

THE ROADS ARE BAD

Consequently Receipts of Ore at Kaslo Are Much Decreased.

FULL APRIL SHIPMENTS

Also Smaller for the Same Reason—“Swedes” Claims in Dispute—The Washington Concentrator Resumes Baseball Team Organized.

Kaslo, May 8.—[Special Correspondence.]—While the train service on the Kaslo and Slokan railway is uninterrupted and trains have been running very nearly on schedule time, and passenger traffic is large, the deliveries of ore at the Kaslo station have fallen off largely because of the difficulty of transportation upon trails and roads which are still impassable. The Payne group has for instance entirely disappeared from the list of shippers, as also has the Whitewater. The Payne road was constructed late in the autumn, and was merely a sleigh road. It is now being almost entirely reconstructed and put into order for summer work. Meanwhile the road to the mine has not been lessened, and a large quantity of ore is being stopped and development work is proceeding, so that the group will resume its accustomed place as soon as the roads will permit. Water is giving trouble at the Whitewater and in the upper portion of the road is still in bad condition. The force at the mine has been temporarily reduced but will be replaced as soon as work can be profitably prosecuted.

Ore Receipts and Shipments.
The ore receipts at the Kaslo station for the week ending May 6 have been as follows:

	Pounds.
MINES.	
Slocan Star	240,000
Noble Five group	231,675
Rath	150,000
Slocan Boy	35,000
Autonne	35,000
Jackson Group	30,000
Total	719,175

The bulk of this ore goes to Pueblo, Colorado. The Slocan Star ships, as usual, to the Omaha and Grant works at Omaha, Nebraska.

The ore shipments from Kaslo during the month of April amounted to 2,966,000 pounds, or 1,498 tons, valued at \$132,998, being at the rate of \$88.79 per ton. There were contained in these shipments 1,439,200 pounds of lead and 172,741 ounces of silver, which will give 115.31 ounces of silver to the ton and an average of 48.03 per cent of lead. As compared with the previous month, the shipments for April show a very considerable decrease, which is to be ascribed to the early breaking up of the roads. This difficulty will continue during the current month, but after that the shipments will increase, as it is said the Kaslo mines alone will shortly increase to at least four cars per day.

Mining News.

Ed Rooney of Rossland, has sold to Charles S. Warren and C. W. Callahan of the same city, an undivided two-thirds interest in the Nob Hill mineral claim, situated upon the west slope of White Grouse mountain.

A number of prospectors who went into the Lardo-Duncan country intent upon the discovery of mineral in the place, have been compelled to return, as they found the snow entirely too deep to permit of effective work upon the mountain.

The rush for long date miners' certificates still continues at the office of the mining recorder, as many seem to have the impression that the alien clause may even yet find its way into the mineral act. Several have been issued for five years, and a still larger number for three. There is also an unusually large number of ordinary bills of sale being recorded.

L. E. Diller has placed upon record in the mining recorder's office a document in which he makes a claim that he is entitled to a half interest in the mineral claims Homestretch, Glacier, Hem, Clara G. and Two Snowbirds, situated at the head of the Kokanee creek. He bases the claim upon the alleged fact that he was a partner of J. McVie, the locator, at the time the claims were located.

J. R. Cameron, of Spokane, has purchased for \$1,000 the entire interest of John Allen, of Kaslo, in the mineral claim International, located in the Blue Ridge camp, about four miles from the ten-mile house, on the Kaslo & Slokan railway. Much interest has been taken in this particular portion of the district and properties there seem to be in demand.

Mr. James Anderson, of the Gold Hills Exploration & Development company's prospecting expedition, left by steamer on Thursday for his headquarters camp, to which he has appropriately given the name of Elgar, in honor of the president of the company and speaker of the house of commons. Mr. Anderson took with him several additional men and a considerable quantity of supplies.

Trouble has arisen between the reputed owners of what are known as the “Swedes” Claims, located upon the South Fork of Kaslo creek, consisting of the Silver Bell, Hub, and Little Bell, a fractional claim. Carl Nelson has entered suit against Louis Martin for third interest in each of the claims, and has recorded a lis pendens in the office of the mining recorder. These are the claims which have so frequently been reported as bonded. As much as \$75,000 have been offered for them, with a cash payment of \$7,500.

D. W. Bole, of the well known wholesale drug house of Martin, Bole, Wynne & Co. of Winnipeg, is spending a day or two in Kaslo. Mr. Bole is president of the Winnipeg board of trade, and an experienced business man, and has been in Kaslo about five years ago during the boom days, and finds things now, he says, much more solidly placed. He came directly over to the Northern Pacific, and is pleased to find so many evidences of permanent prosperity in the city. He will take in the entire Kootenay country during his trip.

