

Rossland Weekly Miner.

Published Every Thursday by the
ROSSLAND MINING PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.
LIMITED LIABILITY.
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LONDON OFFICE:
C. J. WALKER, 24 Coleman Street London.
TORONTO OFFICE:
CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY, LTD., 83 Yonge St.
SPOKANE OFFICE:
ALEXANDER & Co. Advertising Agents, Room
First National Bank Building.
EASTERN AGENT:
EMANUEL KATZ, 730 Temple Court, New York

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE WEEKLY
ROSSLAND MINER for all points in the United
States and Canada is Two and one-half Dollars a
year or One Dollar and fifty cents for six months
or all other countries Three and one-half Dol-
lars a year—invariably in advance.

BOGUS MINING COMPANIES.

It is interesting to note that in California, where many "wild cat" mining and oil companies have sprung into existence, which are engaged in selling worthless stock to unsuspecting people, a crusade has been begun against such companies by Mr. Aubrey, the State Mineralogist. He and his assistants now examine properties owned by companies, and if they are worthless tell the public through the newspapers. The San Francisco Call comments as follows on the matter: "Eastern and European papers are printing page advertisements of propositions on this coast that are known to be selling under false pretenses. This is a matter of common knowledge. The discovery that frauds exist and the inability of the eastern people to discriminate owing to distance from the coast has led to constant bombardment of the State Mineralogist's office with queries about the value of stocks, etc. This has brought about the move that concerns all honest miners and is calculated to be a source of great discomfort to fakirs. Mr. Aubrey says he will follow up the investigations he is making into the real value of mining and oil promotions until he is acquainted with them all."

This is a good work well begun, and more the pity that it cannot be extended to every section on the coast. The board of trade of Helena, Montana, took the matter in hand some time ago, making a list of all mines and prospects in its neighborhood and furnishing eastern investors with information upon inquiry. This, however, had only a local bearing, but the experiment was well thought of by the business men of that city. It was shown that mining stocks were being sold in the east on claims that had no existence. The postmaster of Helena was overwhelmed with letters of inquiry, which, of course, he could not answer, so the board took the matter up and formulated a list. The plan worked well and broke up many "wild cat" schemes.

Fake mining has been the curse of every mining division on the coast. British Columbia has not been exempt. In fact, the lack of activity in many quarters can be traced to this cause. The matter should be taken in hand by the strong arm of the law, and swindling mining schemes made to bear the odium the same as any other kind of fraud. It is not enough that citizens in their individual and collective capacity point out the worthless projects, the promoters of them should be called to account and made to suffer.

The development of our mining resources all depends on keeping the confidence of the outside world—especially those who desire to invest their surplus money in legitimate mining enterprises—and this cannot be done so long as "wild cats" are allowed to increase.

THE VALUE OF A MINE.

Under the above heading we publish elsewhere a communication contributed to the Victoria Colonist by Mr. A. C. Galt of this city on a subject which is of exceptional importance to the mining interests of the province.

As everyone knows, the Colonist is in a position to speak for the government, and apparently did so in the following editorial which appeared in its columns simultaneously with Mr. Galt's letter:

"The letter from Mr. A. C. Galt, of Rossland, which we publish this morning, presents in a very clear and succinct fashion the great value which even one large productive mine is to the community at large. We are all more or less impressed with this in a general way, but not through the impact of such figures as are quoted by Mr. Galt. There is no one, we imagine, who will quarrel with Mr. Galt's conclusion: 'Is it not time that our government and legislature should cease wrangling over side issues and devote their attention to the encouragement of an industry which is so fruitful of profit to the whole province?' Perhaps in Rossland people are under the impression that the government is wrangling over side issues. The government at present is watching the opposition abuse the forms of procedure to obstruct the business of the country. We should think that would be fully apparent to anyone who contrasts the statements of the Minister of Mines and the Attorney-General on Monday with the extraordinary trifling and technicalities upon which the opposition are accustomed to waste hours of debate. With Mr.

Galt's assertion that the mining industry is at present in a general condition of discouragement, and that there is a general cessation of dividends, we are unable altogether to agree. It is fair to ask the question: 'In what particular mines is this cessation?' The amount of money distributed in dividends during 1901 was larger than the sum in any previous year. We know besides that very large sums, which were taken out of profits, were sunk in capital expenditure in the Le Roi, the Granby Consolidated, in the Ymir and in many other properties. The dividends declared during the first three months of the present year have been fairly satisfactory, if the adverse condition of the markets and the financial embarrassment of some large companies through gross mismanagement be considered. The gross return to the provincial revenue from the mining industry is no greater in proportion to the return from other industries in the province, than the production of wealth from the mines is greater than the production of wealth from other industries. British Columbia does not extract as much revenue from her mines as most other countries. Are the mines of British Columbia less rich than those of other countries that they cannot afford to contribute as much to the treasury? We cannot admit that. However, there are many ways in which the government can assist the development of the mining industry, and as the willingness to 'here, the occasion will not be overlooked when it presents itself.'

