

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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B. C.'S FISCAL SYSTEM.

Heretofore it has been the custom of cheap and rascally governments of this province to pile up an annual deficit instead of a surplus.

There would be no deficit, and the credit of the province, instead of being the lowest, would rank with the highest in the Empire if the big corporations and the Dunsmuir paid their fair proportion of the taxes.

Neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals have provided for this in their respective platforms in the present campaign.

It is not to be expected that the Liberals will help protect the common people in this instance. Their leaders are too much under the control of the corporations. But if the Conservatives want to do the right thing, they should not delay in taking the initiative in this matter.

Rossland Conservatives will have an opportunity to discuss and vote upon this question tomorrow evening.

JUSTICE, PROSPERITY AND POLITICS.

John Houston, is editor of the Nelson Tribune, a straight Conservative organ. He is also president of the Provincial Conservative association and has announced his intention to seek the Conservative nomination for the Nelson riding at the forthcoming elections. It is not, therefore, unreasonable to suppose that Houston is a staunch Conservative. Houston is also a shrewd politician.

Both Houston and The Tribune, like The Miner and its editor, stand for the opening up of the East Kootenay coal lands now vested in the Crown. The Tribune, also like The Miner, is not blinded to the fact that a third party of Independents is liable to take the field in the present provincial campaign if justice be not done to bona fide East Kootenay coal prospectors and to the industrial condition of the Kootenays. In support of this, the last issue of The Tribune contains a list of seventy-five Nelson men, taken at random, who, irrespective of their leanings to one or the other of the old parties, are a unit on this important question.

The Conservative Tribune, like the Conservative Miner, aims to save this vote for the Conservative party. There are, however, corporation influences within the party that are trying to the best of their abilities to keep the prospector and the common people out of their just and unquestionable rights and dispose of those lands for the sole benefit of the C. P. R. or the Crown's Nest coal monopoly.

The Tribune knows of at least seventy-five Independents in Nelson. There are 142 in Rossland, half as many in each of the towns of Grand Forks and Greenwood, and about 250 in East Kootenay. This is a vote that is not to be despised. It is sufficient in itself (and it can undoubtedly be greatly augmented) to surely elect a candidate in each of the several ridings of Southern B. C. Without it, however, the outlook for the Conservative party is none too promising.

GOOD TIMES CONTINUE.

The recent slump in Canadian industrial stocks was seized by those pessimistically inclined to further the belief that the present period of prosperity was near an end, and that an era of depression similar to that which prevailed previous to the year of 1896 would ensue. The shrinkage was due largely to reckless inflation of certain stocks. The movement affected stocks whose commercial value is questioned. Many of the smaller investors suffered in consequence, but their loss was in no sense the result of any decline in industrial or commercial prosperity.

One has not far to look for evidences that this prosperity is still at high tide. The statement issued by Mr. White, the collector of customs at the port of Montreal, a few days ago, was eloquent of this fact. In the past eight years the business of the port has doubled, notwithstanding the fact that in the interval the rate of taxation had been materially reduced. The gain in customs revenue for 1902 over that of the preceding year was 27 per cent, the largest increase ever made for a similar period.

The statement recently issued by the Dominion government for the past fiscal year is even more emphatic evidence of the wonderful activity of trade in Canada. There is a surplus of more than \$22,000,000 for the year, taking the difference between revenue and expenditure, but outstanding accounts will reduce the amount somewhat, and, deducting capital expenditure, about \$15,000,000 will remain. The surplus is unparalleled in the country's history.

The prosperity of the Dominion must of necessity depend to a great degree on the wheat harvests of the West. Reliable reports are to the effect that the crop conditions there this season are as nearly perfect as possible. The wheat acreage is fully twenty per cent greater than it was last year, and the yield, it is estimated, will be in the neighborhood of 85,000,000 bushels, an increase of 20,000,000 over last year. If the forecast is borne out, this immense harvest will go far to prevent any recurrence of times of depression. In the Eastern provinces crop conditions are on the whole satisfactory, while the prospects for the agricultural industry, as a whole, are of the highest. There is no sign of depression among the manufacturers. Almost every industrial concern in the Dominion is kept running to its fullest capacity. In several cases manufacturers have twice enlarged their premises since 1897, and there is no hint yet of the approach of bad times in manufacturing.

With the population of the country increasing rapidly, its producing ability advancing, domestic trade enlarging, and foreign trade successfully seeking new markets, there seems fair reason to expect that the prevailing prosperity should continue for some years.

