Rossland Weekly Miner.

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THE PACIFIC COAST.

In the great West of today one section appeals to the investor with particular force. It is the Pacific Coast. Not that it alone is worthy of attention, for there are other sections, notably the Northwest and Manitoba, that have also great claims to consideration, but first because now there is combined in its favor certain elements of strength that must give certainty to the future and which make the present one of great opportunity. The Coast region of Canada has in its favor the same strength of soil and diversity of products that make older settled sections of the nation rich—but more, it has at its door the outlet to an empire that is as yet practically untouched and which will in the near future bring to this country great business advantage. What would it not be worth to Manitoba, for instance, if an ocean washed its western boundary, giving access to Asia? That is what the Pacific coast possesses.

James J. Hill said the other day: "Suppose we could increase our wheat consumption in China one per cent per crpita for each day in the year? It would mean $4,000,000 a day, or $1,500,000,000 a year. It would mean millions and millions for the American farmer." The fact that with the single exception of the black race the introduction of wheat has been followed by increased consumption makes this no idle dream. Western Canada with its vast wheat fields and its growing farm interests is at the gateway of this remarkable opportunity. It is, too, provided with the raw material for the manufacture of iron and steel, which can be furnished to the Orient at a cost not approached by the East. Coal and lumber and salmon are among the riches at the hand of the worker and are the basis of great enterprises.

IMPERIAL STATISTICS.

The Royal Standard society has had its attention drawn to the population of the British Empire in a paper on the subject by Mr. J. A. Baines, C. S. I., who gives some exceedingly interesting statistics respecting the proportion of whites to other races in our colonies. In this respect Canada shows to advantage (except, of course, in comparison with Victoria and New South Wales), for the population other than white only just exceeds three per cent, and includes negroes from the States, Chinese, Japanese, and the scattered inhabitants of the west and north. In South Africa scarcely more than a tenth of the inhabitants are white. Even in Cape Colony the whites constitute only about one-fourth of the population, and in Natal the ratio is about seven and one-half per cent. The population of the whole Empire is some four hundred and three millions, and of that seven millions are in America, which embraces Canada. One singular contrast to be noticed betwen Canada and Australia is in relation to the distribution of the people. In Quebec and Ontario seventy-one per cent of the population is classed as rural, and that is only about three per cent below the general mean of the Dominion, and this shows the strength of the country in regard to agricultural prospects. The high rate of wages, and the encouragement given to engage in rural life in Canada, explains this. The tendency in Australia, on the other hand, is to concentration in urban districts; but the movement of the increasing population is towards extended agricultural development.

WHAT IS A VOTE?

What is a vote? It is the individual elector's privilege and responsilibity in connection with the affairs of state. It has part in the government of the country. In the distribution of autocratic sovereign power among the people, that is his portion. It is the only peaceful means by which he can protect and foster the welfare of the state. Generally speaking, it is his entire "say" in shaping the destinies of the state. He may advocate a certain policy continuously for three years, but if this is not followed up with a vote along the same line in the fourth year, his task will avail nothing. It is the vote that is counted, not the talk. It is the vote that is considered by the political leaders, not the talk, unless forsooth, they know that the talk will be followed by a "vote" consistent therewith. Some men appear to spend their four years in painting a beautiful picture of Utopian government and then walk into the polling booth on election day and with two strokes of the pencil put an ugly X mark across the face of their artistic dream. It is very doubtful if such men deserve the realization of their political hopes, especially when they allow mere party sentiment to sway them from their convictions on polling day.

A DISTINCTION AND A DIFFERENCE.

The Conservatives are backing Mr. Chamberlain in his plans for an Imperial zollverein. The Liberals are opposing him. This is the way it has ever been in all matters affecting the advancement of British trade and the welfare of the Colonies.

The same condition obtains in the Colonies. The Conservatives are always to the front in all clear-cut issues where it is necessary to protect and foster trade and general prosperity.

It is the same in British Columbia. The Conservatives stand for honest government and progress. The Liberals stand for nothing but Martinism in its vilest form.

Under the circumstances it is difficult to see how the Liberals can reasonably expect to gain control of the next provincial legislature.

A GRIT ADMISSION.

