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KOOTENAIANS AROUSED

Southeastern B. C. Hot After Messrs. Wells and Eberts.

The East Kootenay Oil and Coal Reserve the Turning Point.

REVELSTOKE, Feb. 26.—Judging from the free expression of opinion by local residents, as well as the sentiment gathered from those who pass through here on their way to and from the Kootenays, the Prior government is not so popular as the gallant Colonel might desire.

The impression is abroad that Premier Prior, in his anxiety to head an administration, has reckoned without his host. Instead of looking instantly to the pressing needs of those individuals who are trying to make an honest dollar in British Columbia, he seems to have turned mainly to the railway interests, and there is not lacking good reason to suppose that he will continue to do this so long as he remains in power.

The voters are asking several pertinent questions concerning Colonel Prior and his ministerial associates. Chief among these is: Why did he allow Eberts and Wells to continue to hold their portfolios, when they are so notoriously controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway company? Colonel Prior should know, if he knows anything, that a very large majority of the public, especially the electors of the Mainland, will have absolutely nothing to do with either of these men so long as they continue to wreck individual enterprise for the benefit of the C. P. R. It is all very fine for Mr. Eberts to splutter, as he did recently when on the stump, but the fact remains that he has for years past been one of a clique at Victoria that has gratuitously bestowed upon the big railway millions of acres of the finest lands in British Columbia. He has seen also largely instrumental in the expenditure of the people's railways in various parts of the province that have been ever since operated for the particular benefit of his master, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy.

It is nothing short of astonishing that the attorney-general has been able to bring the matter in the legislature; but it is reasonably certain that he will not continue to do so after the next general election. Your correspondent has it on good authority that unless Mr. Eberts quickly sees the error of his ways some of the staunchest and most influential supporters of Hon. J. H. Turner and the late Hon. Theodore Davis, tried beyond all endurance, will travel from the Kootenays to the coast and leave no stone unturned to revenge themselves for the many outrages that the attorney-general has perpetrated upon this long suffering Upper Country.

And what a story they will have to tell! The Shuswap and Okanagan scandal; the Nakusp and Slokan fraud; the Columbia and Kootenay theft; the Columbia and Western grab; the British Columbia Southern outrage—all for the benefit of the C. P. R. and nothing for the individuals who are ready and willing to develop to a taxable condition the magnificent mineral resources of the southeastern districts of the province.

But all this is an ancient history compared with the vital questions that affect the hopes and prosperity of Kootenaians today. Conjointly with Mr. Eberts, Mr. Wells, the only cabinet minister representing this section of the province, has, it seems, religiously set himself to give the railways more, more, more! The mining camps of South Yale are to be denied competitive railways, simply because they refuse to advance money to a J. M. Logan, a lady who has done much in encouraging local dramatic in this city. Since coming here Fitz-Patrick has established an excellent reputation by her able management of amateur theatricals. In the hold of this year's St. Patrick's entertainment Mrs. Fitz-Patrick and the ladies of the Catholic church decided to produce "Sweet Laven." The play is one that abounds in pathos and has an interplot running throughout. An excellent cast has been made for the present outlook an excellent performance may be looked for.

WORKING THE O. K.

Miners Take a Lease on the Well Known Free Gold Property.

The O. K. mine is being worked again. A lease has been taken by several parties who believe that the free gold veins that paid so well a few years ago are not exhausted and that careful exploration will pick up the ore body at a comparatively early date.

Confident of securing good results for the investment of time and money, the lessees are now at work on the property. Development is being carried ahead steadily, and when milling ore of the requisite value is encountered the mill will be started. Those who profess to know the characteristics of the properties in the O. K. section assert that there is a bright outlook for as remunerative mining at the O. K. in the future as was ever done in the past. The ground is inclined to be faulty, and this discouraged the proprietary company after it had taken out considerably more money than was invested.

A BOUNDARY DEAL

THE MORRISON AND ATHELSTAN MINE COMPANIES JOIN FORCES.

A VERY LOW FREIGHT AND TREATMENT RATE IS SECURED.

GRAND FORKS, Feb. 26.—One of the biggest mining deals effected in the Boundary district for several years has just been accomplished by the consolidation of the Morrison Mines, Limited, owning the Morrison mine in Deadwood camp, and the Athelstan mine in Wellington camp, owned by the Athelstan Gold and Copper Mining Company, Limited. A joint meeting of the shareholders of both companies for the purpose of ratifying the terms will be held here on March 23 next.

