SUSPEND THE RULES

Government Will Rush the Incorporation of Rossland and Nelson.

GRAND FORKS NOT SURE

Amendments to the Companies Act—To Prevent Sales Like the War Eagle and Require Annual Statements—An Export Duty On Ore.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 17.—[Special]—A delegation consisting of Robert Scott and A. H. McNeill of Rossland; John Houston, John Elliott and W. A. Jowett, of Nelson, accompanied by Speaker Higgins and J. M. Kellie, M.P.P., called on the attorney general yesterday in reference to the bills for the incorporation of Rossland, Nelson and Grand Forks. The Nelson and Grand Forks people have agreed to the provisions of the Rossland bill, and one uniform measure will be brought in for all three places.

The delegation went over the whole situation very carefully with the attorney general and left him with a perfect understanding. He is to have a draft of the measure ready tomorrow, when it is to be introduced by the government and put through in the shortest possible time. A motion will be made to suspend the rules and consider the measure in committee of the whole. In this way it is hoped the bill may get through in a few days.

There will be opposition to the incorporation of Grand Forks. The owners of some land to be included object to coming in. John Manley and others interested in the bill should come here and look after it, otherwise it may fail altogether.

Opposition to the Measure.

Mr. Helmcken, in the session this afternoon, asked if it were true as reported in THE ROSSLAND MINER, a copy of which he held, that the government proposed to bring in a bill for the incorporation of Rossland and other towns, and if so, what was the reason for it. Attorney General Eberts made a clear and satisfactory statement in reply, urging the necessity for immediate provision for sewerage and the necessary fire apparatus. Some objection was made by Mr. Semlin, the leader of the opposition, but I do not think either he or Helmcken means to make any determined fight against the bill. It is proper that the people of Rossland, Nelson and Grand Forks should know that Speaker Higgins is giving valuable assistance in securing prompt and favorable action in these bills.

Companies Act Amendments.

The bill amending the companies act and aimed directly at mining corporations introduced by the government makes some sweeping changes. Clause 20 reads: "No company formed under this act shall commence business unless ten per cent of its capital stock shall be paid up in cash, exclusive of any amount payable otherwise than in cash, and there has been filed with the registrar a statutory declaration by the secretary or one of the directors that the above condition has been complied with."

This will meet with strong opposition. While the present system of floating companies has given rise to some abuse, yet the general result has been an immense gain to the country at large and to the mining industry in particular.

To Regulate Foreign Companies.

An important amendment to clause 107 is that: "No act, matter, disposition or thing made, done or executed by a foreign company, although valid by the laws of said foreign country or state under which it is incorporated, or permissable under its original corporate powers, shall be of any force or effect unless such act, matter, disposition or thing be within the rights, powers and privileges, and according to the manner exercisable by companies under this act." This is said to be have been aimed to cover such cases as the War Eagle.

Safeguards For Investors.

Another provision is that every foreign company shall have a registered office in British Columbia and shall register the name of its agent or manager. All companies will be compelled to prepare a balance sheet once a year showing receipts and expenditures for the year previous and this balance sheet shall be printed. These balance sheets are to be very complete in detail.

The new rate of charges for registering companies will be one-tenth of one per cent on capitalization. Prospectuses are to be prepared with much greater care and detail than heretofore and there is a severe penalty for any false representations or deception.

Croasdaile's Circular Letter.

The circular letter addressed to mine owners, published in THE WEEKLY MINER, received yesterday, has excited much attention and was brought up in the session today on a question of privilege by Mr. Helmcken. The attorney-general was asked if the statements in the letter were true. He replied that he would look into the matter and reply as soon as possible.

An Export Duty On Ores.

Mr. Adams, of Cariboo, has introduced a motion, which comes up for debate tomorrow, that the Dominion parliament be asked to place an export duty on ores. This is the result of the strong undercurrent of sentiment here for some days. The motion of Adams is based on the ground that such a duty will compel the smelting of British Columbia ores in British Columbia, or at least on this side of the line, and give the province or the dominion the full benefit of the mining industry.

