

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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WE NEED STATESMEN.

The speech delivered by James J. Hill before the Manufacturers' Association of Illinois is attracting widespread attention. It contains so much food for thought that it is a pity that every citizen of the realm does not possess a copy and read it attentively. True, it was delivered on the other side of the line and was intended particularly for the ears of our American cousins, but the relationship is so close between the two peoples that what affects the material welfare of one also affects that of the other. Besides, Mr. Hill is a Canadian by birth and already controls great property interests in the Dominion. But what strikes the impartial reader of Mr. Hill's speech is not only the grace of expression but the broad and comprehensive statement of facts, as well as the knowledge conveyed in what he says. We are apt to look upon railway magnates as men of keen business insight, with a genius of conducting things on a gigantic scale and of handling money by the millions. We do not expect to listen to a great speech from the lips of one, although many of them are good talkers and write well. But Mr. Hill is a wonder. He is a great orator as well as a king among railroad men. He is the only man who has built a trans-continental railway without asking any more from the government than the right-of-way. He has tried to do some railway building in British Columbia on the same liberal terms, but has met with considerable opposition.

But referring back to Mr. Hill's speech, he says "one half of the population of the United States is occupied directly or indirectly in the cultivation of the land, and I think fully one-half of the entire capital of the country is invested in farms and their belongings." Again: "In the past we have been in the habit of feeling that 'Uncle Sam

encourage mining, not to check it, as we see at present. We need statesmen, not politicians.

THE LE ROI MEETING.

In another column we print an account of the meeting of the Le Roi shareholders on 30th May last. The meeting was a lively one and some serious charges were made. Mr. Mackenzie, the manager, came in for criticism, but this is the usual course on occasions of this sort, as the manager is seldom on the spot to defend himself.

In the course of an editorial on the Le Roi meeting on 30th May last, The Financial Times, after rehearsing events leading up to the meeting, says: "Mr. Frecheville, in the latter part of the proceedings, stated that 'any intelligent man who has read my report as I presented it to you in the early part of December, while there was a narrow margin of one dollar between cost and value per ton, would know that in a falling copper market, and silver also falling, that that margin of profit was wiped out, and that we were making a loss.' Apparently, therefore, the directors, including Mr. Frecheville, are not intelligent men. What other inference can be drawn? And even now that their eyes have been opened the board seems apathetic, for at yesterday's meeting they, to put it bluntly, merely put the position before the shareholders, and left it to the latter to find a way out of the difficulty, scarcely anything beyond a few almost obvious suggestions being offered in the way of a hint by the chairman. He observed that there are two courses open to the shareholders, either to go on working the mine as during the past few months—an action which could only end one way—or to put the finances of the company in a satisfactory condition—a course which would, of course, mean the raising of more capital. The only ray of light thrown out by Mr. Hill was when he foreshadowed that economies in working amounting in all to about \$1 per ton of ore might possibly be effected."

Commenting further on the question of the alleged leakage of official information to the benefit of market operators and the detriment of the shareholders the Times, after enumerating several instances of mysterious fluctuations in the price of the shares, says "it would certainly not appear that the allegations of a leakage of official information are without foundation."

In conclusion, the editorial says: "It is not a very promising outlook, that of the Le Roi company, but the po-

few shekels for a rainy day when he can, and if these strikes continue there will likely be need of them before long.

A HOMILY ON HATS.

It is stated that costly Panama hats will be the fad this summer. The Prince of Wales started the fashion and the contagion is spreading. Even our American cousins are "catching on," and from Gotham to the Pacific coast we may look for the Panama strongly in evidence. However, this may be termed a very sensible fad. The Panama hat has been made by the South American Indians and thrown on the market for a hundred years, but the headwear has lost none of its usefulness and the present fad (so-called) is but a renewal of the old-time popularity.

We are told that a hat of the very first quality takes six months in the weaving, and costs \$100. Of course cheaper grades are made, and a Panama hat costing \$10 and up can be bought good enough for the most aesthetic. Many imitations are thrown on the market, but they can be easily distinguished from the genuine article.

