

# CITY NEWS

## NO PARK IN SIGHT

### COUNCIL CONCLUDES TO DROP THE PROJECT FOR THE PRESENT.

### OTHER MATTERS ATTENDED TO AT LAST EVENING'S SESSION.

The proposed municipal driving park is a dead issue so far as the city council is concerned. The city engineer went over the ground carefully, took all the levels and made the measurements necessary to figure on the proposition. He reports that a regulation half mile track, even with reduced curves, would require an enormous amount of excavating and would never give satisfaction. It might be possible to construct what is known as a "boomerang" track, but even then the cost would be heavy and it would be difficult to construct the track so that it would be safe for speeding. In short, Major VanBuskirk will not undertake the responsibility of recommending the expenditure and under the circumstances the matter has been dropped. As Mayor Lelonde puts it: "This ends the park question, so far as the council is concerned at this time."

Many citizens will regret that a more favorable outcome did not eventuate. With the number of fast drivers in Rossland and the great interest manifested in the pastime by citizens generally, it is most unfortunate that the physical obstacles to be overcome are so great as to be beyond the resources of the civic treasury at this time.

The next few days are likely to see city employees in the role of shock destroyers. A resident owns a couple of small houses located in the middle of Sixth avenue, just off Washington street, along which it is proposed to run a pipe line to connect several houses with the city water system. The owner of the shocks in question has steadily declined to remove the buildings, and it was decided by the council last night to give him a few hours' notice and then to raze the premises without further preliminaries. In this action the city will be quite within its rights.

The resolution by which the council accepts the custody of the \$10,000 for the new school was passed last night, thus removing the last obstacle in the way of going ahead with the building at once.

Louis Blue has offered to deed to the city the right of way required for the Stony creek dam if the corporation will concede him the privilege of running a pipe along the corporation's right of way on which the water mains are laid. The matter was referred to the finance committee.

All the members of the council were present at the session, which was of brief duration.

### HIGH SCHOOL SURE

#### More Than the Necessary Number of Pupils in Rossland.

Rossland will have a high school. Acting on the instructions of the minister of education, Hon. James D. Prentice, to secure a list of the pupils available for the higher class on the understanding that if the number was anything near that required by law the school would be established forthwith, the principal school was shown open yesterday and pupils who desired to take the high school form invited to attend and register.

The result surprised the trustees, 22 pupils signifying their intention of accepting the offer of a higher branch of education than has heretofore been afforded the rising generation in Rossland. The list as compiled by Principal MacLean is as follows:

Ethel G. McCarty, Mary Purcell, Beattie Buchanan, Annie Powers, Brangeline Herling, Olive Hobbs, Rosella Denline, Ella Preston, Lillian McQuade, Selma Delmuth, Mary Twaddle, Katie Dyer, Ethel Bonthe, Beatrice Holbe, John Frieson, Charles Berger, Edward O'Hearn, Victor Sipeon, Edwin Funk, Rod McLeod, J. Davenport, Mike Guidotti.

The facts in connection with the number of pupils available will be transmitted to Hon. Mr. Prentice tomorrow, when the minister returns to the capital. The arrangement is that he will proceed without delay to appoint a properly qualified teacher for the grade. The time to elapse before the regular school opening is almost too short to permit of the new class being launched at the same time the junior classes commence work, but smart work will do wonders and the aim may be accomplished under the handicap.

Meantime the work on the new public school is going ahead. Contractor William French has a small crew of men at work grubbing out the lots on which the building will be erected, and actual construction will not be delayed more than a day or two.

### TO MEET

The police commissioners will meet shortly to go into certain matters demanding their attention.

### QUARANTINE INCIDENT

E. D. Thomas, a New York banker and mining man, had an experience with the quarantine at Northport on Sunday that he is likely to remember for some time. Mr. Thomas came west with his wife, and on reaching Northport was requested to undergo the usual examination by the inspector there. The eastern man refused, and the facts were wired to Dr. Sinclair. The doctor located Mr. Thomas, and pointed out the fact that the regulations had been violated. The visitor then had himself vaccinated, but a fine was imposed. Payment was refused until a solicitor was consulted, after which the amount, \$4 in all, was tendered to Dr. Sinclair. At this juncture his Dominion quarantine inspector concluded that the New York man had undergone enough trouble to convince him of the necessity of conforming to the laws of the great Dominion, and remitted the amount.