Geo. B. Macaulay, secretary of the Cariboo company of Camp McKinney, is here taking strong ground in his conversations with members in favor of some such measure of this kind. He says it will result not only in bringing a large smelting industry to British Columbia, but a mint as well and the manufacture of white lead. At present all the gold and silver coins used in Canada are minted in England or the United States.

Mr. Hirschel Cohen's arguments in favor of cutting loose from American smelters are having much influence with the members. The government is expected to announce its position when the matter comes up under the motion of Adams tomorrow.

Sir Charles Ross' Return.

Sir Chas. Ross, Bart, is to arrive in Rossland Thursday evening and will probably come to Victoria in a few days, as he is interested with Mr. Durant and others of the Centre Star mine in a very important measure providing for the bringing of electric power from Sheep Creek falls to some point near Rossland to be used in a large plant for the reduction of Centre Star ore.

Gold Strike In Texada Island.

E. Blewett, of Boundary, left here today for Texada island, 160 miles north, where a great strike of rich copper and gold ore has been made on two claims in which he is the principal owner. The ore body is ten feet wide and looks much like the best ore at Rossland.

J. R. R.

THE MINERAL OUTPUT.

West Kootenay Produced $4,002,735 Last Year—The Province $7,146,000.

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—[Special.]—A return has been brought down showing the value of the mineral output of British Columbia for a number of years. There has been a steady increase from 1890, when the product was worth $2,668,000, to 1896, when the product was worth $7,146,000. The entire mineral output is shown to be worth $100,931,000.

The output of the various districts for the past two years is shown to be as follows:

	1895.	1896.
Cariboo	$ 282,000	$ 384,050
Cassiar	22,575	21,000
Kootenay East	17,575	154,427
Lillooet	40,663	33,665
Yale	241,581	206,078
Kootenay West	2,223,206	4,002,735
Other districts	10,000	15,000
Total	$2,834,000	$4 816,955
Placer gold	$ 481,683	$ 544,026

In 1887 the product of lode mines was $17,331 and in 1896 it had increased to $4,257,176. From 1887 to 1896 the output of silver, gold, copper and lead was from lode mines $8,067,322. In 1896 the output of coal was 846,235 tons, valued at $2,327,145.

SOONERS ARE POURING IN

South Half of Colville Reservation Will Soon Be Overrun.

Indian Agent Says He Will Drive Them Off—Much Excitement in the Big Bend Country.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 16.—[Special.]—From Almira, Wilbur and other points along the Central Washington railway, come reports today that the greatest excitement prevails over the expected opening of the south half of the Colville Indian reservation to mineral locations. Many of the residents of these towns have years ago made secret locations of valuable mineral claims on the reserve and fearing that some one would get in ahead of them have for several days past been quietly slipping into the forbidden land and are now guarding their locations. Many are armed and prepared to protect their claims with force if necessary.

The fact becoming known that many "sooners" have gone on to the reservation during the last two days has caused a wild rush to be made by hundreds of others to cross over into the forbidden land. The broad waters of the Columbia river form the southern border of the reservation and the main crossing of the river is the ferry at Sans Poil trail, about 12 miles from Wilbur. Mr. Kelly, one of the owners of this ferry, was in the city yesterday, and informed THE MINER'S correspondent that for several days past the ferry has been kept busy carrying gold seekers into the reservation.

Before leaving for home this morning Mr. Kelly received a telegram from his partner inquiring if it was legal to go on the reserve yet, and asking if it was to wire him to that effect, as he wanted to locate a number of claims himself.

Indian Agent Newman, who has been in Spokane for the past week, has been apprised of the rush now being made into the reservation and this morning left for the scene. He was questioned as to what his intentions were regarding the "sooners." He said: "I propose to drive every one off the reservation who has gone in there without authority or right and will keep them off until such time as the reservation is opened. No, I do not anticipate any serious trouble in clearing the reservation of trespassers, but if it becomes necessary to use force it will be done, you may be sure, as I am determined that the history of the opening of the north half of the reservation shall not be repeated."

