Rossland Weekly Miner.

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SOME AFFIDAVITS.

We publish this morning a number of affidavits which have a bearing upon a statement attributed to William McDonald, vice-president of the Miners' Union of Rossland, which appeared in the Miner yesterday morning. It will be noted that Mr McDonald gives a straight denial of the allegation that he admitted that the strike had been lost by the union. We were prepared for a statement of that sort, and stated yesterday that we were desirous of being afforded an opportunity to prove that Mr. McDonald did make the admission attributed to him in our issue of Thursday. It will further be noted that the editor of the paper and the city editor both publish sworn statements to the effect that the information communicated to them regarding Mr. McDonald's admission of defeat was made by Chief of Police Vaughan. Readers of the Miner are now placed in possession of the contentions of both parties to the point, and can draw their conclusions as to which is correct. We may say right here that we should never have given publicity to the information which we did had we not the best reasons for believing that Mr. McDonald did make the statement which is attributed to him. We thought the matter of sufficient importance to give it considerable prominence in our columns, and we think that future developments will demonstrate not only that we were warranted in taking that action, but that Mr. McDonald's prediction was wisely made.

THE AGITATORS' SPOKESMAN.

Ever since the beginning of the strike which was inaugurated at the dictation of certain gentlemen of leisure in July, we have refrained from alluding to the manner in which the agitators' organ has been conducted. On numerous occasions we have felt impelled to indulge in some little denunciation of the tactics pursued by that newspaper, but we have subdued our feelings, hoping that the public would appreciate the unwisdom of the course which the World followed, and administer the proper corrective. The time has now arrived, however, when something ought to be said in protest against the publication each day in the columns of the organ of the union of matter which is of a dangerous character. In recent issues the most persistent attempts have been made to incite the radical members of the miners' union to violent action. We make that statement calmly and with a full appreciation of its import. Day after day it is attempted to be shown that Mr. Bernard MacDonald is a man who has proved himself an enemy to mankind in general, and we think that it is not improper to say that such talk on the part of a newspaper and the publication of such statements which are placed in the hands of the miners is likely to have a very bad effect. Only recently it has been demonstrated to the whole world how dangerous it is for public utterances to be made which are liable to incite hot-heads to violent action. The assassination of President McKinley by a madman the other day is attributed, according to the assassin's own statement, to words poured into his ear by a female fanatic. We are quite certain that the better element in Rossland disapproves entirely of the manner in which the World has been conducted recently, but it is only right that some word of protest should be entered against the pursuance of the policy which is likely to result in creating a situation which would be dangerous to the community. The most bitter opponent of the Miner, and the policy it has pursued in this controversy, cannot charge that one word has appeared in its columns which was not written with the object of appealing to the intelligence of its readers. We hesitated before making the foregoing remarks, but there appears no good reason why any further delay should be made in performing a duty which is clear, if the Miner is to continue to strive for the advancement of the best interests of the people of Rossland.

HOW THE BOYCOTT WORKS.

From information which the Miner has at its disposal, it is plain that determined efforts have been made by certain parties to boycott those who are now in the employ of the mining companies. It would appear to reasonable minds that it is a confession of weakness upon the part of the Miners' Union to allow such tactics to be pursued, but we are not concerned just now with that phase of the situation. It is interesting to note, however, in this connection that in other places where such attempts have been fairly successful the community has always suffered. Take the case of Northport, for instance. The manager of the smelter there found it impossible to get ordinary service for his employees in the town, and as a result it was made necessary that large supply depots should be erected on the company's grounds. Of course this interfered somewhat with the prosperity of the merchants of Northport, and a considerable amount of depression commercially, but what had the companies to do? The employees were not afforded an opportunity of purchasing supplies from the merchants, nor were they accorded the usual services which are required from time to time in a business way; therefore the company had no alternative but to protect the interest of their employees in the manner we have mentioned, that is, to afford them means of satisfying their necessary demands which required to be made from time to time. Now it is quite conceivable that if the foolish policy of boycotting were pursued to a certain limit in Rossland the companies here might find the same course of action necessary. We think that the contemplation of a possibility of that sort will bring considerable discomfort to the minds of the business men of this city, but if it does, it may be attributed to the abominable situation created through the acts of a few reckless agitators.

We have touched upon this matter after serious consideration of its gravity, and ask that merchants should think upon the words which they see here penned.

THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH.

