

NEWS OF THE COAST

Ex-Speaker Higgins Criticized For Leaving the Government.

THE MORTGAGE TAX LAW

Mr. Rithet Advocates Liberal Assistance For a Railway From the B. C. Coast Into the Yukon—The British Pacific Project.

VICTORIA, April 1.—The full court today allowed the appeal of the law society against the mandamus issued by Mr. Justice Drake to compel the society to admit Mr. Gwillim to practice.

In the legislature today ex-Speaker Higgins was severely criticized by Hon. C. E. Pooley and Dr. Walken, for his utterance hostile to the government during the by-budget debate yesterday and today, as well as during the recess, since he announced his intention of leaving the party.

Mr. Rithet, a government supporter, continuing the budget debate, expressed regret that during it more had not been heard of the mortgage tax, which he thought ought to be abolished, as it constitutes a double taxation.

Whereas, The first report of public accounts committee shows an over draft of \$199,254.05 at the bank of British Columbia, and

Whereas, The estimates of expenditure generally show the most complete disregard of economy, and

Whereas, The administration of affairs of the province has not been carried on in such a way as to best conserve the public interest.

Therefore the government has forfeited all claim to the confidence of the house and country.

This amendment was lost on a party division of 13 to 18. Mr. Higgins, who lately resigned the speakership, voted with the minority, and so did Mr. Kellie, who, since the last session, has declared his independence of the government party.

SEWAGE OF THE CITY.

Can Be Disposed of Cheaply by the Tank and Seepage System.

When Mayor Wallace and Dr. Edward Boves returned from Victoria, whither they went as delegates to represent Rossland, they reported that the delegation had conferred with the provincial board of health concerning the sewage question in general and particularly as it related to Rossland.

The honorable Chief Commissioner of Land and Works.

Sir: I have the honor to report the installation, on a small scale, at Government house, of a subsoil sewerage irrigation system.

The system is intermittent, and automatic, the old sewer has been cut, and its flow diverted into an automatic flush tank, where it is screened and the liquid sewage, having accumulated to the amount of about 300 gallons, is automatically discharged, through a double-flush syphon into the conductor, which is constructed of 6-inch salt glazed sewer pipe.

From the conductor the sewage discharges by gravitation into a series of drains aggregating 1,463 lineal feet of ordinary tile 3 inches in diameter, through the joints of these it finds its way into the soil.

The contractors disgruntled. TORONTO, Ont., April 1.—The Mail's Ottawa correspondent had an interview with Mackenzie & Mann, both of whom are at the capital, in regard to the situation arising from the defeat of the Yukon bill.

"I have nothing to say," said Mr. Mackenzie, "the bill is dead and that's the end of it."

Asked as to whether there was any truth in the report that an effort would be made to renew arrangements as a compromise, Mr. Mackenzie replied: "I know nothing about any compromise. What compromise can there be? The bill is defeated and the contract is off. That's all. Good morning."

"Are your men still going on with the work, preparing for the construction of the railway?" asked the interviewer.

"I know nothing about that part of the business," Mr. Mann attends to that and can tell you more than I can. Good afternoon."

The other contractor, Donald D. Mann was, if possible, less communicative. He was asked by your correspondent if the defeat of the bill would mean a cessation of work on the road. "I have nothing to say," replied Mann. "Were you surprised at the large majority in the senate against the bill?" was the next question.

KETTLE RIVER ROAD.

Probable Route by Which Boundary Country Will Be Reached.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 1.—In the Kettle River Valley Railway Charter bill reported yesterday, by the railway committee of the house of commons, there were certain amendments. The most important one reserves to the govern-

SCHOOL OF MINES

It Is Rapidly Assuming Form and Proportion.

ITS A COMMENDABLE PLAN

A Small Fee Is to Be Charged to Prospectors for Instruction Given Them—A Letter Commending the Objects of the Association.

Another meeting in connection with the school of mines was held Friday evening in the Imperial block, when there was a large attendance.

Whereas, The estimates of revenue and expenditure as submitted show that the estimated expenditure exceeds by \$539,222.30 the estimated revenue, and

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

What Prospectors Should Know. EDITOR MINER:—Sir: In this morning's issue of THE MINER, I notice the report of a meeting held last night, for the formation of a class in mineralogy, and the possession of which would enable mining and prospecting experience in many parts of the world, I have found that the average prospector is handicapped by the want of some practical elementary knowledge of mineralogy.

