

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

The Case for the Locators.

(B. C. Mining Exchange.)

The extraordinary richness and extent of the coal and oil lands of the district of South East Kootenay have been known for some considerable time, and the public has become of late more intimately acquainted with them through their having been dragged into the very unsavoury arena of local politics. A considerable portion of these lands has been located under the existing law by private individuals, with, no doubt, the usual and laudable desire of enlisting outside capital to exploit and develop their properties. This, we may observe for the benefit of the uninformed, is the general procedure of the prospector, whether he locates copper, gold, lead, iron or other precious or base mineral.

The prominence given to the vast riches of the favored district, by the legislative squabbles referred to in the preceding paragraph has, however, aroused a contentions in respect to their location and disposal by private parties which is, we think, one of the most astounding propositions British Columbia has yet seen, which is saying much. Briefly, this contention—suggestion—whichever you like to call it—amounts to this: "These lands are much more valuable than we thought; let us therefore repudiate and repeal the act, disallow the title obtained thereunder by the locators, and hold the lands until some other bidder comes along who will make it worth our while to sell."

Now, before we go any further, it may be well to take a look at the particular provincial statute which deals with the prospecting of lands for coal and petroleum in British Columbia. This act, passed in 1892, is entitled "An Act to Encourage Coal Mining," or, more briefly, "The Coal Mines Act." We quote sections 2 and 3 in full, that our readers may be fully informed as to what was required of the locators before they could obtain their licenses:

"2. Any person desirous of prospecting for coal or petroleum and acquiring a lease of any lands held by the crown for the benefit of the province, under which coal measures or petroleum are believed to exist, or wishing to procure a license for the purpose of prospecting for coal or petroleum upon lands under lease from the crown, in which the mines and minerals, and power to work, carry away, and dispose of the same, is excepted or reserved, shall, before entering into possession of the particular part of said coal lands he or they may wish to acquire and work for coal, place at one angle or corner of the land to be applied for a stake or post at least four inches square, and standing not less than four feet above the surface of the ground; and upon such stake or post he shall inscribe his name, and the angle represented thereby; that is, 'A. B. & N. E. corner' (meaning north-east corner), or as the case may be, and shall cause a written or printed notice of his intention to apply for such a license to be posted on some conspicuous part of the land applied for by him, and on the government office of the district, for thirty clear days. He shall also publish a notice of his intention to apply for such license for thirty days in the British Columbia Gazette, and in some newspaper circulated in the district, 1892, c. 31, s. 2.

2. After the expiration of the thirty days' notice, and within two months from the date of its first publication in the British Columbia Gazette, he shall make application in writing to the assistant commissioner of lands and works for the district within which the land required is situated for a prospecting license over such land for any term not exceeding one year. Such application shall be in duplicate, and shall be illustrated by plans or diagrams showing approximately the position thereof, and shall give the best practicable written description of the plot of land over which the privilege is sought; and the application shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars for each and every license. The assistant commissioner shall then forward one copy of the application and plan, together with the fees and his report, to the chief commissioner of lands and works, who shall, if no valid objection has been substantiated, grant to such applicant a prospecting license as aforesaid, 1892, c. 31, s. 3.

The remaining clauses of the act, which contains twenty-six in all, deal with leases, terms of working, renewals, restrictions and rights of way. What particularly concerns us, and also the locators, is the fact that, upon the execution and performance in due shape of the requirements mentioned in sections 2 and 3, the licenses are issued to the applicants.

We will now return to the preposterous suggestion referred to above. We note it and comment upon it for the simple reason that, flagrantly injurious as it is, it has for some time past received the support of certain politicians and a certain section of the provincial press. A recent editorial in one of the best known and most widely circulating of the coast papers crystallizes the arguments in favor of this proposed atrocious robbery of the South East Kootenay locators, and advances the said arguments with no little boldness. The writer we know to be one of the best known and most able public men in the province, and he may therefore be taken as the spokesman of those who wish to disgrace the good name of British Columbia by this nefarious act of injustice.

