

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

The letter which we published yesterday from Mr. H. S. Wallace, ex-mayor of Rossland, very naturally excited a good deal of comment. Amongst most people it was thought, as far as the Miner can form a judgment in the matter, that what Mr. Wallace had to say was thoroughly justified in the circumstances. However that may be, we are quite sure that all will agree with us in saying that it is eminently desirable that all who have the best interests of the city at heart should take a live interest in the approaching municipal contest and endeavor by voice and pen to guide the destinies of Rossland in the way which leads to municipal prosperity. Polling day is not now so very far distant; and, while the names of a number of gentlemen who would make likely candidates for the office of the chief magistracy have been mentioned, no definite choice has as yet, we understand, been made by those who are interesting themselves in arranging that they shall have a competent civic administration during the following year. It seems superfluous for the Miner to remark that the matter is a most important one—we are all properly impressed with that fact; but we think the time has arrived when some definite assurance should be given the citizens that a gentleman will stand for the position of mayor who is likely to receive the support of all classes of citizens.

CANADA'S PLAN ADOPTED.

Not only with the despatch of a further contribution of men and munitions of war, but, also, by sending experienced men and women to serve upon the educational staff of the newly-established school system of the Boer states, will Canada give valuable aid to the Mother Country in the settlement of the South African problem. Principal Mullen of the Normal School at Fredericton, N. E., has been cabled through Lord Minto, by the Imperial authorities, offering him the position of principal of the Normal School at Pretoria. Positions as teachers in this institution are also offered in the same cable to two women of Fredericton.

The British government has been endeavoring to settle upon an educational system for the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal, which will tend to make the Dutch in those states eventually good British subjects. Considerable difference of opinion has been held as to the kind of educational system advisable to establish there. Two systems were proposed, and both strongly advocated; one, by which the English language was to be made the official language of the country, and the other, by which both English and Dutch were to be officially recognized.

It has finally been decided that the dual language system shall be adopted and followed in the new British colonies of South Africa, and that both English and Dutch shall be taught in the public schools there. As Canada is the only British colony in which a similar system is in vogue, E. B. Seeargent was commissioned by the Provisional South African government to inquire into the operation of the public school system of the Dominion, with a view to the establishment of a similar system in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony.

Before returning to South Africa, Mr. Seeargent secured the services of a number of Canadian school teachers to go there.

BRITISH EMPLOYERS PUZZLED.

The question of how to deal with old men is agitating British employers. The feeling is growing that the commercial success of the United States is due to its confidence in young men and to its willingness to promote them to responsible positions. Seymour Bell, the British commercial agent in Chicago, recently attended a meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of advising its members how to increase English trade in America. One of the first questions was asked by H. L. Symonds, managing director of Mordant & Co., the largest manufacturers of novelties in Great Britain, who wished to know what the United States does with its old men.

"This is the most crucial question confronting our manufacturers," he

said. "Everywhere we are loaded with employees from 50 to 60 years of age, who retard progress at every step. In my opinion, it would be cheaper to retire them on half pay and substitute youthful energies and ideas."

Mr. Symonds declared that Americans in similar cases did not employ men over 45 years of age, and that such men were frequently compelled to take menial positions. He said that he knew of an instance where a man who had been receiving \$15,000 a year was now glad to work for \$15 a week. Charles S. Drummond, director of the British Electric Traction Company, said: "I am convinced that England is on the brink of a commercial revolution. Young men, long repressed and discouraged, are revolting. Inspired by the many examples of success among the youth of America and the colonies, they demand that they be given the same opportunities at home."

"They attribute England's apparent inability to cope with the Yankees to the fossilized methods of their elders. The older men will be surely forced to the wall unless they speedily awake to the necessity of proceeding on modern lines."

Dr. Drummond went on to state that the only way England could meet America on equal terms was the prompt introduction of labor-saving machinery and the specialization of work by individual factories. A member of the chambers pointed out that such a reform would meet with an initial difficulty in the opposition of labor-saving devices. He foresaw troubles ahead for employers and workmen.

BRITISH TRADES UNIONS.

