

Rossland Weekly Miner.

Published Every Thursday by the ROSSLAND MINER PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. LIMITED LIABILITY.

C. A. GREGG, Managing Editor. LONDON OFFICE: C. J. WALKER, 24 Coleman Street London.

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE WEEKLY ROSSLAND MINER for all points in the United States and Canada is Two Dollars a year or One Dollar and Twenty-five Cents for six months.

ENCOURAGING STATEMENTS.

Dr. Ladoux is a gentleman whose expert knowledge and wide experience give him a high position in the mining world, and he cannot for a moment be suspected of a desire to create a "boom" in connection with Rossland or any other camp.

The Miner this morning also presents other matter of interest concerning the mines of the district. There is no small importance to be attached to the announcement that the Homestake mine has almost reached the regular shipping stage.

Further news given concerns the development of the Onondaga company's property at Champion creek, and though that locality is a little more remote, the success of the company's operations cannot fail to benefit Rossland.

POSTAL SERVICE DEFECTS.

Philosophers say there is no virtue in bearing with an ill that can be remedied, and surely their dictum can be fairly applied to the case of Rossland and certain defects in the mail service.

But the other defect in the service complained of is a more serious one. The mail which comes in over the Crow's Nest route arrives at Nelson at 1 o'clock in the morning, and the Rossland quota is actually held there until the afternoon.

As was noted in our despatches of yesterday, the Phoenix people have a similar complaint to make. The unwillingness of the department to spend a few dollars per year extra causes exasperating defects in their service.

things as these should not be. Small economies in the postal expenditure that subject the public to needless delays and inconveniences are very poorly devised.

OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON

Among the many curious incidents of modern civilization, anybody can receive, early in the morning, news of events which occur in London in the afternoon of the same day.

"Our reporter waited upon Mr. Turner the new Agent General for the Province of British Columbia, at the Hotel Metropole yesterday, when the following interesting dialogue occurred:

"Reporter—I understand, Mr. Turner, that you have recently arrived from British Columbia, and that you are to reside in London, as the representative of that Province.

"Mr. Turner—Quite so. The people of British Columbia realize that the vast mineral deposits of the Province only require the fairy touch of Capital, in order to demonstrate the enormous wealth which lies hidden in our mountains.

"Reporter—Oh, yes. That, of course, is well known; but how can you expect to induce capitalists to risk their money in British Columbia, where the conditions appear to be so hazardous, and so fluctuating, when they can invest more safely, and more profitably in many other countries, or even at home?

"Mr. Turner—Why, what do you mean? There is no country which offers greater inducements, both as regards profits and safety. You are quite mistaken my dear man; and I am here to set you and others right on this point.

"Reporter—I am delighted to hear it, for many of us have taken a shy at B. C. mining shares, but have not realized anything so far. Perhaps you will not object to answering a few questions on the subject.

"Mr. Turner—Not at all; I shall be happy to give you every information.

"Reporter—Several friends of mine are interested in companies in a district called the Slocan, and these properties all had to close down owing to a law called the 8-hour law. How did the Legislature come to pass a law which would have that effect?

"Mr. Turner—There was a good deal of trouble certainly over that law; and it has done the country a great injury. But you know, it was not my Government—that is to say, the Government of which I was a member—that passed that law. It was the Government of a man called Joe Martin; and we were bitterly opposed to him on nearly every subject.

"Reporter—The managers of the various mines in which my friends and I were interested, inform us that the effect of this law was to increase their working expenses by 15 or 20 per cent, besides entailing much bad feeling between the men and their employers. Did not the various mine owners and their managers protest against the passage of the law, and show to the legislature the harm it would do?

"Mr. Turner—It was unfortunately passed very hurriedly; and the mine owners knew nothing about it until it was passed.

"Reporter—Good heavens! Can laws affecting people's rights be passed that way in British Columbia! Of course you and your friends opposed such an unfair proceeding as vigorously as you could in the legislature, and voted against it?

"Mr. Turner—Well, it is a couple of years since the incident, and I don't just remember what the vote was.

