

## Rossland Weekly Miner.

Published Every Thursday by the  
ROSSLAND MINER PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.  
LIMITED LIABILITY.  
JOHN B. KERR, Managing Editor

### LONDON OFFICE.

O. WALKER, 24 Coleman Street, London.

### TORONTO OFFICE:

CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY, Ltd., 83 Yonge St.

SPokane Office:  
ALEXANDER & Co., Advertising Agents, Room  
F First National Bank Building.

### EASTERN AGENT:

EMANUEL KATZ, 230 Temple Court, New York.

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE WEEKLY  
ROSSLAND MINER for all points in the United  
States and Canada is Two Dollars a year or One  
Dollar and Twenty-five Cents for six months.  
For all other countries Three Dollars a year—in  
advance. The subscription price of the  
DAILY MINER is \$5 per month, \$5 for  
six months or \$10 for one year, foreign \$12.50  
also in advance.

### A STATUE OF PRECIOUS METALS.

American mining men understand the art and the value of advertising their mineral resources to the world. This brings them capital from the old world and elsewhere for the development of their mining properties and the building up of the material interests of their country. They sometimes adopt very original methods of advertising. This was evidenced at the World's Fair, held in Chicago a few years since. Then Montana was made famous by its silver statue of Ada Rehan, of life size. This shapely actress posed for this statue, it was artistic and attracted as much attention perhaps as any single article exhibited at the fair. The fame of Montana's silver statue spread all over the world, and the state received an advertising which was of great material benefit to it. The statue, after the fair was over, fell into the hands of a showman and was exhibited in a number of cities in the United States. Finally the showman got into hard straits and the statue fell into the hands of the sheriff, and then it was discovered that it was of the Peter Funk order, and only heavily played with silver and with an interior of base metal. How the fair Ada Rehan must have blushed when this exposure was made.

Now Colorado advertises that it intends to send to the Paris exposition, which opens next year, a statue of gold. This image will be modeled after one of the handsomest and best formed girls in the state, and \$1,000,000 worth of gold will be used in casting it. The Paris exposition opens on May 5, 1900, and closes on October 30th. The fair will be open a little over five months. Allowing interest on the gold in the statue and say that \$1,000,000 worth of gold is used and interest figured at 10 per cent per annum, the cost for the interest, say the statue is in use for six months, would be only \$50,000. Allowing \$100,000 for the cost of the designing and casting this would place the total cost at \$600,000. It is probable that not over half a million in gold will be used, and it is possible that it will be considerably less, and this would, of course, cut down the expenses one-half, but even if the full amount of \$1,000,000 is used, the cost would be more than repaid by the value of the advertisement. It will, therefore, be a good investment for the people of Colorado.

It would not be a bad idea for British Columbia to be represented at this Paris exposition by a statue of some sort made of silver with gold trimmings. The figure, of say a prospector, life size, would be about the proper thing. Each one of the dividend paying mines could contribute an amount of silver in proportion to the amount of dividends paid, the larger dividend payers contributing the most. The province could pay the cost of the designing and casting. The statue could be sent to the Paris exposition. It would, we feel certain, attract quite as much attention as the girl of gold of Colorado. Such a figure artistically made, would be certain to attract a great deal of attention to this section. It could form the piece de resistance of the British Columbia exhibit.

The necessity on the part of the mining industry of the province making a special effort to attract attention at this exposition will be readily seen when it is understood that the number which visited the last Paris exposition in 1889 was officially returned at over 32,000,000. It is fair to presume that in 1900, should nothing in the nature of a great international war occur, the attendance will be much larger than it was in 1889.

The actual cost of such a statue need not be over \$5,000, as at the conclusion of the exposition the prospector of silver and a little gold could be placed in the metal pot, and the silver, or its value, returned to those who lent the metal.

### THE ROAD IS EASY NOW.

The railway connecting Skagway with Bennett was completed a few days since. This is quite an event in the history of the northern country, as it robs the journey to the Klondike region of all its terrors during the period when navigation is open. There will be no further need of packing goods or walking any portion of the distance to reach Dawson City. One can now get aboard the cars here and go to Vancouver. There steamer could be taken to Skagway. At the latter place passage over the formerly dreaded White Pass could be taken on the railway from Skagway to Bennett. Then steamers will take the voyager through the lakes and river to Dawson City. The journey at this season of the year is no more unpleasant than the trip from here to Montreal via the lakes.