We take the following from the Toronto Globe: The recent decision of the British House of Lords is drawing the line rather close around trades unions, and many such organizations are learning for the first time, through surprising judicial decisions, that the rights they have so long enjoyed have passed away. Heretofore picketing had not been considered a criminal offence, but those days are over, at least for the present, and the union men are made to realize how matters stand. A case that arose recently out of a strike at a cotton mill in an English town is cited in the Mining Record. Five young men were summoned to court charged with having unlawfully, wrongfully and without legal authority beset the mill with the view to compel a weaver employed there to abstain from working. The defendants had formed themselves into a band of music and had paraded the streets in the neighborhood of the works followed by a large crowd.

It was admitted that they had not used or threatened to use violence, nor had they on any occasion halted at the mill. It was, however, stated that their action had resulted in persons who were still at work being terrorized. The defence was that the band was an ordinary "strike band," engaged simply in advertising the strike, and that the defendants had not sought in any illegal way to induce the mill hands away from their employments. The jury found the defendants guilty and fined them twenty shillings each.

TIMBER RESOURCES

The news that Russia is at last about to manage her almost illimitable forests on a scientific plan and more vigorously compete for Great Britain's trade in timber draws attention to the threatened shortage in the world's supply of wood. For the past five years Great Britain has spent on the average \$110,000,000 a year on timber. She has bought largely from countries whose supply is now falling off. Norway's output is decreasing; Austria's is decreasing; and even Canada's apparently boundless resources have supplied Europe with less and less timber in the last few years. But the shortage in Europe alone amounted last year 2,600,000 tons, and in Europe this is only likely to be wiped out by increased supply from Sweden and Russia which scientific forestry would produce.

Of the nations consuming timber Great Britain stands easily first, spending annually on the average \$40,000,000 more than Germany, which comes second, and \$95,000,000 more than France, which makes a bad third. The United States has recently made a great effort to cater for the world's need in this as well as in other respects, but owing to her vast plains and prairies the United States cannot long continue to export timber. The experts in forestry, however, declare that the British Empire could easily grow its own supply if scientific forestry and rational management were introduced throughout the Empire. It was stated on Saturday by an Indian forest officer that if the magnificent timber resources of Canada were controlled by a system as thorough as that established in India, the Dominion could easily supply the Mother Country with 3,000,000 tons of timber a year.

MR. CLUTE'S CANDIDATURE.

It is a matter for congratulation on the part of the people of Rossland that such a lively interest is being manifested in municipal matters at the present time, and the meeting on Friday evening demonstrated that the citizens who have the welfare of the town at heart are determined to see that a municipal government is installed which will ensure civic prosperity for the forthcoming year. The nomination of Alderman Clute for the position of mayor was made unanimously, and those who participated in the vote are men competent to give an expression of feeling which reflects the sentiment of the entire people upon the matter under discussion. Alderman Clute is a man likely to receive the support of a majority of the people of the city; but, while that is so, there must be no question left open as to where he stands in respect to the main issue. We take it that we are expressing the matter fairly accurately when we say that the main issue in the forthcoming municipal campaign is one that may be termed the case of the agitator element against those who are desirous of seeing Rossland freed from the thralldom of the tyranny of rampant unionism.

In some quarters it has been stated that Mr. Clute's candidature would not be opposed by the Municipal Labor Party, as they could look to him to further their own ends. There ought not to be any doubt about this matter. It is too serious to be left in abeyance. Mr. Clute either stands for the supremacy in municipal affairs of the conservative element—that is, those who desire the progress of Rossland along legitimate lines—or else he stands for the supremacy of the labor element. It seems to the Miner that it devolves upon Mr. Clute to express himself in respect to his position in this regard.

There is only one issue in this campaign—that is, shall Rossland be handed over to the control of the men who have created disturbances here in respect to labor matters during the past few months, or shall it be handed over to the control of Rossland's best citizens. Mr. Clute cannot ride two horses; he cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. An early declaration of his position would seem to be in order. We have no doubt at all that Mr. Clute, having clearly defined his position, and that position being in accordance with the views of the people who have the best interests of the community at heart, would be elected by a very large majority; but it will be a very disquieting feature in the situation if it is supposed that Mr. Clute's candidature is likely to meet with the approval of an element whose whole aspirations are contrary to the wishes of those who desire good civic government. There is little more to be said at this time regarding the situation affecting municipal affairs. The Rossland Miner will be found advocating at all times the candidacy of those who stand for all that is best in civic affairs; but it certainly will not lend its efforts to the support of an intrigue which might at some time develop conditions which would be harmful to the city. We may be somewhat premature in suggesting that Mr. Clute's position as a candidate for mayor may be welcomed by the element which has been working so disastrously to Rossland, but we think it ought to be clearly stated that Mr. Clute stands at all times for those people who are opposed to the supremacy in this city of the scheme of the Western Federation of Miners.