We reproduce the Colonist's comment simply to show the style of reception accorded by the Government to a suggestion plainly intended for its good.

REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The redistribution bill has at last been submitted to the provincial legislature, and our readers were yesterday morning made acquainted with the telegraphic report of it. Under the provisions of the bill the membership of the legislature will be increased from 38 to 42. So far as we have been able to learn its main features will prove quite satisfactory.

Rossland, however, and the neighboring town of Trail will undoubtedly ask for changes to be made. As it now stands the Rossland and Nelson mining divisions are given three members. This is arrived at by giving Nelson one member and Rossland one member, and the whole of the Nelson and Trail Creek mining divisions, exclusive of the two cities, one member. The two districts taken together, on the basis of population, are clearly entitled to four members, and it seems to be the consensus of opinion that they should each have two members, to be elected at large.

In the Trail Creek mining division the only important town after Rossland is Trail, and its interests are very closely identified with those of Rossland. The largest smelting works in Canada are located there, and the ores from the great mines of Rossland largely supply its wants. It is to this place that the people of the smelter town and nearby camps largely come for their supplies. Being near neighbors their interests and friendships are very close. They will certainly ask that a change be made from the plan now proposed by adding the joint member of the Trail Creek mining division to the Rossland district instead of to the Nelson district. It is no more than just and equitable, besides carrying out the wishes of the people. A further and more extended review can and probably will be given before the subject is closed. Rossland is a growing camp; many mines in the immediate vicinity are coming to the front. She deserves well at the hands of the legislature.

LORD ROSEBERRY.

The definite separation of Lord Rosebery from the Liberal party marks an important epoch in British politics. That this was the only outcome has been the opinion of many people for some time. The great Chesterfield speech showed clearly the line of demarcation. The new platform as enunciated included the support of the present government in the war, the complete subjugation of the two so-called republics, the breaking off of the alliance with the Irish party and in general an Imperial policy in the broadest sense suited to the needs and aspirations of the British race, as opposed to the pro-Boer and Little Englander doctrines of the majority of the occupants of the Opposition benches.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman invited Lord Rosebery to state whether he spoke from within or without the "tabernacle" of the present Liberal party. Lord Rosebery lost no time in replying that it was from without.

To Canadians, and we think we may say to the other self-governing colonies, this new state of affairs comes as a great relief. While we take the greatest interest in the political life of Great Britain we are far enough removed to be able to view the whole matter in an impartial spirit. To us it matters little whether a Conservative or Liberal government is in power at Westminster. But this statement must be made with some reservation. It would be more correct to say that it matters little provided both parties are actuated by that broad spirit of Imperial unity which has characterized the present administration. Unfortunately such is not the case. The Liberal party contains within its ranks a coterie of noted Little Englanders. With

the exception of those who will follow Lord Rosebery, it is largely made up of pro-Boers, and worse than this its leading men, in their endeavor to make capital against the government, have not hesitated to make the gravest accusations against the British and Colonial soldiers now fighting the battles of the empire. Such a party can get no sympathy from the outlying portions of the empire, and while it is so constituted the general wish is that it will remain in opposition where it can do the least harm.

But Lord Rosebery's separation opens up new possibilities. To him will be drawn the more broadminded men in the Liberal party. Some of the leading men have already identified themselves with his policy. A general election will not be held for some time and we shall probably have to wait until the next one takes place before it will be definitely known what support the new movement will obtain in the constituencies. No doubt the new wing will receive such support in the meantime, both in and out of the house, that it will be enabled to appeal to the country when the time comes as a strong and separate entity.

In the nature of things the Liberal party will eventually come back to power. We, as Canadians, would not like to see the present Liberal party, situated as it is with pro-Boerism and little Englandism, at the head of affairs in Great Britain. It matters very little to us whether the British government for the time being is called Conservative or Liberal as long as both parties are actuated by a broad Imperial spirit.

The Liberals of fifty years ago had much to do with bestowing of that measure of self-government in the colonies which has ensured so greatly to the benefit of the empire at large. Unfortunately their successors are not carrying out the precepts so well laid down. The entanglements which they have allowed themselves to be drawn into since 1885 are gradually leading to disintegration and a once historic party sees itself threatened with oblivion.