The editorial commences by hoping that the reservation of the blocks of land in South East Kootenay, which was the cause of all the controversy in connection with the Columbia & Western subsidy, will not be lost sight of in the present confused state of provincial politics. The editorial goes on to say: "It will avail little if these valuable lands, although their ownership has been denied to the railroad company, be allowed to pass into the possession of the crowd of speculators and schemers who are trying to get

them under the guise of mining and prospecting licenses." This is interesting. Most things in the line of hard knocks seem to come the poor prospector's way, but it is seldom that he gets a wholesale allotment handed out to him. And not an attempt proof, mind you, throughout the whole editorial, of this most sweeping and injurious statement. "Under the guise of" is very good, too. We may, therefore, presumably take it for granted that a miner's license is a sort of a deadly weapon, armed wherewith the humblest citizen may take a piece of the native land for the benefit of the hated alien.

The editorial continues: "In our opinion these tracts should be reserved entirely from alienation at the present time." Why? Because they are so rich? The more reason, one would think, for giving them every facility for development at the hands of capital. And why "alienation"? The man (or company) who takes up a piece of mineral land can in no sense be said to "alienate" it. The boot is very much on the other foot. In taxation, both direct and indirect; in wages, in supplies and machinery; those who open up mineral lands spend incalculable sums to the benefit of the district and country where those lands are situated, long before—in the majority of cases—they get a dollar for themselves.

Then the editorial says: "From the facts which have come to light, there appears to be no doubt that many of these applications are tainted with fraud, since in more than one instance we have seen members of the legislature, whose names have been appended to applications for leases to parts of these lands, rising in their places in the house and denying that such applications were made with their knowledge or authority."

This is a most extraordinary sentence. What facts does the writer allude to which have "come to light"? Why does he not enumerate them? And why does the uprising and denial of this or that nameless member of the legislature condemn a whole community as being "tainted with fraud"? This appears to us to be neither good law, good logic, nor good sense. From what we know by long and painful experience of the average legislator of British Columbia, he will rise in his place in the house or anywhere else and deny any and every old thing upon any provocation or upon no provocation whatsoever. In the matter of uprisings and denials he is like St. Peter before the cock crew. But he is inferior to St. Peter in one respect. He does not repent. He does not go out and weep bitterly. Not he. The country can attest to that.

Again, the editorial remarks that these lands are a provincial asset that will enormously increase in value in the course of a few years, and can then be dealt with in such a manner as the legislature itself may consider will best ensure their full value being secured for the province.

This is an extremely specious argument. Likewise a most jesuitical one. "Do evil that good may come." Does the writer wish us to believe that a legislature capable of so flagrant an act of repudiation and injustice as he proposes, a legislature which willfully broke its own laws and nullified its own statutes, would be capable of administering such vast wealth as he describes, without indulging in a very carnival of plunder at the expense of the province? The thing is impossible. A legislature which starts in to benefit the public by robbing one section of that public of its property would speedily end by robbing the whole community.

Further, the editorial goes on to say that "granted now by lease or otherwise, would simply mean that a number of speculators—many of them foreigners and without any permanent interest in British Columbia—would obtain the lands at a mere bagatelle of their intrinsic value, and immediately dispose of them to some corporation or syndicate."

This is nonsense, and the writer thereof must be aware of it. As for speculators, all prospectors are speculators from one point of view. How does he propose to discriminate? And as for foreigners—well, a great number of Americans and men of other nations are prospecting in British Columbia. Does he propose to deny the miner's license to all but British subjects? It would be a new departure, and totally at variance with British procedure the world over.

And they would "obtain the lands at a mere bagatelle of their intrinsic value," would they? So do all the prospectors—when the land turns out to be worth anything. The prospector takes that risk, and so does the man syndicate to whom he sells. These South East Kootenay lands are said to be rich—even known to be rich, as far as any one's knowledge goes—but hundreds of thousands of dollars must be spent in development work by the "syndicates and corporations" which our friend so heartily abuses before one dollar of those buried millions he chatters about so glibly can be set in circulation. And who is going to spend that money in development work if the "syndicates and corporations" do not? The province of British Columbia? Well, we rather guess not.

