

Rossland Weekly Miner.

Published Every Thursday by the
ROSSLAND MINING PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.
LIMITED, LIAB. LTD.

LONDON OFFICE.

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

CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY, LTD., 83 Yonge St.
SPOKANE OFFICE:

ALEXANDER & CO., Advertising Agents, Room
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 and one-half Dollars a
year or One Dollar and fifty cents for six months
of all other countries Three and one-half Dol-
lars a year— invariably in advance.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, per month, by carrier..... 75c
Daily, per month, by mail..... 60c
Daily, per year, by carrier..... \$ 8.25
Daily, per year, by mail..... 6.25
Daily, per year, foreign..... 10.25

WEEKLY MINER.

Weekly, per half year..... \$ 4.50
Weekly, per year..... 2.50
Weekly, per year, foreign..... 3.50
Subscriptions invariably in advance.

THE ARBITRATION COMMISSION.

The personnel of the arbitration commission to settle the anthracite strike appointed by President Roosevelt will certainly allay all feeling, if any exists, that the matters in dispute will not be carefully weighed and the scales of justice made to poise with an even hand.

Brigadier-General John M. Wilson is a veteran of the Civil War, late chief of engineers, and is known to every American as a man of exceptional ability and unblemished integrity.

Edward W. Parker is an expert mining engineer, chief statistician of the coal division of the United States geological survey, and managing editor of the Engineering and Mining Journal of New York. No man has a more thorough knowledge of coal mining and the methods surrounding it than he.

Judge George Gray of Delaware, at present judge of the United States district court, is the only member of the commission that is known from a political point of view. Mr. Gray was for six years United States senator from Delaware, and no member of that august tribunal stood in higher esteem or was rated above him in mental capacity. Judge Gray is in no sense a politician. He would scorn to descend to the low tricks of the demagogue. His mind is eminently of a judicial turn. He has always been regarded in his State as a profound lawyer, where he was attorney-general at one time.

E. E. Clark, grand chief of the order of railway conductors, is well known in labor circles, and outside of the anarchistic and agitator class, his appointment will be regarded with favor. He is thoroughly familiar with labor and social questions, and the commission is greatly strengthened by his appointment.

Thomas H. Watkins of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is a man of practical experience in the mining and handling of coal. The commission would not be complete without such a man on it. And as to Bishop John L. Spaulding it is scarcely necessary to make mention. His name has been connected with religious, educational and literary work during a long and useful life, and so man stands higher in the esteem of his countrymen.

We have reason to believe that the work of the commission will not only be prompt, but that it will be on the lines of equity to all parties.

A CAUSELESS STRIKE ENDED.

The strike in a number of mines belonging to the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company in Alabama has at last been declared off. It appears that the representatives of the United Mine Workers demanded that the company's paymasters should withhold from its miners' wages the sum of \$1 each per month, the amount which had been assessed upon them as a contribution for the aid of the striking anthracite miners. The company stated that it was willing to do this in all cases where the miners themselves presented an order or request that the paymaster should do so, but that it had no legal or moral right to withhold the money in any case unless such an order was received from the individual miner. The answer to this representation, which seems to be entirely just, was an order to strike which called out 4000 men. The strike seems to have been one of the most unreasonable on record, and it is especially so as the company recently closed contracts with the men, fixing the wage rates and other details of the miners' agreement for another year. The strike was not only causeless, but in direct violation of the contract, and will not tend to strengthen the miners' union with the public.

SENSIBLE REMARKS.

The Mining and Scientific Press of October 11 has this to say: "Strong objection is made to editorial statements concerning British Columbia mining conditions. But the statements are

true, and it is just such publicity that will best help British Columbia miners. Nothing has been said that cannot be verified. The trouble with British Columbia is that it is governed too much. It has too many laws now. What it needs is a repeal of some of them. It is a good mineral country and this paper recognizes its importance. It is always easy and more agreeable to say only nice things, and easier still to ignore a locality, but conditions can generally be improved by publicity. The policy of this journal is a creative one, and whether it be British Columbia or anywhere else that mining is carried on, this paper has intelligent opinion on existing conditions and wants to aid in that section's advancement. That is part of what the paper is for."

