THE WATER PROBLEM

The City's Position Regarding the Nearby Streams.

ALL SEEM TO BE STAKED

A Chance That Water May Be Secured From Rock and Murphy Creeks—The Question of Electric Lighting.

The municipal ownership of the public waterworks system is fast becoming one of the most important problems confronting the citizens. The consideration of the matter, however, is hampered by the uncertainty as to what rights the city may have to the water of any of the neighboring streams. If the corporation can secure a constant and sufficient supply of water, the city can build complete new works of its own, and the proposition at once is simplified, while consideration of it is narrowed down to a question of cost and of the desirability of municipal ownership. On the other hand, if all the neighboring water is recorded, and none of it can be secured by the corporation, the question is again narrowed down, for the city would be virtually in the grasp of the present waterworks company, and to secure a plant it must purchase the works already in use.

The council has long since taken steps to discover its rights in the matter of securing a supply of water, and acting under the instructions of the aldermen, the city engineer staked the water in all the neighboring creeks, and made application to the gold commissioner for a record of the water thus staked off. A lively fight developed at once. All the mining companies which had been using the water from the creeks in question promptly besought the gold commissioner to refuse the city the grants requested and to confirm to the mine owners the title to the water.

Gold Commissioner Dennis came to town to listen to the evidence in the case, and the hearing took two or three days. The city presented its argument in favor of being granted the water, while the mine owners, by their solicitors, just as vigorously fought the application, and in this they were abetted by the present water works company. The gold commissioner took the matter under consideration. It has been under consideration ever since, and there seems to be little likelihood that a decision will be given this side of the millenium. Meanwnile the corporation is in dense ignorance of its rights in the matter, and until a decision is given by the gold commissioner it will be impossible for it to acquaint itself thoroughly with the situation.

The councilmen are practically solid as to the desirability of Rossland owning its water and perhaps its electric lighting system, and if the matter of the title to the neighboring streams were disposed of, there is little doubt that prompt action would be taken by the aldermen to bring the matter to a focus. At present the most serious question is regarding the rights of the present water works company. The company, which was incarporated in April, 1896, is given under its charter the right to divert so much water as it may need from Stoney, Little Stoney and Little Sheep creeks. That constitutes its water rights. It has no registered grant of any particular number of inches, and its title is evidently a varying one, dependent upon the needs of the company, and the amount of water required to supply the city. At present Stoney creek is the principal source of supply. Some water is being taken from Little Stoney creek, but Little Sheep creek is not being utilized at all. In low water the company utilizes practically all the water in Stoney creek, although in most seasons of the year there is a surplus above the amount diverted by the company and this surplus has been granted to F. Aug. Heinze,

Although the company, under the terms of its charter, includes Little Sheep creek among the streams from which it can divert water, yet it evidently has no intention of utilizing that stream, for Lionel H. Weber of the British Columbia Bullion Extracting company, has applied for and has been granted a water right for 150 inches out of that creek. The Jumbo company has also applied for and secured a grant of 30 inches out of the west arm of Little Sheep creek.

Since the waterworks company is making no effort to preserve the water in Little Sheep creek, it is reasonable to assume that it intends to divert all its future water from Stoney and Little Stoney creeks.

As the water works company requires all of the flow of Stoney and Little Stoney creeks at the lowest stage of the water, and as Little Sheep creek seems to be effectually covered by the grants of Mr. Webber and the Jumbo Gold Mining company, it is evident that none of these streams can be considered as an independent source of water which the city could utilize. It has been suggested that Violin lake be located by the city, and that the municipality build an independent water works system, with this lake as its source of supply. The suggestion, however, is not a good one, for the lake is a considerable distance below the level of the town, and hence the water would have to be pumped uphill—an expensive process at best, and entirely out of the question if the city were to install a plant of this character in competition with a gravity system, such as is now operated by the present water company.

It has been suggested that Big Sheep creek might be appropriated by the city and drawn upon as an independent source of supply, but again the suggestion is not a good one, for not only would it be an exceedingly expensive work to pipe the water for so great a distance, but it is doubtful whether the grades would permit of this.