Improved means of transportation that

Klondike are, indeed, a wonderful change for the better, than when provisions and supplies for at least a year had to be packed over the White Pass. This required the expenditure of a great deal of money and energy, to say nothing of the hardship and danger from land and snowslides. The voyager was compelled to build a boat in order to take the long and perilous journey down the lakes and river to Dawson. It was a trip full of hardships and perils, and a great many lost their lives along this route either in the snowslides on the mountains or in the rapids of the river.

The comfortable means of traveling that are now provided those going in and coming out of the Klondike, shows that no matter how inaccessible the place, or how great the difficulties that lie in the way, the road will be made comfortable for travelers, provided there are enough of them to make it profitable for transportation companies to provide the means.

### HAS AN ENEMY DONE THIS?

The citizens will, we think, learn with some surprise of the decision of the city council at last night's special meeting to purchase the water system at \$40,000, and will be inclined to demand a very full and satisfactory explanation from the aldermen of the whole proceeding. We are not yet in a position to discuss the transaction from its various standpoints, as we are in the same clouded condition as to the full details that the rest of the community is. The whole affair seems to have been put through, whether intentionally or not, with a secrecy which does not do any credit to the council. It would seem from the conduct of the meeting as if it were a foregone conclusion that the motion submitted should be adopted. It is at any rate certain that the members of the council were aware for two days that this matter, one of much importance to the citizens, was coming up for consideration, and yet not a member of the community outside of the council and its officials, knew anything about the matter. There is probably not a city in the Dominion where a parallel instance could occur—in which the council would undertake to meet and pass upon a matter of this moment to the community without the citizens being informed of what was coming up. There is danger to the city's interests in this manner of conducting the public business. Not only should there be no attempt at secret meetings, but the council itself should give instructions to its officials to see that as much publicity as possible be given to all sessions of the aldermen. This rule should especially be observed while the city is in its present formative state.

Regarding the transaction itself, we cannot, as we said, speak from a full knowledge of the details, but from what information we have been able to obtain we are of the opinion that the city has by no means made a good bargain. It will be remembered that the Rossland Water & Light company asked \$35,000 for its entire water and light franchise and plants. This the city refused on the ground that it was too high a price. An alternative offer had been submitted by the company to sell its water plant and franchise at \$45,000, this was also refused. During the discussions prior to the voting on the by-laws, it was very clearly and rightly pointed out that to take over the company's water plant without the lighting franchise would be folly, because it was from the supply of light that the company made most of its money. After the by-laws had been carried, the company still refused to come to any reasonable arrangement with the council, and stated that they would obtain the price which they had originally demanded. This boast was laughed at by the citizens, but the company seem to have made it good, though in a somewhat round about way.

Some weeks ago it was announced that the Rossland Water & Light company had disposed of its franchise and plant to the West Kootenay Power & Light company. That seems to have been the first move in the game. Now the West Kootenay Power & Light company comes to the council and sells for \$40,000 the water plant and the right to the Stony creek supply, retaining the franchise to supply the citizens with light, a right which they had formerly been refused by the citizens, but which they now obtained by the purchase of the local company's franchise. This purchase by the council means that the city acquires for \$40,000, only \$5,000 less than the water company asked for it, a plant condemned by the city engineer and an insufficient source of supply. Here the council may be said to have obtained a better bargain to the extent of \$5,000 than they could have made with the Water & Light company, and they will no doubt claim and receive any credit that may attach to this, and our own opinion is that it is very small. The city engineer did, indeed, say that the present plant as laid down, in the face of all difficulties which were met with at the time of construction, cost the company \$38,000, but he distinctly said that the plant, as it now is, is practically worthless to the city and would have to be renewed or repaired at a great expense.