HAY AND CORN FOR FUEL.

The ear of both continents is so filled at the present time with the Pennsylvania strike and the consequent shortage of anthracite coal, and so much is being said in the press about the suffering that is likely to ensue now that winter is approaching, that it brings to mind the different kinds of fuel used by people living in other sections of the country. Those who have been accustomed to using anthracite coal all their lives would think it wonderful strange if they were suddenly compelled to use corn and hay for fuel. Yet thousands of farmers living in the great State of Iowa—the most productive State, according to official returns, in the sisterhood of States—use nothing else for fuel. And Iowa is as cold in winter as most parts of Canada. Corn on the cob makes a very good fire. In the great Middle West it grows to an almost unlimited extent, and is cheaper than wood. Then in other places hay is twisted into rolls or sticks, and it would surprise the uninitiated to see how long it will last and what an even fire it will make when thus prepared.

True, the advent of the railway has done away with a great deal of this, as coal is brought from distant mines and landed in all the towns of the prairie States, but the Western farmer would not suffer if the supply should be suddenly shut off.

Oil is also making headway as fuel, and in many places will supplant coal. The supply seems to be inexhaustible. But coal, undoubtedly, will always be in demand. The coal measures of Canada, reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, will be a source of untold wealth, and there seems little reason to believe that we shall be compelled to use anything else except in isolated cases.

OVER-CAPITALIZATION OF MINING COMPANIES.

The following communication regarding the over-capitalization of mining companies appeared in the Vancouver News-Advertiser, written by A. C. Galt of this city:

Sir: Whenever the subject of our mining industry is dealt with by people at the coast, over-capitalization of mining companies is put forward as one of the chief causes of the present depression.

One can readily understand why members of the government and others responsible for the laws which are crushing the life out of the industry should grasp at any suggestion whereby their liability is shifted to other shoulders. But the same view is often put forward by writers and speakers who have no such excuse.

Over-capitalization is doubtless an evil. So is smallpox; and both of these evils are capable of injuring the particular portion of the mining industry which they happen to affect. In the one case the evil would affect the shareholders of a company; in the other, the inhabitants of a mining district.

But the evil—the disease, if you will—of over-capitalization is, unlike that of smallpox, in that the germ does not necessarily develop or injure the patient (in this case the shareholder) until the company's mine has reached a dividend-paying stage.

If a mine cannot be worked at a profit, what possible difference does it make whether its capital be large or small? The shareholder fails to realize a dividend in either case.

But it may be urged in reply to this that all the companies expect to pay dividends and that many have already done so, and in such cases where the company is over-capitalized the profits per share become infinitesimal.

Well, admitting this, let us see whether—as regards the mines of British Columbia—it has had any appreciable effect in bringing about the existing collapse of nearly all ordinary mining operations.

One thousand three hundred and thirty-three companies were incorporated or licensed to do business in British Columbia during the years 1896 to 1900, inclusive, as appears by the records of the registrar of joint stock companies. During that whole period only 29 of them ever paid a dividend. Only 12 of them paid over \$50,000 in dividends. That is to say, assuming that every one of the companies was over-capitalized, the supposed evil only affected one company out of every 46, and, in the case of those which paid substantial dividends, it only affected one out of every 111.

Now the demand for relief, which is steadily increasing, does not come from the shareholders of these dividend-paying mines by reason of an over-capitalization, but from the vast body of shareholders, employees, merchants and others interested in the development of mines which, under existing conditions, are unable to make any profit at all, or even secure capital wherewith to continue development.

The increased output of minerals in the province during the last year or two, which is referred to so often by members of the government and others as proof of prosperity, has been accurately traced to the operations of two large mining companies, neither of which realized enough net profits to pay a dividend.

What the country requires, and the mining industry demands, is a speedy removal of actual present impediments, which the legislature has piled up annually for the last five or six years, and which almost prohibits the realization of any profits.

It will be time enough to grapple with the question of capitalization when there are some profits to divide.