The editorial then commences its final appeal by the following statement: "The experience we have had with the great areas of coal lands acquired by railway and other corporations through the land grant to the British Columbia Southern railway should surely teach our legislators a lesson on the wicked waste of public resources that the imprudent disposal of such lands entails."

We may say at once that we fully agree with the writer here. The giving away of public lands, whether agricultural or mineral, to railway com-

plices of more or less nebulous personality and doubtful utility is something that we have always consistently opposed. It was only justifiable in one instance in the history of Canada—that instance being the Canadian Pacific railway. The peculiar formation of Canada rendered this great trunk line a national necessity, while the unsettled and therefore unproductive condition of the major part of the districts it traversed made a large grant the only fair and feasible means of offering a possible return for the vast outlay involved in the undertaking. But to follow that up by handing over hundreds of miles of territory to every paper railway company that could lobby a charter unto itself is a very different matter, and one to be strongly opposed on every ground of good government or wise development.

But we submit that this has nothing to do with the case in hand. We are taking up the cudgels for the private locator—the private prospector, if you like—who should be barred from locating in a section of country for the simple reason that it is a rich section? And, having located, why should he, when he seeks to interest capital in his property, be accused of "alienating" that property? How does he "alienate" it? He is not handing it over to a foreign government; he has not the power to do that, even if he wished. And, as we have already pointed out, the abused "alien" capitalist who interests himself in the properties of these locators must spend vast sums in taxes and supplies and labor before he gets a dollar returned on his investment.

The writer of the editorial winds up by an impassioned appeal to the legislature to take such steps as will "secure the province against being despoiled of property the value of which in a few years will more than equal the whole of the provincial debt." Possibly, but—does anyone believe that any legislature in broad Canada would put them to that laudable use? Honestly, now, does anyone believe it?

We do not believe the writer of the editorial to be actuated by any other sentiments than a sincere desire for the best development of British Columbia. But he does not propose by any means a satisfactory method of securing that development. Human nature is so un happily constituted that, if you turn a legislature into an exploration and development syndicate, things are likely to happen of a nature to shock the assumed mortality of nations.

Now, the B. C. Mining Exchange has also got an appeal—or rather a suggestion—to make to the government. Here it is: We have a law; let us therefore stick to it.

This may seem a rather unfashionable way of doing business to the average British Columbian. But we beg to assure our readers that, so strangely does the world at large regard these matters, it is the only possible way by which we can secure capital to develop our resources. A policy of repudiation, which is practically what the writer of the editorial quoted advocates, and which is openly endorsed by those of his way of thinking, would spell ruin to every industry in the country, as it is capable of indefinite expansion. You have a law; abide by it.

BABY'S SECOND SUMMER.

Why It Is a Dangerous Time for the Little Ones.

Baby's second summer is considered a dangerous time in the life of every child, because of the increased danger from cutting teeth during the hot weather. In slightly less degree every summer is a time of danger for babies as is shown by the increased death rate among them during the heated term. Of great interest to every mother, therefore, is a comparatively recent discovery of which Mrs. David Lee, of Lindsay, Ont., writes as follows:

"My little girl had a hard time getting her teeth. She was feverish, her tongue was coated, her breath offensive, and she vomited curdled milk. On the advice of our doctor I gave her Baby's Own Tablets and she began improving at once. She had not slept well at night for about three months, and I was almost worn out caring for her. Nothing did her any good until I gave her the tablets. Now her food digests properly, her breath is sweet, her tongue clean and she is quiet and good. I can strongly recommend the tablets to other mothers, as they cured my baby when nothing else would."

Baby's Own Tablets are sold by all dealers in medicine or will be sent post-paid at twenty-five cents a box, by the Dr. Williams Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont.