AMERICAN COMBINES.

While it is becoming more apparent that a large number of American industrial combinations either actually need or will soon require the services of the professional reorganizers of embarrassed corporations, it is equally evident that at this juncture the execution of such plans is, as a matter of extreme difficulty. Current developments in the New York stock market may make the investing public at large realize the fact that in such cases sacrifices have to be made and securities scaled down for the sake of restoring solvency to the concerns and value to their securities. The chief difficulty in such operations at present relates, however, to the formation of the underwriting syndicates which are necessary to insure the success of the reorganization process. Bankers show hesitancy about embarking in such plans, where they would, in the event of deficient public support, be obliged to load themselves up with large amounts of securities which would have little or no market. The watered-stock "combines" have serious trouble ahead of them.

THE COURSE OF BRITISH JUSTICE

The conclusion of the Moat murder case in England by the hanging of the convicted criminal, Samuel Dougal, brings from several of the American newspapers commendation for the conduct not only of this case, but also for the general administration of justice in England as compared with their country. In England the Moat case excited great interest, but the people did not go wild over it, nor did the newspapers use type half a foot long in reporting it. The progress of the case was steady and sure, conviction secured, and the murderer hanged. And that no mistake was made was evidenced by the fact that Dougal confessed his guilt on the gallows. In the States there would have been the greatest excitement over such a rare case. The sensational newspapers would have exploited it as a godsend to their circulation, and the flame of popular excitement would have been fanned until its blaze was of the intensest. Half-sheet posters would have been nowhere alongside the front pages of the yellow press with the blackest type obliterating all resemblance to a newspaper. If the criminal had money his trial would take years in all probability, with delays and postponements, till all interest would be lost, and then he would escape—or he would be taken out of jail and hanged by a mob. For it is sorrowfully admitted by the best newspapers across the border that the American administration of justice tends either to mob law or the escape of the criminal. The steady and unwavering justice of England is one of the most admirable things in that country.

THE KOOTENAY LUMBER INDUSTRY.

The Revelstoke Herald is doing yeoman service in its systematic attempt to boom the Kootenay lumber industry. Few of its readers, it says, realize the immense importance that the lumbering industry is assuming in the districts tributary to Revelstoke. The enormous stretches of timber land up the Big Bend and in the Arrow Lake and Fish River districts must be seen to be appreciated, and our citizens should certainly consider the possibilities of the rapidly growing industry. The forests of Michigan and Minnesota were for years thought to be inexhaustible, but a generation has seen these states to a great extent deforested and the old lumbering industry has given way to mixed farming. It will, therefore, be easily seen that timber is a most profitable investment as the passage of a few years, owing to the great exportation, will greatly enhance its value. It is a well known fact that manufactured lumber has increased largely in price within the past year or two and every indication points to present values being maintained even if no further rise takes place. The many applications from all over the Dominion and the Western states for good timber belts have resulted in a better figure than ever being paid to those having title to timber.

WHY?

When, some years ago, the provincial government established a reserve on the surface rights of blocks 4593 and 4594 in East Kootenay, the law expressly provided that the mineral and petroleum rights contained in these areas should be open to location and development by private individuals. For some inexplicable reason the reserve on the surface rights is still maintained, and past governments persistently refused all applications for coal and petroleum licenses on block 4593. On block 4594, however, a favored few obtained licenses to prospect for coal and petroleum.

The Miner would like to know why licenses can be had in block 4594, when applications are refused in block 4593. We would also like to know what right the government had or has to refuse applications on block 4593. We have repeatedly asked for an explanation in this respect, but as yet no one has been able to give a good and sufficient reason. It is not possible to offer a satisfactory explanation or justification for delay in this matter. We say so unhesitatingly, and with full knowledge of all the circumstances.

Meanwhile the whole of Southern B. C. labors under the disadvantages of an inadequate and preposterously expensive fuel supply because the Crown's Nest Coal company enjoys a monopoly.

MAD LIBERAL PARTISANISM.

Referring to the shameful disregard of the welfare of this province by the Liberal administration at Ottawa, the New Westminster Columbian hits the nail squarely on the head when it declares that "the electors of both parties care more for the interests of the province than for the type of Liberal party lines which applaud the Ottawa ministry for refusing our requests because they come through Tory ministers; and they will resent the refusal to pay attention to the matters put before them by Premier McBride's able colleagues."