"Reporter—I would suggest that you refresh your memory about this matter, Mr. Turner, for you are quite sure to be interrogated about it by many financial men you will meet here. In the meantime, will you tell me about that 2 per cent tax, which we have heard a good deal about. Was it Joe Martin's government that introduced this tax, and why was it imposed?

"Mr. Turner. Well no; it was my government that did that; in fact, it was my doing, as finance minister. We wanted revenue, and thought we could collect it from the mines more readily than from any other source.

"Reporter—The mining industry in British Columbia is the mainstay of the province, is it not?

"Mr. Turner—Yes; certainly.

"Reporter—I see by the government returns that enormous sums have been realized by the government for the last few years from the mining industry. Can you tell me whether the investing

public have realized a commensurate profit?

"Mr. Turner—Oh, doubtless they have realized a little deal. If you will look over this little book, prepared, I believe, by the provincial mineralogist and issued under the authority of the minister of mines, for free distribution at the Glasgow exhibition, you will see that the mines of British Columbia are a splendid investment, for they returned last year in principal and interest to the lenders of the money advanced for development the sum of \$10,000,757; being an increase of 49 per cent over the amount so returned in 1899 and 54 per cent over 1898.

"Reporter—Yes, that little book came out a short time ago, and that very passage you quoted has been a puzzle to some of us, who recognize the sanction, which the minister of mines gives to it. I may frankly add, however, that most of its readers just laugh.

"Mr. Turner—Why, what do they mean?

"Reporter—Oh, of course they know the way in which money is usually spent on development in British Columbia and elsewhere; and that it is not a case of the loan of money at all. Call it an investment, with the expectation of high profits, if you will. But to represent the total product of the mines as a return of principal and interest to lenders of the money expended on development can, of course, only be justified on the assumption that the party so representing matters does not know what he is talking about, or else is willfully misrepresenting the facts.

"Mr. Turner—Really, I never looked at this statement in that light before. I think you will admit, however, that the present government, of which I was until recently a member, has exerted itself for the benefit of the province.

"Reporter—Well, to be candid, Mr. Turner, financial men here do not think so. For instance, they say that the idea of doubling the mineral tax, just after you came into power, and when we all understood that an era of stable government had dawned on British Columbia was a grievous error. Did the legislature, in this instance, also, act behind the backs of those who were to be affected by it?

"Mr. Turner—Oh, not at all. The mine owners had notice of the measure; and as a matter of fact the members of the government gave a deputation of them an attentive hearing.

"Reporter—Of course they opposed the measure vigorously, and showed the injury it was likely to do, abstracting, as we hear it has, from six to twelve per cent of the profits of mining?

"Mr. Turner—Yes, they did urge that, but we thought they must be mistaken; and anyway we wanted the money.

"Reporter—And have you realized what you expected, in the way of revenue, from this tax?

"Mr. Turner—No. I am beginning to believe that the mine owners were not far wrong when they told us we would realize as much or more from the 1 per cent tax as we would if we doubled the tax, owing to the fact that much ore which might be shipped at a profit, under the 1 per cent tax, cannot be shipped under existing conditions. I do not doubt the government will find it to their interest to abolish this tax.

"Reporter—I am glad to hear you say so indeed. There were some other subjects I was anxious to ask you about, such as the new code of signals, which is said to be a dangerous and unworkable code; and the new Boiler Inspection Act, which is said to require payment of excessive fees by mine owners, when their boilers are insured and inspected by competent insurance companies. But I see you are anxious to keep a me appointment, and I will defer these enquiries to a later day.

"Mr. Turner—Thank you, Yes, I shall be delighted. (Aside—Confound it; these Londoners know more about B. C. than I do. No more interviews, if I know it, until I can show them some more towards rectifying these infernal blunders.)

THE MINING LAWS.

Very few of the few newspapers which are supporting the government have had the hardihood, in reply to the Rossland Miner's articles pointing out the injurious effect of some of the existing mining laws, to declare that the adverse comment is unjustified. This is a hopeful sign. It indicates that the work which is being done in the cause of reform is beginning to tell; and signs are not wanting that eventually the government will meet the wishes of the people and remove some of the disabilities under which the industry is working at the present time.

TRADE STILL GROWING.

