

## MINING TIT-BITS,

### The Mining Exchange & Investor's Guide.

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#### IN THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY.

Some time ago a surveying party penetrated the Peace River Country of the British Northwest Territories in the attempt to find a practical route for what is known as the Stikine-Teslin Railway. The following is a partial account of a report of the party to the Edmonton (N. T.) "Bulletin":

Between the junction of the Parsnip and Finlay rivers and Hudson's Hope, Peace River runs between two ranges of mountains which have an elevation of between 3,000 and 4,000 feet above the level of Peace River. The peaks of some of the mountains are bare of vegetation. Mount Selwyn is the highest point of the eastern range along the rivers, and has an elevation of 6,240 feet above sea-level. It was ascended by the chief of the expedition, who succeeded in reaching the summit, where he obtained a wide-spread view of the surrounding country, presenting to him a grand panorama of mountain peaks capped with snow the year round, as far as the eye could reach.

Peace River has a fall of about a foot and a half per mile on an average from the junction of the Parsnip and Finlay to the canyon, and presents no serious obstacles to navigation, with the exception of the Parle Pass and Finlay Rapids, when it is necessary to portage supplies and other freight. Peace River Canyon, which is about twenty-four miles long, presents the appearance of a large canal cut through the mountains by the river, the walls of the canyon being 100 to 400 feet high. It has taken ages to make the channel through which it runs at the present time, the old bed of the canyon being clearly seen over 150 feet above the river where it now runs. The proof of this is seen in a series of deep wells cut in the solid rock by whirling boulders caused by the eddies of the river, being similar to such wells on the level of the river as it runs now. These wells are fifteen to twenty feet deep and from two to four feet in diameter, their walls being worn smooth and polished by the constant rubbing of the boulders as they turned for centuries.

Three miles from the mouth of the canyon there is an island which presents at a distance the appearance of a large ship of war of the old wooden pattern, with its numerous port-holes.

This island stands about thirty feet out of the river, having been cut out in this peculiar way by the river in the years gone by. The fall of the river through the canyon is about 270 feet in twenty-three miles, and there is a series of rapids from its mouth to Hudson's Hope. Navigation, although dangerous, is not impossible at certain times of the year to expert boatmen; but there is nothing to be gained by attempting to go through.

#### BRITISH IMPERIALISM.

We clip the following from an English exchange, and must express ourselves as fully in accord with it.

Statesmen, politicians, and newspapers have had a good deal to say of late on the subject of Imperialism as contrasted with Little Englandism, but they have all lost sight of one very important point in relation to the expansion of the Empire. They either look at the matter from a purely political standpoint or indulge in sentiments which are neither practical nor wise, all the time forgetting that it is necessary for us to extend our bounds in order that we may provide occupations for the surplus population of these islands. British capital is to all intents and purposes independent of national boundaries or location. It is as easy for a capitalist to buy Mexican bonds as it is for him to purchase Argentine or Russian securities, but the man whose principal resources consist of bright brains and brawny arms cannot so easily locate himself abroad. In many of the countries of the world there is no room at all for him, and apart from the United States of America, he has to make his choice between our own Colonies and dependencies on the one hand, and South American countries and a few places in Asia on the other hand. Not only as a matter of sentiment, but also as a matter of serious advantages the young Briton who leaves his native land turns his gaze primarily to those parts of the world where the good old flag flies—where every man has the protection of just laws and the inducement to do his best, as compared with certain other countries where justice goes to the highest bidder and where corruption reigns supreme. It is palpable, therefore, that in simple justice to the surplus population of the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's ministers, to whatever party they may belong, are in duty bound to do their utmost, not merely to defend and protect the Colonies we now possess, but also to exercise the utmost care in getting our proper share of the "waste places of the earth" not hitherto properly governed, or falling into anarchy as the result of the decay of their present rulers. We are a colonising people. We are, perhaps, foolishly generous in admitting the goods of all other nations on equal terms to the Colonies for which we have fought and worked, but we do this from most generous motives, and no man can justly say that British rule is other than beneficial in any part of the world. Our young men, and some of our men who are no longer in the first flush of youth, are always quitting their homes

and helping the progress of civilisation whilst also securing some solid advantages for themselves. In every climate and under all imaginable conditions they pursue their avocations; and in nine cases out of ten they benefit the land of their adoption. They are worthy of praise and protection, and if these represent Imperialism, we confess that we are Imperialists to the backbone.

#### AN ERA OF STRIKERS.

The country has been, and still is passing through a series of strikes, unusual in number and in stubborn pertinacity. There are constant mutations in business conditions, and, consequently, the relations in some aspects of labor and capital are as constantly changing. The real struggle is for a deserved share of produced wealth on the part of labor.

There are repeated asseverations of prosperity in the country, and the prices of some commodities have greatly advanced, and with no increase in the cost of production, the profits of capital have been greatly enhanced. Seeing this has caused the operatives to believe that their wages should be correspondingly raised, and because this has not been done, and is refused, strikes are resorted to for the enforcement of compliance with the terms of the workers. The antagonism between labor and capital is the same as that between buyer and seller, or producer and consumer. The selfishness of human nature often interposes obstacles of relations of fairness and justice which should ever exist between the various classes of humanity.

It is unfortunate that there cannot always be an understanding, based upon what each deserves in the allotment of wealth as it is produced. There are two reasons why this is not done: one being too much egoism, and the other is the want of knowledge of conditions which should be taken into consideration in awarding the just share to each.

Capital does not of itself produce wealth, but it is a useful and necessary agency in carrying forward enterprises and industries by which opportunities are afforded for producing wealth in conjunction with labor. The possessors of capital thus invested are entitled to be guaranteed not only against loss, but to a just and reasonable remuneration, which should at least be sufficient to compensate for the trouble and hazards of making the investment, and more than that, as capital may be regarded as so much stored labor, it should have an earning power that the aged may have the means of a livelihood when their earning power has departed from them.

Labor should not be deprived of its fair share of produced wealth, and there would be no collision between the forces of labor and capital, if there were a disposition on both sides to act justly, and the intelligence to comprehend the inevitable ups and downs in business affairs.

Capitalists should not make a case for iron rule as to the profits they will exact, nor should labor make an unchangeable scale of wages. There should be a sliding scale on both sides.