But a few hours ago it was thought that President McKinley would live, and that Anarchy would in this instance be cheated of its victim. Suddenly the turn for the worse came, with a violence too great for the vitality of the sufferer to withstand. The shock to the family and friends of the president, and to the general public, is all the greater because of the encouragement given by the favorable reports of the past few days. As all the civilized world stood aghast at the act of the fiend whose hand did this fearful work, so now it will sincerely join with those who mourn the tragic end. The dead president deservedly held the respect of the great majority of his countrymen, even of those who differed from him in politics, and it is not too much to say that he was held in corresponding esteem among the people of other nations who had any opportunity of knowing what his character was. Proportionate will be their regret at the completeness of the treacherous assassin's work.

MR. BRATNOBER'S ACTION.

We publish this morning some information for the people of Rossland which cannot fail to create a profound impression in the community, and furnish the most absolute proof that there is not the slightest prospect of any change being made in the policy heretofore pursued by the directorate of the Le Roi Mining company in respect to the conduct of the strike. It is impossible to attach too much importance to Mr. Bratnober's action. It will be noted from a perusal of the article appearing on the first page of this issue that as a result of an interview with the executive of the Miners' Union Mr. Bratnober cabled the demands submitted to him and received a reply to his message. That message indicates very clearly that there is no hope for the strikers. We do not think we are taking too optimistic a view of the situation when we say that the receipt of this further confirmation of the endorsement of the policy heretofore pursued by the management of the mines is calculated to cause consternation in the ranks of the agitators, and an immediate return to work by the great bulk of the men who find themselves out of employment as a result of the ordering of the strike. It is not necessary to say that Mr. Bratnober's visit was anticipated with a considerable expectancy of results. We have had it on the authority of the organ which represents the union leaders that Mr. Bratnober came here with the object of looking into the situation, and taking important action. That Mr. Bratnober was competent to take important action has never been disputed. He is one of the most eminent mining engineers on the continent of America, and represents large holdings in the Le Roi Mining company. He is known to be in sympathy with the new board of directors, and that any action which he took would be in line with the new directors' views. For the several reasons which we have mentioned there will be little disposition to dispute that the instructions which Mr. Bratnober received yesterday are of the most important character. An attempt was made to create the impression that Mr. Bratnober was antagonistic to Mr. Bernard MacDonald. We have Mr. Bratnober's permission to state that he fully endorses the action Mr. MacDonald has been called upon to take in dealing with the strike, and that he is working in harmony with that gentleman.

TO THE PEOPLE OF ROSSLAND.

We are going to attempt to say something this morning to the people of Rossland which we hope will be seriously considered. The Rossland Miner has repeatedly presented arguments which, if honestly considered, ought to have resulted in the conviction being fixed in the minds of its readers that the present strike, ordered by a few agitators, was bound to result in defeat for the Miners' Union. It is hardly necessary to present evidence at this stage which would go to bear out that contention; but, without taxing the memory to any extent, it will be recalled that it has been proven that the strike was an illegitimate one; that it was ordered through the work of a few agitators and contrary to the wishes of the great bulk of the men employed at the mines. This was apparent to all thinking men; and all of us who have given the matter any consideration know that the one factor in preventing the defeat of the agitators was the persistent efforts which were made by stock jobbing speculators to create the impression that there would be a change of management of the properties. We publish some information this morning which will serve to indicate that the policy pursued by the Miner has been founded upon knowledge of a certainty of ultimate victory for the cause which it espoused. It seem our duty at this time to suggest that serious consideration ought to be given by the general public of Rossland to the desirability of a change in their attitude in respect to this controversy. They have, in the face of the most convincing proof that the strike was an illegitimate one, refrained from openly condemning those responsible for it We think in assuming this attitude they made a mistake; we think that there ought to have been an outburst of public opinion in condemnation of actions so calculated to work injury to the community; and now that there is no further reason for doubt as to the outcome, they should display no hesitancy in so conducting themselves as to assist in a speedy termination of the trouble and the restoration of harmony and peace and prosperity.

TO THE MINERS.

We feel it our duty this morning to say a few words to the miners of Rossland. Those of them who have read the columns of the Rossland Miner since the strike was ordered must be convinced that we have presented arguments which were calculated to show them that the controversy in which they were identified could only result in disaster to the agitators. We are quite prepared to admit that they had some grounds for refusing to accept our contentions; but we this morning place in their hands through the columns of this paper information which will, we think, indicate to them that there can be only one outcome of the situation.