TO THE FORE.

A Rossland Firm's Enterprise in the Way of Importation.

Empey Brothers, with their customary enterprise and push, are to the fore with an announcement that means much to the many patrons of their big drygoods and men's furnishings establishments. One of the largest consignments of imported fall goods ever shipped from Great Britain to Rossland will be here in about ten days and will be opened up immediately on arrival. In this consignment will be included everything that is new and up-to-date in dress goods, silks, trimmings, domestics, table linens, napkins, towels, gloves, hosiery, ribbons, laces, etc.

Messrs. Empey look forward with confidence to doing a big business as soon as these goods are placed before Rossland buyers, hence the present intimation that will be included everything that is new and up-to-date in dress goods, silks, trimmings, domestics, table linens, napkins, towels, gloves, hosiery, ribbons, laces, etc.

The firm also announces that a new and complete line of men's furnishings goods is on its way from the old country.

VELVET WILL WORK

DIRECTOR MACLEAN SAYS SHUT-DOWN FOR TWO MONTHS ONLY.

GRATIFYING NEWS FOR ROSSLAND—ON THE WAY TO MEXICO.

(From Sunday's Daily.)
Rosslanders generally will be pleased to learn that it is the intention of the Velvet company to reopen the mine in two months or thereabouts. The Velvet account has been the most substantial for Rossland merchants of any of the outside mines, and its permanent loss would have been felt seriously. After Mr. Maclean's recent visit to the mine, he did not return to the city, and some of the men coming in stated that the suspension was permanent. In Spokane on Friday Mr. Maclean gave an entirely different version of the story, the report of his visit in the Spokesman-Review being as follows:

"There is no intention to close down the Velvet mine permanently," said Allan Maclean, of London, Eng., a London director of the English company which owns the Rossland mine, at the Hotel Spokane last night. "Before leaving Rossland I announced that the mine would be closed down for about two months to give the superintendent, Mr. Gray, time to make a trip to England. He will be back in two months at the outside."

"Is it a fact," Mr. Maclean was asked, "that the directors have refused to put up any more money for further development?"
"That is not true either," was the reply. "The directors of the company have every confidence in the property and work will be pushed just as soon as Mr. Gray gets back. I will be back myself in two weeks."

Mr. Maclean, who is also a director of the Rossland-Kootenay company, left for El Paso, Texas, where he expects to meet C. Williamson Milne, of London, England, chairman of the directorate of the Rossland-Kootenay company. He was accompanied by William Thompson, manager of the Rossland-Kootenay company, who says he doesn't know the object of the visit.

"I am merely a consulting expert and I don't know what they are going for," he said. "They haven't told me."

Mr. Maclean was equally reticent. "I don't know whether Mr. Milne has acquired some interests in Mexico, or whether he is just going to look at some properties."

VOTERS' LIST CLOSED

NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE REGISTERED—THREE ARE DEAD ALREADY.

SOME DUPLICATES—RUSH ON LAST DAY FOR REGISTERING.

(From Sunday's Daily.)
The voters' list for the provincial election closed at midnight Friday. A total of 965 names were registered with the collector of votes, but some of these will be taken off by the court of revision convening on the 31st inst. At least three of the men registered are dead—William Brown, of the customs office, George H. Bayne, who died at Ferguson, and Howard M. Stanish, of Nakusp. In addition there are said to be five or six duplicates to be taken off.

Friday saw somewhat of a rush to register voters who had neglected the formality previously.

It was decided that names could be placed on the list up to midnight on Friday, inasmuch as the day did not legally close until that hour. John Kirkup courteously kept the office open until a few minutes before 12 o'clock on Friday night, but the last batch of names was filed about 9 o'clock. The final computation showed 965 names registered.

Much interest centres about the manner in which the names were registered. Secretary Bowman, of the Conservative Association, states that he registered 442 names, while Secretary Fraser, of the Liberal association, confesses to putting 375 names on the list. The court house officials registered the balance.