The Athelstan company will go out of existence, its property passing into the possession of the Morrison company. The latter is incorporated for \$150,000 in shares of the par value of 10 cents each, and the Athelstan has a capital stock of \$50,000, or one million shares of the par value of five cents each. According to the terms of the deal the shareholders of the Athelstan will receive shares on a certain basis in the consolidated company. The capital stock will remain at \$150,000, or one and one-half million shares of the par value of 10 cents each. No difficulty will be experienced in allotting stock in the new company, as the old Morrison company has nearly 700,000 shares intact in its treasury.

Development work on both properties will be started shortly. Fred H. Oliver of Spokane, general manager of the Morrison company, recently entered into a contract to supply the Boundary Falls smelter with an initial tonnage of 50,000 tons per annum. The freight and treatment rate will be only \$1.75 per ton, probably the lowest figure ever quoted in the Boundary district. The contract throws a new light on the question of the remarkable cheapness of smelting low grade ores. A railway spur is to be extended to the Morrison mine by the C. P. R. The Athelstan mine shipped about 1000 tons of ore to the Trail smelter several years ago. Its stock is very largely held in the Eastern Townships, Quebec.

The Humming Bird mine, on the North Fork of Kettle river, has resumed ore shipments to the Granby smelter.

LEAD CLIMBS UP.

The Price Shows a Marked Advance on London Market.

A comparison of yesterday's metal market report on lead with that of the preceding day will show a rise in twenty-four hours of no less than four shillings per ton on the London market. Such an increase is phenomenal, and demonstrates that something of a revolution is occurring in connection with the lead market.

Lead on the London market is rapidly climbing to the £13 mark, and the fact is gratifying in view of the statement by the management of the St. Eugene mine that they will resume shipments when they can dispose of their product on a basis of £13. The St. Eugene is frequently quoted as the bell wether of Kootenay lead mines. With such remarkable increases as have been chronicled during the past few days the juncture is rapidly approaching when Kootenay lead producers will obtain \$2 net for their product. The producers maintain stoutly that if the federal government comes to their assistance in the matter of proper protection, the industry will immediately be placed on a sound basis, scores of mines will be reopened and thousands of men employed where hundreds are engaged under present conditions. With \$3.50 for Canadian lead on the home market and \$2 net on the world's market, an average can be attained that will justify the lead mines resuming in full swing throughout the province.

CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, March 3.—The Pope's jubilee was observed at St. Patrick's cathedral here today with a solemn pontifical mass of thanksgiving celebrated by Archbishop Falconi, apostolic delegate to the United States, assisted by Mr. Mooney, the vicar general, and other priests. Archbishop Farley, Archbishop-elect Quigley of Chicago, six bishops and other church dignitaries were grouped at each side of the altar.

WEEK'S WORK IN THE MINES

The Output Reaches an Unusually Large Total.

Coke Trouble Now Beginning to Affect the Shipments.

The ore shipments for the week ending last week were somewhat in excess of the preceding week, and reached the 8,000 ton mark. The increase is largely due to a jump in the output of the Le Roi mine. The mine closes the month with a record of over 1,000 dry tons total than has been attained for several months past.

Generally speaking conditions have been unaltered during the week. The confirmation of the Le Roi No. 2's proposal to erect a fifty ton concentrator as soon as weather conditions permit has been received with gratification, and the sentiment that the coal miners' strike cannot last much longer is also having the effect of brightening the outlook. Because of the coke shortage the Northport smelter has been unable to handle the volume of ore intended to be shipped after the first of the present year, but it is on the cards that should coke be forthcoming, the mine will substantially raise its daily output, with consequent good results in the direction of increasing the crew here and at the smelter.

Shipments from the War Eagle and Centre Star mines have been affected by the partial suspension at the Trail smelter. No second class ore is now shipped, and the weekly tonnage is substantially lower as a result. In other respects matters are going ahead as usual.

THE OUTPUT.

Shipments from the Rossland camp for the week ending February 28 and for the year to date are as follows:

Week Year.	Year.
Le Roi	4983 32,739
Centre Star	1260 15,439
War Eagle	1080 9,035
Velvet	325
Kootenay	175 1,391
Le Roi No. 2	630 2,739
Homestake	90
Totals	8128 60,044

AMONG THE MINES.

LE ROI NO. 2.—Further progress has been made with the development and exploration work under way in the mine during the week. At the Josie the drifting on the 500 and 900 foot levels has been continued steadily with excellent results. Some slight increases have been made in the force, which now numbers over sixty men. At the No. 1 mine one shift alone is at work. Frank French is in charge of the work, and stopping is steadily under way in connection with the development. A total of about 30 men are at work in the two mines.