Canada's aggregate trade for the eleven months ended May 31st amounted to \$329,352,721, as compared with \$308,548,034 for the same period of the previous year, or an increase in favor of 1900-01 of \$20,804,687. This is on the basis of imports for consumption and exports, excluding, however, in each case coin and bullion.

Table with columns: Domestic, Foreign, The mine, The fisheries, The fisheries, Animals and their products, Agriculture, Manufactures, Miscellaneous, Total.

CORNERED.

Despatches from Victoria convey the very significant information that Hon. J. H. Turner, the new agent-general for the province in London, has determined to delay his departure for the scene of his labors for some time yet. Quite so. In other words the Provincial government desires to live a little longer. Nothing is more certain than that if Mr. Turner resigns and a bye-election is brought on the government candidate will be snored under in any constituency in the province.

A BULLY REBUKED.

The blasphemous bully who conducts the Nelson Tribune in the interest of indecency has opened his C. P. R. mouth just once too often, and has had a deserved castigation administered to his tough hide by the Victoria Times.

Bully Houston, desiring to leave nobody free from his spewings, charged the coast newspapers with being "dull, flat, prosy, frothy and generally uninteresting," patting himself upon the chest at the same time for his own roguish excellence. The Victoria Times gets back at him in this fashion:

"The Nelson Tribune has a very low opinion of the coast newspapers. It mentions six of them as being dull, flat, prosy, frothy and generally uninteresting. Genius is confined entirely to the interior of the province, according to our brilliant contemporary of the Ambitious City. The Tribune man never had a great admiration for the coast cities, institutions or people, and we must admit that the style and manners of the representative of Nelson are not properly appreciated here. He has, as he would say himself, run up against some hard, in point of fact stunning, 'propositions' in Victoria. Our people have no reason to revere the proprietor of the Tribune nor the proprietors of its proprietor. He is the champion of monopoly and the opponent of progress and development. But for him and his small following in the House the government might have been forced to yield to public opinion and adopt a policy which would have resulted in the emancipation of the province and the creation of business activity where there is now stagnation and depression. The member for

Nelson excuses his course to his constituents on the plea that the merchants of Nelson must be protected from competition of the coast wholesale houses. He is a Tory and a protectionist, but he cannot deceive anyone with such an excuse as that. We do not believe the people of such an enterprising place have any desire to be placed in a position of splendid or any other kind of isolation. It is as much in their interest as it is in the interest of the people on the coast to see all parts of the province opened up and placed in communication with each other by railways, and they know perfectly well that it is not desirable that the transportation routes to the sea coast should all be under the control of one corporation as certain newspapers are reported to be. No doubt they will have an opportunity before long of acquainting their member in a practical way with their opinions.

"As to the style of the six daily papers on the coast, a great deal depends upon the point of view and the environment. We are disposed to believe that many of the brilliant 'things' which appear in some journals would not be appreciated in this effete section of British Columbia. Vulgarity is sometimes mistaken for originality and profanity for cleverness and wit even by members of legislatures."

The Colonist hits him also: "It is the misfortune of the coast newspapers to have fallen under the disapproval of the bright and shining light in the journalistic world, the Nelson Tribune. It is likewise alleged that His Satanic Majesty finds the Ten Commandments shockingly commonplace."

Bully Houston is not only a disgrace to Nelson—he is a disgrace to the C. P. R. and will prove a losing proposition to that corporation.

GROWTH OF A MINING POPULATION IN CANADA.

The Winnipeg Tribune has been at some pains to direct attention to the fact that many people are accustomed to think of the farm as the economic basis of the Dominion, and of those who live on farms as constituting the great mass of the population. It says that in so thinking they are right enough so far as the prairies and most of the well-settled districts of Ontario and Quebec are concerned; and the same thing holds good of some districts in the maritime provinces. It would not hold good of a country which produced all it consumed and consumed all it produced. But here the greater part of what is produced in the country is exported, and the goods obtained in return are for the most part imported. With minor exceptions our population may be classified as (1) farmers, (2) those engaged in taking out farmers' produce and bringing in his supplies. (3) Merchants engaged in the business of buying and selling this produce and these supplies. (4) Professional men and others required by the community thus created. The list is not minutely exhaustive but it includes all the essential elements of our population.