The concentrator of the Washington Mining company resumed work on Thursday last. Major Montgomery, the president, reports that there is ample ore blocked out for the season's run and there need be no detention. In the mine sunk some thirty feet below the lower tunnel, three feet of an ore body

has been developed. It will be nearly, if not quite, a month before it will be profitable to send forward any ore from the mine, as it is the intention to wait until the wagon road has settled into solid condition.

Municipal Matters.

That the civic idea is not entirely localized in the board of aldermen is indicated by a proposition made to the city council by a teamster, who had doubtless suffered from the dust nuisance. He proposed to sprinkle the streets once a day for \$15 per week and twice a day for \$25 per week. The proposal was taken under advisement.

The public works committee has a report before the council recommending that a bylaw authorizing a loan of \$12,000 for street improvements be placed before the ratepayers at as early a date as possible. The report has not been adopted; if not in its entirety, at least, in the larger part. Meantime the committee has been instructed on its own suggestion, to put existing sidewalks and streets in proper shape and condition.

The city council has accepted the proposition of two public spirited citizens, Gregenich and Byers, to cut and grade Water street, the expense of the work to be repaid them at the expiration of a year from the completion of the work to the satisfaction of the public works committee.

Kaslo's Baseball Team.

Manager Borchers, of the Kaslo baseball club, has about completed the selection of the team which he will put into the field and will probably make his official announcement on Monday next. Meantime preparation of the ground for the opening game is going on actively, and will be completed for the official game, if not in time to afford the players much opportunity for team practice. Mr. Borchers has made his selections with a great deal of care and his wide acquaintance has been of great service. He will doubtless direct our aggregation, which will be found well to the front when the trophy offered to the winning nine of the league by the Kootenian is awarded.

There is some fear in baseball circles that for some reason Nelson may be unable to take the expected place in the Washington-Kootenay baseball league. In such a regretted contingency it is hoped that a trail nine will occupy the vacant place.

Almost a Panic.

On Wednesday last Kaslo was visited by another of those fierce gales which sometimes come this way. The dust from the streets was borne along in such quantities as to be almost blinding. In the midst of the gale a fire alarm was sounded and a panic well nigh prevailed. A careless workman had left his fire pot upon a roof which he had been soldering, and the smoldering embers fanned by the gale were scattered and set fire to the adjoining building. The incipient blaze was quickly put out by aid of an extinguisher. But while the firemen were rushing to respond to the first alarm, a second was sounded from the Hotel Slocan, where a blazing chimney caused apprehension, both public and firemen, were some-what “battled” by the double alarm, and for a time excitement reigned. No material damage was done, and after the excitement was over, people were generally pleased because of the quick response given by the fire boys.

News of the Town.

W. S. Clouston and R. Rentoul, of Montreal, inspectors of the great bank of the same name, passed through Kaslo on the way from New Denver to Nelson on official business.

From bicycle riding to bicycle racing is not a far step. It was not surprising therefore to see a couple of youthful enthusiasts scorching around a city block the other afternoon.

The Saturday afternoon open-air concerts of the Kaslo band show marked improvement on the part of the performers and are much enjoyed by the citizens.

The influx of strangers continues and the lodging houses are taxed to their utmost capacity, although their number is constantly being added to. The other evening seats in many of the saloons were occupied by those unable to find any more suitable resting place for the night.

Joiah Fletcher, well known and well liked by every Kasloian old and young, has just returned from a protracted visit to California, where he did a good deal of recruiting, as he looks hale and hearty and fitted for another 20 years, which his many friends hope he may enjoy to the utmost.

The steamer Ainsworth floated and repaired resumed the service to Bonyer's ferry on Thursday last. She will, it is said, make a weekly trip up. It is said that the International Navigation and Trading company will also put a steamer on the same route at an early day for the accommodation of settlers along the Kootenay river and especially those at the reclamation works north of the boundary.

It is announced that the C. P. R. steamer Kokanee will in the future tend her Monday's trip from Nelson to the townships of Lardo and Argenta, at the head of Kootenay lake.

DR. KELLER IS BACK.

London Getting Interested—Surprised at Rossland's Growth.
Dr. H. L. A. Keller, who left Rossland last December to visit London, England, returned Thursday on the train from Trail, which arrived at 8 o'clock. He brings glowing accounts of the interest that London capital is beginning to take in British Columbia mines, and says that he was very frequently asked concerning the mineral wealth of the province. Inquiries are constantly being made on this point in London by parties desiring to make investments in the mines of the region.