Lord Rosebery's present attitude gives promise, however, that there is a new era dawning for the Liberal party. He states and states truly that the state must be wiped clean. Is there enough sane Liberalism left to carry the new banner to victory? The earnest wish of its friends is that the Liberal party of Great Britain, purging itself of its pro-Boers and little Englanders, may, under Lord Rosebery's leadership, regain that strength and power which it had in the days of Palmerston.

A SUCCESSFUL MISSION.

It will be seen by reference to our news columns of yesterday that Mayor Clute has been quite successful in his mission to Victoria. The government has promised to make a grant for the purchase of a drill hall site for Rossland, and as the promise seems to have been direct the minds of all interested can rest at ease.

We should be pleased to note something definite in regard to fixing up the second story of the Cook avenue school building, and to level and fence the grounds surrounding the same. A grant of \$2700 was asked for this purpose, and while it was stated that the outlook was hopeful nothing definite was determined. It was argued that it was the duty of the government to do this before turning over the schools to the city. The Cook avenue school building is an imposing structure, built in accordance with modern ideas, and is a credit as well as an ornament to the city. It should be completed in every detail.

For the Sisters' hospital the grant will be as large as given last year. This is as it should be.

It was further stated that Mr. Clute would endeavor to secure an amendment to the municipal clauses act by which municipalities in future will be empowered to levy a school rate of five mills per annum instead of two, as at present provided for, which has been found inadequate.

We clip from the Victoria Colonist of last Tuesday: "It is very gratifying to learn on the authority of Mr. J. S. Clute, the mayor of Rossland, that confidence in the Rossland mines has been entirely restored and that business conditions in the town of Rossland are once more normal and progressive. Had Rossland succumbed under the manifold difficulties encountered during the last 12 months, an inevitable feeling of discouragement would have pervaded, not only those who were interested in the mining industry of the province as outside investors, but also those who are its pioneers within the province itself. As Rossland emerges triumphant, a correspondingly great effect of the opposite character is bound to manifest itself."

Charles T. Yerkes, the Chicago millionaire, has just completed the purchase of London's Baker Street Waterloo railroad. This makes the fourth London underground road that he has purchased, and his plans are said to include as many more. Mr. Yerkes is interested in a great many schemes, but railroads are his pet hobby.

FROM THE CAPITAL CITY

The Redistribution Bill Passed Its Second Reading.

Curtis' Charges to be Investigated—Royal Commission.

(Special to The Miner.)

VICTORIA, B. C., March 26.—The redistribution bill passed its second reading tonight after a lengthy discussion, in which the bill generally was approved by the Opposition while criticizing its details, the chief objection being taken to the remarkable configuration of Alberni and to the carving of Revelstoke, whereby it is claimed that the Trout Lake district is taken from its natural setting with Revelstoke and placed in Kaslo. The most ardent champion of the measure was Joseph Martin. Only three members voted against second reading, namely, Neil of Alberni, Hayward of Esquimalt (which loses one member), and Taylor of Revelstoke.

It will be committed tomorrow, and will hardly get through the committee before the house rises for Easter recess. The government tonight tabled the completed contract with the Edmonton, Yukon & Pacific Railway company for building a railroad from Bute Inlet to Yellowhead Pass. The contract was altered somewhat from the original draft. It provides for royalties on coal, petroleum, pine timber, and Douglas fir, but not on pulp wood, for two per cent. of its gross earnings after ten years, and commencement of the work within three months after satisfactory evidence has been given that it will be completed in six years thereafter. That the land is subject to municipal taxation after ten years, and ten miles square is the smallest block in which lands may be selected out of the railway reserve, as it is alleged that Green-shields wants to leave for the east, Curtis may decline to proceed on such an abrupt notice.

The deal for the sale of the E. and N. being off an application is being made for a separate charter for the Vancouver Island section of the Coast-Kootenay line, and of one from the Kitimat to Point Isadore. The Coast-Kootenay line will, it is stated on good authority, ask for one million acres of land and for \$4000 a mile for 100 miles, and \$4500 for 230 miles.

THE CANADA NORTHERN.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 25.—The provincial legislature today passed the redistribution bill increasing the representation in the body from 38 to 42. The contract between the provincial government and Messrs. MacKenzie and Mann for the extension of the Canada Northern railway from the coast at Bute Inlet to the eastern boundary of the province to connect with the road being built from Lake Superior, and also for a ferry between Bute Inlet and Vancouver Island to connect with the railway for Victoria, was laid before the legislature today. The company are to be granted a subsidy of 20,000 acres a mile and the following cash subsidy: (a) For the first 50 miles of railway, commencing at or near Bute Inlet, the sum of \$4000 per mile.