As stated above, the hats are made by the Indians—old men, women, boys and girls. Their straw is pliable and every moment they dip it in water. The work is all done by hand, and it is very slow and tedious. The hat is not finished by them, as we would naturally suppose, but the dealers order their hats through the Swiss and German middlemen, who live in Guayaquil. The goods come north unshaped and unbleached, coated thickly with gum or powdered sulphur, which must be washed off and the hat fixed for market.

The cause of the popularity of the Panama hat is its beauty, and the further fact that it will last a life time. The genuine article will hold water equal to a pail, and it can be washed and redressed each season, making it look as neat as the day it was first worn. No ordinary hard usage will destroy it. We therefore welcome the new fad, if it may be so called. We have fads each recurring season. If it is not in wearing apparel it is in something else. We are fairly getting over the Belgian hare craze, which was probably the most silly thing that ever overtook a great people. Just think of paying from \$10 to \$500 for a big jack rabbit. And this in the face of the fact that rabbit drives occur each season in certain localities to get rid of the pests, and that New Zealand is overrun with them. But then they are not dubbed with the euphonious name of "Belgian," although just as

dends—was \$6.74; and the dividends \$3.15.

The year 1899 was a broken year, but the gold production amounted to \$71,365,000. In 1900 there was a small production of uncertain amount, from a few mines worked by the South African Republic for its own benefit. This ceased when Johannesburg was captured by the British forces, and the mines were idle until May, 1901, when two or three were permitted to start up in a small way. The output until April of this year amounted to 119,588 ounces of gold, or about one-fourth of the monthly product immediately before the war. The total for the year thus covered has been \$14,451 ounces, or \$12,700,702, a trifling amount compared with what it might have been.

It is estimated that it will take a year, possibly more, before operations can be fully resumed, although we may expect an immediate and steady increase from now on. We are told that no gold-mining district in the world has its possibilities so clearly defined as the Witwatersrand. The limit of its production will be found in the depth to which mining operations can be profitably conducted. The yearly production will probably rise to \$150,000,000.

The above figures as given by Mr. Hammond, which are trustworthy, are interesting as far as we are able to give them at this time. The reopening of these mines and the steady outflow of gold that will surely follow mean wonders for South Africa and will exert a beneficial influence on mining the world over.

In a recent editorial the Kootenaiian of Kaslo says:

"It has been remarked by a most able and experienced politician that British Columbia must have a splendid constitution, untold resources and be populated with extraordinary plucky people, to be able to stand firmly and not go under against such enormous odds as it has had to face of recent times. Had government, unfair legislation and other kindred evils have retarded but not daunted the spirit of western enterprise. But should this unequal battle continue British Columbia will gradually cease to be the recipient of European capital and the producer of mineral wealth. Canada will then realize what might have been."

The smelter of the Montreal & Boston Copper Company, it is announced, will be started up very soon, everything being about ready for this interesting event, which marks another stage in the forward progress of the Boundary country. We expect to be able to announce before the season is over the building and operation of smelters in

tion. A tax of two per cent has been imposed on the output of metalliferous mines whatever their stage of development be, and altogether irrespective of the value or permanency of the deposit. This is unreasonable — unjust. The mineral wealth of the province is undoubted, but the industry is in its infancy here, and instead of retarding its growth by weighting it down with taxes, it should be fostered and encouraged to grow. We have now at the head of the department of mines a man who practically understands his business, and much may be expected of him. Constant tinkering with the mining laws is undesirable, but better that this should be done than that a palpable injustice should be allowed to exist. It is now on the tapis to appoint a commission to inquire into the subject, and if men who understand their work are named there is every probability that their efforts will be productive of much good. The 2 per cent is an iniquitous tax, and should be removed. The mining industry should not be swamped that favored monopolies may be subsidized.—Ymir Mirror.

THE COLORADO MINE OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION.