It is not the possession of a few scraps of knowledge, but a systematic knowledge of the nature and composition of the various rocks and minerals with which he may come in contact. He prospects the various creeks and mountain sides, and, maybe, finds rock, which from its appearance, he has experienced he may be, his hands and eye alone are unable to assist him in forming any but the most haphazard opinion, as to the presence and value of the metals such rock may contain, more especially when several minerals occur in the rock with sulphides, etc., as is usually the case in this district.

His rock may contain values in gold, silver and copper, etc., but he is out in the mountains, and cannot afford the loss of time and the expense which he would incur by having an assay taken of every piece of rock in which he may think there is gold or silver, neither can he collect the same with a view to a future assay, as he has no means of transport.

Several got out their pocket knives. Finally a newsboy tried to pick it up and broke his jack-knife. Then the determined lad went away and re-appeared in a few minutes with a shovel, pick and crowbar, and in a short time that nickel, with its screw attachment, was his.

Louis Blue was passing along Columbia avenue, near Washington street, yesterday, when he emptied a quarter and reached for it. The fellow at the other end of the string that was attached to the money pulled the twine and the result was that Blue did not get the quarter. Mr. Blue seemed to enjoy the joke.

C. C. Woodhouse, Jr., was among the celebrants of the day. He nailed a big silver dollar on the sidewalk in front of his office and then seated himself in an easy chair and watched the efforts of passing pedestrians to acquire the coin. After a while Mr. Woodhouse went away from the window to attend to a business matter and when he returned his source of amusement was gone, for some one had acquired the dollar and disappeared.

The chief sell of the day was when the Tex Mining office and inquiry had declared war against Spain. This caused the wildest excitement, and each was asking the other if the story was true. It obtained considerable credence, and a number of anxious persons came into the office and inquired if there was any truth in the report. Soon the newsboys began to pour into the office to ask if THE MINER was "going to get out an extra—all about de war, see?"

The extra did not matter, but the day's chief reason that no war had been declared. So the day and the jokers went merrily on, and as the jokes were of a harmless and pleasant nature no one was the worse for their being perpetrated.

AMUSEMENTS AT TRAIL. Amateurs Entertain Their Friends With Farce and Comedy. TRAIL, April 1.—[Special.]—The Trail Dramatic company, composed of amateur talent, delighted a large audience at the Hanna opera house last evening, in the comedy, the "Rough Diamond," followed by the farce, "Love Laughs at Locksmiths."

In the comedy the cast of characters consisted of Fred Moore, C. J. Wilkes, E. G. Mundy, W. A. Trousdale, O. E. Smythe, C. M. Brown, Miss Ogden, Mrs. O. J. Wilkes and Miss Sophia Hanna.

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Welsh Coal Miners Strike. LONDON, April 2.—The miners in six South Wales collieries have gone on strike. The strike threatens to be serious. Russia will be the first sufferer.

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No. 3.

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Limited Liability, (Foreign). In Liquidation.

The Undersigned Official Liquidator

Will sell by tender,

Subject to ratification by the Court.

The property known as the O. K. Mine and the buildings belonging to the said company. Also the entire mining and milling plant of said company, the whole situated on the south slope of O. K. Mountain, in the Trail Creek Mining division of West Kootenay, Province of British Columbia. The claim is surveyed and crown granted and known as the O. K. fraction mineral claim, official number 678. The property is about two and one-half miles west of the city of Rossland and close to the main wagon road and Red Mountain Railroad, both leading from the city of Rossland to Northport in the State of Washington.

The O. K. ore was at first largely free-milling, and to work it the first stamp mill in the district was erected. That mill, a five stamp one, has now been sold, being superseded by the new ten-stamp mill. The O. K. mine has been operated since 1893 and was a producer from the start. From January 14th to June 19th, 1897, 2472 tons of O. K. ore were milled, exclusive of several hundred tons of custom work for adjoining mines. The O. K. property is favorably situated for every mining purpose and for the development of a large custom trade for the mill. The new ten-stamp mill is thoroughly equipped for the economical handling of ore. It is connected with the mine by a 600-foot gravity surface tramway, with 20 wire rope carrying rollers, etc., complete, the elevation of the workings being 200 feet above the mill, one 3-wheel brake, with 650 feet 3/4-inch steel wire rope, two self-dumping ore cars 18-inch gauge. The mill contains two 50-horse power Standard tubular boilers, each containing 54 12-foot tubes, an 85-horse power Corliss engine, one 10-stamp mill, one No. 6 Blake crusher, one grizzly 4 x 10, 3 x 3/4 iron, two Challenge automatic feeders, one overhead Crawl with iron track, one 1-ton Weston differential pulley block, one gold retort, with cover, wedges and condenser pipe, one Rand straight line, class C, 12 x 18 air compressor, capable of running four drills, one 28-inch x 8 feet air receiver, one No. 7 Miller duplex pump, three 6-foot Fraser & Chalmers' Frue vanners, plain belts, one 4-cone hydrometric sizer, one Woodbury concentrator, one bumping table, extra amalgamating plates following concentrating table, and one Fraser & Chalmers' ore sample grinder, etc.