### DOPED AND ROBBED.

#### James Jenkins' Adventures on His Way to Rossland.

He was "doped" and robbed and now lies in the men's ward at the St. Luke's hospital recovering from hemorrhages, says the Spokesman-Review.

This is the experience of James Jenkins, who came from Wardner about four days ago on his way to Rossland, B.C., to seek work. He is 33 years old and the drugs which he was given nearly terminated his life. He was robbed of \$50 and other valuables. He does not know the man who victimized him and is beginning to think that the man will never be captured. The case has not yet been reported to the police.

"I am a mining blacksmith," said Mr. Jenkins last evening at the hospital. "I have been doing contract work at Wardner for the past year. About a week ago I decided to go to Rossland and look for work. I left for Spokane last Saturday. When I was at the station a man came to me and called me by my right name, but I did not know him. He said if I was going to Spokane he would come down together. He also told me that he was going to Rossland and if I would pay his fare he would settle with me when we reached there."

I bought his ticket. When we reached Spokane we engaged a room. Just before retiring the stranger produced a bottle and asked me to have a friendly drink.

"I accepted his offer but took only one or two swallows. It was only a few minutes and I knew nothing. When I awoke the following morning I was dazed and sick and found that I had been robbed of everything I had. The man was about 35 years old, of medium size and is about 5 feet 9 inches tall. Mr. Jenkins was afterwards taken to the Salvation Army hospital, where he was taken care of until yesterday. Dr. Olmstead was called yesterday morning and at once ordered the man to be taken to the hospital. Mr. Jenkins could not tell where the room was in which the robbery took place, but thought it was some place near Main avenue and Stevens street. He is a member of the Masonic order.

Dr. Olmstead said last evening that Jenkins was doing well and would undoubtedly recover. He said the drugs which had been taken by Mr. Jenkins had caused hemorrhages and had caused him to become extremely weak.

### THE BOUNDARY LINE

It Was Wrongly Located in Neighborhood of Cascade.

Government surveyors at work between Nelson, Wash., and Cascade, B.C., have discovered the international boundary line lies 200 feet north of the location which the general public has accepted as true. In order to make the boundary line clear the surveyors will remain in the field at that point for some time, and will continue on the entire work until the middle of November. A peculiar situation has been presented between the two towns. It appears when the original boundary was marked the government surveyors cleared the trail and set their monuments. A zigzag line was the result. After a long investigation it was discovered the boundary line had been located 200 feet south of the real line.

Instead of going back over the line and clearing a new trail the original location measured the distance from the first trail and set up new monuments 200 feet north of the trail. These monuments were hidden among the underbrush and timber so that the traveller would not notice them. The surveyors did not believe it necessary to clear a new trail along the real boundary and left their work.

People going into the country near the boundary in eastern Washington found the trail and a number of monuments set at proper distances. They decided that the stakes along the trail marked the real line, and have ever since regarded it as the boundary. The present surveying party found the mistake had been made, and upon investigation learned the history.

A number of complications have arisen as a result of the hidden boundary line. Railroad surveyors have endeavored to locate the boundary in their own work, and have been confused by the trail. It was their request for a closer investigation that was responsible for the discovery of the mistake.

It is stated that a number of important mines are located in the neighborhood of the line, though none of the larger companies which are working there are in the territory between the lines. Some undeveloped property is inside the United States, whereas the owners believed it to be in Canada.

The boundary party is now working near White's camp, not far from Nelson.

—Midway Advance.

### A BIG SHOW

The papers combine in praising the parade and the performance of Sells & Gray's United Shows. It should be a guarantee to citizens of this city and county that the show is unusually excellent. In fact no better, cleaner, more refined or more interesting performance was ever given than is to be seen beneath the vast white tents of Sells & Gray's shows. Every marvelous Eddys, whose acrobatic feats have never been equalled for grace and daring, through the entire program, which includes Miss Edna, the Earl sisters, the Tybells and other famous performers. Startling acts are introduced in the three hours' performance. There is something to amaze and something to amuse. Comical clowns with original songs and jokes furnish the fun, and accomplished performers with new and thrilling acts arouse interest and astonishment.