Messrs. Wilson and Green asked that Bill 16, which cancelled all rights of the C. P. R. to blocks 4593 and 4594 in East Kootenay, be left to its operation; but the Liberal press shouts for joy that no definite answer has been made. As the Columbian very pertinently remarks, these patriots of the press would rather give the lands to the C. P. R. than allow a Conservative to have a hand in saving them for the people.

The ministers asked for a subsidy to the New Westminster bridge; but those who a short time ago sought to prevent our getting this franchise unless we would bow the knee to Baal, keep up their unpatriotic efforts and assent to Sir Wilfrid's refusal to give to us the measure of assistance granted as a matter of course to every other bridge of the kind. Our ministers demanded that the anti-Oriental labor law be not vetoed because the Japanese government has not kept the promise urged by Ottawa as ground for a former disallowance. But on behalf of the Opposition campaign in our own province, there goes up the prayer that in this respect also our delegates may be disappointed. This is partisanship run mad—so clean crazy that it over-reaches itself and makes more plain than ever to the people of this province that it would be an act of great folly to put the provincial government in the hands of men of this narrow type. Fortunately for the province there is no danger of the McBride government being displaced by the leaderless factionists responsible for this championing of the continued slighting of our interests by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

A REAL KING.

Of recent years the chief object of King Edward's journeyings has been the cultivation of friendly relations with various peoples. The present stay in Ireland, the recent visit to Portugal, Italy and France remind us of what is thus accomplished. These journeyings afford an opportunity for the Sovereign to promote good fellowship in its broadest sense.

His majesty is felt to be an ambassador in the highest sense, one having a message of peace and good-will from people to people. It is for others to maintain and strengthen good relations between government and government, but his mission is greater, more comprehensive, and more directly addressed to that public opinion which today more than ever rules the world. He gives voice to the dumb, inarticulate sense of brotherhood which lies deep in the hearts of the people, though the imperfect machinery of the government may at times set nation against nation. Under modern conditions, with the people ruling more and more, popular favor or prejudice has much to do with making or preventing war.

King Edward has already made his influence felt in imperial affairs, if we are to believe current reports. It is to his exertions that the settlement of the South African war is in a large measure attributed. To the king are also attributed the sagacious efforts of the government to settle the Irish land question. A well known observer says that the King has almost a passion for composing difficulties. He is ambitious, we are told, in the good sense of the word, so that "it is more than probable that he will do great and memorable things during his reign." If his majesty is able to overcome the hatred of European rivals, and stimulate our statesmen to solve the problems of the Empire, he will have realized a worthy ambition, which will make us all join more heartily as the years go by in singing "God Save the King."

A RETROSPECT.

The harmony that prevailed at last night's meeting of the Rossland Conservative Association means much for the welfare of the party at the next elections, not only here but elsewhere throughout Southern British Columbia. Rossland Conservatives have gone on record for the breaking of the Crown's Nest coal monopoly. They are determined that the mineral industry of the Kootenays shall have an adequate and economical fuel supply. They have also pledged themselves to the cause of those East Kootenay prospectors who, having complied with all the requirements of the law, are seeking justice from the Victoria government.

This is a source of great gratification to The Miner. Six long months ago this journal, realizing that the smelting, and consequently the mining, industry of Southern British Columbia was seriously handicapped by an inadequate and costly fuel supply, took upon itself the responsibility of bettering conditions so far as its influence would go. At first it was a discouraging and almost hopeless task. The provincial press stood by idly and gave no recognition or assistance. Self-seeking politicians evaded the issue. Boards of trade throughout the district and the province ignored our suggestions. It was not until the Provincial Mining Association was born that any ray of comfort and support was apparent. At its big convention at Victoria last spring the association passed a strongly worded resolution urging the government to issue licenses to those prospectors who had made coal locations on lands in East Kootenay, and thus provide an additional source of fuel supply independent of the Crown's Nest coal monopoly. The government, however, remained obdurate. Then it was that the more independent newspapers of the upper country began to display a healthy interest in the question. Following this, a few fearless Opposition members of the legislature were aroused and began to investigate. The result of their investigations became the talk of Canada from one end to the other. The biggest scandal ever unearthed in the West was brought to light. In the nick of time a special committee of the legislature discovered that a gigantic job was on foot by which members of the Prior government were attempting to rob the people of 635,000 acres of these very coal lands in East Kootenay for the benefit of themselves and the C. P. R. The land was saved by the prompt passage of and assent to the famous Bill 16, which re-established beyond all question the Crown's title to these lands. Then, as everybody knows, Premier Prior dismissed Attorney-General Eberts and Chief Commissioner Wells for their connection with the scandals, and he, in turn, was dismissed by the Lieutenant-Governor. In forming a new government, His Honor called upon Hon. Richard McBride. Mr. McBride manfully declared for straight party lines. The Conservatives here, as elsewhere, accepted the responsibility and commenced to organize for the inevitable elections; for it is a foregone conclusion that the

CONSERVATIVES ARE DESTINED TO CARRY THE COUNTRY.