Following the court of revision at the end of the month, the next matter of interest politically will be the nomination of candidates for the Rossland electoral division. Neither party has fixed dates for this important function, but it is probable the nominations will take place some time in September.

A. B. CAMPBELL'S DEAL.

Coeur d'Alene Properties Go to the Big Corporation.

SPOKANE, Aug. 15.—A. B. Campbell, the millionaire Coeur d'Alene mining man, has received a telegram from New York informing him that the sale of the Standard mine to the Federal Mining and Smelting company, a new \$40,000,000 corporation said to be backed by the Rockefeller and Goulds, has been completed. The price paid for the Standard is about \$3,000,000. The Federal company will also take over the Mammoth and the Empire State-Idaho group of the Federal company is \$20,000,000, half common and half 7 per cent. The remaining \$10,000,000 will be held in the treasury. The deal also included the Everett smelter and the Monte Cristo mine and railroads.

THE CARNIVAL PROGRAM

New Attractions Added Lately by the Committee—Plenty of Sport Secured the Two Days.

Development of the Baby Show—The Fireworks, Bands, Arch, Races and Other Matters.

The carnival committee have added a dog race to their already lengthy program of sports. The dogs are to be driven to either carts or wagons, and as there are a number of fast dogs in the city, much interest will be taken in the event; already several of the boys are out with their trotters, and a good race may be looked for.

The committee are negotiating with the well known military band of Colville, Wash., and hope to have them here for the carnival; should this excellent band visit the city it will add greatly to the musical end of the program.

Efforts are being made, in Revelstoke, to take advantage of the carnival rates to arrange games with the Rossland and Nelson lacrosse teams. Should they be successful in their efforts they will have a great many followers from the Main Line City.

Sheriff Robinson has in hand the getting together of the ore exhibits, and is arranging for the erection of an octagonal shaped structure on which to place the exhibit. It is expected that all the mines of the camp will send in samples of their ore, and the exhibit will become a permanent fixture in the city—placed at some convenient point.

The baby show promises to be a great success. Already a large number of entries have been made, and it is thought that additional prizes will have to be given. There is much talk concerning the "fat" babies, and the committee would be glad to add this feature to one baby show, if some citizen will come forward with a suitable prize for the event.

Rehearsals of the farce comedy are progressing favorably, and the entertainment promises to surpass anything heretofore seen in this city, including the grand display of professional shows.

The city council having declined to contribute towards the erection of an arch, the matter has been taken up with some of the more public spirited citizens. The carpenters of the city are expected to contribute a few hours' labor, by way of a donation to the carnival fund; the expressmen will draw the necessary evergreens, and the committee hope to have a number of public spirited citizens lend their aid in the matter of decorating, and in this way are of the opinion that a very handsome arch can be erected at little cost.

An arch across Washington street in the vicinity of the Bank of Montreal would add materially to the appearance of the city, and would be appreciated by the visitors to the carnival.

At the ball park over \$300 has been expended in leveling the grounds and adding to the grand stand. The seating capacity is now considerably over 1000, and when the improvements have been completed the grounds will be second to none in the Kootenays.

It is the intention of the carnival committee to have no less than four bands in attendance at the carnival, namely, the Nelson civic band, the Colville military band, the Rossland civic band and the Rossland bugle band. There is nothing which adds more to the success of a celebration than band music, and the committee will leave no stone unturned to make this a great feature of the celebration.

The finance committee have been doing excellent work, over \$3000 has already been subscribed, and the committee are now on their last trip, and hope to secure the required balance of \$500. It is expected that the gate receipts will make up the \$1500 necessary to meet the requirements, and with two good days this amount should be taken in at the gate for the lacrosse and baseball games.

Many letters of acceptance to the invitations sent out by the city council are coming to hand, among them being letters from the city councils of Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster and Vernon.