A painful feature in connection with the matter is the fact that the miners have been the victims of gross deception on the part of men who hoped by their tactics to revenge themselves upon certain individuals. Had the battle been waged free from the interference of men who were the principals in this gross deception there would have been a speedy termination of the contest; but it is the sorry truth that the situation was continually misrepresented to the miners by men prominent in the public eye and of a status which gave their attitude some weight.

It is not necessary that the Miner should indulge at this time in denunciation of the tactics of the gentlemen to whom we have alluded. Public opinion will administer the proper castigation to those gentlemen. The intent of this article is to convey the idea to the minds of the miners that it is the height of folly for them to allow themselves to be further deceived, and they should, with the information which they have before them, arrive at a speedy decision to end all uncertainty as to their position by returning to work.

THE WORK IN THE MINES.

The situation in Rossland this morning will afford unqualified gratification to those residents of Rossland who are looking for evidences of a returning era of prosperity. Two weeks ago the management of the Le Roi group of mines promised that work was to be resumed and ore shipments recommenced. One week after this announcement sixty men were at work on the hill and the ore shipments aggregated over 1,200 tons. Two weeks after the first machine drill was rigged up the progress made was equally satisfactory. Today there are slightly over one hundred men at work, and the ore shipments for the second week ending last night totalled 1,600 tons, a very substantial gain over the first week's tonnage, as was only natural. Business people and citizens generally will look forward to the week just commencing with pleasant anticipation. They may be pardoned, in view of the events of the fortnight just closed, if they look forward to what may very properly be termed the complete vindication of the policy with which the future prosperity of the city is interwound. The operation of the big mines is so essential to the success of every branch of business in the Golden City that in opening the works the companies cannot help having the support of every right-minded citizen. The obstructionist element still pursues its course, but every day brings about a reduction in the effectiveness, never really serious, of the tactics of obstruction.

The latest development in the contest—if such a term may be applied to the admittedly futile line of action adopted by the interests that would gratify injured feelings and personal vanity at the expense of a city's welfare—is the exposure of the deceit practised by the executive of the Miners' Union. The confirmation of the Le Roi company's strike policy from the very source on which the union had counted to win its fight was transmitted to the officers of the union early on Friday afternoon last, yet it remained for the Miner to announce the fact yesterday morning. The natural query is: "Why did not the executive of the union inform its members of Mr Bratnober's statement immediately? Why were the members of the organization, whose interests were so vitally at stake, not notified of the exact facts regardless of the bearing of the intelligence on the situation?" The executive of the Miners' Union locked up in its bosom a communication that was of prime importance and interest to every member of the organization which elected them, and has not yet transmitted the information in question to the members, although the facts were made public through the columns of this newspaper in the shape of news. The inference to be drawn is that the executive of the Miners' Union has not sufficient confidence in the rank and file of the union members to divulge any facts that may be regarded by them as dangerous to the success of the policy they have adopted

As a matter of fact the little circle of agitators that is responsible for the late labor trouble in the Rossland camp has acted throughout in a manner that should bring upon the heads of the men in authority an avalanche of criticism from the men who have trusted them. The policy pursued by the executive of the union has been that of deception from start to finish. They have made promises galore which have not been fulfilled, facts have been misrepresented in the most glaring manner, information has been withheld when the cause of peace and prosperity would have been promoted by its publication, and, worse than all else, members of the executive have intimated to outsiders that the battle was lost while to the members of the union they endeavored to present smiling countenances and declared with unction that the prospect of success was brilliant. This has altered the entire aspect of the situation. The strike in Rossland was never a battle waged by down-trodden workingmen against corporations that were applying the heel of oppression. It has been from the start an attempt by disgruntled agitators to cause a great and a liberal corporation such annoyance and expense as was possible under the circumstances. In their effort the agitators were enabled to array on their side several hundred men who had not then and never have had any grievance to urge. By trickery these men were called out of the mines. By misrepresentation and deception they have been defrauded of two months' work, but there can be but one end to such chicanery. In time—and at an early date too—the duplicity of the inner circle will be disclosed. The honest miners will then realize the extent to which they have been deceived by those in whom they reposed confidence. They will understand that they have been literally robbed of a quarter of a million dollars and more. Thus coming to their senses they will brush aside forever the baleful influence of the agitator and re-establish the permanent peace and prosperity of the Golden City.