A. C. GALT.

MORE CARS NEEDED.

Fully half of the 80 or more big shingle mills of Whatcom County, Washington, have shut down owing to a shortage of cars, which prevents delivery to Eastern buyers. All these mills have large stocks on hand which they are unable to move, and it was deemed impracticable to pile up a larger supply. Few readers living in the interior have an idea of the great demand that has grown up in the last few years for shingles from all coast points. The mammoth cedar trees growing along the coast in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon make the finest shingles in the world, and the demand for them has grown year by year until now all the mills are taxed to their utmost limit. By far the greater portion are sent to the Eastern and Southern States, while many are shipped by sailing vessels to Mexico, Central and South America, and the islands of the Pacific. The immense wheat crops of the country demand the attention of the transportation lines, which in part accounts for the lack of cars to handle all the shingles turned out.

The declaration of Minister Blair that he is in favor of a government-owned road across the continent will be carried out upon the completion of the Canadian Northern, if it is completed upon the lines as already given forth. Considering the liberal bonus the government granted in money and lands there cannot be the least doubt that the government should of right own the road in fee simple, but the government placed it in the hands of certain individuals to own and operate.

"USONIANS."

The Toronto World has been endeavoring for years to get the citizens of the United States, declaring that the name "American" does not strictly belong to the residents of the republic. The World has worried considerably over this matter, but has not so far evolved a more euphonious name than "United Statesers," which has not met the popular fancy.

The following paragraph from the Mining and Scientific Press may be of assistance to the popular Toronto paper, and we expect to see references in its columns to the people of the United States as "Usonians" hereafter:

"There is a new name or term coming into commercial use—Usonia—as an abbreviated designation of this country—United States of North America—which is technically correct and at the same time easy to use and remember. Several concerns in various lines of business now bear that title, and its use is destined to grow."

ANENT KILLING SONG BIRDS.

The season for bird shooting is now on, and almost daily we see enthusiasts striking for some favored spot, gun in hand. By bird shooting we mean that it is lawful to kill grouse and other game birds. The territory surrounding a city of the size of Rossland as a rule is overhunted, and such seems to be the case here, although it is generally noticed that most of the nimrods come back as a rule with a brace or two of birds. That seldom satisfies the average man—he wants his bag full.

The Miner has heretofore called attention to the wanton destruction of game animals and birds, and fish as well, but we wish at this time to mention another matter which has come under our observation. It is confined more particularly to boys, ranging from 12 to 15 years of age, who are learning to handle a gun and think they must shoot and kill everything they see as soon as they pass the city limits. If they meet a song bird or a playful squirrel or a chattering chipmunk the first thing is to shoot at and kill it if they can. The more they kill, the more ammunition they waste, the prouder they feel and the louder they talk of their skill. We will admit that this is not confined exclusively to the boys. Many men indulge in the practice—more to their shame.

It is easy to understand why one should take pleasure in hunting or fishing when the product is brought home and made to do service on the table as food. But it is wanton and cruel destruction to kill innocent creatures simply for the sake of killing, leaving the carcasses to rot on the ground. The country surrounding

Rossland is rough and mountainous, and the birds and animals we have among us cannot possibly do any harm, and to the lover of nature and the man of humane feeling the sight of these innocent creatures enjoying the brief period allotted them is one to inspire delight rather than a spirit to kill.

It is the duty of parents—it should be a part of parental instruction—when their sons go forth, gun in hand, to tell them to kill only what can be made use of on the table as food, and even that in reasonable quantities. It would be excusable to kill a fur-bearing animal, as the pelt would be useful, but to kill the innocent birds and the nimble squirrels who are enjoying the life God has given them is criminal folly. It requires no skill in marksmanship to do so. If men or boys wish to try their skill in shooting, and no game birds or animals present themselves, there are plenty of other ways to practice besides shedding innocent blood.

Parents should inculcate in the minds of their children the spirit of kindness and humanity, and they can do it so more effectively than by teaching them lessons of respect for the lives of all God's creatures.

POODLE DOG POLITICS.