The date for this show is Tuesday, August 20th, on which day two performances and a grand street parade will be given.

### CONTRACT LET

The contract for supplying the lumber required for the new school has been let to the firm of Blue, Fischer and Dechamps, who commenced yesterday delivering the material on the school site. About 125,000 feet of lumber will be utilized, and the firm will deliver about 25,000 feet daily until the entire quantity is on hand.

afforded an opportunity to catch the eye of the American capitalist such as is not met with every day or every year. Rosslanders know better than anyone else in the Kootenays how eager American capitalists are to take advantage of favorable channels of investment; and in this respect the mineral possibilities of this province offer unequalled inducements. Yet the authorities, who should have looked after the matter, permitted the chance to pass by without an endeavor to improve it. Was the department of mines too busy in heaping up burdens for the capitalists now in the country to exert itself toward bringing in fresh capital? In ordinary business the man who seeks to attract the attention of those who may be willing to invest will advertise his wares and the extensive advertiser usually reaps a rich reward. It would be a great thing for British Columbia if business methods were introduced into the task of inducing capital to take hold of its mineral resources. A good way to keep the riches of the mining districts locked in the bosom of the earth is to sit down supinely and permit no hint of the splendid field for investment to leak out.

### MR. PRENTICE'S VI. IT.

The results attending the visit of the Minister of Education should be an object lesson of the advantage to be attained by having the heads of provincial departments come into the Kootenay country, view with their own eyes the advancement made from time to time and discuss on the spot the legislative wants of the interior. The school matter had all the earmarks of a hopeless tangle a week ago. The official in charge of the educational interests of the province had said in so many words that no school would be built in Rossland this year. The aldermen and trustees knew that his position on the question was opposed to equity, but the difficulty attending the unravelling of a skein of this description by telegraph and mail is considerable and it is extremely probable that the school would not have been erected had Mr. Prentice remained in Victoria. Once in Rossland it was easy to demonstrate to the minister that the misunderstanding was of a superficial nature and readily remedied. All the facts were placed before him and in less than an hour everything was straightened out. In addition Mr. Prentice was readily convinced that it was up to the department of education to authorize a high school in Rossland and this was accomplished, although correspondence extending over the best part of a year had failed to bring about the desired end. Altogether the incident was an interesting demonstration of the desirability of having ministers come into the Kootenays in person. This country requires the fostering care of the legislature to a greater extent than does the coast, yet the ministers rarely find time to examine existing conditions for themselves. In the past, legislative measures have, it is to be feared, been dictated by interested persons who were assisted in their campaigns by the ignorance of heads of departments as to actual circumstances. If each of the ministers would spend a fortnight every summer in the principal centres of the Kootenay country the effect on legislation would be speedily felt for the better.

### ARRIVED AT DURBAN.

The Royal Duke and Duchess Welcomed to Natal.

DURBAN, Aug. 14.—The British steamer Ophir, having on board the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, arrived here yesterday.

The Ophir anchored at 7 o'clock, and the Duke and Duchess landed by 11 o'clock. The immense crowd at the dock included Zulus and Indians, as well as whites, while all cheered, the foris meanwhile shouting.

The Duke and Duchess were welcomed on the pier by the governor of Natal, Sir Henry McCallum, the members of the colonial cabinet, a committee of prominent residents representing the municipality of Durban and a large number of naval and military officers. The governor of Mozambique, representing Portugal, was presented to the Duke and Duchess. The party then drove to the city park, where a great reception was held. Addresses were presented by various societies and the Duke of Cornwall and York, who wore an admiral's uniform, responded.

During the afternoon the mayor of Durban entertained the Duke and Duchess at the Royal hotel, the guests including all the high colonial officials. Immediately after the luncheon the Duke and Duchess took the train for Pietermaritzburg.

### MARCUS BRIDGE.

Work of Construction to be Started Shortly.