The fireworks and illumination from the summit of Mount Roberts promise to be an attractive feature of the carnival. Sheriff Robinson has this matter in charge. A large number of government signal rockets will be fired from the summit over the city; these rockets explode with the report of a large cannon and throw out vast quantities of colored fire; the report can be heard for several miles. Numerous smaller rockets, etc., and quantities of colored fire will also form part of the display. Bonfires will be lighted on the summits of Red and Monte Cristo mountains, and, as the night will be dark these will make a grand illumination.

The drilling contests promise to surpass anything heretofore held in British Columbia. Already eight entries have been received for the machine drilling, and quite a number for the single and double hand events.

The school children's choruses of national songs will be a very prominent feature of the carnival program. The children are being trained in singing by Prof. Kauffman, and Mr. G. A. King, of the county teaching staff, is teaching them the words of several songs to be sung, among which are "The Maple Leaf Forever" by Alex. Muir; "The Land of the Maple," by Godfrey, music by Harris; "While There's a Thread in the Old British Flag," words by W. J. Nelson and music by John Cassidy, and another to be selected. Two minute addresses will be delivered between

A meeting of the general executive is called to Rossland for the 21st at 4 o'clock. All the members are requested to be present, as the printers' proof of the program will be submitted to the meeting, before going to press.

The chairman and secretary are working night and day to make the summer carnival a success from every standpoint, and at the present writing it certainly looks as if Rossland would have this summer the greatest celebration ever held in its history.

MAY ESCAPE DAMAGE.

MONTREAL, Aug. 17.—It is expected that the steamer Manchester Trader, that went ashore at South Point, Anchast, last week, will be able to get off without much damage. Divers report the bottom of the vessel so far as they can see, all right.

CITY

(From Thursday's Daily.)
Several citizens, police magistrate, reaches of the by-taction against remedy the matter

Much interest in reception and social land-Kootenay gro by the members Knights of the Go couple of hundred been issued, and to be especially e

The erection of at the corner of Washington street, and the structure of the building a real and feet of those of in case of a serio when the hand ree easily.

W. Harry Good samples of sweet garden on Trail creek son's nurseries in a view to ascertain can be surpassed a timent. The stems to two feet in length six magnificient. Rev. William J. Y and locum tenens of here, has received a of the Phoenix and

The sub-committee connection with the nival met yesterday agurate a strong business men and ch a view to having gala appearance d of the celebration. M on Colville avenue streets will be ur places of business possible, and to plade. The canvas should be favorably

The annual inspe militia takes place Holmes arrived in from Kamloops, wh his inspection of the capacity as district. On his arrival last was warmly welco friends who apprec he is accomplishing the militia of Br Rossland corps par at the armory, Col o'clock sharp in d inspection commence

(From Friday's Daily.)
His Honor Judge city at noon today preme and county 2 o'clock.

The benefit dance night for Chris Ma attended, and prov tainment for the gr

Report has it the Nelson, will endev for himself in a running in the T well as in Nelson co

The Civilian Rif a handicap shoot at tomorrow. Firing o'clock. Members pting are requeste names to A. E. B fe of fifty cents.

The application b the city of Rosslan on Trail creek car Wednesday and wa Dean declines to a tion was made of the water applie agent needed atten divulge his intent as yet.

Some amusement nction with the re the police court of infractions of the the construction of of the defendants. Dean ought to loo which need overha of those owned by worship's retort wa pect any different meted out to the if any of the build self or by parties agent needed atten and such attention the statutory thir prepared to face t

(From Saturday's Daily.)
The Sunday scho cred Heart parish about 100 spent a Sheep creek yeste left by the mornin kane Falls & No the regular train a

Among the prett is the garden at depot. The swar trimmed, flower, the sides, and alt is a genuine beaut

Blue & Descha at full capacity, partly disposed o shipped to the N kress is being ma es of the China C. The superstructure complete, includin

It is intimated, be shipped from t to forward at a Norting port smelting receipt in value this product is t ped. The ore will be at Silica, a s mine, and put on