The statement conveyed in our dispatches yesterday morning made by Senator Morgan of Alabama, that the strike question in the anthracite region was only "put to sleep," even assuming that the mine operators and mine workers had fully come to an agreement, contains more truth than poetry. What Mr. Morgan evidently means is, that the politicians in congress and the different State legislatures do not intend to let the matter drop. Senator Morgan is a very able man, and seldom talks simply to hear himself talk. There has never been an agitation in labor circles in the United States yet but what it has brought to the surface a lot of cheap politicians who seek to get into office by making the working-man believe that he is trying to do something for his good. They suddenly manifest interest in his welfare, which as suddenly cools after an election is over. Instances could be named by the score to confirm this statement. Other instances could be given of labor leaders coming out of the throes of a labor agitation with well-lined pockets and never more doing hard work. Denis Kearney of San Francisco is one example. The reformer (so-called) will be much in evidence. It need not surprise any to hear him talking on the street corners, as was the case in '96 and '98, blaming everybody for the evils of life but himself. It is probably a little premature for him to begin now, as times are most too good and money too plentiful, but the time will surely come, and we might as well prepare for his coming.

Great economic questions are not discussed and settled in a day, and it is just as well for people to keep their heads and discuss them in the light of reason. Mob violence, vituperation and loud talk will not do it. Neither will they be settled by brainless fools. A congressional election is on in the States, and to secure the control of the next congress is the aim of both parties. It makes no difference to us at this distance which party wins—there are statesmen and high-minded men in both parties, as well as blather-skites and demagogues—but what interests us most is to have the great coal strike settled, and stay settled, that peace may reign and the wheels of business may turn.

We hope the prediction of Senator Morgan may prove to be unfounded, but the keynotes have been sounded by such reformers (?) as David Bennett Hill and William Randolph Hearst in New York, so we can expect a flood of poodle dog politics.

The announcement made in our local columns that coke is forthcoming for the Northport smelter, and that Le Roi's operations will not be interfered with, is reassuring. This is another illustration of how one industry is dependent on another. The mines cannot run without the smelters; the smelters would be idle without the coke ovens; the coke ovens would be useless without coal; coal is dependent on transportation to reach a market, and so we might string it out at indefinite length; all of which shows that it is essential that there should be no break in the cogs. To people living in Rossland it is important to know that the smelter at Northport has plenty of coke.

The announcement is made that the lands of the C. P. R. in Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan, as far west as the fifth meridian, have been increased in price from 50 cents to \$1.50 per acre. Land Commissioner Griffin announces that this advance has been found necessary to prevent all the choicest lands in the Territories falling into the hands of speculators, who have been buying in advance of settlement for the purpose of re-selling at largely increased figures.

MR. TARTE'S RESIGNATION.

The return of Sir Wilfrid Laurier from his continental tour was quickly followed by a demand for Mr. Tarte's resignation as a minister of the crown. According to our dispatches this morning it is quite evident Hon. Mr. Tarte was prepared for the event and quickly resigned his portfolio as minister of public works and adviser of the crown. What the next move will be on the political chess board it is perhaps difficult to conjecture, but as it is Mr. Tarte's move we will not have long to wait, as he is a man of prompt action.

It is quite evident, however, his boast that his recent utterances on the tariff question had the approval of his leader were without foundation or else Sir Wilfrid has had a change of convictions. Mr. Tarte was given an opportunity to recant, but as was to be expected from such an energetic champion of high protection, he chose the path of loyalty to his own convictions rather than that of party exigencies. Whether he can substantiate his claim that he was following the course adopted by the liberal party caucuses previous to the general elections of 1896, wherein, as he says, they entered into an agreement with the manufacturers not to lower the duties, remains to be seen. With the freedom of speech which is now accorded him, however, we may expect to learn something more relative to the subject.