NORTHPORT, Wash., Aug. 14.—Work on the new bridge over the Columbia at Marcus will be started in the near future. The false work will be a complete bridge of itself and trains will be run over it until the steel cantilever bridge is completed. It is asserted that the first trains will cross the river before three months have expired.

John Kennedy has a contract to furnish a large amount of heavy timbers for the new railroad bridge at Marcus.

W. H. Hoskin left yesterday for Butte. Thomas James and wife returned last night from a week's trip to Halcyon Hot Springs.

General. Upon him devolves, amongst other important functions, the administration of the criminal laws. For many years past, with a brief interregnum which it would be invidious to dwell upon, our criminal laws have been administered in the ablest manner under the direction of the present Attorney-General, Hon. D. M. Eberts. While, therefore, we cannot acquit him of responsibility for supporting the injurious legislation devised by his colleagues, we are bound to acknowledge the ability he has displayed in his own particular department.

Our charge against the government as a whole was that they were ignorant, incompetent and untrustworthy. We ask our readers to decide whether we have not fully established the charge.

### MR. TURNER'S TURN NOW.

The Colonist complains in its issue of the 10th instant that the newspapers of this country are neglecting their duties by commenting upon the memorial to the governor-general, and yet not republishing its interviews with the minister of mines and of finance. The government organ says: "It is not at all likely that any one of the papers which give such things currency will feel under the least obligation to point out how very completely Mr. Turner answered the complaints on the score of excessive taxation."

We wonder whether the Colonist will feel under the least obligation to republish the criticism of Mr. Turner's defence which appears in our columns today, or our criticisms on Mr. McBride's statements which we published on the 11th and 13th instants. We have there attempted successfully we think to answer "the unanswerable array of facts presented by the ministers."

The Colonist shows its confidence in the ministers—should we not rather call it guillibility—by seriously suggesting to the department of mines that a circular letter should be prepared dealing with the subject of the memorial and giving the answer to it, to be sent to the leading financial papers of America and Europe, not simply as a circular, but with a view to having it published in their columns. From the point of view of the ministers this suggestion is a cruel one. From every other point of view it is comical.

### PAY DAY!

This is pay day in the Rossland camp, but what a contrast is presented when the wage roll is compared to those of the last eighteen months or more. In June last, for instance, it was conservatively estimated that the employees of Rossland mines drew in wages \$190,000. In July the amount distributed in the same manner was scarcely less. Today the pay roll will not aggregate \$10,000. This means that the working men of Rossland have lost \$180,000 in one month and as half of another month has elapsed under similar conditions the total loss now reaches over a quarter of a million dollars. This has been sacrificed for what? That a section of the members of an organization may be upheld in the worship of a fetish called unionism. Not that union men may be permitted to go to work for in this they never suffered discrimination; not that the question of wages was a burning issue—for the large masses of the Rossland miners received larger wages than those in any camp in the Northwest and were perfectly satisfied with the working conditions—but because a little circle of agitators wished to bolster up a cause that was already lost—the Northport strike—and to settle the question as to whether the big mines of this camp were to be operated from the companies' offices or from the chamber in which the aforementioned circle held their secret sessions. What has been the outcome? The miners of Rossland are today a quarter of a million dollars poorer than they would have been had the radical scheme of the union failed to swing sufficient votes to justify an interpretation of the union constitution that would be ridiculous were it not serious. The companies have lost nothing. Their ore is still in the mines and has not decreased in value by deterioration, nor have they suffered loss of business as would be the case with an industrial enterprise. Who are the losers? The natural reply is that the miners have been paying through the nose for their enforced idleness. It will be admitted that whistles come high at a quarter of a million dollars tax.

### UN FORTUNATE.

Readers of the Miner who noted the paragraph in yesterday's issue where in Mr. Anthony J. McMillan commented on the entire absence of a British Columbian mining exhibit at the Pan-American exposition were doubtless surprised to learn that such was the fact. It is indeed unfortunate that such an opportunity to reach an important source of capital for the development of the magnificent resources of this great province should have been neglected. The big Buffalo show

thority in Colorado would have prevented Mr. Turner from thus stultifying himself. In answer to a telegram to the commissioner of mines at Denver, Colorado, the following was received: "Under new law assessable value of mines equal one-fourth gross proceeds for preceding year, improvements and machinery assessed separately. Shares of private holders assessed. Constitutionality of law being tested in court."