OBNOXIOUS MARTINISM.

Mr. Brown has told the people of New Westminster, whom he is asking to re-elect him as minister, that he is no longer a Martinite. Apparently the title has now a bad odor attached to it, and some other must be used that is not quite so rank. The telegraphed report does not say what Mr. Brown will in future call himself, if he made any announcement in that direction. Perhaps he will style himself a Dunsmuirite. That is the more likely in that Mr. Dunsmuir himself has seen fit to make an outward repudiation of Martinism. In the Colonist, his personal organ, the following notification to all and sundry appears: "We may state for the information of the Times and every one else that Mr. Martin was not consulted by Mr. Dunsmuir as to his policy during last session, is not consulted by him now as to what course he shall pursue, and will not be consulted by him in the future. Mr. Dunsmuir will decide upon such a line of policy as commends itself to his judgment. To this policy he will be glad to have the support of Mr. Martin and of every member of the house." Mr. Martin has also come forward to the relief of the premier and Mr. Brown. When asked if it was correct that Mr. Dunsmuir had consulted him regarding reconstruction of the cabinet he said: "No, I had nothing to do with Mr. Brown's appointment beyond the fact that Mr. Brown himself consulted me, and I told him I thought it would be a good thing." All this is satisfactory insofar as it indicates that Mr. Dunsmuir, Mr. Brown and Mr. Martin himself acutely realize that the name of Martinism is not one to conjure with in this province, and do not care to have it openly attached to the government in which they are all so much interested. But, unfortunately for the combination, they will find it hard to convince the public that it is the thing, and not merely the name, that they repudiate. For all this process of disinfection, there will still be an overpowering scent of Martinism around the seat of government while the present combination holds sway, and it is a smell which, according to the gentlemen's own admission, the public does not relish.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

In this morning's issue we carry an advertisement for the Le Roi Mining company calling for 700 men—400 miners at $3.50 per day of eight hours, and 300 men to push cars and shovel at $2.50 per day of eight hours. In addition to this there will be several contracts let where the best miners can make considerably better wages than they could earn by day's pay. For some time past the Miner has been pointing out the advisability of the idle men in Rossland making application for position at the Le Roi and Rossland Great Western mines. This morning we emphasize the advisability of their doing so at once. There is no time to be lost. These vacant positions will not remain open for any length of time, for the reason that, naturally, the first to come will be served first. To the workingmen as they face today the prospect of a long, severe winter, the opportunity to secure permanent positions thus afforded is a Godsend which they should appreciate, and we sincerely trust the working miners of Rossland will realize that it is to their best interests to lose no time in embracing the opportunity. The Miner desires to see the city of Rossland throw off its present deserted village aspect and assume the appearance that properly belongs to it—that of a humming, bustling mining town supplying the commercial necessities of an army of 1,500 to 2,000 workingmen. The Miner wishes to see the workingmen of Rossland in permanent positions. We want the wives and children of the workingmen of Rossland to be well clothed and fed. We want, above all else, to see prosperity re-established in the Golden City, and the crucial moment has been reached. Here is the opportunity.

Mr. BRATNOBER'S STATEMENT

The attention of readers of the Miner is directed this morning to the interview with Mr. Henry Bratnober, which appeared in Sunday's issue of the Spokesman-Review, and which is reproduced on the first page of this issue of the Miner. It will be remembered that it has been repeated time and time again since the strike was declared that the new directors to be elected by the shareholders of the Le Roi Company, Limited, would reverse the policy of the old directors with regard to the strike. It will be remembered also that the official organ of the strike managers held out rosy promises to the strikers and the public to the effect that when Mr. Bratnober, who represented the new directors, would arrive here the strikers' demands would be met. Everybody conversant with public opinion in Rossland knows that the iteration of these statements had the effect of carrying conviction not only to the minds of the striking miners but to a large number of business men as well.

What is the position of affairs today? The new directors have been elected, Mr. Bratnober has been here, has studied the situation and cabled the new directors for instructions. The result is amply stated in the interview reproduced in the Miner this morning.

We urge every man in Rossland to read this interview carefully and critically and to judge for himself whether or not it contains good, sound common sense and then to ask himself whether there is any use in prolonging a strike that is as inevitably doomed to failure as was the great Steel strike that collapsed across the border on Sunday.