Read the following from the Vancouver World (Liberal):

If Liberalism is to be vindicated in the province of British Columbia at the forthcoming general election, and if the rights of the people and the interests of the people are to prevail as against ring rule and corporation fattening, the time has come to lay the foundation of a success to be perfected at the polls.

The World is badly scared. It has good reason to be scared. When a grit organ like the World clamors for vindication of Liberalism it is a sure sign that the party is in poor condition and bad repute. It is such admissions as these that go to show how utterly futile are the efforts of the Grits to control the next legislature.

SOUND ADVICE FOR THE MILITIA.

Lord Dundonald, chief of the Dominion military forces, advocates the free use of the company armory. Let it be the men's club-house, he says. Let its walls be ornamented with charts setting forth the information needed by the soldier. Let it be a centre of military acitivity. This suggestion harmonizes admirably with the plan we have been suggesting. Let the skeleton of the company—its officers, its ten or twelve non-coms., its few fairly well paid and pledged privates—use the armory as a club-house, but let them not monopolize it. Let the captain enlist all the privates he can—a hundred, if they are forthcoming. Let these men be what may be styled voluntary privates. Let the local rifle club members belong. Let these "voluntary" privates frequent the armory. Let them shoot. Let them take a few drills in the year. When camp comes, let them stay at home, unless the government should resolve to drill a larger number of privates. In such a case, those of the "voluntary" privates who desired would go.

That would be a flexible system and a good basis for a skeleton force. There would be four classes of soldiers. The officers would be the more important leaders. The non-coms would be the sub-leaders. The specially paid and pledged privates—few in number—would be ready for service at any time. The rest of the privates would go to camp only if the government felt inclined to drill the battalion in fair strength, and if their convenience suited. In the event of national danger, a company of the required strength would be ready and fairly well trained in an astonishingly short time. The actual workers would have been reasonably paid, and no pay would have gone to idlers.

Better pay has become absolutely necessary. It must come. In granting it the government would do well to rearrange the present establishment, which is antiquated and unsuited to present methods of drill, mobilization and fighting. It should increase the number of leaders, and pay and train just as many privates as it feels able to afford. Better pay and that pay spent upon workers—therein lies one secret of efficiency.

HOT SUMMER PREDICTIONS.

The season of floods, cloudbursts and cyclones being over, it is announced semi-officially by the experts that a period of excessive heat is at hand. The East and Middle West, it is predicted, are to swelter as they have seldom sweltered before. Generally speaking, June was a cold, raw month in the East, but the weather has a peculiar way of evening things up under the law of averages, and, aside from that, weather sharps say they have abundance of authority for advising people to prepare to sizzle.

The sizzling process is due to begin any day now, and, unless the forecasts are all wrong, it will keep sizzling and sizzling well along into late August or early September. All of which is good enough news to summer resort proprietors, to growers of corn and of watermelons, and to vendors of ice and of cooling beverages. To the rest of humanity in the afflicted portions of the country it is disheartening.

The East, bearing up as best it can under Arctic conditions in winter and torrid visitations in summer, ever has Kootenay's sympathy. Knowing nothing of the dire extremities of discomfort incident to Greenland's icy mountains on the one hand and India's coral strand on the other, this favored spot of nature but dimly realizes the awful state of affairs prevailing in the East during a hot summer. Let us hope that the prophecies have greatly exaggerated what the immediate future has in store for the effete and hapless East.

THE "INDEPENDENTS."

On the first page of this issue will be found a statement as to the intentions of certain political "Independents."

It seems that a large number of prospectors, miners and business men in Rossland and elsewhere in the Kootenays have become so disgusted with Martinism and the apathy of some Conservatives that they have been forced into an independent organization in order to protect their business interests at the next elections.

The Miner, to a great extent, is in hearty sympathy with this "Independent" idea. The simple platform of the "Independents" embraces to a very great extent the political principles that this journal has constantly and persistently fought for ever since it came under its present ownership and control. The chief fault—if fault there be—with the "Independent" platform is that it does no go far enough. It has nothing to say about Oriental immigration; neither does it show a path to prosperity for the WORKINGMAN. Of this omission, however, The Miner will have more to say anon. Meanwhile we feel it our duty to help a good cause along, and therefore intend to gain more information as to what is the ultimate intention of the new-born "Independents" before further criticism on our part.