Meanwhile, however, the industrial situation in the Kootenays has obtained no relief. The coal areas of East Kootenay are in the same condition, and the coke supply is still inadequate. Nearly one-half of the smelting furnaces have been shut down and the mineral industry remains in the same handicapped condition. Nothing remained for the Conservatives but to take up this question and strive for remedial measures. This they did last night, so far as Rossland is concerned, and there can be no doubt but that speedy relief is near at hand. At the same time no opportunity will be afforded to exploit these East Kootenay lands at the expense of the public. Considering all this, The Miner has good reason to be gratified at last night's proceedings.

CHINESE IN COAL MINSE.

One of Dunsmuir's coal mine managers has been fined for violating the act of last session excluding ignorant men from the underground workings of collieries. Chinese were the cause of offence in this instance. It may be expected that the company will appeal from the magistrate's decision, and probably the question will ultimately be carried to the highest court for judgment. It is announced on the government's behalf that this will be done in case of a decision adverse to the act. The public will receive with pleasure this new evidence of the McBride government's honesty of purpose and determination to enforce the law irrespective of persons. Such desiderata have been woefully wanting in the case of past provincial governments.

MR. SIFTON'S IRRESPONSIBILITY.

To all the charges of mismanagement in connection with the Barr colony the official reply of Mr. Sifton is that he is in no way responsible. Whatever the colonists have to complain about is a personal matter between them and the reverend promoter; the department of immigration, over which Mr. Sifton presides, is unaware that any grievance exists, and is apparently indifferent. It cannot be said that this sort of defence is satisfactory. Immigration is of vast importance to Canada. If it is conducted in such a way as to subject colonists to impositions and injuries it will prejudice the country in the minds of prospective immigrants. For this and other reasons the management of immigration has been placed in the hands of a responsible minister of the crown. Such a project as that put forward by Rev. Mr. Barr called for close and careful supervision. It was obviously a dangerous undertaking, because, while appealing to patriotic motives, it was really a business venture intended to make a profit to the promoter out of the flow of immigration to Canada. Here was a case in which an efficient minister would have been able to do the country good service. It was idle to plead that the department had no control over Mr. Barr. The first thing Mr. Barr did was to approach the minister of the interior and solicit his co-operation. Mr. Sifton told us this in his remarks on Friday. The department had to reserve the land for the colony. Before doing so it should have asserted its authority to supervise the methods of the promoter. When it was obvious that the project had objectionable features, the land concession should have been withdrawn until the interests of the colony were safeguarded. In this way the department had the project completely under its control. Mr. Sifton does not help himself by contending that there was no financial arrangement between the department and Mr. Barr. With or without an arrangement Mr. Barr has told us he is to be paid by the government some ten thousand dollars for his services. This is an additional reason for the exercise of ministerial control. Even if no money was to be paid, Mr. Sifton cannot shirk responsibility for the project. The absence of public assistance would make it the more incumbent on the promoter of the venture to make a larger and more oppressive margin of profit out of the colonists. Mr. Sifton, according to his own confession, was blind to the nature of the undertaking to which he committed the country. While he flippantly disclaims responsibility, Canada is held accountable for the transaction, and the incident is likely to retard immigration. It is time we had a minister of the interior who will accept responsibility for his department.

THE ENEMY OF WHITE LABOR.

The Vancouver Province, a pronounced Liberal organ, says: "The Dominion government did not impose the \$500 tax on Chinese immigrants any too soon. It is probable that had the operation of the act been delayed for several months longer we would have had a great many coolies from the Chinese coast dumped on this province."