But in some regions of the Dominion the economic basis is a different productive industry and the main element of the population is not a farming class. The characteristics of the community and the effect its conditions have upon the individuals composing it, are different also. There is a large fishing and a large lumbering population. One or two cities may be termed large manufacturing centres and mining is beginning to employ an increasing number of men. Before many years our mines may rival in importance our fisheries and our timber.

The annual report for 1899 on the mineral statistics and mines of the country has at length been printed. Greater promptness in its distribution would have added to its value, but it is still interesting. The growth of the industry is indicated by the following table:

Table showing Production per capita for years 1886, 1890, 1895, 1898, 1899.

In 1886 the production per capita of Canada was less than one-third of that of the United States; in 1899 it was about three-fourths. In other words, while the United States was adding 70 per cent to the value of its mineral products, the Dominion was adding more than 300 per cent. It might be inferred that if this continues our mining industry will soon be as important relatively as that of the United States. It must not be forgotten, however, that the increase is largely due to the placer diggings of the Yukon. The value of the gold mined was \$21,261,584. In 1893, it was less than \$1,000,000. The greater part, \$16,000,000, came from the Yukon. Of the remainder, \$4,000,000 came from British Columbia, \$617,904 from Nova Scotia, and \$421,561 from Ontario.

We direct attention to the interview published in another column with James D. Sword. Mr. Sword says that one of the greatest calamities which has befallen this province is foolish mining legislation. It is now in order for C. P. R. Houston, of the Nelson Tribune, to say that Mr. Sword is a ———; well, let C. P. R. Houston choose the language. It will fit his ribald mouth better.

THE MINING TAX.

Apologists for the government's mining tax policy are hard put to it to find any sort of a defence. One of them, the Nelson Tribune to wit, brings forward the Montana tax system as evidence in its favor. After quoting a mass of figures relating to the Anaconda Copper Mining company and its annual tax, this government toad-eater triumphantly asks: "Has the system of taxation in Montana driven capital out of that state? If it has not, why should the system of taxation in British Columbia have that effect on capital?"

Any person intelligent enough to form a judgment and independent enough to speak his mind would at once answer that the two systems are radically different. That is plentifully apparent from the Tribune's own figures. In Montana the mining tax is 3 per cent on the net proceeds of the mine, and the companies are required to make a statement each year of their operations. The last annual statement of the Anaconda company, for the year ending April 30 last, is given as follows:

Table with columns: Tons of ore extracted, Gross yield per ton, Cost of mining per ton, Total cost of mining, Cost of transportation, Total cost of transportation, Total cost of reduction, Paid for labor, Paid for machinery, etc., Paid for freight, Cost of marketing, Gross proceeds, Recapitulation, Cost of mining, Freight on ore, Cost of reduction, Selling and marketing, Total expenditures, Net proceeds.

An elaborate calculation leads the government apologist to the conclusion that if the Montana system of taxation were applied to the Ymir mine the tax on that mine would amount to 12-1/2 cents per ton, while under the present British Columbia system it is 12-1/3 cents. But just invert the calculation and apply the British Columbia system to the Anaconda property. The gross proceeds there are put down at \$18,128,558. If our 2 per cent tax were imposed there the amount collected would be \$362,571. As it is, the Anaconda company pays 3 per cent on its net proceeds, which amounts to \$167,154. That is to say, if the Anaconda property were located in British Columbia instead of Montana, its taxes would be a good deal more than doubled. If the Montana authorities proposed to double the taxation on the mines over there the owners might perhaps meekly bow their heads and submit, but if that is the case their characters must have been very much misunderstood.

Go a little further, and suppose that the Anaconda's expenses were to be increased a dollar per ton. In that event, the company's tax under the Montana system would still remain at 3 per cent on its net proceeds, but under the British Columbia system it would be increased to 8-1/2 per cent, or nearly three times as much. That is to say, under our system an owner is heavily fined if his expenses go up or the quality of his ore goes down, while under the Montana system the rate remains the same.

