

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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WEEKLY MINER.

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STANDING IN THEIR OWN LIGHT.

The minister of mines is reported as saying that he has to combat the influence of the agricultural constituency represented in the legislature when mining legislation is up for consideration. It should be clear to those living in the agricultural sections that the more prosperous the mining conditions, which means the employment of more men, the greater will be the demand for the products of the farm. Aside from the large exportations of wheat and flour, and in some cases shipments of fruit, the farmer is almost entirely dependent on mining, lumbering and possibly one or two other industries for the sale of his products. The same can be said of the stock raiser. The stock raisers of Alberta find their best customers in the great Kootenay mining section. So with those who raise cereals, roots, fruits, etc., in the many sections to the north of us and west to the coast. Many people have come into the Boundary country, for instance, in the last few years and bought land, to cultivate it to supply the adjoining mining camps with their vegetables. During the slump in mining of the last year or two these small farmers have been unable to sell but a small portion of what they have raised, owing to the consequent small number of men employed. This is but one illustration. The proposition is so clear and simple that it would seem hardly necessary to refer to it at all.

British Columbia's growth, prosperity and future is greatly dependent on mining; in fact, it is the creator of other industries to a greater extent than farming, lumbering, the fisheries or stock raising, each taken singly. When mining is at low ebb all other workers feel the effects. It would seem that the minister of mines should find no difficulty in convincing the members representing the agricultural districts that when the mining sections seek and ask remedial legislation they are conserving their own welfare by granting the relief asked for.

There is a widespread belief that the two per cent tax acts as a burden upon mining in the province, a belief entertained by some of the best minds after careful study and mature reflection, and all we ask is for the members of the legislature, irrespective of creed, location or occupation, to give the subject the same thoughtful consideration, and they will undoubtedly look at it as we do.

TO EXTEND THE KETTLE VALLEY LINES.

The announcement is made that the wily Wylie C. Morris has another railway scheme in hand; that is, he is now seeking American aid to continue the road leading from Grand Forks to Republic, known as the Kettle Valley Lines, down the San Poil Valley to Spokane. Our readers, of course, are all familiar with Mr. Morris's connection with this road and the many scandals that have followed in its wake. The present owners of the road, with much travail and great expense, got rid of the slippery Mr. Morris not long since, and it is safe to presume that they will profit by their past experience. But the plan as it stands is almost useless. It has hauled a few hundred tons of Republic ore to the Granby smelter, but the outlook for the line as a paying investment is very gloomy.

It is understood that the owners are anxious to sell, and will even sell to the redoubtable Mr. Morris, provided he can raise the wherewithal. If he can induce American capitalists (there is no danger of his ever asking Eastern Canadian capitalists to trust him again) to buy the line already constructed and extend it as above set forth to Spokane, there to connect with the Great Northern and Northern Pacific, there may be some hope of its becoming a paying investment.

The San Poil Valley is almost virgin ground. It is included in the south half of the Colville reservation, and is supposed to contain much rich mineral ground. No extensive work, however, has been done, and it is not positively known yet what the country is capable of producing. At all events the Kettle Valley

Lines must be extended somewhere to be of any value.

A REMARKABLE SPECTACLE.

The city of Rossland is today absolutely dependent upon the operation of the mines within its borders, not only for its prosperity, but for its actual existence.

The high grade portions of the ore bodies are being rapidly exhausted, so that the future of the camp depends upon the discovery of some process of concentration whereby the vast bodies of low grade ore in our mines may be extracted at a profit.

The difficulties surrounding the problem must be great or a solution would have certainly been found before now. We are assured that many companies and individuals are experimenting in their laboratories with a view to solving the problem, but all practical mining men tell us that the results attained in a laboratory, where skill and care can reduce the loss in value to a minimum, cannot be attained when the operation is conducted on a large scale in an ordinary mill.

The only companies in our midst which have manifested a willingness to incur the necessary expense of operating a mill and attempting a solution of the problem on a commercial basis are the War Eagle and Centre Star companies.

One would suppose that an enterprise of this nature would commend itself so heartily to our city fathers that not only would no obstacle be placed in the way of such pioneers, but that every possible encouragement and assistance would be given to them.

In many cities, which are not by any means dependent upon a single industry as Rossland is upon its mines, the corporations gladly supply water free of charge to a factory, in order to obtain the benefits of its operation in the municipality. It is a cheap and easy bonus.

What has been the course adopted by the city council of Rossland? The War Eagle and Centre Star companies wanted water for milling purposes. Large quantities of water were and are running to waste in Stoney creek during at least ten months of the year, unused by the city. The use of this waste water might well have been offered to anyone who would put it to any beneficial use. But it was not offered.