JOHN HOUSTON.

The most contemptible character engaged in journalism in Canada is thus added to by Mayor Fletcher of Nelson: John Houston, in his daily effusions, is always and has always been, mud-slinging. During his residence in B. C. I do not think a single prominent man, either in municipal or provincial politics, has escaped him. He has opposed everything introduced into the town, viz. gas works, tramway, etc., except the water works and electric light plant, the latter of course was a matter of money, he being the principal holder. He has fought every by-law not originated by himself, not on its merits but for personal spite. His railway policy was one thing for Nelson, and another for the Boundary country. His living wage descended from \$3 to \$1.40 per day, according to circumstances. His wonderful brain has given birth to every bright idea, political or social, that should govern us throughout the Province. "The dirty Conservatives," "the renegade Liberals," "the hypocritical church people," and "the cursed Englishmen" have all been scored alike. To set class, as he calls it, against class, race against race, and creating a storm centre in Nelson may be good points for a progressive man, and one with those ideas may be a friend, if so, I can only say, "Lord, deliver us from such friends." A house divided against itself can never stand.

A CONSPIRACY OF LAZINESS.

The London Times has about arrived at the conclusion that if British industry is in a bad way, or at least in a worse way than it was, it is because the British workmen have entered into a conspiracy of laziness. While not absolutely laying down this position in so many words, the great newspaper gives publicity and editorial approval to a three-column instalment of an attack by "a correspondent" on what he denounces as the newer trade unionism. The principle of this alleged new dispensation is that a man should not work as hard as he is able, because if he does not others will have to be called in to help. The old way was to increase the volume of trade and so increase the demand for workers; the new is to be satisfied with what is going but to see that all get employment and at good wages.

The working out of the principle is illustrated in this wise in the building trade, of which the first letter makes mention. There is no trades union rule as to the number of bricks a man should lay in a day; but it appears there is an unwritten law on the subject. Thirty years ago they laid their 1,200 a day; twenty years ago they still were able to lay 1,000 a day; but now 400 is the maximum. The workmen must "go easy" and not exceed the limit, thereby saving the faces of those who do not want to work harder and incidentally making work for several more men. It is told that a young fellow once went so far as to lay 724 bricks in his first day, which number was ascertained by count of the other men, who promptly warned him not to come back. He was put on another job, started in at the same foolish pace, and was forced to go away altogether. If he had been kept there would have been a strike, for the others believed thoroughly in the principle of "giving another man a show." It is told of a firm of contractors that when their men were on work where they could easily have laid from 600 to 700 bricks a day, and did not, the employers complained. The answer was "The London County Council limit is 330 bricks the day. That is what they consider a fair day's work, and we are not going to do more for you or anyone else." In the case of a public building it was found that the men were laying an average of only 70 bricks a day. It is claimed that all the other building trades follow the same plan. To dodge some of them the contractors avail themselves of outside labor where possible, as in importing doors from Sweden at 6s. 6d., which if made on the "go easy" plan with the same machinery in England would cost 13s. 6d.

LABOR CONDITIONS IN NEW ZEALAND.

We cannot do better than give over a considerable portion of our space this morning to the reproduction of an article from a New Zealand paper which indicates the sentiment in our sister colony in respect to labor matters. People who imagine that our labor disputes can be successfully obliterated by the introduction of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act of New Zealand will not relish the news that their favorite fetish has already been thrown overboard by its own native worshippers and its impotence acknowledged. We commend to our readers the following editorial from the New Zealand Herald of November 8th, showing the reasons which led to the abandonment of this costly and absurd experiment:

There has been a considerable amount of controversy in England and Australia on the subject of the working of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act of New Zealand. That controversy must now be regarded as closed, because the parliament which enacted the law, the very men who were enthusiastic in passing it, have declared that it is a failure. They have done this by repealing the leading and most prominent feature of the Act. They have done so in spite of the arguments and entreaties of the premier. The Act is now radically different from what it was. It can no longer be cited in any part of the world as an example to be followed in the regulation of labor.