So that instead of mine owners being taxed at one-fifth of gross income, with the value of improvements, machinery and shares added, as Mr. Turner asserts, the tax consists of a rate levied upon certain assessable property consisting of one-fourth of the gross proceeds of the mine, together with the value of improvements, etc. Shares held by private owners are not any portion of the assessable property of the mine. The rate levied in Colorado, as we are informed by people who have had experience there, varies in different counties in the State, from 50 to 75 mills on the dollar.

We have no data regarding the Le Roi mine which would enable us to apply this Colorado system to it, but we have the last annual report of its neighbor, the Centre Star, before us which will serve equally well as an illustration. For the year ending September 30th, 1900, the net returns received from the smelter, constituting the gross proceeds realized by the Centre Star company, were \$239,108.19. It will be remembered that during that year the Centre Star was shipping on a very moderate scale indeed, and had been closed down part of the year.

Under the law of Colorado the rate would be levied upon one-fourth of the above proceeds, amounting to \$64,777. The value of machinery and improvements shown by the report is about \$250,000, but in fact the assessor usually takes about three-fourths of the full value as the assessable value. We will, however, assume the full value, so that the entire property of the Centre Star, as assessed for taxation in Colorado, would be \$314,777. If the rate were struck at 50 mills on the dollar the total taxation would be \$15,738.75. But suppose we assume an extraordinary case, and strike the rate at 100 mills, the total taxation would be \$31,477.50 in Colorado.

Now it so happens that the sum actually paid by the Centre Star company to the provincial government for the year in question was \$3,152.45, or a trifle more than the amount it would be in Colorado, under the most adverse assumptions, and under a law which the people there are vigorously opposing. But the above amount exacted by our government from the Centre Star company was levied, for by far the greater portion of the year, on the basis of the one per cent tax. Under the existing two per cent tax the amount must be doubled.

We felt quite sure when we entered upon this discussion that the mines of British Columbia were subjected to higher taxation—besides many other burdens—than the mines of any State in the Union. We would not, however, have been surprised if the finance minister could have pointed to some instance where the taxation was pretty nearly as excessive as it is here.

But to learn that the most favorable instance of heavy taxation which our finance minister can find to justify his oppressive policy, is Colorado, and that the taxes in British Columbia are fully double as much as in Colorado is a surprise even to us, and will certainly raise a howl of indignation throughout the province.

The finance minister concludes his remarks on this head with the following statement: "As to the proportion of provincial taxes borne by the mines, they appear to be as follows: Total taxes collected in the year ending 30th June, 1900, \$32,068. Of this the mineral tax amounted to \$31,804, not one-tenth of the whole."

In making this statement the minister is dealing with a portion of the memorial which represented that the metal mining industry had to bear about 50 per cent of the entire taxation of the country (both by the Dominion and by the Province). He answers this by selecting out of all the taxes paid by the mining industry only the mineral tax. Is it not to be deplored that a responsible minister should thus juggle with his figures before any intelligent constituents? What about the sums collected for free miners' certificates, amounting to \$133,765; for mining receipts general, amounting to \$194,303, all received by the province, without making any mention of the unjust, and as we believe illegal, exactions for timber dues on mineral claims? And what about the enormous tax which we have to pay to the Dominion government by way of customs duties, levied upon almost everything we consume or use in mining?

We have now placed our readers in a position to judge of the merits of the paragraph in yesterday's issue where in Mr. Anthony J. McMillan commented on the entire absence of a British Columbian mining exhibit at the Pan-American exposition were doubtless surprised to learn that such was the fact. It is indeed unfortunate that such an opportunity to reach an important source of capital for the development of the magnificent resources of this great province should have been neglected. The big Buffalo show

### POLICE COURT

#### The docket at yesterday's police court consisted of a couple of drunks only. One was discharged and the other paid a \$10 assessment. The Colistro and Beamish cases will come up for trial this morning.

### THE CASCADE

#### Sam W. Hall returned last night from a trip to the Cascade. Things are running along smoothly at the property, and the returns from a thorough sampling of the ledge at the lower level are awaited with keen interest.