The recent losses in South African mines have, so Dr. Keller states, made a number of heavy investors very cautious concerning mines in any quarter, but he thinks British Columbia mines will rapidly come into favor in London, despite this fact.

Dr. Keller was surprised at the growth of Rossland during his brief absence. He remarked upon the large number of new buildings and structures in course of erection.

Run Over By a Train.

SPokane, Wash., May 8.—[Special.]—A. Capriel, a miner, was run over by an O. R. & N. train at Tekoa about midnight last night, sustaining injuries that may prove fatal. He was stealing a ride to Coeur d'Alene.

LOTS OF FREE GOLD

Boys Find a Rich Nugget In the Black Bear Dump.

LE ROI'S RICH SPECIMENS

In the Lower Workings Much Free Gold Has Also Been Found of Late—Mineralogists Much Interested In This New Phenomenon.

While some young men were taking a constitutional on Sunday last they visited the old tunnel of the Black Bear, which belongs to the Le Roi company, and is the west extension of the Le Roi mine, and began picking around in the ore dump. They found some pieces of white quartz which seemed to have come from a stringer about six or eight inches wide. On breaking open one of the larger masses, a piece weighing about 20 pounds, they found it fairly seamed with free gold. The ore was as rich as any sample ever taken from the O. K. mine.

There is nothing surprising in the discovery except that the miners who worked in the shaft should have overlooked it. There was some very high grade ore sacked and shipped from the Black Bear tunnel two or three years ago, and it is quite likely that some of this high grade ore contained free gold, although it was not known or even suspected at the time.

In this connection it may be of interest to state that flakes of free gold have frequently been noted in the ore from the 500-foot level in the Le Roi, and of late this has been so common an event as almost to escape comment. From the shaft below the 500-foot level some of the prettiest specimens of free gold ever seen have been found in ore which contained a large percentage both of iron and copper.

Mineralogists and experts are speculating a good deal on the possibilities opened up by these discoveries and some of them think that the usual order of things may be entirely reversed and that the ore of this camp may prove to be free milling with depth in addition to increasing in values. It would certainly be remarkable if it should turn out that Rossland is to upset all preconceived ideas regarding ore bodies, the usual rule being for ore to get more refractory and lower in grade as depth on the vein is attained.

REFUSED TO RESIGN.

Members of the Washington Board of General Duty Governor Rogers.
OLYMPIA, Wash., May 8.—[Special.]—The friction between Governor Rogers and the members of the board of audit and control came to a head last evening by the governor asking for the resignation of each member with the exception of Traveling Auditor Lister. The members of the board refused to resign and intend to force Governor Rogers to extreme measures.

The cause of the friction was over the appointment to positions in the state institutions, principally that of Superintendent Westendorff and Semple of the reform schools and the Medical Lake hospital. The governor had determined that these men should be retained and the board wished to fill their places with men of their own party. The board consists of the governor and four of the state officials. The law creating the board empowers the governor to remove them at will. The governor has not announced his plans for the formation of a new board.

THEY PLAYED THE LIMIT.

Steve Bailey and Barbarian Brown Beat a Race Game for \$5,000.
SPOKANE, Wash., May 8.—[Special.]—The biggest race game that has been played in this city for some time was commenced at the Coeur d'Alene club-rooms last evening and continued without interruption until about 11 o'clock this morning.

At this time the amount of the bank quit, about the amount of \$5,000. S. S. Bailey and R. E. (Barbarian) Brown were the plunkers who went up against the game. They started in to play alone about midnight. After the game had continued with varying luck, the dealer consented to raise the limit from the usual \$12.50 to \$100. As the two plunkers were permitted to let their bets go double it practically extended the game to \$200. At one time the bank was winner by over \$2,000. Towards morning luck changed and the bank was nearly \$12,000 behind. When Bailey and Brown quit this morning the latter had cleaned up \$4,300 and the former about \$700.

MAGISTRATE JORDAN PRESIDED.

Held Court Yesterday for the First Time—Can Try Civil Cases.
Saturday morning at 10 o'clock the newly appointed police magistrate, G. A. Jordan, held court for the first time, when he disposed of the following cases: Eva Matheson, for keeping a disorderly house, fined \$50 and costs; I. Power and James A. Ryan, for fighting and disorderly conduct, \$15 and costs each.

The new magistrate also held small debts court yesterday afternoon and it is his intention to hold this court twice a week. This will prove a great boon to minor cases as Magistrate Jordan, according to his commission, can try and dispose of civil cases up to the extent of \$100, which hitherto have had to wait till sittings of the county court.

Aldermen Serious.

