

CHANGES IN TARIFF

Sensation Created in Victoria Over New American Metal Schedule.

RETALIATION TALKED OF

Col. Baker Says the Crow's Nest Railway Will be Built Under His Charter—Cheap Coal and Coke—Rithet Has Been Pacified.

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—[Special.]—A great sensation was created here today by the announcement of the new tariff schedule adopted by the ways and means committee of the United States congress. It is agreed on every hand that such a tariff will be at first injurious to the mining industry of British Columbia, since the market for gold, silver, copper and lead in the United States. C. D. Rand, of London, who is here, thinks the new schedule would mean an average additional tax of \$30 additional on every ton of Slocan ore sent to American smelters. This would be almost prohibitory for even the high grade ores of Slocan.

Good Will Result Finally. I saw Hirschel Cohen and obtained his views. "It will result," he said, "in the building of smelters and refineries on this side of the line for the treatment of all gold, silver, copper and lead ore. It will be a good thing in the end. It will make Canada more independent and richer. We will have to arrange to ship all our gold, copper, silver and lead to England. That really the market now for most of these products, though they pass through American hands."

Retaliatory Measures Likely. So far as I can gather from talks with members of the government and of the provincial parliament the sentiment will be strong and united in favor of adopting retaliatory measures if the new tariff schedule goes into effect. Many proposals are already being made. One is that American mining companies be shut out by burdensome restrictions. Another is that transportation lines be subsidized to carry British Columbia mining products to the English market at low cost. The Hon. Col. Baker, minister of mines, was greatly surprised at the new schedule. If adopted he thinks it will result in the treatment of all British Columbia ores on this side of the line.

The Crow's Nest Railway. "I will take occasion here to say," said he, "that the British Columbia Southern railway will be built this year, and that it will be built under the British Columbia Southern charter. We will deliver coal at the Columbia river for not to exceed \$4 per ton—that is one-third of the present cost. We will deliver coke at Pilot Bay, Nelson and Trail smelters at not to exceed \$6 per ton. This is less than half what it shall make as good coke as there is in the world, the percentage of ash being a little over 4. In this way we shall enable British Columbia smelters to smelt British Columbia ores."

Effect on American Smelters. The new tariff schedule will kill the Northport smelter scheme and will do great injury to those American smelters which have grown rich from handling British Columbia ores. It will also greatly curtail the traffic of the American railroads running into British Columbia, therefore it may be expected that the new tariff proposals will meet with some determined opposition. The session today was uneventful except for the fact that the debate on the address closed without a division being called for.

It is reported that Helmecken will withdraw his motion for the forfeiture of the British Columbia Southern land grant. There seems to have been some sort of arrangement made by which Mr. Rithet is satisfied.

GOSSIP FROM VICTORIA.

New Parliament Buildings a Credit to the Government.

VICTORIA, Feb. 9.—[Special Correspondence.]—Nature bestowed a pretty compliment yesterday in honor of the opening of the parliamentary session, in giving us a regular May day, so far as sunshine and a balmy air are concerned. Having just come down from Rossland, where everything is now locked in the snowy embrace of winter, it was a delightful change to be able to walk on the clean, fresh earth without over-shoes, and to see the green grass and the swelling buds.

The attendance at the opening ceremonies was unusually large, and not over half the people could get in. A great many ladies were on hand, though they were dressed in somewhat sombre style and for that reason were not quite in harmony with the springlike weather.

It was a great disappointment that the opening could not take place in the legislative chamber of the new capital building. The architect had promised to have everything ready in time, but some of the materials to be used in finishing were delayed in shipment, and he does not believe the new chamber can be got ready for use under two months, if, indeed, in that time.

The Parliament Buildings. The province is fortunate in having an extensive and well situated piece of ground for capital purposes. It is now being cleared of the old buildings, fences, trees, etc., so that the new capital buildings can be seen to good advantage. The original provincial buildings consisted of a number of frame structures, of very pretty architectural design, but now wholly inadequate for the second growth of public business. The new buildings were erected as far back as 1862. The new capital is of light grey

stone and of the most careful and substantial construction. When the grounds are cleared off it will present rather an imposing appearance, though it is a little heavy and rather gloomy and contracted inside.

Economically Constructed. It has, however, been very conscientiously and honestly built. The entire cost of the building proper will be less than \$300,000. Ordinarily such a building would cost fully \$1,000,000, and it seems to me the existing government deserves much praise for having given the province so good a structure for so small a sum.

New Buildings Were Needed. The government has been criticised for having spent a large sum in the erection of a capital building at a place so far from the centre of the province as Victoria, but I do not share in this complaint. Some sort of new buildings was a real necessity so far as the public business is concerned, and it will not be long till better railroad facilities will make Victoria more accessible to the remainder of the province. In less than two years there will probably be a line of railway running direct from West Kootenay to Victoria, by a route south of the present C. P. R. line, so that one at Rossland can get on a train at nightfall and wake up in Victoria next morning.