The mining companies did not ask for any favors from the city, but they made application in the usual manner, to the gold commissioner for an interim record, entitling them to use this waste water. Instead of assisting, or at least not opposing the efforts of the War Eagle and Centre Star companies to start an industry which would be of untold benefit to the whole community, we have been treated to the remarkable spectacle of the corporation employing their solicitor to oppose the companies' applications and to contend that the city possesses such an ownership of Stoney creek, down to an elevation of 3021 feet above sea level, that it may lawfully waste all the water it likes rather than allow anyone to use the surplus water for beneficial use. The extraordinary nature of this contention may be seen from the fact that the point of the stream, from which the city takes its water supply, is situated 3700 feet above sea level.

The city, but not the city council, is to be congratulated on the decision given by Chief Justice Hunter on Wednesday last, denying the monstrous contention set up on behalf of the corporation, and affirming the rights of the public to use the surplus water.

RELIGIOUS ANARCHISTS.

Have we escaped the Donkhobors? Our Victoria dispatch yesterday stated that the colony in Assinibolia had petitioned the provincial government to be allowed to come to British Columbia, as they were not allowed to practice their religion as they wished where they were, for their religion holds that they must obey the laws of no country—no laws other than those of God—and that our executive had declined to entertain the proposition. We have heard so many funny things concerning this strange people that the above comes as no surprise. Here we have a sect of religious cranks. The one thing in their favor is that they are harmless—only to themselves. Are they not anarchists of the mild type? The simon pure anarchist believes in the destruction of all human laws and the building of a new structure; we are not positive what his belief is as regards the divine law. He is, however, a vicious creature, more treacherous than a snake. Both sects—or both arms of the same sect, as the case may be—should congregate on some island out on the far, far sea and stay by themselves. They are too good to mingle with us common plebeians.

The Mining and Scientific Press of October 13 came to hand last night. "Mine Signalling by Compressed Air" is a lengthy article appearing in this number written by Bernard Macdonald and William Thompson of Rossland, which makes interesting reading. This number of the Scientific Press is up to the standard.

Already the anarchist press are talking about revolution and civil war unless President Roosevelt's arbitration commission decides the right way.

BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVES.

The merchant marine of the world comprises, according to latest statistics, 12,732 steamers and 27,554 sailing ships. Vessels of less than 100 tons register for steamers, and 50 tons for sailing ships are not included in the above count. Of the steamship fleet Great Britain owns 44.1 per cent; Germany, 8.8 per cent; Norway, 6 per cent; United States, 5.9 per cent; Russia, 4.5 per cent; France and Sweden, 4.4 per cent each; Spain, 3.4 per cent; Japan, 2.9 per cent; Italy, 2.8 per cent.

Of the world's sailing fleet, Great Britain owns 25.6 per cent; United States, 13.6 per cent; Russia, 9.6 per cent; Norway, 7.1 per cent; Sweden, 5.6 per cent; France, Italy and Japan, about 5.5 per cent each; Germany, 3.5 per cent; Turkey, 3.3 per cent; Denmark and Holland, about 2.5 per cent each; and Spain, 2 per cent.

TAKE TIME BY THE FORELOCK.

The tide of immigration is pouring into Canada. Daily trains pull into Winnipeg loaded with human freight, and from there they distribute themselves through the country as far as Alberta. These new-comers have a much easier time in reaching their destination than did the first settlers in the Western States to the south of us. With them it was a laborious as well as a dangerous undertaking. They trekked across the continent in canvas-covered wagons, drawn by horses or mules and oxen, and it took weeks and months to reach their destination, only to find a wilderness. But out of this same wilderness in the intervening years has grown a stretch of wealthy and powerful commonwealths, inhabited by a numerous and prosperous people, and from this same spot, to a large extent, comes the immigration that is settling on the vacant lands of the great northwest belonging to Canada. These are mostly the sons or descendants of the early pioneers of the Western States, and no better blood could be infused into our body politic.

And right here we wish to make the point that Canada should not commit the mistake that the United States did in the early days of opening wide the doors of settlement and allowing itself to be the dumping-ground of the refuse of all nations. Canada is an empire in area, but little of it is occupied. From less than 6,000,000 in population she is capable of supporting with ease and comfort 40,000,000 or even 60,000,000 people. Now is the time for the government to act and see that undesirable immigration is not allowed to occupy our broad domain. We want no more Donkhobors, or any other class with a fad, or an uneasy or unrestful class to breed anarchy and discontent.