Who but a fool or a hard-driven apologist would venture to drag in Montana as evidence on the government side of the case?

DEATH OF MR. HARDY.

Hon. A. S. Hardy, formerly premier of Ontario, died yesterday in Toronto, and a host of people who knew and esteemed him will be grieved by the announcement. Mr. Hardy was closely connected with Ontario politics almost from the date of confederation until about two years ago, being for many years a prominent member of the Mowat government and for a brief term the head of the administration, after Sir Oliver Mowat's removal to Ottawa. The long-continued success of the Liberals in Ontario was due in no small measure to his untiring energy and administrative ability. His good qualities of mind and heart made him many friends and admirers, and those who knew him best esteemed him most.

Lord Strathcona's annual report to the Trade and Commerce department as High Commissioner for Canada has just been made public. His Lordship states that both the import and export trade of Canada from the United Kingdom during last year seem to have expanded in a satisfactory manner. If the correspondence received at the High Commissioner's office is any criterion, Canadian trade is attracting more attention than ever in Great Britain. Correspondence on trade matters is considerable and continually growing, and the personal inquiries are also exceedingly numerous. The number of callers at the office during the year was nearly 14,000, of which 2,700 represented travelling Canadians who registered their names.

C. P. R. Houston has put in some lino-type machines in his office. This will relieve decent printers from the obnoxious task of setting-up by hand his indecent utterances.

CITY N

BUSINESS LIVELY—Yesterday was a busy day for local merchants. A money market was put into a lull by a Saturday bought heavily yesterday.

BUSINESS CHANGES—The B. C. Electric P. has changed hands. F. Francis & Harper, A. assume the management.

LIGHT DOCKET—The docket at the light, three drunks from the only parties to the judge. The trial was of them rejoiced in the of Werts.

YESTERDAY'S EXC—The Odd Fellows' Trail to Deer Park was yesterday. Several Roseland, including the band, took in the afternoon of 9 o'clock pleasantly passed.

COURT HOUSE STEEL—John Kirkup, gold not yet advised at Victoria as to the new court house. What to the main entrance, a set of temporary will be built, and the replaced by concrete.

SLIM ATTENDANCE—The farewell entertainment of Colonel Jackson shortly for Ottawa, attended last night. Slim the entertainer and those who attended evening.

RECEIVED DEGREES—The Nelson Masons, Fred York, James Lawrence, and John A. Turner, received degrees in the city Messrs. Turner received degrees in the morning. The party was band morning.

DRANK CARBOLIC—Mrs. Menie, who Bigelow House, had died from death yesterday, part of a bottle of carbolic acid with which she was quarrelled with her miner, and the latter leave the city for Gre wife took the poison, ed by a physician and cover, although badly as well as internally.

THE FULL COURT—Full court will convene the 25th inst. and a of interest here down for a hearing being the appeal as ment of Mr. Justice M. of Centre Star and W. Southern. Several matters up before supreme court before the regular Hamilton has already connection with chambers and other members of profession will leave for

FAST TIME—The special train bringing the city from the day at Deer Park run from Trail depot depot. The distance 44-1/2 minutes, which good running for the R. conductor Joe Kenney was cab. Money was freely run could not be made minutes, and the train prove what they could give No. 404 made the

CONTRACTOR REJO—No one in Rossland sincerely over the change in the weather conditions Bradbury, the contractor the postoffice. T. layed the work mate Bradbury is anxious to completed as rapidly as possible everything splendidly on the work men left for the day. T. marked: "Give me the er for a time and you office grow. It won't job."

ADDRESSES WANTED—John Jackson, Jr., a solar agent at Rossland communication from Ore. Separating from Camp Square, Boston, Mass., furnish the company of parties operating on manganese properties in order that the company separator may be introduced of the persons apparatus separates iron gins atoms from common zinc-blende, manganese special feature being zinc and iron concentrate non-magnetic, making able lead-zinc-iron mineral commercial value. Part can procure same on a

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL—The double funeral of the Miners' Union of most impressive event. men were in line in a bar of citizens in car of march from the U cemetery was lined with citizens. The hall was doors during the service ducted by Revs. St. Baptist church and Methodist church. The church was headed by K.