For the present, however, The Miner wishes to extend a word of warning to this new-born but lusty and honest political factor. Play your cards — and they are trumps — for all they are worth. Make yourselves felt as real independents; but if you are out to win (and there is no reason why you should not) gather all possible strength from one or the other of the old-established parties. You may yet find that the Conservatives will lead you to success. If the Conservatives of Rossland at least do not come to your rescue, The Miner will be greatly surprised.

THE DEPUTATION AT OTTAWA.

Two members of the Provincial government—Mr. Wilson, president of the council, and Mr. Green, minister of mines—have gone to Ottawa to interview the Dominion government on matters of provincial importance. Among the subjects that will be discussed between the two governments will be that connected with protection to the silver-lead industry; a grant by the Dominion towards the expenditure on the bridge over the Fraser river; and a promise that the Federal authorities will not interfere with the legislation passed by the provincial legislature for the restriction of Oriental and other undesirable alien immigration.

All these matters are of great importance to provincial interests, and in sending a delegation of two of its members to Ottawa, the government is showing that it realizes that fact and is solicitous that nothing shall be left undone that is calculated to secure a satisfactory arrangement in regard to these questions.

The silver-lead industry is in urgent need of assistance and protection against the rapacity and greed of the American lead trust. It must either be crushed out of existence or pay toll on the terms which the American monoply may see fit to exact. A substantial bounty is necessary for Kootenay silver-lead miners. If the Dominion government fails to grant it the industry will be found languishing instead of flourishing, and the fault will rest wholly with the Liberal administration at Ottawa.

It is undoubtedly the duty of the Dominion government to give financial aid towards the construction of the bridge across the Fraser river at New Westminster. The construction of the bridge will afford facilities for traffic and commerce of an international character, by which the Dominion treasury will directly benefit to a very material degree.

With regard to the question of Oriental immigration there must be no "trimming" on the part of either the representatives of the province or the Dominion government. British Columbia does not expect to hear any more "ultra vires" talk. This province will get along well enough with white labor. We do not want the Oriental commodity. Sir Wilfrid Laurier must give us white labor "as they have it in England"—to use his pet expression concerning the tariff—or there will be trouble for his government.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING.

Judging by the direction we are moving in politically, and the rapid progress we are making as a nation in that direction, it does not take a prophet (a calm calculating reasoner will do) to determine that if the people of this generation who desire honest, statesmanlike government in the interests of the people, do not fling their party allegiance to the winds and line up together at the ballot box to secure such government, their children of the next generation will doubtless line up together in ranks bristling with bayonets athirst for the blood of their fellow man, to win back as a priceless boon what this generation apparently deems of little worth, viz., the power to control the affairs of the nation.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, but all the pottage on earth could not buy it back. If the people of this country will barter away their "right to govern" for, at most, a pittance of gold, it is safe to conclude that something far more precious than gold will be expended to ensure its return.

CONCERNING "KNOCKING."

"'Knock' and the world 'knocks' with you; 'boost' and you 'boost' alone."

Anyone who is at all observant must be impressed with the fact that the people of Rossland are not fond of playing solo parts. Did you ever hear of such a lot of "knockers" in your life as are to be found here? The chances are that you are pretty fair with the hammer yourself.

Just think it over. Isn't it a fact that every time you and two or three of your friends get together and the name of almost anyone else is mentioned some one of you begins to "knock?" It may be only a gentle tack-hammer tap to start with, but some one else joins in, and before you have finished the sledge-hammer blows are falling thick and fast. It begins with a little tinkling innocent sort of "knock," but it becomes more and more vehement until it swells into an anvil chorus that would put Verdi to shame.

Why is it? One might think that people could find enough pleasant things to say about their friends to keep unpleasant ones in the background. There isn't anything unreasonable about that, is there?

But if you are a man and someone asks you "What kind of a fellow is Jones?" it is almost certain that your reply will be something like this: "Why, he is one of the finest fellows you ever saw, but knock-knock-knockety-knock," and so on for ten or fifteen minutes.