There is the light question left for consideration and it would seem as if the council, had, in this, sacrificed the city's interests even more decidedly than in the case of the water system. While the Rossland Water & Light company possessed the franchise for supplying light to the community the city, at any time could

have made an arrangement with the West Kootenay Power and Light company equally advantageous with that of the Rossland company and furnished light at a greatly reduced price. For the service furnished by the water and light company the city and citizens were paying \$2,600 a month, 40 per cent of which the West Kootenay Power and Light company, which manufactured the light, obtained and 60 per cent of which was the share of the Rossland company, which possessed the franchise. The Rossland company thus drew \$18,720 a year as its share. On this basis had the city purchased the lighting franchise at \$40,000 from the company and charged the same rates as now obtain, it would almost have paid for it in two years out of the receipts. Had it cut the prices in two it would have taken only five years to do so.

Now, however, by the adoption of last night's resolution the council sanctions the sale to the West Kootenay Power and Light company of a practically perpetual franchise to supply Rossland with electric light, and there is no possibility for all time to come of the city being able to obtain and operate a franchise of its own. The citizens, as far as the supply of electric lighting is concerned are absolutely and for all time to come in the power of the West Kootenay Power and Light company, which can charge what prices it pleases and the citizens will have no redress whatever. To talk of the city putting in a plant of its own to compete with this company, with its magnificent facilities, would be absurd. If such were attempted the company would simply drop its price to a figure at which a civic plant would find it impossible to manufacture and even then the company would make a profit.

The whole transaction seems to have been a shrewd and successful move on the part of the waterworks company to obtain its own price out of its works here, and at the same time obtain revenge on the city for refusing to be held up. The water and light company, no doubt, obtained its full demand in its sale to the Kootenay company; the Kootenay company obtained a franchise which is now extremely valuable, and especially so to it, and which will become very much more so as the population increases.

But what has the city got? A worthless water plant for which it paid \$40,000, and to put which in working order it will have to spend an amount equal to the purchase money. In addition to this it has been placed at the mercy of another company in regard to its lighting.

It is said that unless this agreement is finally approved the sale of the light franchise will not give the West Kootenay Power and Light company the right to connect its wires with the Rossland system and in order to give a service here it would be compelled to manufacture in the city. This might be worth looking into, because if it is so the city might make a thoroughly good contract with the company for the permission to make the necessary connection.

### SHOULD GO TO THE COUNTRY.

The opinion seems to be gaining ground on the Coast, as well as in the Interior, that it would be a wise thing if the Local Legislature were dissolved and the people were called upon to give another expression of opinion at the polls as to the men whom they wish to represent them at Victoria. It is hardly possible that the present government can continue to conduct the affairs of the Province to the satisfaction of the people, no matter how the cabinet is reconstructed. There will continue to be an utter lack of that confidence which should exist between the people and their legislators and the simplest way out of the difficulty at present confronting the government is an appeal to the country. The great body of the electors have no concern whatever with the personal differences or ambitions of Messrs. Martin and Cotton. They did not send them to Victoria to advance their private interests or organize plots against each other, but to legislate for the benefit of the Province. If, however, either of these gentlemen can induce the country to believe that his course in the legislature has been one of disinterested desire for the public welfare he will doubtless receive a strong expression of public confidence. Neither of them should fear to meet the electors if they are proof armed in honesty, and if they are not so armed the Lieutenant-Governor should exercise his prerogative and insist on the people being given an opportunity to dispense with their services.

### MINERS' UNION DAY.

Yesterday was Miners' Union day, and the entire community joined in its celebration. The day was a bright one and all enjoyed the truce from toil and entered with fervor into the festivities of the occasion. As this is written in the grey, ghostly hours that herald the approach of the dawn the echoes of music, which in full vigor at Miners' Union hall, to which 100 couples are dancing, comes floating merrily in through the windows and gives vocal notice that the celebrants have not yet done with the day's enjoyment. This shows that there was nothing of a perfunctory nature about the day's celebration and reveals how heartily it was entered into. There was not a serious hitch in the celebration to mar it from beginning to end.

The fact that it was participated in by all classes shows how cordial the relations between labor and capital are in this camp. The members of the Rossland unions have the true idea of unionism and

well they carry it out, and the result of the wisdom that they have shown has been that there has never been a serious disagreement between the two in the history of the camp. On the other hand, capital, too, has been considerate and has, by wise concessions and a liberal treatment of employees, in one or two instances, prevented what might have led to serious trouble. With such a conciliatory spirit shown by both sides in the future, as in the past, there is every reason to believe that all future trouble will be avoided.