When the Conciliation and Arbitration Bill was brought in by Mr. Reeves, now the agent-general for New Zealand in London, he impressed upon the house that above all things it was a conciliation measure. Its great object was, in the case of a trade dispute, to bring the two parties together before a board on which both could be represented, with a chairman who was entirely unbiased. Then the subject of dispute would be canvassed, and an agreement come to, in most cases, by a process of explanation and compromise. There were clauses in the bill establishing an arbitration court, which had the power to make awards and to enforce them by penalties—that is to say, penalties could be enforced against the employers. But this court and this power of enforcement would seldom, or never, have to be resorted to. It would remain as an expedient of last resort, and its very existence would obviate all necessity of appealing to it. These were the representations on which the bill was agreed to.

Conciliation and mutual agreement were to be the keystones of the measure. It has been evident to all, and especially of late, that the Act has been operated in a quite different manner to what was intended. It was an Act to obviate strikes by getting the parties to confer. But the conciliation part of it, which was declared to be the chief, was lost sight of almost from the beginning. The law could be put in motion by the action of a very few members of a trades union. An employer who had never had any complaint or representations from those employed by him found himself summoned before the board with a demand that he should agree to certain requirements in respect to which he had never been spoken to before. Then a whole batch of employers of that and cognate trades were summoned, and a hearing was entered into which sometimes lasted for weeks or months. There was no talk even of conciliation from the first. Another feature made its appearance which might have been anticipated, and which was clearly seen to be a necessary consequence of our Act elsewhere than in New Zealand, where our politicians are blind to everything except the immediate necessity of getting votes. We quoted lately the statement of an American paper, which said: "Those who create boards to settle disputes that may possibly arise are likely always to have disputes to settle." Whether supposed wrongs are to be righted by law or by arbitration, or by strikes and boycotts in violation of laws, those who are paid for the purpose of righting wrongs will never fail to find enough to keep courts, arbitrators, strike and boycott promoters going regardless of cost or loss to the parties concerned, or of the injuries to those who must suffer indirectly.

The Act was passed in 1894, so that there has been abundant time to observe the effect of the working of its machinery. An amendment Act was brought in by the government making a few alterations. But the house took possession of the bill, and in spite of the premier made the changes we have referred to. On the motion of Mr. Willis, a government supporter, a clause was added to the bill enabling either party to an industrial dispute to carry it at once to the arbitration court without going before the conciliation board. The clause was opposed by the premier, who pointed out that the result would be "to wipe out all the boards," and would be a giving away of the main principle of the Act. But the clause was carried against the government by 30 to 18. The main arguments against the conciliation boards were those we have mentioned above. It was urged that the members of the boards or some of them, being paid by the number of sittings, had spun out the business; and, in fact, had been the means of creating disputes in order to obtain fees. Also it was shown that the conciliation boards had really conciliated nothing, that they had merely been causes of enormous expense to the country and to the parties, and that almost every case brought had been sent on to the arbitration court. The bill was sent to the legislative council with this clause in it, and the government made an effort to have it thrown out there. But the council, although composed mainly of followers of the government, declined to excise the clause. When the bill came again before the house, the premier said that he deeply regretted the insertion of the new clause which, to use his own words, "meant practically a reversal of what had hitherto been the policy of the Act." The reply made to the premier was, that only a few weeks before he had told the trades union that "they were riding the Act to death." In his speech in the house, the premier said: "If they took advantage of the amendment that had been made, and on every occasion ignored the conciliation boards, he said—and his words would prove prophetic—that it meant trouble both to employed and employers. They started on conciliation; they ought to keep to conciliation." Mr. Pirani showed that the Wellington conciliation board had cost £1,100 and had settled only two cases. Mr. G. W. Russell pointed out that the premier's own speeches about "riding the thing to death" had been large causes in the revulsion of feeling which had taken place. The premier was forced to pass the bill with the obnoxious clause in it, and it is said that if he had not the government would have had to resign.

The Act, therefore, as heretofore worked, has been a failure. That is now declared on the highest authority. Its most prominent principle has been repeated. Whether under the new system it is likely to work well we shall not discuss at present.

BRITISH LABOR TROUBLES.