The United States has been criticised in some quarters for the stringent immigration laws passed in recent years, and for the attempt made to shut out a certain class of people from coming within her borders. In the early days of the republic, when population was sparse and land plentiful, the doors were thrown wide open and no questions asked. Criminals, paupers, political refugees, found there an asylum and a place of refuge. It was found before the century mark was passed that something would have to be done to check this evil, so emigration laws were passed and an attempt made to shut out all but the thrifty and industrious. The workings of these laws have been imperfect, but they have greatly checked the evil and resulted in much good. This work, however, was left undone too long, as most of the troubles the country has labored under in recent years can be traced directly to the influence of the foreign element that sought these shores. The life of the president of the United States—a man chosen by the people from among the people, and who at the end of his term must resume his place as a plain citizen of the country—is no safer than the ruler of any monarchy of Europe. The country has had two presidents assassinated in recent years, the direct outgrowth of a sentiment brought from abroad, and which should not be allowed to find a lodgment either in the United States or Canada.

While we congratulate ourselves on the class of people now coming to Canada, laws should none the less be passed and strictly enforced making it impossible to empty the rif-rarf of any country upon us. It would be well to pass a naturalization law making it obligatory upon settlers to take out naturalization papers before locating upon land. They would then in fact become citizens.

Canada stands well in the eyes of the world. The strict enforcement of the laws within her borders has stricken terror into the hearts of the criminal classes, and in consequence she has been free from the excesses and outrages that have disgraced portions of the United States. Mob violence, burnings at the stake, strikes accompanied with destruction of property and murder are here unknown, but these conditions can be easily changed and will be changed if the doors are left wide open for the next 20 or 30 years and no restrictions placed on the kind of people to settle among us.

We are glad to note that many of the influential newspapers of the Dominion are taking note of this matter, and it should not be hard to convince the gov-

ernment that something should be done along these lines, and that without delay.

PARTY POLITICS.

On account of the probability of a deadlock in the Ontario legislature the question of the advisability of the party system of government is being discussed. The Globe some time ago, recognizing the difficulty of the Ross government being able to conduct the affairs of the province with a majority of one, advocated the coalition principle. This suggestion did not meet with the approval of either party. In fact, Mr. Ross took the first opportunity offered him of stating his position, which was to the effect that he would fight to a finish, and submit to the result. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Whitney, seems to be imbued with the same spirit, and consequently government by party will still continue in Ontario.

However, the academic discussion of the question has not ceased, and Dr. Goldwin Smith, the eminent author, had a learned article on the subject in a recent issue of the Weekly Sun. "Let believers in party government mark," says Dr. Smith, "that the great interests are outside party, and use both parties indifferently for the furtherance of their own objects. In this way national politics may fall practically under the control of men whose interests are separate from those of the community at large. There is no safeguard against such influences other than the election to the legislature of men of independent character and ability without regard to any shibboleth. If to hope for this is chimerical, the outlook of government for the people is not bright."

He unquestionably points out a possible evil which may effect the politics of a country, but it would be nevertheless foreboding evidence were there a coalition government, and perhaps more so, from the fact that the different members would no longer be restrained by party affiliations from accepting the tempting offers of rich corporations.

With a great many of our politicians their party affiliations are as deep set as their religious tenets, and they will fight for them as strenuously. This may or may not be an admirable quality, but the elector at least knows where to place them on any great question and to vote accordingly. As it is impossible for the corporations to control the rank and file of a political party, so will it be impossible to control the members of the government. If the party in power forgets the duty they owe to the people by cringing to the corporations, they will know that they have to meet the entire forces of the opposition party and the high-minded of their own party at the next elections.

On the other hand a non-party government is usually made up of a number of irresponsible factions which are liable to be controlled by the wishes of men who do not let the welfare of the people worry them. The non-party system of British Columbia has not been so successful that the people of this province could recommend it to Ontario, neither has the success of the coalition government of New Brunswick been so marked that the premier province would be wise in adopting it.

THE SOULLESS RETAILERS.

Many harsh things have been said of the men owning and operating the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania during the past few months, but it is but justice to remark that at no time did they advance the price of coal furnished the public, even when the supply became short and there was an unprecedented demand for it. The same cannot be said of the small dealers and retailers, who worked the business for all it was worth. Now that operations at the mines have resumed the order has gone forth that coal shall not be sold in large quantities to any one dealer, the price must remain the same as before the strike, and those who took advantage of the strained conditions of affairs to speculate are to be left out in the cold until the mines are working to their full capacity. Corporations are supposed to be soulless, but the same can be said of most of the retail coal dealers of New York.

COMMON SENSE VS. FOLLY.

