOOD NEWS.

A piece of very good news to this section of the province and to the whole country in general was that which the Miner had the pleasure of publishing on Sunday, namely, that Mr. Aldridge, of the Trail Smelter, announced that at once take up the enterprise of constructing a refinery, and that reductions would also be made in freight and treatment rates on silver-lead ores. The announcement cannot fail to raise the spirits of all interested in mining in this province. It is unquestionably true that a very pessimistic feeling has prevailed for some time past owing to the drop in lead and copper, and had not some move such as the Trail smelter contemplates been undertaken, the outlook would have been, to say the least, somewhat disheartening. A considerable amount of dissatisfaction among mining men existed when it became known that the terms offered by the Dominion government in the way of a subsidy to the erection and maintenance of a refinery were likely to prove

inadequate, but a feeling of relief will now be felt at the announced determination of the Trail smelter people to give the matter a test, and afford an opportunity to the mines to meet the new conditions which have arisen owing to the fall in prices. We think the management of the Trail smelter is entitled to a considerable amount of credit for the patriotism which they have displayed in an endeavor to conserve one of the chief industries of the province; and we sincerely hope that their efforts may meet with success, and that as a result British Columbia will enter upon a period of renewed prosperity.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

There are persistent rumors afloat to the effect that a gentleman will be chosen by the Municipal Labor League to contest the mayoralty with the candidate chosen at the Citizens' Convention of the first gentleman, as his identity is at present not disclosed, but we think whoever may be chosen by the Municipal Labor League, it is the clear duty of the people who are opposed to demagogism to rally around the candidate of the Citizens' Convention and carry him to an overwhelming victory. If we mistake not, there can be absolutely no doubt at all as to where the candidate of the Citizens' Convention stands upon the question wrapped up in the idea of the Municipal Labor League. At the meetings which were held previous to the taking of the vote at the Citizens' meeting, it was distinctly understood, if we are correctly informed, that those present were gathered together for the purpose of selecting candidates who would pledge themselves to oppose the handing over of this city's municipal affairs to the care and keeping of the men who had been mainly responsible for plunging this city into a disastrous labor trouble; and, furthermore, if we are correctly informed, those pledges were taken by the gentlemen nominated. Once that is understood, there will be little doubt as to what support they will receive from the element which desires Rossland to receive good government. The subject of municipal affairs, the approaching municipal contest, its result, and the effect which it will have upon the city's welfare, are matters which the people of Rossland should give every consideration at this time. The date of the election is now not far distant, and as we all desire to see Rossland progress during 1902 it is the clear duty of the ratepayers to arouse themselves at this time, and so act as to wipe out forever the stigma that in this city there is an element which at the behest of a few agitators can at any time plunge the city into turmoil, disaster and ruin.

THE LIBERAL SPLIT.

Recent developments in respect to the position of the Liberal party in this province have shown that it is rent asunder to a very considerable extent by serious internal dissensions, and the probabilities are that whenever it finds itself compelled to face a contest, either in the federal or the provincial arena, it will be in bad shape. There is widespread discontent throughout the interior of the province because of the fact that those responsible for calling a provincial convention on January 17th ignored, so it is claimed, the interior. Whether this is true or not it is difficult to ascertain at present, but Mr. Smith Curtis has taken advantage of the feeling and is doing all he can to widen whatever split this circumstance may have caused. Now we see also from the Coast papers that Messrs. Ralph Smith and W. W. B. McInnes, two stalwarts of the party, refused to attend a convention called at Nanaimo. They are opposed to Dr. McKechnie, and the camp at the Coal City is divided into two sections. It will thus be seen that matters are in a very bad way. Apparently all is not harmony even in Victoria, where Mr. Bodwell is going to run against the candidate of the present provincial government. Mr. Bodwell announced in one of his early speeches that he was opposed to early lines, and at the same meeting Senator Templeman expressed himself in favor of party lines. Signs are not wanting that dissensions therefore exist among the Liberal party at the capital also. It is hard to estimate just what following Mr. Joseph Martin has among the Liberals, but we know that he is opposed to Bodwell and Templeman. Then again, George R. Maxwell, M. P., who is an aspirant for the vacant position in the cabinet, is opposed to Senator Templeman, and also to Martin. Looking at the matter from all standpoints, it is certainly a pretty kettle of fish which the Liberal party have to deal with. British Columbia seems to be a storm centre which can always be depended upon to be fruitful of trouble to all political parties.

The recent severe storm at the Coast, which was the most disastrous since 1875, appears to have done very great damage. Several large vessels were wrecked. Happily, such storms are rare on the North Pacific coast.

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