LE ROI.—With the exception of the unusual activity in shipping, the week passed without special incident at the mine. Something like 2,000 tons extra was sent to Northport for the purpose of bringing the month's output up to the standard. In connection with development the usual program has been carried ahead. On the 1350 level drifts are under way for the purpose of undercutting ore bodies occurring on the upper levels. The diamond drilling exploration has been transferred to the 500 foot level, and the cores are being taken out to the south.

WAR EAGLE.—Operations at the War Eagle have proceeded as usual during the week. In the lower levels the ore bodies on the eighth level are being opened up by drifts and crosscuts and diamond drill prospecting is being carried on in the ninth and tenth levels. Less second class ore is being broken in the stopes for reasons already mentioned.

CENTRE STAR.—Nothing of importance has been divulged during the week with respect to the Centre Star. The eastern extensions of the mine are making more water than ever before, the presumption being that seepage from the big column of water in the Nickel Plate workings is seeping through the more porous strata of rock. The nearest Centre Star workings are separated from the Nickel Plate by 400 to 500 feet of rock, and the powerful pumps recently installed at the headworks have no difficulty in handling all the water coming in. Operations in stope and development have been along conventional lines.

KOOTENAY.—The record of the mine last week was along the same lines that have ruled for several weeks. On the sixth level the horizontal workings are being extended along the ore bodies, and on the third level the stopes are being prepared for shipping if this policy is decided upon.

VELVET.—At the Velvet the week has seen substantial progress made in the direction of crosscutting the ore body on the third and fifth levels. Stopping is under way in the three stopes of the first level, and the mine is shipping from 20 to 30 tons of high grade ore daily to the Northport smelter. No second class ore is being shipped pending the resumption of smelting operations at the Northport smelter.

CONTACT.—The week has seen an advance made at the mine, which is

still the only property in active operation at Burnt Basin. Only a small crew is employed at the present time, and progress is comparatively slow. When the company is enabled to put into effect its program of development on a much larger scale—and the construction of a wagon road is essential to the inauguration of this work—the situation will be materially altered.

WHITE BEAR.—The nine hundred level having been reached in the White Bear the events of the next few weeks may be regarded as of special interest in connection with the property. Drifts have been turned out to cut the ore bodies that were located on the 700, although somewhat disturbed at that level.

GREEN MOUNTAIN.—Diamond drilling is being carried along steadily at the mine. The date of the return from New York of Manager Lawry Stopping has been announced as yet.

NEW FOREMAN.—General Manager Gray of the Velvet mine announces that he has appointed J. C. Murphy as foreman of the mine. Mr. Murphy has already assumed office.

LIGHT DARK PLACES

WILLIAM THOMPSON THREW SOME LIGHT ON NO. 2 MATTERS.

SHOWED WHERE LOCAL MANAGEMENT WAS MISREPRESENTED.

Commenting on the annual meeting of the Le Roi No. 2 company in London on Feb. 12, the Financial Times says: Today's meeting of the Le Roi No. 2 will prove of additional interest to shareholders by reason of the fact that Mr. William Thompson, late general superintendent of the mine, intends to be present. Mr. Thompson, as we announced the other day, has just been appointed manager of the Rossland-Kootenay company, in which connection he has visited Rossland, and he has delayed his return to London for the purpose of meeting Le Roi No. 2 shareholders. In the letter from him we publish in this issue, Mr. Thompson supplies the first public announcement of an interesting fact in relation to the question of the ore reserves which led to the termination of Messrs. Bernard Macdonald's and Thompson's agreements by the directors. It appears that the calculations of ore in sight circulated by the board among shareholders in August last were merely abstracts from a voluminous report made by Mr. Bernard Macdonald on the mine. The figures were prepared in the full report by paragraphs dealing with the geological disturbances and erratic character of the ore occurrence, leading to the conclusion that "while these conditions are to be expected as natural to ore bodies of the character described, they make it impossible to make an accurate calculation of the grade and tonnage of any block of ore of considerable size. In view of this condition I wish to particularly call your attention to the fact that the calculations made under this heading, given on the following pages, are made as if each block of ore over the stopes would be homogeneous in character with that showing in the backs of the producing stopes." While the mine was being sampled for this report the dyke disturbances in the main vein first appeared, but the grade of ore temporarily recovering, the report was forwarded as originally drawn up, the covering letter, however, again pointing out the possibility that the calculations "would be modified to the extent that similar disturbances would interfere with the grade and tonnage of the ore bodies." Unfortunately Mr. Macdonald's more pessimistic views were fully justified by the event, and the calculations along given to shareholders were completely invalidated. The directors have tried to clear themselves of responsibility by throwing the onus of the bad returns and the consequent shutting down of the mine on their Rossland managers, but from the above it would appear that the former were all the time placed in possession of the possibilities. In a leaderette in our issue of 31st October last, commenting on the directors' decision not to renew Messrs. Macdonald and Thompson's agreements, we said: "It is natural to assume that something is known that has not been divulged." It is to be hoped that shareholders will at last be able to elicit at today's meeting the full truth as to the present position and the new manager's disinclination to estimate the ore reserves.