TO WORK THE IRON DUKE.

Claim Said to Be Near the Deer Park Sold in Spokane.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 16.—[Special.]—A deal has just been closed by which the Iron Duke mineral claim passes into the hands of a gold mining and development company of this city. The company has been incorporated with M. J. Burns, of Rossland; J. M. Reynolds, of Kettle Falls; Thomas Donnelly, of Spokane; E. Kasch, of Anaconda, and H. N. Lilenthal, of Spokane, as trustees.

The Iron Duke is situated on the Deer Park mountain and near the Deer Park mine. Mr. Burns leaves for Rossland early next week where he goes to superintend the work soon to begin on the claim. As soon as the bunk houses and a blacksmith shop are erected two shifts will be put to work developing the property.

TRAIL-ROBSON RAILWAY.

Upwards of 200 Men Now at Work—Good Progress Being Made.

Work on the new standard guage railway from Trail to Robson is now well under way. The contractors have work started at convenient points all along the line and upwards of 200 men are employed. It is not believed now that the road will be ready for operation before July 1, though an effort will be made to have trains running some time during June.

A WELCOME CHANGE

Our Provincial Parliament Compares Well With American Legislatures.

MEMBERS MEAN BUSINESS

No Attempt at Oratory—Spreadeagleism at a Discount—Higher Sense of Official Dignity Manifested — Capitol Built Without a Scandal.

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—[Special Correspondence.]—A personal acquaintance with the members of the provincial government and with the methods and members of the legislative assembly, now in session, has a tendency to give one a favorable impression, not so much because of any startling ability or brilliancy in any particular direction, but because of an evident honesty and sincerity of purpose and patient, painstaking industry. I have not heard a particle of oratory since the session opened, in the sense of oratory as it is understood on the American side.

The debate, which opened on the address Wednesday afternoon, was characterized by nothing of an eruptive or startling character, such as can be heard in the Washington state legislature any day. Everything moves along very evenly and placidly. The speeches were delivered in a sort of conversational style, with no effort whatever at display of any kind, the sole purpose apparently being to get certain ideas before the house in a thoroughly businesslike manner.

Spreadeagleism seems to have no place here at all, and there is very little appeal to mere party pride or prejudice. There seems to be a most complete independence of thought and action, and this is very agreeable after one has been accustomed to the political bombast heard in the United States congress and in the legislatures of all the individual states.

Two Legislatures Compared.

The people of our neighboring state of Washington might learn some useful lessons from the methods of legislation and government in British Columbia. They may have more orators in the legislative assembly now in session at Olympia, the Washington state capital, than there are in the British Columbia parliament now convened here, but they also have more scandals.

Whatever the shortcomings of the government and legislature of British Columbia may be, the charge of jobbery, bribery or corruption in any form has found no lodging place. Having on my way here passed through Spokane and Seattle, and having observed that the newspapers of both these cities were loaded down to the guards with stories of corruption at Olympia, it is a positive relief to come here and find at this neighboring capital the atmosphere free of this moral leprosy.

No Boodling at Victoria.

I do not hesitate for one moment to say I believe there is a much higher sense of official dignity and honor on this side of the line than there is on the other side and there could not well be a more striking illustration of the truth of this statement than the fact that there is just being completed under government supervision here a new capitol building for British Columbia, a splendid structure, with not a breath of suspicion that any member of the government or legislature has made a dollar out of it improperly. With an expenditure of three-quarters of a million dollars there has never been any charge of the misappropriation of a cent.

Of course there are dishonest men in British Columbia as well as in other countries, but there is a sense of official honor and decorum here which one fails to discover in other places not a thousand miles distant, and if the people who live in some of these other places were to come over here and take a few lessons they might learn something to their advantage.

J. R. R.

NEW FREIGHT SCHEDULE.

C. P. R. Cuts Rates On Hay and Grain From Northern Points.

Trail Has a Squatters' Affair of Its Own — Gulch Residents Want Heinze's Title Set Aside.