### LAST SHOOT

#### The closing match for the McHarg trophy will be shot at the ranges on Saturday. The preceding two matches have narrowed the competition down somewhat, but in the final test a dark horse may win the handsome cup.

### IT'S PAY DAY

#### This is pay day in the Rossland camp. The aggregate payroll for July is less than \$10,000, so that the occasion is not of the same importance as is a pay day under normal conditions, when the miners of the city receive cheques for \$100,000 to \$200,000.

### WON'T BE DRY

#### There is little danger of Rossland becoming a dry town in the immediate future. Dan Thomas, who is opening up in the wholesale line on Washington street, received two cars of whiskey yesterday, and is now unloading the consignment at his bonded warehouse.

### NEW TEACHER

#### The last vacancy in the list of teachers for the public schools has been filled by the appointment of Miss Pearl Grant, now of Gladstone. Miss Grant has a second A certificate and has had experience as a teacher. She will arrive here in time for the opening of the schools on Monday.

### WATER SUPPLY

#### The city water supply is still in good shape and in condition to stand another week or two of extreme drought before extraordinary means to conserve the water will be required. Several additional streams tapped by the old pipe line have been turned into the reservoir.

### AT NORTHPORT SMELTER

#### The Northport correspondent of the Spokesman-Review reports to that paper as follows: "Blast furnaces Nos. 2 and 3 are running smoothly at the smelter and are said to be handling from 550 to 600 tons of ore per day. An electric trolley line is being built at the smelter. It will be used for hauling charges to the furnace."

### ON PARADE

#### The militia company paraded last night in good numbers and put in an evening of useful work. The Maxim gun drill and other features were gone through in good shape. The company is rapidly rounding into creditable form, and additional interest is being manifested on account of the possibility of a trip to the coast.

### ABOUT MORGAN

#### The announcement is made that Colonel W. N. Brayton, chief townsie agent for the new town of Morgan, will personally conduct a party of Rosslanders to the scene of the coming metropolis at an early date. Citizens who would care to participate are requested to notify H. W. C. Jackson. Information regarding the town can be obtained from the advertisement in another column.

### GOING AHEAD

#### The first shipment of Calgary sandstone for the postoffice building has arrived and is now being dressed by the stonecutters on Queen street. The stone is of a yellowish tinge and is as soft as butter compared with the granite of which the lower story of the building is constructed. The stonecutters handle the rock rapidly. A large quantity of the brick which forms the inside of the section story is now on the ground, and with an abundance of the Calgary article on hand the structure will go ahead rapidly.

### STAFF OF LIFE

#### The grocers of Rossland have reduced the price of flour during the continuance of the strike, and the following prices will rule until further notice: Hard wheat flour, 50 pounds, \$1.50; 100 pounds, \$3; barrel, \$6; Spokane flour, 50 pounds, \$1.25; barrel, \$5. The staff of life should be within the reach of all at these quotations.

### WITH HONORS

#### The funeral of the late Jerry Spellman takes place in Spokane today, and will be conducted with the honors peculiar to the Order of Elks. A large number of Spokane Elks will march in the procession, and several representatives of the fraternity from Rossland are expected to be present. The remains will be interred in "Elks Rest" at Greenwood cemetery.

### DIED AT SPOKANE

#### Jerry Spellman, proprietor of the Rossland Saloon, died on Sunday night at the Sacred Heart hospital, Spokane. Deceased resided in this city for a number of years and at one time was regarded as fairly well off. He is credited with manifesting at that juncture in his fortunes a charitable and genial spirit that was never forgotten. He was about 40 years old and unmarried. Mr. Spellman, senior, and a brother reside in Omaha, Neb., and a sister lives in Connecticut. The deceased was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and held a life membership in Spokane Lodge No. 228.

Among the outgoing passengers on the S. F. & N. line yesterday were A. P. Gripe to San Francisco, Hector McKean to Vancouver, John Cummings to Boston, Mass., Alex. Weir to Denver, Col., Mrs. Thomas and son to Leadville, Col., C. Hoffman and J. L. Allison to Toronto.