FUN AT THE RINK.

Program of Sports Went off Smoothly and Entertained Many Spectators.

The program of sports at the skating rink last night attracted many spectators and afforded much amusement. The events on the list were well contested and the novelties were most amusing.

The winners in the various events were as follows: Barrel race, H. McLeod; egg race for girls, Sarah Lee; potato race, Jack Donahue; backward race, Charles Sangster; wild goose chase, Sam Stannaway; six-lap speed race, Jack Donahue; girl's and boy's team race, Eva Hoskins and Edgar Stannaway.

A. W. Strickland officiated as judge of the events.

METAL MARKETS.

LONDON, March 3.—Lead £12 7/8. 6d. NEW YORK, March 3.—Bar silver 48 1/4; Amalgamated copper 72 3/4.

AT THE O. K.

Slope of 315 Ore is Being Attacked—Only a Couple of Men at Work.

The lease on the O. K. property is controlled by Superintendent Worsom, formerly of the I. X. L. mine, which adjoins. Mr. Worsom is thoroughly familiar with the ground and the characteristics of the quartz veins that have yielded so richly in the past. He believes that another of the high grade ore shoots can be picked up, and that, falling this, he can realize good results from the lower grade shoots already blocked out.

Stopping is under way on an ore shoot known to be about 100 feet long with a two-foot paystreak of about 315 ore. It is not known yet whether or not the mill will be started up. The alternative is to ship the product to a smelter. Stopping has been under way for several weeks and a considerable amount of ore has been broken down.

WHITE BEAR'S LUCK

GOOD COPPER ORE ENCOUNTERED ON NINE HUNDRED-FOOT LEVEL.

PROSPECTS FOR THE MINE OUTLINED BY BERNARD MACDONALD.

Encouraging results have already been obtained in the White Bear lower workings. The drift started from the 900-foot station broke into a body of good copper ore a few days since, and it was this strike that brought Bernard Macdonald, E. M., to the city last week. Mr. Macdonald has been consulting engineer for the property for some months, and it was deemed advisable that he should see the conditions existing in the lower level where the ore body was encountered. The statement is made that the ore encountered is very similar to that located in a somewhat disturbed condition on the 700-foot level. A five-ton shipment of this ore was sent to the Northport smelter and proved to carry copper values in the neighborhood of 12 per cent. The gold contents were comparatively low.

Mr. Macdonald is quoted in connection with the White Bear as stating that the mine possesses one ledge of very unusual dimensions. He is said to have explained that the Centre Star, Le Roi and Black Bear veins in their westerly continuation passed through the White Bear territory and that the 250 feet of country rock which separates the veins named within the Le Roi ground have been mineralized within the White Bear ground, which accounts for the extensive deposits of ore developed on the 700-foot level, making a deposit of very unusual dimensions. In other words, according to the directors' statement, the union of the veins in White Bear ground has been proved to be about 600 feet wide. This one unit vein runs from northeast to southwest. Mr. Macdonald is further quoted as stating that while no mining engineer can certify as to any ore body below the level actually opened up, which is the 700-foot level on the White Bear, he had not the slightest doubt but that at worst the same condition would be found in the next level, and he said that in his opinion large shoots of rich ore would also be found on the next level.

ORE IS IN RIBBONS

PECULIARITY OF PROPERTIES IN THE MEYERS FALLS SECTION.

RUPERT BULMER TALKS ABOUT THE HIGH GRADE ORE AND SMALL VEINS.

Little or nothing is heard in this section of the mines in the vicinity of Meyers Falls, Wash., although they are comparatively close to the Rossland camp. The principal properties in the vicinity of the Falls are the Mingo, operated by California capital, and the Cougar, owned and operated by New York people. The shares in both concerns are valuable, particularly those of the Cougar, which are at a premium in New York.