After all unionism is the only possible combination that labor can make against capital. Great Britain is the place where trades unions have flourished the most. There, as here, they fully recognize the fact that unorganized labor, when it has a contest with capital, is as a lot of naked men against those clad in armor. The result of this recognition of the principles and practices of unionism has been to elevate the condition of the transatlantic toiler and to increase his daily wages. The same principle carried into effect here produces like results.

The one thing that the unions have most to fear is the resorting on the part of its members to illegal acts of violence when there is a strike or a lockout. Acts of this nature rob unions of public sympathy and in nine cases out of ten defeat the very object for which the strike was inaugurated. It is the fear of violence and of too arbitrary action that makes some employers of labor fearful of unions and breeds a distrust for them on the part of a portion of the public. Union men should, therefore, regard as their worst enemies men in their own ranks who favor any breach of the law or any resort to violence in the shape of the destruction of property. The men in the Coeur d'Alene region lost the battle that they were fighting for, the moment they blew up the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mill. Why? Because it arrayed public opinion of the entire country against them. On the other hand had they simply struck and not resorted to violence and conducted their strike along the lines of moral suasion it is almost certain that they would have won.

There is no danger, however, that there will be any trouble of this sort in this camp, and for the reason that the law is respected here, owing to the give and take feeling that exists between labor and capital. In the future we feel certain that there will be many observations of Miners' Union day and that the relations will be as cordial between labor and capital then as they are today. We believe that the sentiment in favor of a fair day's wages for a fair day's work will increase instead of decreasing in this the golden city of the Kootenays.

### THE CITY PARK.

The city now has a fine and commodious park. It adjoins the city on the east and can be reached in a walk of five minutes from the postoffice. In the 80 acres contained in the park are many beautiful spots. The land is rolling and slopes to the south, and contains a beautiful valley. The ground has groves and bunches of timber that will afford shade during the hot days of the summer. With the expenditure of a little money for winding walks, shaded rustic seats, the planting of hardy shrubs and plants, the erection of a pavilion or two, the leveling of spaces for tennis, lacrosse and baseball and a few other improvements it can be made into the handsomest city park in British Columbia.

While there is no necessity for spending any large sum on the park the task of making it fit for use should be at once commenced. From time to time there will be celebrations and a portion of the outdoor exercises should be held here. This would be particularly the case with the hibernial sports. With a little trouble a pond for skating could be made, over which the skaters and curlers could enjoy themselves. In the hot weather, when the park has been reduced from its present wild state, it will be a beautiful spot to stroll through. In fact it will be an ideal breathing place for the people of the city.

There is no danger that the interests of the adults will be overlooked, but we desire at this early period in the history of the park to put in a word for the children. A section of the park should be assigned to them. There is plenty of room in 80 acres to give the children ample room for a playground. Here they can play any sort of a game that they desire to and no officer of the law can compel them to get off the grass. The small boy and the little girl have their rights, but in a city no one seems to recognize that they have any outside of their own doorways. If they play in a vacant lot they are driven off as trespassers. If they go on the street and make too much noise they are set down and treated as nuisances. Under the circumstances one of the best and most accessible portions of the park should be set aside for the youngsters. It might be so arranged that the older folks should not be allowed to trespass upon it except by special invitation of the children. They are the future men and women, and the play ground in the park will be one of their pleasantest memories in after life.

The city has made a splendid bargain in the purchase of this park, and one that will prove profitable. If the city grows to anything like the proportions that people expect it it can realize a handsome profit in a few years by selling a portion or all of the park and purchasing another site a little further out.

Fresh strawberries, at the C. O. D.