TRAIL, Feb. 16.—[Special.]—The C. P. R. announced today a new tariff on hay, grain and oats from Alberta and other parts of the Northwest Territory, giving a reduction of about 20 per cent. From Calgary to Trail the new rate will be 30 cents instead of 50 cents per cwt., or $4 per ton; from Edmonton and McLeod to Trail, 35 cents; from Shuswap, Vernon and Salmon Arm to Trail, 25 cents; from Ashcroft, Kamloops and Savona's to Trail, 30 cents; from Vancouver, 35 cents. Rates on the Columbia & Western are 20 cents per cwt.

The settlers in Trail Creek gulch held a meeting last night, and raised a fund to send a delegate to Victoria to secure, if possible, title to the land on which their houses are located. There are about 150 squatters and many more are coming in. The land is included in the grant to the Columbia & Western, but the settlers will endeavor to secure it.

Ole Olson sold a claim yesterday and proceeded to celebrate, with the result that he engaged in a quarrel and came out more dead than alive.

John McNeil was fined $20 and costs today and Joe Cooper was given 30 days in jail for assault.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Location Line Must Be Along the Course of the Vein.

Mr. Justice McCreight has handed down a decision in the case of the Red Oak and Back Pay case. The Red Oak was a relocation of an old claim and was staked a year from the day of the location instead of the day of record. The Back Pay contested their location on this ground, and would, of course, have won had not the Red Oak people been able to prove the previous location invalid for some reason. They attacked its validity on the ground that its location line was at right angles to the course of the vein instead of along it as prescribed in the mineral act. This defect Justice McCreight held to be fatal, and consequently decided the Red Oak to be a valid location.

Curious Blood Poisoning.

C. C. Carruthers was for some time engaged in loading ore into the cars at the Le Roi mine. Nearly six weeks ago he cut his finger with a piece of rock and blood poisoning ensued, rendering his arm useless. He has been attended by a doctor, but has gradually grown worse and was yesterday removed to the Sisters' hospital. The poisoning seems to have gone through his whole system and he suffers great pain.

An Attractive Folder.

The Northern Pacific railway has got out a new and handsome folder especially devoted to the Kootenay country. It contains a lot of useful information and an interesting geographical and historical sketch of the country. On the reverse side is one of the best maps of the country ever issued.

THE ROYAL GOLD MINING CO.

OFFICERS: President, J. G. McMillan; Vice-Pres., A. Polson; Secretary, D. D. Birks; Treasurer, J. L. Whitney.

Capitalization 3,000,000 Shares. Par Value $1 Each.

Fully Paid and Non-Assessable. 825,000 Treasury Stock to be used for Development Purposes only.

Property.

THREE GROUPS Comprising SIXTEEN FULL CLAIMS

On the Colville Reservation between Rossland and Northport, Wash.

Assays from the surface of a 20-foot ledge on the Empire Group on Grouse Mountain, gave $2.65 in free milling gold; and surface assays from the Royal Gold group on Crouger Mt. gave a total value in gold, silver and lead of $59.50.

Advantages Offered to Investors.

1. Three groups of claims at sufficient distance from each other to give three distinct chances for paying mines.
2. Splendid surface showings on all of the groups.
3. None of the properties more than three and a half miles from a railroad, and one group is only about 2,000 feet.
4. Abundance of timber for all mining operations.
5. One property only a short distance from Northport, the proposed smelter site.
6. No duty on ores sent to any of the big American smelters.
7. Winter quarters are now completed, supplies in, and everything ready for rapid development which is now being prosecuted. Day and night shifts are pushing the work as fast as it can possibly be done.
8. Negotiations are pending for the introduction of machinery and cheapest methods of ore reduction.

Only a small block of stock will be sold at the present price

5 CENTS A SHARE

As the condition of the property may justify a considerable advance at an early date. No certificate for less than 200 shares will be issued.
For stock or further information apply to

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Box 447, Rossland. Agents, Rossland.

The Ottawa and Ivanhoe Silver Mines.

LIMITED LIABILITY.