And if you are a girl, and one of your partiuclar friends drops in, isn't one of the first things she says, "Isn't Maude just the dearest thing? I think she is perfectly splendid, but do you know what she did the other day? Why, she ——" and then the hammers begin to fall.

And so it goes. You seldom hear a bit of unstinted praise, and only too often you hear unstinted "knocking," if the term will be permitted. You won't say all the nice things you can about your friends without a few nasty ones thrown in, but you seldom hesitate to say all the nasty things you can without the seasoning of a simple nice one. Why is it?

BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY.

President J. J. Hill, of the Great Northern railway, states that he does not care to make any money out of the Oriental trade that he is trying to establish from the far Northwest, but that he is going to build up a business that will give him a loaded haul both ways, and will "build up the agricultural districts and encourage manufacturing."

This remarkable statement coming from the man who has revolutionized railroad rates and established a new basis of railroad operations in the United States and this country, is worthy of a good deal of attention. Generally, when a railroad builder or owner says that he is building his railroad or operating it for the benefit of the public, he is politely laughed at, and it is generally believed that his altruism is at least founded upon very good business principles; in other words, that it is the kind of altruism that pays dividends.

The long and honorable record of Mr. Hill as a pioneer of territory and a builder of cities entitles him to somewhat different treatment at the hands of the critics than would ordinarily be accorded to a man that claimed to be doing business for the good of the race. His railroad record proves at least that if the benefit of his constituents was not his first object, it was at least a very important incidental. Whatever may be said of his business success, it cannot be denied that his transportation plans in the American Northwest and in this province have been uniformly toward a reduction of freight costs to miners, farmers and shippers and toward the opening of new markets for the products of this country. He is, therefore, in a position to claim, as he does, most decidedly, that his roads have worked uniformly for the benefit of the territory they serve.

NO PLACE LIKE KOOTENAY.

At a time when thousands of Canadians and Americans are rushing to Europe, although they know little about their own big continent, a Western railway in the States is circulating this suggestive bit of advertising:

"Don't compare Switzerland and Colorado. It's unfair—to Switzerland. Switzerland has nine peaks more than 14,000 feet high. Colorado has forty-two—all higher than the famous Jungfrau. In addition, it has 900 lakes and more than sixty rivers."

Colorado is undoubtedly a grand and wonderful region. but the Kootenays are just as far ahead of Colorado as Colorado is ahead of Switzerland. If any Eastern sceptic doubts this assertion, let him come here and see for himself. There is no place in the known world that compares with the Kootenays in "the good old summer time." It is our candid opinion that the time is not far distant when the scenic beauties of Europe will have to take second place to those of Western Canada, not only with the people of this continent but those of Europe as well.

A READY RESPONSE.

The spontaneous response to the request for a public meeting last night in connection with the proposed Canadian Pacific employees' picnic is a gratifying indication of unbounded public spirit in the Golden City. At short notice almost 100 persons assembled to pave the way for the visit to Rossland at an early date of 1500 to 2000 employees of the great railway, and the necessary preliminary arrangements went through with a swing and unanimity that promises big things for the demonstration under consideration.

Such spirit and enthusiasm will not fail to weigh strongly with the committee having the disposition of the picnic in hand, especially when it is coupled with a fair presentation of Rossland's facilities for housing and entertaining such a gathering as will assemble within its walls on the day of the proposed outing. The latter feature is essentially important, and should not be overlooked by the committee that goes to Nelson to present Rossland's whole-hearted invitation.

A pleasing feature was the announcement of the graceful acquiescence of the Miners' Union in the proposed citizens' demonstration, particularly as their co-operation meant the upsetting of plans in preparation for weeks in connection with the Union picnic on the 16th inst. The railway men belong to unions almost to a man, and this action on the part of their fellow organized workers in the Golden City will be felt and appreciated in every railway town as it is in Rossland.

The Canadian Pacific employees will make an error in judgment if they fail to accept Rossland's invitation. Here is the door wide open, so that the proverbial latch-string will not figure at all; here is a community that is anxious to celebrate for the entertainment of its own residents as well as those who will come in for the day; here is a city that can offer the best inducements and will absolutely guarantee "to deliver the goods!"