### VACATION TRIPS.

This is the season of the year when many are taking their vacations; when the bank clerk, the employee in dry goods houses and many other lines of employment, and even the managers of business, take a short season of rest and recreation. This is a custom that has reached full flower in the Old Country, and it has been estimated that fully 25 per cent of the workers in certain lines are given a holiday there of a week or more without loss of British pay. In this section the proportion given vacations is not so large, but the majority being of British blood and training, it is a custom that will grow and increase when things become more settled than they are at present. In a new place like Rossland it is more difficult to get substitutes for those who are off for a few days than it is in older settled communities and hence there is not nearly the same disposition shown to give employees vacations here as in the old country. Another thing that prevents it is that many of the businesses conducted in a new community have to sail pretty close to the wind in order to float at all and where such economy has to be practiced, it is next to impossible to give employees short respites from toil. When these business houses get older and richer then they can afford it, and will, as a natural consequence give their help vacations.

In this section there are a number of favored locations where the time given up to a vacation can be pleasantly passed, in fact, there are so many different places, that fairly team with special advantages, that the individual who is to be given a period for rest and recreation is puzzled to decide where he shall go to.

The Pacific coast towns have many allurements for the present season of the year. The climate at Vancouver is delightful. There is the breeze off the salty seas, which has a peculiarly refreshing effect to the visitor who has dwelt at a point remote from salt water. There is the "Lion guarded gateway to the Occident and the Orient," which is worth going miles to see. The park there is a beautiful one, and the harbor as fine as any on the Pacific slope. Here all the vessels of the navy of Great Britain could be gathered without any of them being in each other's way.

Then there is staid old Victoria with its solid brick business buildings, its many handsome residences and its beautiful suburban villas, with its Esquimalt, the Gibraltar of the Pacific, and its beautiful drive in the gorge, its old society and its immense hotel, and its other advantages all combine to make it one of the pleasantest cities on the Pacific coast in which to spend a few days.

If, however, one desires to flee from the maddening crowd and desires to see nature as she is in "the home of the glaciers" a trip can be made into the Lardeau country, to a point a few miles east of Thompson Landing. Here may be found great glaciers, and one may take shots at mountain goats or fish for trout in streams that are fed cool with water from the glaciers.

Another pleasant trip is into the country to the west. There is handsome and rugged scenery to be found on the journey between Rossland and Camp McKinney that is well worth the trouble of inspection. This trip can best be made on horseback.

A journey along the Crow's Nest railway would not be an unpleasant one. The coal mines at Fernie, the lake at Moyie, and the scenery in the foothills and steep slopes of the Rocky mountains are well worth seeing.

Then there is the trip to the south to Spokane. It is a well built city and is as good a specimen of the "wide open" town as can be found today on the broad American continent or was such but a few short days ago. A moral wave has swept over the town and this Sampson of wickedness may be shorn of a few of its locks and some of its strength by some Delilah whose intents are charitable instead of wicked, but we will venture to say that the vacationist who desires to see the elephant in Spokane can be accommodated to the top of his bent.

There are a number of other trips and jaunts that could be profitably taken by the man who has a week or two on his hands. The effect of these truces from toil are beneficial. The participants in their return to their tasks with renewed strength and vigor and are able to carry on the work assigned to them so much the better for having been away. Experience has taught employers everywhere that giving an employee a vacation is an investment on which he receives a good profit in the increased capacity for work and a betterment of its quality.

### SOPHIE MOUNTAIN ROAD.

The Board of Trade last evening showed commendable concern in the matter of the proposed government wagon road to Sophie mountain. The secretary was directed to telegraph to the minister of public works requesting that he give the matter right of way over other things, and asking that a local surveyor be employed instead of waiting for Mr. Gamble, the government surveyor for the province, who resides at Nelson. There is need for haste in this matter. The good weather is slipping away and if much more time is spent in dilatory tactics the winter will be here and the work will have to be commenced and completed with all the disadvantages of working in the snow and cold.