Under all these eircumstance, the only source of supply remaining open to the city would be Rock and Murphy creeks, which are respectively about four and six miles north of town. Both streams have been fully recorded by F. Aug. Heinze, who has been granted 400 inches out of each of them, as well as out of Sullivan creek further to the north. Mr. Heinze used the water thus acquired not only for the conduct of his smelter at Trail, but also to generate power for the electric plant at the latter town. It is announced, however, that the electric plant there is to be superseded by power furnished by the West Kootenay Power & Light company, so that a considerable part of the water recorded by Mr. Heinze will not be needed. It is possible, therefore, that in the event that the city decide to install an independent water supply of its own, arrangements could be made for the appropriation of the water of these creeks granted to Mr. Heinze.

If the decision is reached that under the circumstances it would not be advisable to build up a rival plant here in the city, then the corporation has power under the charter of the Rossland Water & Light company to purchase the plant of the company on set terms. These terms briefly put are that the company must sell for the original cost of its plant, plus 12 per cent interest, and a bonus not greater than 30 per cent on the cost of the investment. The value of the plant is to be fixed by arbitrators, appointed for that purpose, and in estimating its worth they are to consider all expenses of organization, taking into account all engineering, legal and clerical expenses; all sums spent in the construction and maintainance of the works; all sums spent by the company for securing the property, rights and privileges of rival companies, and all sums spent for the services of arbitrators in case arbitration is entered into between the city and the company for the purchase of the plant.

As will be remembered, the council several weeks ago commenced negotiations with the company relative to the purchase of the latter's plant. The company in reply submitted an offer to sell outright for $85,000 or else to sell under the terms of the charter, by means of arbitrators. The water works alone, exclusive of the electric light plant, were offered for $50,000, but the company stated that its profits had come largely from the electric lights.

A capitulation of the company's expenditures up to August 3, was submitted as follows:

Real Estate Buildings	$ 4,856.81
Water Plant	34,791.94
Electric Plant	43,918.17
Tools	234.05
Stave Pipe Line	3,368.63
Transformers	2,402.40
	$89,572.00

Against these expenditures is a credit of $23,000 in the shape of dividends.

If these figures as to the cost of the plant be accepted, it is evident that the city would make a better bargain by purchasing outright for $85,000 than by buying under the terms of the charter.

It has been pointed out that in any event, the city would be required to expend about 50 per cent more than the sum originally paid for the water works system, in order to extend it throughout the whole city, and that, therefore, whether the plant were bought by arbitration or under the flat offer of the company, the city would be required to borrow a considerable extra sum in order to extend the works.

Some little anxiety has been expressed as to whether the city in buying the electric light plant, would be bound by the agreement entered into between the company and the West Kootenay Power & Light company, whereby the latter, by virtue of furnishing the former with electricity, receives 40 per cent of the gross revenue of the electric department of the Rossland Water & Light company. This point has been satisfactorily settled by the statement of the West Kootenay Power & Light company to the effect that in case the city buys the local plant, the power company will make no effort to enforce the present contract. On the contrary, the power company agrees to sell the city electricity on the same terms as to the mines. It is estimated that the city would consume about 300 horse power of electricity, and the power company would supply this at the rate of about $50 per horse power yearly, equal to $15,000 per year. For this sum the power company would look entirely after the electrical department of the city's plant, keep the lines in order, and furnish electricians; all that would devolve upon the city would be to attend to the clerical work, such as rendering accounts and making collections. Three hundred horse-power of electricity would, it is estimated, operate 3,000 electric lights. It is estimated that the present company is selling light for about 2,000 lights, and the charges would average at least $1,50 per month. If under municipal ownership the price of the lights should be cut down to an average of $1 per month, it has been calculated that the number of lights over the town would be increased to 3,000, which would give a revenue of $36,000 per year. The cost of this would be $15,000 per year, plus the cost of clerical work, and maintainance, which at the outside should not exceed $5,000 per year, so the total cost of operation may be set at $20,000 per year. If the revenue be only $30,000 yearly, the profit to the city would be $10,000 per year.

Another point to be considered in this connection is the fact that if the city were to purchase the electric light plant, it would then be in a position to furnish street lights at the lowest possible cost.