This company is the owner of the Ottawa and Ivanhoe mineral claims on Wellington Mountain in the famous Slocan District, and they adjoin the celebrated Wellington Mine, a regular producer of high grade ore, which is in an advanced stage of development. Smelter returns from 453 tons of ore from the Wellington show a net return of $54,657.85 or $120.65 per ton. Assays of Wellington ore run from 200 oz. to 2,000 oz. silver per ton.

The development of the Wellington has practically demonstrated the value of the Ivanhoe, and indicates very plainly that its ore veins extend into and run through the Ottawa and Ivanhoe.

The location of the properties is particularly favorable for the transportation of ore, they being about a mile from Wellington siding, on the Kaslo & Slocan Railway and connected therewith by a good wagon road.

A sufficient amount of work has been done on the properties to entitle the company to a crown grant, which has been applied for.

The development consists of a tunnel on the Ivanhoe about 120 feet in length, tapping the Wellington vein at a depth of 40 feet, showing a width of vein between walls of 20 feet, in which were found carbonates, galena and mixed vein matter, assaying 40 oz. in silver and about 30 per cent. lead, while at a depth of 185 feet on the same vein in Wellington ground the ore runs about 200 oz. in silver and 30 per cent. lead, which is a good indication of what may be expected in the Ivanhoe. In addition to the tunnel there are several open cuts where the claim has been prospected to determine the course of ore bodies.

It is not claimed by this company that they are offering developed and paying mines. If they were it would be impossible to purchase shares at anything like the low price at which the first issue of shares will be placed on sale, but it is claimed that they are excellent prospects in a good locality, which have every indication of developing into first-class and paying mines.

The standing of the men who are at the head of the company is such that investors are assured that all money paid for treasury shares will be honestly and judiciously expended for the development of the property, and none of the promoters' shares will be offered for sale as they are content to take their chances on the result of development.

The Officers of the Company are:

SANFORD H. FLEMING, Esq., C. E., of Ottawa, President.
J. FRED RITCHIE, P. L. S. Esq., of Rossland, Vice-President.
P. G. NASH, Esq., of Rossland, Secretary Treasurer.

DIRECTORS.—SANFORD H. FLEMING, Esq., C. E.; GEO. P. BROPHY, Esq., C. E., of Ottawa; J. FRED RITCHIE, Esq.; J. K. CLARK, Esq.; P. G. Nash, Esq., Rossland.

Among the promoters and principal stockholders are Wm. McNally, Esq., Montreal; Harold Kennedy, Esq., Quebec; W. A. Allan, Esq., Ottawa and J. W. McRae, Esq., Ottawa.

The capital stock of the company is 1,000,000 shares, par value $1.00 each, 400,000 shares set aside for development purposes. The shares are fully paid and non-assessable. The company is incorporated under the laws of British Columbia and the head office is at Rossland, B. C. 50,000 of the treasury shares are now offered at 12½c. each. No certificates will be issued for less than 200 shares. Send for prospectus.

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The Only Route to Trail Creek

And the Mineral Districts of the Colville Reservation, Nelson, Kaslo, Kootenay Lake and Slocan points.

DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, BETWEEN SPOKANE, ROSSLAND AND NELSON.

Northbound.		Southbound.
7.00 a. m.	SPOKANE	7.00 p. m.
12.57 p. m., ar. / 1.27 p. m., lv.	NORTHPORT	1:02 p. m., lv / 12-30 p. m., ar
5:20 p. m.	NELSON	9:00 a. m.
1:35 p. m lv	NORTHPORT	12.15 p. m. ar
3:25 p. m ar	ROSSLAND	10:30 a. m lv

No change of cars between Spokane and Rossland.

Close connections at Nelson with steamers for Kaslo and all Kootenay lake points.
Passengers for Kettle river and Boundary creek connect at Marcus with stage daily.

LODGE MEETINGS.

CORINTHIAN LODGE, No. 27 A. F. & A. M., Meets in Rossland Masonic Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Visiting brethren invited. N. A. MCKENZIE, Secretary.

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