English employers complain that after they meet the demands of labor as to hours and wages the trades union system artificially restricts the productivity of labor. In other words the employers contend

that when the men get fair hours and fair wages they are encouraged to "soldier." The following extract from a bricklayers' laborer's card, illustrates the contentment of the English employers: Rule 5. You are strictly cautioned not to outstep good rules by doing double the work you are required and causing others to do the same in order to gain a smile from your master. Such foolhardy and deceitful actions leave a great number of good members out of employment the year round. Certain individuals have been guilty, who will be expelled if they do not refrain. The theory set forth in this union card is that if each laborer will attempt to do a little less there will be a little more work for somebody else to do. The less work that a man does for his money the more money will have to be spent in getting other people to help the idlers. The truths of political economy may be embodied in these notions, but the employers who give a fair day's wages are surely entitled to a fair day's work.

DRINK BILL OF THE NATIONS.

Some interesting statistics have recently been published by the board of trade of Great Britain and Ireland, showing the consumption of alcoholic liquors during the past year in the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the United States. The following table shows the governmental revenues from alcoholic beverages:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Net rev. From tax tot. on drink. revenue.

The consumption of wine in the four countries is given thus:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Total consump. Per hd. gals. gals.

The following table shows the consumption of beer:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Total consump. Per hd. gals. gals.

The figures are likely to surprise people who are unfamiliar with the subject," remarks the Chicago Inter Ocean.

While France more than maintains her old reputation as the greatest wine consuming country of the world, it is found that the per capita consumption of beer in the United Kingdom is greater by about four per cent than in Germany, which has generally been considered pre-eminently the beer drinking country. "Contrary to the popular idea, Germany takes the lead as the consumer of strong drinks," comments the Inter Ocean, "and notwithstanding the reputation of our people as whisky drinkers, we consume a less quantity of ardent spirits per capita than any of the others." The Topeka Capital says: "It is evident that there is plenty of work for the temperance societies of the world to do, when not only is the use of alcoholic drinks excessive and intemperate in most civilized countries, but it is steadily on the increase. In England, for example, although twelve years ago as much beer was consumed per capita as is now consumed in the United States, yet in these twelve years the consumption has increased nearly 50 per cent per capita and a good deal more than 50 per cent in total volume."

A ROUGH VOYAGE.

The Schooner Long Arrives at Port Townsend From Nome.

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., Dec. 10.—The schooner Ralph J. Long, Captain M. F. Greene, 47 days from Cape Nome, with 90 passengers and 15 stowaways, has arrived, and according to the passengers she had the most eventful voyage of any vessel ever sailing from the north.

The Long sailed from Nome October 23 with provisions enough to last her to Dutch Harbor under favorable circumstances. Before reaching that port the water supply gave out, and for two days the passengers were without water. From the time of sailing from Dutch Harbor the Long experienced continual gales of unusual severity, the most severe being on November 11, when seas swept the vessel from stern to bow, carrying away a portion of the water supply and one lifeboat. Mate Hansen was washed overboard by an immense sea and drowned.

The last two weeks of the voyage the passengers had to depend upon what rain they could catch for a water supply.

BOSTON ELECTION.

Democrats Won a Complete Victory Over Republicans. BOSTON, Dec. 10.—The Democrats overwhelmed the Republicans in the city election today, General P. Collins being elected over Mayor Thomas Hart by the largest plurality in a quarter of a century. The Democrats also obtained a majority of the city government, elected their street commissioner and practically all candidates for school commissioners.

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LE Condition Circ

The following to the shareholders of the company:

Salisbury B Dear Sir or Madam The following from Mr. Fred

Auditors make smelting works June 30th, 1885. Improvements— I estimate the above the 900-fo of 2,000 lbs., w total cost per to exceed \$9. T mine, so far as ore 170 feet in assays average \$ down 1,050 feet. as early as poss November at sm matte on hand a plies \$1,045,000. dump \$100,000 ed Your directors: Towing explatori ly with the exam Mr. Frecheville. of the company conducted by Mes & Co. Their audi

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WATER AND MO

A Tremendous Expl

Sharon Steel

SHARON, Pa., Dec. 10.—That shook the earth shattered windows, mo buildings from their caused the injury of ni at the Sharon Steel com day. Of the nine inj taken to the hospital. curred in the casting de "big mill." The metal de from the ladle into the when it came in conta water, which caused a felt a great distance, house was completely v strips of heavy corruga and other material wer dreds of yards by the ex