It is estimated by electricians that it requires about one-half horse power to run a 2,000 candle power arc light, such as the city would require for street illumination. Therefore, if the city, owning its electric light system, should buy power from the West Kootenay Power & Light company at the rate of $50 per year, the annual cost to the city of arc lights would be only $25 per year plus the cost of carbons and attendance. The item of street lighting alone, with the lights to be secured at this rate, would be an immense inducement for the possession by the city of its electric plant.

THE CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The Business at the Ports of Nelson and Rossland.

The customs returns for port of Rossland during the month of July, obtained through the courtesy of B. R. McDonald collector of customs, were as follows:

Value of free goods	$10,363.00
Valua of dutiable goods	36,124 00
Duty collected	9,250.00

The returns for the port of Nelson, furnished through the kindness of Geo. Johnstone, collector of that port, were as follows:

IMPORTS.

Dutiable goods	$36,949 00
Free goods	5,935.00
Total imports	$42,884.00
Duty collected	$11,040.14
Other revenues	1,336.16
Total revenue	$12,376.30

EXPORTS.

The mine	$49,744.00
The forest	142.00
Animals and their produce	140.00
Manufactures	235.00

THE DEER PARK MINE

Large Bodies of Ore Found in Its Workings.

IS OF A SHIPPING GRADE

A Compressor Plant Is to Be Put in and It Will Probably Not Be Long Before Large Shipments of Ore Will Be Made to the Smelter.

Never in the history of the Deer Park was the property in such splendid shape as at present. The shaft is now down 260 feet and in the bottom of it is five feet of excellent shipping ore, giving values ranging around $24. Although the property has been opened by a vertical shaft, and only a modicum of drifting has been carried out, yet the mine has the unique record of containing no inconsiderable ore reserves, for in the short drifts at the 100- and the 150-foot levels there has been opened some 1,700 tons of good quartz, which by sorting three into one would give values of $20 and better. The real amount of the ore at those two levels is unknown, as the drifts were merely of an exploratory character, and both when discontinued were in good ore.

From the beginning the Deer Park has been a favorite with the Rossland public, and the development of the mine has been watched with the keenest interest, for it was felt that upon it hung the question as to the value of the south belt. If the Deer Park proves to be a mine, and its friends were confident that it would develop into a big one, then the south belt was forever established as a zone for profitable mining. If the Deer Park failed, with its splendid showing, then the faith of many an investor would be lost in the whole ot the south belt. It looks now, however, as if the hopes of the Deer Park's fondest friends were to be realized, and the south belt firmly established. The significance of the late developments in the property is, therefore, far reaching, as they are bound to be accompanied by the revival of operations on the neighboring claims.

The property is a fine instance of the theory that values in the Rossland camp will improve with depth, and the adherents of that belief can point to it with complete satisfaction. There is an immense surface showing on the claim, much resembling in its character the superficial appearance of the best known properties on Red mountain. An immense iron capping, 40 feet wide, could be traced for a distance of nearly 600 feet almost due north and south, and so encouraging was the showing that Patsy Clark and John A. Finch took a bond on it and started work, away back in the early days of the camp. It was a disappointment, though, for while the ore on the surface resembled the War Eagle rock with rare exactness, yet the values carried by it were merely trifling, and the disgusted lessees threw up their bond in despair of getting anything like shipping values out of the claim.

Undaunted by this failure the Mulhollands, who owed the property, organized a company to operate it and proceeded to continue the shaft. At the 50-foot level there was some improvement in values, but not of a substantial character. At the 100-foot level, however, the showing was markedly more favorable, and assays as high as $60 per ton were received. A drift was driven north 22 feet at the last named level, and was continued in ore throughout with no trace of a wall. At the 150-foot level there was a still further improvement, and the iron ore which had been met in the upprr workings gave way to a fine grained sugary quartz, out of which assays as high as $400 were obtained. Here again a drift was run due north for about 24 feet, and, as on the previous occasion, neither a limit to the ore body nor a wall was found. The shaft was carried on down to the 180-foot level, and the showing continued to improve, but at the depth indicated the ore pitched out of the workings, and as the shaft is a vertical one, driven straight downwards, no attempt was made to locate the chute until the 200-foot level was reached, where drifting was carried out. It is a remarkable fact that, although the shaft has been driven downwards regardless of the presence or absence of ore, yet the workings have been carried in mineral almost from the surface, and it is impossible to foretell what chute will be uncovered when crosscutting the ledge is carried on systematically at the lower levels of the property.