The city of Nelson, recognizing the advantages it would derive from the establishment of a metal refinery in its locality, is exerting itself to raise a bonus of \$50,000 with which to attract that single industry.

The city of Rossland, on the other hand, recognizing the value of waste water as an asset, has for months past been retarding the one single industry on which it depends. A statement has been circulated that at some time or other the city offered to supply the War Eagle and Centre Star mines with water free of cost. We find upon enquiry, however, that the statement is without foundation.

LARGE INCREASE IN ORE SHIPMENTS.

One more week's ore shipments from the Rossland mines for this year will exceed by fully 50,000 tons the ore shipments from the camp of the full 12 months of last year. The shipments for the next two months to the end of the year will be just so much more of an increase over the product of last year. The product of ore each year has increased from a modest beginning to one of gigantic proportions—one that our people fail to fully realize except when their attention is called to it. And the outlook for the future is that the output for 1903 will greatly exceed that of 1902.

THE COMPLAINT OF MR. O'REGAN.

Our attention was called to an article which appeared in the Nelson Tribune last Saturday, and has since been copied by one or two other papers. It is the statement of P. J. O'Regan, writing from Wadestown, New Zealand, to a friend at Slocan City, making the complaint that The Miner had refused to publish a communication from him in answer to an article copied from the Auckland Herald. This is the first intimation we have had that Mr. O'Regan sent any letter to this office. All those who are or have been connected with The Miner staff during the past eight months have no knowledge that any such communication ever reached this office. It must, therefore, be taken for granted that it failed to connect.

We will further state that The Miner is not hidebound in its opinions, and has never refused to print any letter from any source whatever when the writer gave his true name and his language was couched in decent terms. It is true that several communications have been received during the past seven or eight months that found their way into the waste basket. In each case, however, the author wrote under a nom de plume, never giving his name at all, and evidently intended his effusion as an insult.

We will state, further, that we have no prejudice against Mr. O'Regan or the principles he espouses, and our columns are open to the legitimate discussion of all questions at all times that may be of interest to the public.

DOWN WITH THE KNOCKERS.

This city, in common with others, is afflicted with a most undesirable class of men known as "knockers" men who, because their own selfish schemes are frustrated, are deliberately blocking the advancement of the best interests of our fair city.

Two mining companies, and only two, the War Eagle and Centre Star are trying to solve the problem of vital interest to Rossland, namely, the profitable treatment of low grade ores. This camp is not a high grade camp, this much must be admitted, and in the interests of the business men and citizens generally it is best that this should be the case. A high grade camp means a small camp with a small payroll, and a low grade camp means mining on an extensive scale with large numbers of men at work and correspondingly large payrolls.

Any man not a knocker is anxious to see the establishment of any new industry which will enable the mines now operating to handle ores of a grade not so profitable, because it means that if these mines can mine and treat these low grade ores at a profit other properties now idle will be encouraged to open up with enormous benefit to the city. In other places a scheme such as has been proposed by the companies mentioned would have been at once taken up by the citizens and every facility given to this end, not to speak of bonuses and grants of land. In this instance the companies have not asked for a bonus or a land grant, they simply ask to spend a large sum of money on the understanding that they be given the first right to water now going to waste, and which is absolutely essential to the operations of the mill they propose erecting.

A small clique of knockers, however, has succeeded in blocking the efforts of the companies to secure these rights.

A QUESTION OF DEGREE.

The recent exposure by Edmund B. Kirby of the wretched misgovernment of British Columbia has certainly shaken up the dry bones. Outside of the flood of abuse by government organs, we have seen no serious attempt at reply, except one by N. C. Schon of Vancouver. Mr. Schon presents a long array of figures intended to show that the taxes here are only about 10 per cent of the gross value of everything produced. This reminds us of the man who embezzled \$15,000 and set up as a defence a labored argument to prove that it was a lie, the amount being only \$5000.

Just think! there is now only old Mr. Blair to deal with the great transportation problem—the man who never had an idea, on the subject until the waves of the Pacific lulled him to sleep the other day and he dreamed dreams, says the Toronto Telegram.

A GAME OF FOLLY.

It is easy to understand why one or two of our Coast papers are edited in support of the present government. They are the government organs and as such, whatever their private convictions, they may be expected to support any policy of the government relating to mining and the mining industry. But we are at a loss to understand why some of the other sheets of the province lend their support, such as it is, to the present government's policy in its rabid legislation against the only growing industry in the province. As no partisan feeling has entered into the question their querulous controversy is maintained for some reason other than party politics. We have two parties it is true—the party in power and the party out, but these few reactionist members of the press are antagonizing the mining interests, and indeed, the best interests of the whole province, for some motive other than political party affiliation. It may be—have the manufacturers, the merchants thought of it?—it may be that they are just trying to jolly you along? Making light of the fight and making light against the miners and the mine-owners who are pressing an unequal contest for reforms of legislative wrongs, just to keep you in the humor of keeping up your ads.