We have heretofore noted in our news columns the formation of the Colorado Mine Operators' Association, which is intended to include eventually all the mine operators of the State. The organization is not fully completed as yet, but Mr. Arthur Winslow, who is well known both in Missouri and Colorado, has been selected as the president. While this association is intended to cover the whole State, we do not understand that it is proposed to supersede such local societies as are already in existence. On the contrary, the intention is to strengthen the local associations and to provide for the formation of others in districts where none now exists. The State association is to be the representative and agent of the local associations, and the main object in forming it is to provide a central administration which will be able to back the local branches in any action which they may find necessary, and it will at the same time be able to act promptly and efficiently on questions of importance to all. A mine owners' and operators' society of this kind, it seems to us, has an important field open to it in Colorado, and may be the means of accomplishing much that will be of benefit to the mining industry, if properly managed. Care will be necessary, of course, to avoid interference in purely local matters and also to avoid measures which would tend to make the association oppressive or antagonistic to the miners of the State. One of the fields in which the central association would be in a position to act promptly and efficiently is that of legislation. This was especially apparent during the recent session of the state legislature, when important measures were under consideration, especially the amended law with regard to the taxation of mines. This received too little consideration from the mine owners who were chiefly concerned in its operation, for the reason that their attention was not generally called to its provisions until too late. The existence of a central body,

MINISTER CONGER.

Is Now Dean of the Diplomatic Corps at Peking.

PEKIN, June 17.—As the result of the departure from Peking of the Austrian minister to China, Baron Czilkann von Wahlborn, Edwin H. Conger, the United States minister, today becomes dean of the diplomatic corps here. Mr. Conger's popularity with his colleagues makes his succession to the post occupied by the Austrian minister generally accepted.

49TH ANNIVERSARY.

Today King Albert and His Queen Celebrate Wedding Anniversary.

BERLIN, June 17.—King Albert of Saxony, who has been critically ill for some time past, and Queen Karola will observe the 49th anniversary of their wedding tomorrow, June 18th, under the certainty that the end of the king is near at hand. The married life of King Albert and Queen Karola has been noted for the special devotion of the royal pair.

PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY.

Many Appointments Made For the West and the N. W. T.

TORONTO, June 17.—The Presbyterian General Assembly this morning unanimously appointed Rev. E. D. McLaren, D. D., of Vancouver, home missions general secretary; Rev. J. A. Carmichael of Regina home mission superintendent, Manitoba synod and Northwest Territories, and Rev. James C. Henderson, D. D., of Calgary, home missions superintendent, synod of British Columbia.

WILL VISIT INDIA.

Prince and Princess of Wales to Witness the Coronation Durbar.

LONDON, June 17.—It is understood that the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit India for the Coronation Durbar to be held next January, and that the Prince will represent King Edward at this function.

By next January Lord Kitchener will have taken up the command of the Indian forces and the Durbar will be the occasion for a great military display.

ALBERT CHAMPION.

Was Given His Race With Bob Walthour on a Foul.

BOSTON, Mass., June 17.—Albert Champion was given his race with Bob Walthour at the Revere track today on a foul based on the action of Walthour's pacemakers in crowding the Frenchman so that he lost his pace. The race for 25 miles, motor paced, was started under a protest against Walthour's motors. Walthour caught Champion in the second mile and passed him in the twelfth by crowding. After that Walthour gained rapidly and finished twelve laps to the lead.

THE

SANDON ORE

Mine.
Payne.. ..
Slocan Star.. ..
American Boy.. ..

Total.. ..

BOUNDARY ORE

Granby Mines, Phoenix
Snowshoe, Phoenix..
Mother Lode, Deadwood
Sunset, Deadwood ..
B. C. Mine, Summit..
Winnipeg, Wellington
Golden Crown, Wellin
No. 7 Mine, Central.
Jewel, Long Lake ..

Totals, tons

SLUICING AT THE

W. W. Warner's
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Mining Record, June

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June 14.

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