The present ore body, in which work is now being conducted, has been encountered since the 200-foot level was left, and the bottom of the shaft is now in ore that is being sorted for shipment. It is of this ore that the recent phonomenal assay of $22,040 in gold was secured. The mineral carrying such values was, of course, tellurides, for no other compound found in this camp would give such returns, and the Deer Park is one of the few properties here in which tellurides are met. Regarding the nature of its ore, it is one of the most interesting claims in the district, for while, as was previously said, sugar quartz is the chief component of the auriferous rock, yet white iron, arsenical iron, copper pyrites, iron pyrites, tellurides, molybdenite and bismuth all are encountered, and it is no uncommon thing to see half a dozen of them occurring in one small sample of rock from the lower workings of the property. Generally the more mixed the character of the ore, the better are the values carried.

The property has been now developed to a point where it is past the prospective stage, and the installation of an adequate power plant is a matter of immediate concern. The company, fully recognizing the merits of the property, is now arranging for the immediate installation of a complete new power plant, and it will in all likelihood be in operation this fall. It was at first thought advisable to use steam as the motive force, but the company's engineer, Roy H. Clarke, has recommended that electricity be employed instead, as being not only more convenient but much more economical, and it is probable that his recommendation in this respect will be followed. With proper power it will be but a matter of a few months to open the property at its lower levels, when, it is implicitly expected, even better results will be obtained than have greeted the opening up of the claim to the present time. Mr. Clarke has laid out a plan of development, including the indefinite deepening of the shaft, while at the same time he urges that the crosscutting of the ledge at the 200-foot level be vigorously carried on, so that a better idea may be formed of the size and value of the vein. Up to now nothing is known positively as to the extent of the ledge, and it is only a matter of conjecture as to what will be disclosed when the vein has been thoroughly explored. But from the present indications it is safe to say that the Deer Park will be at no distant date one of the leading mines of the camp.

CROW'S NEST RAILWAY.

The Road To Be Through To Kootenay Lake By the Middle of October.

Contractor Haney is pushing work on the Crow's Nest road. On Saturday last the track was laid within 16 miles of Wardner. From McLeod to Bull Head a regular train is run three times a week, and passengers can travel in comparative comfort that far. To Bull Head the track is in good shape, and trains invariably make their time.

From Bull Head to Coal Creek, now called Fernie, where the extensive coal mines are located, is probably the worst part of the trip. It is between these points that the celebrated loop is located. This loop is a nice piece of engineering, the line dropping several hundred feet from the mountain side into the valley in the form of a letter S. The track around the loop is not in extra good shape yet, though large gangs of men are constantly employed lifting, surfacing, etc., and every day sees a marked improvement.

Coal Creek, about the brilliant future of which so much is heard, is not a very imposing looking city just now. It is as yet only a collection of log shacks, principally hotels. The rails were due to reach Wardner on Monday, and the contractors expect to have the road completed to Kootenay lake by the middle of October.

The contractors on the Moyie portion of the road have practically finished their work, and are turning off their men and preparing to leave. J. Haskins left on Monday for the lower end of the road to finish his contract near there. McBeath & Peters are practically through with their and will soon be pulling out. Cowan & O'Neil, who had the tunnel contract, have moved their outfit and left for this city.

R. Balfour's bridge gang, with J. McDavitt in charge, has completed the bridge crossing the Moyie river at the foot of the lake and are now working on the bridge at the head of the lake. W. S. Cranston, the engineer in charge of this division, is measuring the work and giving the estimates.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRERS.

YMIR, July 30—EDITOR MINER—Sir: What are the meanings of the terms wet and dry ores. INQUIRER.