Victoria Makes a Good Capital. This is a good place for a capital city. It is near the sea, is near one of the most strongly fortified harbors in the British dominions, Esquimaux, and it is a pleasant residence place. It will always afford a pleasant change to come from the high altitudes of West and East Kootenay, Yale, Lillooet and Cariboo, to these well-tempered, almost semi-tropic shores, and I have no doubt the day is not far distant when, owing to the great wealth which must come from the mineral developments of the interior districts, many people will come here to build homes, and that Victoria has become a very prosperous future. Victoria has advantages so thoroughly fixed by nature that nothing can rob her of them, and these will be quickly acknowledged in the face of a returning and greater prosperity such as must come from the opening of British Columbia's mines. There will be great cities along Canada's Pacific coast line as well as on her Atlantic seaboard, and one of these will be Victoria. J. R. R.

SCHEME WILL NOT WORK

Mr. Norden Proposes to Organize An Exploration Company in London.

Advisory Board to Be Appointed in Spokane Instead of British Columbia—Will Probably Prove Fatal.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 12.—[Special.]—Robert Norden, of London, who three months ago arrived in Spokane for the purpose of looking up mining investments in British Columbia as the accredited representative of a wealthy London syndicate, has concluded to return to London and organize an exploration company among his friends and associates, and if he is successful in the undertaking he will return and operate on a large scale.

"My present mission has not been a success," said Mr. Norden to THE MINER's correspondent today, "for the reason that mining properties in British Columbia are being held at too high figures over their real or prospective value."

"My visit to this country has, however, suggested to me an idea, and that is the organization in London of an exploration company to develop and acquire mining properties in the country up north. I am a member of three of the most influential clubs in London and my purpose is to organize a company entirely among my friends and associates."

"I have here a rough draft that I have prepared, setting out the objects and purposes of the exploration company. With its organization I propose to raise, say, \$300,000. With as much of this sum as is necessary it will be the purpose of the company to secure, say, ninety-days options on good prospects, the owners to be paid a certain amount of money down, with an agreement on the part of the company to at its expense, and if found satisfactory acquire them at the option figures."

"It would be my idea to secure from fifty to sixty good prospects for development, the company expending at least \$1000 on each one. By this method if the claim turned out to be valueless the owners would be at no expense in discovering the fact, and on the other hand if the property proved to be of value the vendors would have a purchaser in the company, besides still retaining an interest in the original owner in any instance take a certain proportional amount in stock."

"It is also my purpose, in the event of the success of my mission, to have the exploration company represented in Spokane by an advisory board of three members, composed of good reliable and responsible citizens, through whom would be transacted the business of the company."

"I shall leave for London on this mission next week, and within three weeks after my arrival in England hope to be able to state that the company has been organized."

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS.

The Old Gold and the Primrose Gold Elect Officers.

The Old Gold Quartz and Placer Mining company held its annual meeting in this city Friday, and elected G. A. Pounder, M. A. Chesnut and J. M. Miller directors for the ensuing year. The officers of the company elected were: G. A. Pounder, president; George N. Taylor, vice-president; M. F. Chesnut, secretary, and J. M. Miller, treasurer.

The Primrose Gold Mining company, at its annual meeting in this city yesterday, elected G. A. Pounder, M. F. Chesnut and J. M. Miller as directors. Mr. Miller was made the president, Mr. Chesnut the secretary and Mr. Pounder the treasurer.

The Old Gold company's property is on the north fork of the Salmon river, and the Primrose on a branch of that fork called Whiskey creek.

The Fisher Maiden. Frank Watson, who returned from the Elcan on Wednesday, will leave for Victoria early next week, to try to get the legislature to build a four-mile road from Silverton up to the Fisher Maiden mine, of which he is the manager. He is working 15 men on the mine and is running 12 rawhides. He has 10 carloads of ore ready to ship to Everett.

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"HIRAM FREY, "Wheel Maker, "Norwood, Ont."

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Albert Stein, President; H. E. Cover, Vice-Pres. and Gen. Man.; J. A. Scaman, Secretary-Treasurer; W. H. Fife and W. J. Green, Trustees.

Description of Property.

The company owns the Trail Hunter and Cromwell mineral claims. The Trail Hunter is situated in the South Belt about 1 1/2 miles from Rossland and about 3/4 of a mile from the railroad on the Red Eagle. A strong iron-capped vein crosses the property and in the bottom of an 18-foot shaft there is a fine showing of ore. A wagon road has already been built to the property and development work will be pushed as rapidly as possible. Assays \$20 per ton. The Cromwell is a full claim located on the North Fork of the Salmon River and joins the Lizzie B. and Porto Rico, two claims which were recently sold for \$63,000 and \$45,000 respectively. Assays have been obtained from the surface of the Cromwell running as high as \$140 in gold per ton. It is the intention of the company to push development as rapidly as possible and has placed the unusually large sum of 500,000 shares in the treasury for that purpose.

The company is now offering the first block of stock at the low price of Three and a Half Cents.

For shares, prospectus or other information apply to J. A. SCAMAN, Sec. and Treas.

Or Wm. Bennison & Co., Sole Agents.

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