If this is not a genuine Grit argument, we would like to know what is. For smugness and petty deceit it takes the cake. The Vancouver paper would lead the public to suppose that the Liberal government had passed legislation that practically excluded the Chinese from this country without delay. As a matter of fact, they have done nothing of the kind. They are too much in league with the railways and steamship companies and the salmon cannery to do justice to white labor. The recent imposition of a \$500 tax on Chinese landing in Canada was a mere bluff. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier had desired to do the right thing he would have made the admission of Chinese practically prohibitory. Under the operation of the new legislation, however, the Liberals delay the imposition of the \$500 tax until January 1, 1904. This, of course, allows sufficient time in which to flood the country with objectionable Orientals. Knowing this, the Chinese are taking every advantage, and each incoming steamer is packed with coolies coming to Canada to compete with good Canadian labor. Meanwhile the steamship and railway companies are making enormous profits and the salmon cannery are cutting down the pay of white fishermen. Laurier and the Liberals thus pose as the friends of the workman!

If the Liberals were honest in this matter; if they were disposed to accede to the request of the Conservatives; if they had any regard for white labor; if they were not under the complete control of the big corporations; if they had some regard for the prosperity of the country, they would have brought the \$500 tax on Chinese into immediate operation and included the Japanese as well.

EVASIVE LIBERALS.

There is a silence and secrecy about the actions of Rossland Liberals that is responsible for considerable adverse comment and no little suspicion on the part of the general public. There is a rumor to the effect that they are organizing for the campaign and actually intend to nominate a candidate to oppose the Conservative standard bearer. If such be the case, why don't they declare themselves? We admit that our friends the enemy have opened a "headquarters," but from all outward and visible signs the place seems deserted the day long. After nightfall the condition remains the same, except for an occasional "rally." Every Thursday evening a few of the faithful congregated at the corner of Columbia avenue and Queen street and hold mysterious meetings. What happens on these occasions is religiously kept from the general public. Behind closed doors and thickly frosted windows there is as much secrecy as could be found at a Masonic convocation. This has been going on for several weeks.

DEVELOPING NEW CAMPS.

Before a new camp can be developed to the point where it attracts wide attention much preliminary work must be done. There is a period of doubt and uncertainty, of disappointment in some of the ventures and vexatious delays in others. Often several years are occupied in this way between the first discovery of mineral and the establishment of the camp upon a stable basis. There are several localities in British Columbia which seem to be passing through this preliminary stage.

Whether any of them will be developed into extensive the unsolved problem in two or three considerable that good reason for soon.

British Columbia ment of a new career in mining. I been directed to of other countries, an of prospects is negligible as much ground for ventures today as previous period in province. Rossland into public confidence Boundary district of ties passed through uncertainty before popular stage. Of preliminary work is may in the near future for the extent of ore bodies.

In each such case ready have invested opment as speedily as possible. Until the one good mine, they for a stamped of prospecting to be among This season should the development of camp of importance.

WITHOUT GLOVES.

A gentleman from Ghulam Ahmad by range a praying mat Doctor Dowie. Con "the promised Mess Ahmad wants no riv Dowie, who modest Elijah II, he clearly formidable competitor. lence. Brother Ahmad he and Doctor Dowie simultaneously, that who is branded as a liar. Unseen hand branding and, writes "I will pray him to question." At this lence is still ignored evident that Mirza Gness. He will be fudge such as "go stion." He intends appor Dowie shall defeat his life. If it comes and selecting a refer will not lack flattery they are worldly wise hurry about clinching for a novel bout such to appear in should tidy purse in sporting scores boxing was abo scores of promoters h remunerative substitute than let Dowie a through their fingers Bridgeport or Carson doubtless part with cepts and put up st It is hoped, for the that Brother Ahmad forfeit.

FREQUENTLY.

We cannot urge promoters of mining importance of rendering ports to the stockholders course, applies especially coolies whose property operated.

When an eastern inv of mining stock he a lively interest in the particular company. I about it occasionally prefers good news, but wants to know what with his property, even port is not always promoters are so short frequent reports while to secure the capital v investor, and then stop is in their hands. N men who have any business future can afford clients in this manner really entitled to m after he has entrusted a promoter than before those who seek outst velop our mines reced the better it will be industry.

The policy of frequent another advantage. It ter constantly on the good showing. It thus incentive to action a more rapid development pany's property We d that it would be a w del, by legislation, al lies to render a careful stockholders at least. Publicity of this kind sible harm, and would good in many cases.

GREAT ADVANCE.

Delay in opening t rict in East Kootenay other things, the del railway construction one point to British. The Flathead dist