It is a well known fact that Mr. Tarte's genius for organization and his powerful influence in the Province of Quebec were largely responsible for the overwhelming majority secured by the liberals in that province, and it will be interesting to note how many of the cool shades of opposition. It is not to be expected that a man of Mr. Tarte's temperament will quietly submit to his detronement and make no effort to show his power, but rather that he will endeavor to secure the assistance of a number of liberals of like views, and with their united strength bring such pressure upon the government that some concessions will be made in their policy. That he has the sympathy of a number of liberals is shown by the fact that Premier Ross of Ontario in his Stratford speech practically concurred with Mr. Tarte.

In order to demonstrate the popularity of the stand which he has taken Mr. Tarte may resign his seat for St. Mary's riding, Montreal, and contest the constituency against a straight liberal, for it is unlikely the conservatives would place a third candidate in the field. On account of the large manufacturing interests centered there he would most probably be re-elected. The problem of how to overcome this refractory element within the party will be a difficult one for the Liberals to solve.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

A great deal is being said these days about municipal ownership of water works, street railway franchises, etc., as well as government ownership of coal mines, railways and all public utilities. Several of these things have already come about and others may follow, but it will also necessitate some changes in our form of government. Plenty of instances can be named where municipal ownership of public utilities have proven a curse, as instance West Ham, an East End London borough, which boasted at one time of possessing "a genuine communal administration," but after piling up a debt that nearly swamped the taxpayers was only too glad to return to the old methods: Glasgow, on the other hand, seems to be making a great success of municipal ownership. Glasgow's city government, however, is run by level-headed business men on business principles. In other words, it is not in the hands of the mere politician and grafter. In many American and Canadian cities the water works systems have been taken over by the municipalities, and the change as a rule has been for the better.

We present at this time an experiment in socialism taken from the London Times, which might be well for readers to carefully think over during these days when so much is being said along those lines.

"West Ham," says the Times, "includes a number of large dock yards, and Great Eastern railway's car works, and a number of other industries which employ hands by the thousand. It is also the residence of many thousands of the laboring class who work in London, making a population of three hundred thousand in a district extending six miles north from the Thames. The great bulk of the voters are artisans and laborers, while a large part of the taxation falls upon corporations which have no votes. It is undoubtedly to those great industries that the most populous part of the borough owes its existence, seeing that half a century ago it was all marsh. The advent to power of the socialist party was the outcome of the great dock strike of 1890, the strike leaders having, when the strike was over, devoted themselves to the development of unions and socialist societies. In 1892 the socialists were strong enough in the council to advocate radical socialism there and

use the patronage with great effect. It was decided to carry out all public works by the council, no tendering by outside parties being allowed. The result was what 'one of the opposition aldermen called 'the municipalization of laziness,' the men doing, in some cases, as much work in thirty days as they might have done in as many hours. At the end of two years the works, when measured up, were found to have cost some quarter of a million dollars more than they would have cost by contract.

"This showing threw the socialists out for a time, but only to return in much greater strength, and every Tammany ruse would seem to have been indulged in in order to strengthen the party. At least a system of jobbery which is probably without example in the whole of English political life." The socialist leaders pledged all the members on their side of the council to vote in the council strictly in accordance with decisions to be arrived at by the majority of those attending a private meeting of the socialist party to be held before each meeting of the council. This undertaking was made sure by a written resignation deposited with the party managers, to be used should the signer prove unfaithful. This is, at least, a more civilized device than that of the St. Louis gang recently exposed, who were understood to kill any one who proved false to the cabal. This made the caucus the real cabal. The works department was the strength of the machine, all builders, stablesmen, dustmen and scavengers, and so forth, were given an 8-hour day, and about twenty per cent above union rates of pay. In the stable department the men found that, with their shorter hours, they could make, say, only two journeys instead of three, or must take only a half load instead of a full one, so as to get over the ground sooner and be sure to finish the work at the end of their eight hours. When uncertain whether a journey could be done within the allotted period they gave themselves the benefit of the doubt, and did not make it. When with time taken in going to and from work, getting up steam and so on, a costly steam roller worked about five hours a day. These privileged employees were all, of course, nominees of the party managers. They would crowd the 'Strangers' galleries' of the council chamber and encourage or hiss the speakers, according as they favored these privileges. The council as a result, naturally occupied itself more with the dismissal of a stableman or the failure to raise a scavenger's pay half a dollar a week than with the largest public interest. The members of the council were, indeed, largely drawn from this class.