(b) From the end of the said first 50 miles to the point nearest to Quesselle the sum of \$4000 per mile.

(c) From the said point nearest Quesselle to the eastern boundary of British Columbia, at or near Yellow-head Pass, the sum of \$4500 per mile.

The subsidy may be paid in sub-scribed stock of the province bearing three per cent. per annum. The lands to be exempted from taxation until ten years after its completion, after which the government can either take two per cent. of the gross earnings or tax the line under the railway act. The company are to commence work three months after a subsidy satisfactory to the company has been granted by the Dominion government.

MORE SMELTERS.

Joseph Ryan Looking Over the Field Around Kaslo.

(Special to The Miner.)

KASLO, B. C., March 22.—Joseph Ryan, who is interested with C. W. McCrossman and others in the erection of smelters for silver-lead and copper throughout British Columbia, is now in Kaslo, with the view of considering the advisability of the erection of a smelter somewhere in this neighborhood. In the course of an interview, Mr. Ryan stated that he could say nothing definite, except that the subject would receive the earnest consideration of himself and of those whom he represented. It is, however, understood, that Mr. Ryan represents capital, and that if the matter can be placed on a business basis the "necessary" will be ready.

DEATH OF MRS. WHEATON.

The somewhat sudden death of Mrs. Wheaton of this city was announced this morning. The deceased lady was the sister of G. O. Buchanan, and though she had been ailing for some time her sudden illness and its fatal termination was unexpected. The cause of death was pneumonia, brought on by a chill. She leaves a husband and six children, the youngest only two years old, to mourn her loss.

ON LAKE MOUNTAIN

A NEW SECTION OF THE ROSS-
LAND CAMP MAY
ROOM.

SPOKANE PEOPLE SAID TO CON-
TEMPLATE EXTENSIVE
IMPROVEMENTS.

The prediction is made that the approaching summer will see marked activity on the north slope of Lake mountain. It will be remembered that the discoveries on the Fernandis group last fall aroused keen interest in the Lake mountain section of the Rossland camp, and that there was a small-sized rush of local prospectors to the hill. Within the space of a few days more than fifty claims were staked, and the record office did the liveliest business it had transacted in a couple of years. The Fernandis is controlled by Colonel Peyton of Spokane, and it was reported at the time that the company would expend a considerable appropriation immediately in opening up the property at the point where the strike was made. This did not eventuate, however, largely because of the proximity of the winter season when it would be extremely difficult to secure access to the property for the transportation of stores and supplies.

Report has it that Colonel Peyton proposes to go ahead with development on a large scale this year and that the visits of his engineer, Mr. Liljebran, to the camp from time to time have been in connection with the proposition. The surface showings in the Lake mountain claims have been excellent, and it is strongly believed that a reasonable amount of work will demonstrate that the leads are permanent and that the values found on the surface, averaging from \$18 to \$25, will be found to increase somewhat as depth is attained.

On the Agnes group, owned by local men, it is stated that the prospect shaft is already below the 100-foot level and that a fine ore body has been opened up. The assertion is made that the owner of the Agnes received a proposition last year from a Spokane company to expend \$25,000 on the property, and that if the showing was good the company would then place \$50,000 in the treasury for working capital, taking the control of the stock in payment. The offer was not accepted.

If the Lake mountain section shows up as well as is predicted the effect on the Rossland camp will be important. The section is just across the gulch from the city and a road cut across the valley of Trail creek would bring the foot of Lake mountain within half a mile or so of the city, so that the section is essentially part of the camp.

THE IRISH LAND BILL

The Irish Members Evince but Little Enthusiasm.

John Redmond Said He Would Reserve His Opinion.

LONDON, March 25.—The chief secretary for Ireland, George F. Wyndham, introduced the Irish land bill in the house of commons. The main provision of the bill authorizes the commission to take over the whole or any part of an estate whose owner is willing to sell. The commission will then resell it to the tenants. But the assent of three-quarters of the tenants is necessary to purchase the land before the commission will undertake to transfer any part of an estate. The Irish members evinced little enthusiasm over the bill.

John Redmond, the Nationalist leader in the house, said he proposed to reserve his judgment until he had studied the provisions of the bill carefully. He warned the government that universal compulsory purchase must be the ultimate solution of the problem, as nothing else would be acceptable.

Timothy Healey (Nationalist) said he believed the bill would do something towards settling the question, but that much depended upon the constitution of new estates and the commission.

CORONATION PARADE.

Every Province in the Dominion Will be Represented.

(Special to The Miner.)