[A "wet ore" is one that has a high percentage of lead or copper—40 per cent, for instance, of lead, 20 per cent copper. "Dry ores" contain but a very small percentage of either metal. Smelters do not generally pay for less than 5 per cent of lead.—ED.]

NELSON, Aug. 1—EDITOR MINER—Sir: What is the lowest rate at which free milling gold ore can be worked under the milling process? X. Y. Z.

[In California gold ore carrying 65 cents per ton has been profitably worked. At the Spanish mine, Washington township, Nevada county in the month of November last, in 30 working days Superintendent F. W. Bradley mined and milled 4,047 tons of ore. Including every detail of expense, the mining cost 31.4 cents per ton; similarly the milling cost 20.8 cents per ton—net profit 13 cents per ton.—ED.]

Inquirer Answered.

INQUIRER—ROTHESAY, ONT.: M. O. Tibbits, the general manager of the Canadian Mutual company, who is now in the city, announces that the properties of the company include the Gladstone group, on the Pend d'Oreille river, in the state of Washington; the Little Giant group, on Lookout mountain, near Trail; the Minnie No. 1, on the north slope of Red mountain, near Rossland. The Gladstone group was operated by a force of nine or 10 men until a few weeks ago, when work was suspended, pending the completion of arrangements with an English syndicate, which, it is hoped, will acquire an interest in the property and supply funds for the development of the group. A tunnel and a drift have been driven on the Gladstone for a total length of 150 feet, and in the face of the tunnel there is reported to be three feet of ore, while in the face of the drift there is 16 inches of ore. The mineral is galena, and gives good values, although it has occurred in bunches up to the present time, which perhaps is due to the fact that no great depth has been attained. Some little work has been done on the Little Giant and good assays were received. The property is said to be now under option to an English concern for $15,000 cash and 25 per cent of the stock in a new company to be formed to operate it.

Mr. Tibbits denies that his company owns the Syphon, as was claimed in the circular to which "Inquirer" refers. As to the Hunter and Trapper, in the Slocan, which is also mentioned in the circular referred to, as one of the groups owned by the company, it seems that negotiations for their purchase are now in progress but have not been completed.

M. O. Tibbets of Toronto, general manager of the Canada Mutual company, is in town and will be here for a few days.

Aunt Mary's Timely Visit.

The other evening Aunt Mary took the electric cars and rode eastward to the house of her niece, who a few weeks previously had just commenced housekeeping. Without ceremony the old lady entered the house and found her niece in the kitchen looking very dejected. Aunt Mary soon discovered that her niece had tried to dye an old cream opera shawl a cardinal red with some poor cheap dye. The result was certainly enough to test the patience and goodness of an angel. A miserable mixed color, half red and brown, was the result of her labor. Aunt Mary deeply sympathized with her horror-stricken niece, and advised her in future to use nothing but the Diamond Dyes that had given her such satisfaction and profit for over twenty years. The unsightly, variegated shawl was then washed in several waters in order to get rid of the horrid colors, and was then put into a bath of Diamond Dye Fast Cardinal Red for Wool. It is now a thing of joy and beauty.

Moral: To achieve success in home dyeing be sure you use the Diamond Dyes.

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QUITE A MOVEMENT

Real Estate Is Now Selling at a Lively Rate.

C. & W. BUYS 30 LOTS

George Pfunder Buys the Burns Block for $10,000—A Deal in Progress for the Leland Block—Property for Residences Selling.

For the first time in a year and a half there is a lively real estate market. The best feature of the movement is that the purchases are being made for actual use and not for speculation. It is due to the natural increase in population and is purchased for use. It is probable that this will increase and that the demand will be very large during the coming fall and winter. The largest transaction was the purchase of some 30 lots by the C. & W. railway for terminal purposes along Second avenue east of Washington street. It was a spot cash transaction. On this ground will be erected the freight and passenger depots of the C. & W., and there will also be room for switching. This was a spot cash transaction.

The next transaction in point of value was the purchase by George Pfunder of the Burns block on Columbia avenue from P. Burns. The consideration was $10,000. The property has a frontage of 30 feet on Columbia avenue and a depth of 116 feet. It brings in a rental of $225 per month and is considered a most desirable property. The deal was made through the Reddin-Jackson company.