"The theory of the socialists was that the financial burdens would fall on the capitalists. A member, whose attention was drawn to the fact that in the course of the usual turbulent scenes over little matters the council had passed a veto involving the expenditure of nine million pounds, exclaimed, 'We don't care if it was ninety millions.' The working man was assured that it did not matter to him how high the rates were. The landlords were threatened that if they raised their rents their assessments would be increased. Yet the rents had to go up. Employers of labor began to talk of doing with fewer hands or of moving from the borough because they could not bear the burden. The workmen who were not corporation employees, and had to work a full ten-hour day at union wages, did not take the same pleasure in the privileges enjoyed by the favored thirteen or fourteen hundred as these did themselves. Some of them did their best to take it easy, like them, and were saucy when reproved. But those who could do any thinking saw that the fault lay not with their employers, but with the borough government. The upshot of it all was that the rule of socialism was last year defeated at the polls, leaving the rates increased from twenty-nine cents on the dollar of annual value, which was surely high enough, to fifty-one cents on the dollar. Some industries had gone and others had shrunk, and the Great Eastern railway was on the point of removing its whole works. On the other hand the borough finds itself possessed of public buildings and embarked on enterprises which might suit the wealth of Liverpool, Manchester or Glasgow, but very ill adapted to a suburban municipality inhabited only by working men upon whom in the last analysis the burden of these improvements must fall. The present majority in the council is pledged to economy and common sense, but it is calculated that it will take the borough at least ten years to recover from the financial condition into which it has fallen as the result of three years of socialist excesses, and the rates will have to go up at least twelve shillings in the pound, that is, sixty cents on the dollar, before they begin to fall."

Thanksgiving in Rossland was generally observed. Roast turkey with cranberry sauce was greatly in evidence.

HIGH GRADE IN

A new stope opened up in the L...

ture is covered in for September...

gross of work to mine, and which...

"There is no levels since the Good progress is...

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stope between the producing high...

which is greater new stope, which the extreme...

Mulligan, is turning averaging over work is being of the Miller and...

the 7th and 5th will be profitable nage of high grade level driving the north vein...

plings on the surface. From the drill hole to the for the purpose vein."

BOUNDARY

Wild Horse brated for its ple is supposed to be quartz veins which creek and its tribut working on place...

opment of the qu the miners reput old creek for man Steele Prospector.

BOUNDARY

Granby Mines, Ph Snowshoe, Phenoi Mother Lode, Dea Sunset, Deadwood B. C. Mine, Summa Emma, Summit...

Total tons... —Phoenix

ORE SH

The shipments for the past week

Rambler to Frisco Ruth to Nelson... Sunset to Trail... American Boy to Wonderful to Nel Silver Glance to Silver Boy to Nelson Bismarck to Nelson

MACHINERY B

Enough Work for Will Increase Th

The mines about employment to mo fore in the camps as if the number w ed much during the L. will increase th soon as the compr ed. That will be force of men are Parisian, filling a thousand cords of v ning the compress is in first class shi ore during the win

The splendid we fortnight has been to the people who tram to the Silver good weather conti completed sooner t

The Truene tram and ready for wor inst, and it will be down ore immedi the management of other shimen be regularly from the the mine is about o and when this is fresh stores will be insured a cons for some time to care being built fo there will be no de together the Truene desirable place to —Lardeau Eagle.

SURVEYED MO

At the Hotel Van R. G. McConnell of the ment geologists have been absent all su

They were engaged McMillan river, on ches of the Pelly ri the Yukon. The p of four surveyors June and since the getting a complex stream and the ad McConnell reports b during all the time they were only ab

That there had through that reme them they found a although they prop lous creeks over w they did not find a dications of gold, b some colors in mo

The upper reache found to be rather lower part of the plentiful, and a nu were met who pas hunting and trappi in prospecting. Ma cipal fur, although of grizzly bear. A latter was killed d during the trip ad struggle. The men leave for Ottawa ver Province.