The people of the city are thoroughly

alive to the necessity of building this road. It is one of the first important occasions in the history of this city that its citizens have had occasion to show their mettle. They realize that if convenient means of reaching the Velvet mine and other properties are not provided the city will lose a great deal of valuable trade, which would go to rival towns. In order to prevent such a condition of affairs they have bestirred themselves and it is reasonably certain that the highway will be constructed and the citizens of this city enjoy the trade for all time to come. When this has been accomplished the fruits of the victory will be so sweet that when other battles for trade are to be fought they will enter into them with renewed zest. In this way there will be cultivated and brought out a genuine Rossland spirit which will become irresistible. A city is always what its citizens make it. As Rossland has the residents of the right sort its future is assured, but it will have to make many fights for roads in its future history, and there will probably occasions arise when it will have to build them without the intervention of the government.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The city council is determined that there shall be no exclusive gas franchise, and in this has shown its wisdom. Rossland is growing, and in time there may be room for two or even three gas companies. If an exclusive franchise is given to the present applicants then there could be no possible competition in the matter of furnishing gas to the people until the charter of the gas company expired by limitation. The council in thus safeguarding the interest of the people is doing its plain duty, and the wisdom of its course will be fully demonstrated in time. Franchises, like the one that is being granted to the Pearson syndicate, are valuable to those who receive them, and it seems to us that the applicants for such privileges, when they ask for the exclusive right, exhibit the most monumental hardness.

### STRIKE OR DIP OF A VEIN.

The terms strike and dip, as referred to veins, have been judicially defined as follows by Judge W. H. Beatty: "The strike, or course, of a vein is determined by a horizontal line drawn between its extremities at that depth at which it obtains its greatest longitudinal extent." To this the Mining and Scientific Press adds: "The dip of a vein, its course downward, at right angles to its strike; or, in other words, if a vein is cut by a vertical plane at right angles to its course, the line of section will be the line of dip. The strike, or course, of a vein can never be exactly determined until it has been explored to its greatest extent; but a comparatively slight development near the surface will generally show its course with sufficient accuracy for the purpose of a location. The dip having an exact mathematical relation to the course of the vein, is, of course, undetermined; but practically the line of dip is closely approximated by taking the steepest (nearest the vertical) line by which the vein can be followed downward."

### A BIRTHDAY PARTY.

It Was Given in Honor of Mrs. Andy Revsback.

On Tuesday Mr. Andy Revsback, the very worthy captain of "The Queen," called a few of his old-time and well-chosen friends around his very festive board to a most select and splendid luncheon whereat to do honor in suitable style to the birthday of Mrs. Revsback. And it was done. Yes, verily, in good style were the honors done. Tables are said to have groaned of old under the load of hospitality laid upon them. Here the tables groaned again, and the guests moved at their inability to do justice to the variety of offered dainties. The day was warmly provocative of a mighty thirst, but did each thirst like Pantagruel of old, vintage wines cooled under bergs of Loon Lake ice bathed their and each of their throats to the great assuagement of the thirst aforesaid, and every eye brightened as the cookies of the heart grew more apart. The health of Mrs. Revsback was honored with three times three, with as many wishes multiplied by ten for as many returns of her birthday. Nor was the dear little captainess—stem little mother of the home quarters—less forgotten than she might have been and grow lovely. She shall. Then the captain himself, sturdy, honest, broad shouldered giant of good heartedness that he is came in for his share. Speech making did not flourish like a green bay tree in that genial climate, but every guest thought, at any rate, however ill he might have phrased it, that the friendship of the giver of the feast was an honor, and the permanent retaining of that friendship was about as good an endorsement of the man good enough to retain it as heart might desire. There Andy's old friends scored easily, and those less favored vied to the good, and to achieve the honor of present day "old timers" in days to come. Nor was it forgotten how the host naturally loved the "bottom dog" in life's fight. Provided that dog, or man, was game and fought like those wandering, devastating Vikings of the Daneland—whereof is Andy and his forebears—then the captain was, and is, his friend through good and evil repute. But woe to the man whom Andy "calls down."

By the early afternoon all guests departed, feeling that so far from the wing of friendship having moved, at any rate, the bonds of good fellowship were closer drawn, in that all who met know each other the better by the magic of the hospitality of Captain Andy of the good ship "The Queen."

William S. Bonner, special constable for the B. A. C., and Miss Leona Sebert of Rossland, were united in the bonds of holy matrimony last evening, Rev. George H. Morden officiating. Only a few of the intimate friends of the contracting parties were present.

Municipality is Ready  
ate for a De

## THE GAS COMPANY

The City is Determined  
an Exclusive One  
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From C. R. Hamill  
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third time next Tues  
will be submitted to  
approval in August.  
Journed at 10:45.