Rupert Bulmer, the well known miner, has just returned from Meyers Falls, where he was engaged for some time at the Cougar mine. He states that it has an extremely narrow vein, never more than six inches of payable mineral, which is probably four inches of mineral. While the ore is narrow it carries high values, assays of \$200 to \$1000 per ton having been had. On the strength of these assays the price of the shares has risen to figures that are scarcely justified by the results secured to date. About ten men are employed at the mine, which is located a mile and a half from Meyers Falls station.

Across the river is the Mingo property, a lead proposition. It also possesses a narrow lead carrying high values. Should the lead widen out the property will undoubtedly be a rich producer, but it seems to be characteristic of the country that the veins are extremely narrow and but little hope is felt that the ore body will widen. Throughout the section ribbons of high grade ore have been located, but none of them have yet developed into what may be properly termed a mine.

THE SPRING BRINGS MILLS

Le Roi No. 2's Concentrator Site Purchased--Surveyed.

Building Weather Will Soon Be Here--Two New Mills.

Continued warm weather and the evidence that a comparatively short time will see spring in full swing and building operations practicable, brings the inauguration of concentrating operations in the Rossland camp within measurable distance. It is freely predicted that six weeks at the outside will see two mills under construction, and it is generally agreed that this will open a new era in the records of the Golden City.

So far as is known at this date, the Le Roi No. 2 company will be the first in the field with a new building, inasmuch as the War Eagle and Centre Star companies have their experimental plant at Silica, where it has been in operation for six months almost continuously. Therefore the companies are in the same position with respect to their milling experiments that the Le Roi No. 2 will occupy four months after the latter company's projected experimental plant is completed.

The Le Roi No. 2's concentrator is to be built on a piece of ground just purchased from the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railroad company and located to the west of the Josie claim on Annie ground. The site covers the bottom of the gulch through which the Josie tramway runs, and extends south to the Black Bear line, across the first railroad spur. This site has just been purchased, and the Nelson & Fort Sheppard people have made the surveys by their engineer, Henry B. Smith, who completed the work yesterday.

It is understood that the machinery necessary for the plant has been ordered, and that delivery is expected at a comparatively early date. As stated at the annual meeting of the company, the preliminary experiments were so satisfactory as to justify the directors in giving instructions for the construction of a fifty ton mill. The directors' report as already published, continues:

"Should this prove successful the intention is to increase the plant to such a capacity as can deal with the entire output of the mine. The effect of the process, roughly speaking, is to concentrate the mineral contents of ores which are of too low a grade to show a profit on smelting charges. Thus on 6 tons of crude ore producing, say, 1 ton of concentrates, the smelting charge (according to the present rates) would be \$8 instead of \$48. There is no doubt, however, that better terms than the present can be made for the smelting of concentrates, as these are a desirable acquisition to any smelter. By the new process, too, the cost of piling will be considerably reduced, as the necessity for hand picking and sorting will no longer exist, all ore going through just as it comes out of the mine. A certain amount of high grade ore is at present being shipped to the Northport smelter, but till, by the new arrangement, the straightforward stopping of all ore (high and low grade) becomes practicable, much of the high grade ore in the mine would be too expensive to handle."

In connection with the projected War Eagle and Centre Star mill it must be borne in mind that an experimental plant crushing approximately ten tons per day has been in operation at Silica for some months, and that the contemplated new works will not be on an experimental but on a commercial scale. Consequently the works will be of considerably more importance on the start than the smaller plant now ordered by the No. 2 company. It is quietly intimated that the men in the building trades to construct the works are on the ground and that the materials and machinery are ordered and well on the way to completion.

FROM RAMBLER-CARIBOO.

Development Work Under Way Steadily—Ore Shipments Restricted.

Reports from the Rambler-Cariboo mine are to the effect that excellent progress is being made with the development work in the mine. A total of 45 men are engaged at the property of whom eight are engaged in stopping ore. The statement is made that these men take out sufficient ore to pay all the operating expenses of the property.

The balance of thirty-seven men are engaged in development. Two new levels are being driven into the hill on the sixth and eighth levels respectively. The main shaft is being carried down to intersect the horizontal workings now under way. The face of the lower tunnel has attained a depth of 1,000 feet, and is gaining rapidly. It is estimated that when the lower tunnel crosscuts the vein a vertical depth of 1200 feet will have been secured. The ultimate design is to open up two known ore bodies that have not yet been developed. The mill at the property is not being operated, and no steps are likely to be taken in this direction until the snow commences going off and replenishes the stream from which water is derived.