Evidently appreciating the action of the council Friday night in granting an appropriation of \$100 to aid in paying for uniforms for members of the band, that body turned out Saturday night and serenaded the aldermen, each of the latter being treated to a separate selection, rendered in a very commendable manner. One of the conditions upon which the \$100 was granted, is that one of the aldermen shall be a member of the band committee. Alderman Raymer was selected for the place. The music last evening seemed as much enjoyed by the public generally as by the specially honored ones.

Empress of India Sails.

MONTREAL, Que., May 8.—The C. P. R. steamer Empress of India sailed for Vancouver Friday afternoon, the 7th inst.

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PLAINLY A SUICIDE

Evidence Showed That J. B. Fisher Deliberately Shot Himself.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST

G. R. McGowan, a Passenger, Saw Fisher Place the Revolver to His Head and Pull the Trigger—Remains Go to Deer Lodge Monday.

The inquest into the death of John B. Fisher, of Deer Lodge, Mont., who shot himself in the head on board the Red Mountain train Friday afternoon, resumed in the following verdict:

“We, the jury, find that John B. Fisher came to his death on a pistol shot in the city of Rossland from a pistol shot fired in a railroad car of the Red Mountain railway and that the evidence shows that the pistol was in his own hand at the time of discharge.”

The inquest was held at 3 o'clock at the courthouse, Coroner Bowes presiding. The gentlemen comprising the jury were: Norman McKenzie, W. T. Hall, James Richardson, Wilson McKinnon, Ernest Kennedy and A. B. Acorn. The first named was chosen as foreman. Col. S. M. Wharton was the first witness called. He was in the car at the time of the shooting. Just before the train stopped he heard some one say “lock the doors.” A moment later he heard the pistol shot and turned, seeing Fisher on the car floor. Colonel Wharton supposed that it was the customs inspector who called out to lock the doors. When he went closer he saw Fisher lying on the floor breathing very hard. He heard no one say they had seen Fisher fire the shot. A few minutes later Fisher with the revolver, which he had taken from his pocket, was seen by him to place the revolver to his head and pull the trigger.

J. T. Rolles, the next witness, was sitting with his back to Fisher when the latter fired the shot. He heard Fisher's body strike the floor, and on looking around saw the wounded man on the floor with the revolver. As the witness thought, in his left hand. As the wound was in the right side of Fisher's head it is probable that Rolles was mistaken about it being the left hand which gripped the weapon. Some one took the revolver from Fisher's hand and threw it onto a seat.

E. B. Conkling was sworn, after Rolles concluded his testimony. Conkling was sitting with his back to Fisher, and

had just risen to his feet and turned toward the front end of the car when he saw the Montana man in the act of firing. Conkling heard the report, which was muffled, and immediately Fisher fell, with the revolver in his right hand.

Saw Fisher Shoot.

G. R. McGowan of Fairhaven, Washington, was the last and most important witness examined. He occupied a seat directly behind Fisher. When the train slackened up it was announced that Rossland had been reached he started across the aisle to look out of the window, intending to get a view of the town. He had hardly risen from his seat when he beheld Fisher, standing with his head inclined toward his right hand, in which he held a revolver. A second later, as McGowan stood almost spellbound at the sight, Fisher pulled the trigger and a subdued report rang out.

Fisher fell forward, striking the floor between the seats, on his face. McGowan saw the bullet hole in the side of the man's head and the revolver held in his hand, which was twitching violently. Someone took the revolver from Fisher's hand. McGowan then left the car.

At the conclusion of the witnesses' testimony, Coroner Bowes stated that as McGowan's evidence showed without doubt the manner of Fisher's death, he thought it unnecessary to call more witnesses. At 3:50 o'clock the jury retired, bringing in the verdict as above given, in 20 minutes.

Doubtless a suicide. There is no reason to believe, after noting the evidence, and particularly that given by McGowan, that Fisher's death was anything but a suicide. Col. Wharton's statement that someone called out to “lock the doors,” just before the train stopped would make it seem that these words were the direct cause of Fisher's death. Bent on escaping from Deer Lodge, where a grand jury had been summoned to look into the alleged defalcation committed by him while recorder of Deer Lodge county, he probably misconstrued the order to lock the doors, thinking that officers were going to search the train for a fugitive from justice, which he no doubt considered himself, whereas in fact, it was only the preparation of the customs inspector before going through the baggage of the passengers.

Fisher's insurance will probably amount to \$10,000 as he was a member of various fraternal organizations, including the K. of P., Mason's Accident association, Odd Fellows and A. O. U. W. The Knights of Pythias, of which he was a member, gave notice yesterday that they would take charge of the remains and ship them to Deer Lodge for interment. The body will be shipped Monday.

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