We wonder if this is the reason. Just jollying the advertiser along, patting him on the back, trying to make him believe that we are as prosperous as prosperous can be, the complaint of the mining industry, to the contrary notwithstanding.

MINING WILL PAY THE DEBT.

It is interesting to read an occasional editorial copied into one of our seaport metropolitan dailies, from local sheets—editorials which might not otherwise be read—in which the provincial government, past, present and future, is glorified and held up to the admiring gaze of the public for its munificence in the matter of expenditure of public funds in the mining districts. It is of interest to note the comparisons made, comparisons in which it is made to appear that the people of East and West Kootenay, Yale and Cariboo, who are dependent upon the mining industry, receive for the revenue they contribute to the government, the full value of their contributions in public buildings, trails, roads, bridges, etc. It is interesting, indeed, to note these sectional comparisons and the use of such an argument to prove that the mining industry is so favored. That it is fostered by this magnanimity of the government in turning the taxes of these particular districts back into the districts in the manner mentioned. But while making these sectional comparisons why do not our esteemed contemporaries on the coast do a little thinking for themselves. (It is useless to make this suggestion to some of our nearer neighbors.) Why do they not ask what revenue has been devoted to the building of the parliament buildings? What sections have contributed towards the roads, bridges and public improvements of Vancouver Island and the coast mainland? They would find their answer in "the public debt of the province." And who is to pay this public debt, this bonded indebtedness of six or eight millions, this debt which is growing at the rate of about eight hundred thousand dollars per annum? Did the various legislatures responsible for the creation of this debt look forward to the fisheries, or to lumbering, or even to the agricultural industry to develop and grow to such an extent as to provide sufficient revenue to pay it off as it matured? No. They had their eyes upon the mining industry, the only growing industry in the province. And it is from the mining industry alone that they or the people of the province can expect any material development. The fisheries may grow, and probably will now that the halibut fisheries are being developed; lumbering may increase, and agriculture surely will, provided—the provided the mining industry is allowed to flourish as it should and would were it not for the restraining influence of adverse legislation. But when all is said and done, mining must be acknowledged as the mainstay of the province, the only industry which can be relied upon to pay the present heavy and rapidly growing debt. British Columbia is first, last and all the time a mining country. Upon its mines depends its future greatness. And when the mines have carried the province in the van of prosperity, when mining has wiped out our public debt, it is to be hoped that the mining districts of the province will not exhibit too much pride in pointing to the magnificent parliament buildings and the other costly and extensive public improvements on our western coast which they have paid for.

It is easy enough to be pleasant when life flows along like a song. But that 2 per cent tax would cut like an axe.

IF YOU HAD IT TO PAY RIGHT ALONG.

There seems to be a certain amount of admiration for the cultivation of game fish in this quest, opinion that the fish for fish and fish including Richard Hindsdale and Cl. Violin lake, finding excellent shape. much experience and handlocked was and his opinion at roundings at Violin lake, ample food for ant, part, as the

Violin

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How

An interesting anecdote a curious one of Hector McRae who will be remembered as the originator of the witty quips and good follow. The story respecting is in the service of St. Louis at five figures. On leaving Rossland to Ottawa and en route to five were various other especially consoling he remembered a years past asked transaction in which came his debtor. McRae replied in

Three En

Yesterday was local members Order of Odd Fellows of Victoria, grand Columbia jurisdiction. More than 100 lodge, No. 38, the grand master, an augmented by a Trail brethren, he Brandon. The degree test lodge dramatized most effective grand master ad officially. He called upon its general the satisfactory found the order. Supper was then past grand, deliv welcome to the malks being cough felicitous vein. Master Graham brethren, with other branches of cellars work they Addressed were Grand Embleton, Rev. Sanford and

CITY

CHINESE EXO Three Chinamen Hong Kong via rail and steam score of Celestia for the Flowery season.

CHIMNEY BLA The chimney o barracks blazed hour last evening station was not and Assiant Ch to watch mat necessary.

RESTING EASY An operation day on Jack Mured in the Le night he was re He is expected t though the doct of his ultimate r tion yesterday Doctors Kennin and Coulthard a skull bones were standing the op

TAX SALE The sale of assessment dist occurred yesterd but owing to th the small number was adjourned future. It is no been definitely will now take p pected to occur sibly later, but tod. Yesterday, most of the prop was situated in few people were from the Boun