A deal for the sale of the Leland block is being engineered by J. B. Johnson. The purchaser is Olaus Jeldness and the consideration is $5,000. There is a little hitch in the negotiations, and as soon as this is arranged it is thought the deal will be put through.

George Pfunder has purchased lot 16, block 44, on Le Roi avenue, together with the cottage thereon for the sum of $2,000. This is to be used by Mr. Pfunder for a residence. This property sold two years since for $350.

Richard Marsh has bought the lot on Second avenue near the Bellevue hotel for $850. It is his intention further on to erect a residence on this lot.

Mr. Whittaker has purchased lot 15, block 44, for $1,000. It is to be used for residential purposes.

The two lots on Second avenud, adjoining the Bellevue have been sold through the Dean agency for $2,000. A large wholesale grain and feed store is to be erected on this site.

John F. McCrae of the Montreal Townsite syndicate, reports that he has disposed of a dozen lots in the addition of his company in the southern part of the city in the last fortnight. These lots were purchased with the intention of erecting residences upon them. Mr. McCrae says that there has been more inquiry for lots in the past few days than for many months. "The demand for lots will increase," he said, "with the growth of the camp. I expect to see an excellent realty market the coming fall and winter, as during that period there will be considerable expansion in the population and as a consequence a big demand for real estate, particularly for residential purposes."

Honest Help Free to Weak Men.

THE ROSSLAND MINER is authorized to state by Rev. A. H. Macfarlane, Franktown, Ontario, that any man who is suffering from troubles resulting from overwork, excess or abuse, such as nervous debility, lost vigor, unnatural losses, lack of development, etc., can write in strict confidence and be instructed free of charge how to be thoroughly cured.

Knowing, to his sorrow, that so many sufferers are being imposed upon by unscrupulous quacks, this clergyman considers it his duty to give his fellow men the benefit of his experience and assist them to a cure. Having nothing to sell, he asks no money. Any man who sends for his advice and follows it can rely upon being cured. Of course, only those actually needing help are expected to apply, enclosing a stamp.

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No. 2, East at 7:30 a. m., daily.

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E. W. RUFF, Agt. R. M. Ry., Rossland, B.

F. D. GIBBS, General Agent, Spokane, Wash.

A. D. CHARLTON, Ass't. Gen. Pass. Agent, 255 Morrison St., Cor. 3rd, Portland, Ore

Canadian Pacific Nav. Co.

(LIMITED.)

Time Table No. 32, taking effect Jan. 1st, 1898

VANCOUVER ROUTE.

Victoria to Vancouver—Daily, except Monday at 1 o'clock.

Vancouver to Victoria—Daily, except Monday at 13:15 o'clock, or on arrival of C. P. R. No. 1 train.

NEW WESTMINSTER ROUTE.

Leave Victoria for New Westminster, Ladner's Landing and Lulu Island—Sunday at 23 o'clock; Wednesday and Friday at 7 oclock. Sunday's steamer to New Westminster connects with C. P. R. train No. 2 going east Monday.

For Plumper Pass—Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 o'clock.

For Moresby and Pender Islands—Friday at 7 o'clock.

Leave New Westminster to Victoria Monday at 13:15 o'clock; Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 o'clock.

For Plumper Pass—Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 o'clock.

For Pender and Moresby Islands—Thursday a 7 o'clock.

NORTHERN ROUTE.

Steamships of this Company will leave for Fort Simpson and intermediate ports via Vancouver, the 1st and 15th of each month at 8 o'clock. And for Skidgate on 1st of each month.

BARCLAY SOUND ROUTE.

Steamer Tees leaves Victoria for Alberni and Sound ports the 15th and 30th of each month.

KLONDIKE ROUTE.

Steamers leave weekly for Wrangel, Juneau, Dyea and Skagway.

The Company reserves the right of changing this Time Table at any time without notification.

JOHN IRVING, Manager.

G. A. CARLETON, General Agent. Victoria.

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Or JAS. A. CLOCK, General Agent, 246 Stark Street, Portland, Ore.