The Miner is at the disposal of the committee. The management is only too pleased to have the opportunity to offer its news and advertising columns free of any charge. Let's have a good old-fashioned celebration and —— the expense.

THOROUGH EXPLOITATION.

Occasionally in old mining districts, where mining has been carried on successfully for years, a new field is announced where the existence of pay ore was not even suspected. Discoveries of this class are sometimes made in old mines, where cross-cuts are driven or diamond drill holes have been bored. A discovery of this character has the same stimulating effect upon an old district that is so noticeable in a new one. And this renewed activity in an old camp can usually be measured by the value of the initial discovery. If it is a bonanza, development is given an impetus in the district, and this sometimes extends far beyond the immediate vicinity of the new find. If it be of good but not of extreme value, the result of the stimulant is only noticeable locally.

Such great development as that of the gold bearing blanket of the Witwatersrand has a stimulating effect upon the world, but here, too, the ratio of the value of the development to the intensifying of great mining activity is proportional in the same degree that a more or less important one would be.

The extensive development, equipment and successful operation of such mines as the Homestake, Treadwell and some of the great copper mines has stimulated search for large mines which will afford a reasonable but assured margin of profit. Such operations as these have done much to place mining where it belongs, upon a legitimate basis, and on the same plane as other investments of equal commercial importance.

IMPENDING CRISIS REGARDING MANCHURIA.

The report from Odessa, giving the particulars of an alleged note from the British and Japanese governments to China respecting the Russian ocupation of Manchuria is important if founded in fact. Serious doubts may be entertained, however, as to the reliability of the information upon which the St. Petersburg newspaper quoted in the Odessa dispatch, bases its statement. It will be granted that the alleged note of the powers to China fairly expresses the real feeling of the British and Japanese foreign offices in regard to Russia's duplicity and aggravating conduct in Manchuria. Nevertheless such a communication as is outlined in the dispatch would bring on a great crisis between Great Britain and Japan on the one hand and Russia on the other, and it is doubtful if the aggrieved powers are ready for all that such a step would involve.

There is no doubt that Russia has behaved badly with reference to Manchuria. She agreed to evacuate the province when the foreign armies were withdrawn from China, but she did not keep her agreement, and had no intention of doing so. She has attempted, by underhand means, to secure a cession of the province, which would be a direct breach of the agreement to maintain the integrity of China and would be a signal for the dismemberment of the empire. The Russians do not favor the "open door' in Manchuria, international agreements notwithstanding, and the design of the Russians, if effected, would be a hard blow to British, Japanese and American commercial interests. It is not by any means improbable that a firm stand will eventually be taken against the Russian occupation of Manchuria by the powers which are rumored to have already formulated their demands and notified China as to the course she should take to bring about the promised evacuation.

GROWTH OF MINING INDUSTRY.

It is an obvious fact, says the Western Mining World, that the search for good, big, partially developed mining properties requiring large capital has never been more earnest and persistent than now. The men who have made their money in mining realize its marvelous possibilities, and hence are willing to risk almost unlimited sums in backing their judgment on a mining proposition. It does not follow from this assertion that mining operators are plungers and indulge in spectacular plays like the big bulls and bears of Wall street. It simply means that experience and skill are developing a line of practical commercial experts in mining, who are able to measurably eliminate the element of uncertainty heretofore attaching to this class of investments, and to secure legitimate and constant dividends under given conditions. The wonderful record of dividends from mining within the past decade is ample proof of this contention. Had the economic handicaps incident to the steel and labor trusts not been present the industry would today be far ahead of what it is and the sum total of dividends greater than even the magnificent showing already made.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The expected falling off in immigration to this country has not yet taken place. The average number of immigrants passing through Montreal each week is between 2000 and 3000, and, as a consequence, the annual toll on the East for assistance in gathering the Western harvest will be much smaller than usual.

Prospecting in the Kootenays has barely commenced, and although the development seems so extensive, and the stories of great finds would indicate to the superficial observer that the country is not new enough for future discoveries of great importance, yet as a matter of fact the opportunities for the making of great fortunes in mining in this district today are better than they have ever been during any period of its history.