THE EXTREME LIMIT

When pressed to the wall the cause of agitation resorts to curious methods. Thus it is that the attack on the Rossland Salvation Army corps carries a significance that will be understood by the large majority of Miner readers. It means that having failed in all other directions to make headway against inevitable failure the extremists are carrying the war into the place of worship. Under the latest interpretation of the boycott, a man suspected of assisting the legitimate operation of the mines on which Rossland depends for its existence must not worship in company with his fellowmen on pain of bringing upon the house of God which he attends the ban of the boycott. Because a man who carried the banner in the parade of the Salvation Army did work that the agitators believed, erroneously, as has been demonstrated, would injure their cause, the Army is made the target for vile epithets, young women selling the War Cry have been grossly insulted and in one instance hands were placed upon a girl who carried in her arm a bundle of the bright little newspaper published by the Salvation Army. Do the actions of the alleged men who perpetrated this outrage appeal to decent miners as worthy of emulation? Is not this one incident enough to disgust the honest workingman who is likely to be further drawn through the mud by the acts of those to whom he is bound by the ties of unionism? An organization that harbors such ruffians in its bosom is doomed to discomfiture, and the sooner honest men pull out of such company the less likely are they to be drawn into situations they will never cease to regret and deplore.

THE MINES WILL REOPEN.

The Le Roi mine will resume operations next week. This announcement is made by the company, and there is no more reason to doubt that the intention thus expressed will be put into effect than there is to doubt that actual mining operations are being carried on in the Josie mine. The company stated that they would operate the Josie, and they did so. Now they state that they will operate the Le Roi, and they will do so beyond the shadow of a doubt.

The question may be asked: "Where will the miners and muckers come from to man the Le Roi?" To those who have given the situation a little thought the answer to the query is readily at hand. It is well known that conditions in the Coeur d'Alenes at the present time closely approximate those which have prevailed in the Slocan district and the East Kootenay district of this province. The price of pig lead has decreased to a point where many Coeur d'Alene producers are forced to the conclusion that it is more profitable for them to leave their lead ores stored in the bosom of the earth rather than mine under existing conditions. The production of lead ores has reached a stage where it has been found necessary to call a halt in the output if prices are to be maintained on a basis that will permit the mine owner to reap a reasonable profit on the sum he has invested in his mining venture. That these conditions actually exist is so well known to all who read the daily press of the Northwest that it seems superfluous to refer to the various instances of curtailed output and mines closing down that have been chronicled during recent weeks. The inevitable result of the curtailing of mining operations in the Coeur d'Alenes must be to throw out of employment a large number of skilled miners, far more than can ever secure employment in the Rossland mines. These Idaho miners are non-union miners to a man. They have experienced the woes of living under the regime of the agitator, and may safely be trusted to steer clear of the agitator-ridden camp with the care that the range rider avoids the deadly blizzard. What would be more natural than that these skilled miners from the Coeur d'Alenes should come to Rossland, knowing, first, that they will not be exposed to the violence of the agitator and, second, that here their competence will assure them steady work at the best wages obtainable in the mining camps of the Rocky Mountains. The question of securing a crew of laborers is as easily solved. Anyone who has read the Miner and other newspapers must be aware that at the present time the army of young Ontario harvesters, who came west to assist the western agriculturalist to garner in his phenomenal crops, is now idle in the Prairie province, and that each man is debating with himself as to whether he will turn his footsteps east or west. Should he determine to return whence he came, he is probably assured that he will obtain work for the winter that will net him $20 or $25 per month. If he comes west he knows that his wage-earning capacity will be substantially greater, but the great west is a new country to him, and few men care to venture abroad when nothing certain is in sight. Tell this man that if he comes to Rossland he will be guaranteed a position at work that is no harder than the tasks he has been used to all his life, that the hours per day will be about one-half what he is accustomed to working, and, above all, that his remuneration on the start will be $2.50 per day, with a prospect, so soon as he has mastered the principles of mining, that he will receive $3.50 per day—does anyone doubt that half the sturdy Ontario farmers now in Manitoba would hesitate to grasp such an opportunity? Does anyone doubt, further, that these men are the very best class from which to recruit the new generation of Canadian miners, that they are the very best class of citizens for a young province—honest, sturdy, clean-living, ambitious and industrious young men who have made the name of Ontario famous for its breed of men the world over? On this class of men the mines of Rossland can make unlimited drafts, and there is no reason why the mining companies should not do so if occasion necessitates. There will be no difficulty in