BUILDINGS.—The principal buildings include the following: The new mill building, containing 10-stamp mill, but designed and built to accommodate 25-stamps, engine and boiler house, office building, mess room, cook house and store room, manager's residence, etc.

The development consists of three main tunnels, with one winze and numerous drifts, one shaft down 15 feet, altogether aggregating over 1,500 feet of work, which is entirely confined to one corner of the property, at least two-thirds of the claim being as yet unprospected.

Tenders are now invited for the sale of the property as a whole, including the new 10-stamp mill, the mine, four machine drills and entire plant, machinery and all buildings connected therewith. The liquidator reserves the right to accept or decline any tender, and to withdraw the property from sale at any time, and the further right to fix a reserve price upon the property and to make such other conditions as may meet with the sanction of the court.

The property is open to inspection, but an order for that purpose must be obtained at the office of the liquidator, 3 Imperial Block, Rossland, B. C., where an inventory can be seen and any further information obtained from the undersigned.

TELEGRAPHIC AND CABLE ADDRESS—PLEWMAN, ROSSLAND.

Bedford, McNeill's Code.

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The officers of the Old Gold Quartz & Placer Mining company take pleasure in announcing to the public, that they have completed the purchase of the famous Silver King and Silver Queen properties of the Lardeau-Duncan country, and that the same have been amalgamated with the already promising properties of the Old Gold company. The Silver King and Silver Queen have two well defined and highly mineralized ledges running through the entire properties, each being over five feet in width. A number of assays have been made from the property, every one of which shows over \$100 in value and one reaches the magnificent sum of \$135.75. Average tract assays across the entire ledge give values of 102-37.

They are located only about one mile from the rich Gaiser creek gold properties, are within three-fourths of a mile of rich placer grounds, are nestled among such well-known mines as the Bad Shot, Silver Cup, Wagner and Hancock Barn groups.

The Old Gold properties now consist of eight claims, comprising about 400 acres of mineral lands) six of which are on the North Fork of the Salmon river, one of the most promising gold producing districts in British Columbia.

The last assays taken from the quartz ledges on this group give the satisfactory results of over \$20 per ton.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING FACTS: 1. A large area of rich mineral lands. 2. Low capitalization. 3. Shipping ore from the surface. 4. Water and timber in abundance. 5. No salaries to any officers until the property becomes Dividend paying. 6. A careful, economical and honest management. 7. The company is out of debt, has money in the treasury, and over 400,000 shares of unsold treasury stock.

The above are some of the reasons why an investment in the shares of the Old Gold Quartz & Placer Mining company at present prices is the most profitable that can be made in British Columbia.

A limited number of shares will be placed on the market at seven and one-half cents. An advance in price will be made soon.

M. F. CHESNUT, Secretary, P. O. Box 145, Rossland, B. C.

THE FEAST OF ALL FOOLS

The Practical Joker Was Considerably in Evidence Yesterday.

The Irish Bat-Nickel With a Sore Attachment—A Joker Lost a Big Dollar—War With Spain.

Friday was April 1st or All Fools day, and many traps were set for the unwary wherever they went, and the wags and jokers of the camp had a merry day. As usual on such occasions many were duped by devices that are as old as the hills. In front of the Kootenay hotel, there was placed a box with slats in front and a white cloth cover, which was labeled "An Irish Bat." All day long there were inquisitive individuals who desired to inspect the bird of hibernian extraction and on lifting the cover and looking into the box they saw a red brick "bat." While they were gazing at the red bat, the expectant crowd which had gathered around gave the curious man, woman or child the horse laugh and yelled "April Fool!"

In front of the watch-repairing shop of C. A. Burbank, on Columbia avenue, there lay during a portion of the forenoon a nickel. This coin had been brazed to the head of a large screw, and the screw had been driven full length into the sidewalk, where it stuck as firm as a rock. A number came along and tried to pick it up, but failed to accomplish the feat, for the nickel seemed to weigh

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