OTTAWA, March 22.—The government is considering today what number of military men shall be sent to London to take part in the coronation parade. The outside limit will be 500. The minister stated this morning that every arm of the service and every province will be represented.

W. G. Wickham of Nelson is today gazetted inspector of mounted police. Summit postoffice in Yale has been closed.

FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

(Special to The Miner.)

VICTORIA, B. C., March 25.—The Dominion government has offered the fourth contingent to the Empire for service in South Africa, consisting of 2000 men.

TWO PER CENT.

MINING TAX

Kootenay Delegates Are Well Pleased with Reception.

Dunsmuir Government Listened Patiently to Mining Men.

(Special Correspondence.)

VANCOUVER, March 23.—Although the Dunsmuir government organs state that the Kootenay delegates "expressed themselves as well pleased with the reception accorded them and are hopeful that their recommendations will bear good fruit," it is hardly likely that the deputation from Rossland and other Kootenay points which interviewed the government a day or two ago has any very cordial feelings towards the administration. The Dunsmuir government could do nothing else but listen patiently and discuss as intelligently as possible with its members the views of the mining men. But from the utterances of the Colonist, the spokesman of the administration as it were, Kootenay is in the "just as you were" position of the new recruit.

The Kootenay deputation, in its remarks upon the two per cent. mining tax, submitted that the contribution of the mining industry to the revenue of the province should be obtained from the profits derived from the mines. Mr. G. E. Martin, the Kaslo barrister, put the point very clearly in a letter to the Colonist when he said: "The contribution should be on the profits and in addition to the allowance of transportation and smelter charges now deducted from the proceeds of the ore, an allowance should also be made covering the cost of mining the ore."

The government replies to that, through the Colonist, in a way which will not recommend itself to the mine owners. In fact it gives them a direct slap in the face. "A tax levied and dependent upon profits," it remarks, "if any person outside the government can see the analogy he has good eyes. The idea of bringing in the poll tax seems to be to prejudice the workingman against the mine owner. The Colonist's specious argument is: 'Why should a rich mining company not be taxed because during a certain period it has made no profit if a poor workingman is not to escape because during a certain period he has made no work?' Such an argument could have no other desire than to stir up strife, to prejudice the mine owners in the sight of the workers. And directly after using it the government organ admits that 'the unfair incidence of the present mineral tax has been proved beyond dispute.' Having admitted that, the government paper makes bold to state—on what evidence one cannot possibly know—that 'it has not been proved that any substantial hardship has been inflicted.' Considering that the Kootenay delegation had as one of its special objects the desire to prove that that hardship exists it will hardly be considered that the mining men are today so 'hopeful that their recommendations will bear good fruit' as they were before the government answered them through the columns of the Colonist."

To return to the matter of hardships, Mr. Martin points out in his communication a number of them. He refers to one case where a mine, employing 100 men or more, has during the past four years, paid to the government 24 per cent. in profits and he states that the government were told of many other mines, where no profit at all has resulted, having had to pay the tax. This makes their losses greater. If these are not hardships perhaps the Colonist will say what are.

Of course nobody wants the mining industry to escape taxation. But people do not like to see a government trying to wriggle out of its responsibilities by treating the mining industry of Kootenay in ludicrous fashion. It should deal with the matter in a businesslike way.

JAPANESE MINERS.

Indignation Is Strong at Atlin on the Question.

(Special to The Miner.)

ATLIN, B. C., March 19.—Indignation has been strong in Atlin on the confirmation of the report that the Atlin Mining company had contracted for the employment of a number of Japanese miners. Mass meetings have been held in both Atlin and Discovery to discuss the matter, and at these meetings strong opposition was expressed and a resolution made to do all possible to stop the contemplated introduction of Oriental labor. At its regular monthly meeting the Atlin board of trade endorsed the sentiments expressed at the public meetings referred to, and the secretary is now corresponding with the various boards of trade and labor organizations on the coast and elsewhere in British Columbia to enlist their co-operation in the matter.

E. S. Busby, inspector of customs, was in Atlin last week making enquiry into cases of smuggling. Two convictions were recorded, one for smuggling and the other for having smuggled goods in possession.

Stormy weather and blizzards characterized last week's weather. A builder—are you losing weight?—"The D. & L." Emulsion will always help and build you up. Restores proper digestion and brings back health. Manufactured by the Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

THE

There is a prospect of Bird resuming work more or less on the smelter than the North Fork claim. Good values in gold cost of hauling are less.

W. G. Robb, of yesterday attended connection with a ore from the Well can to the Hall Wellington was of persons from the S. has been sent out less than a year ago, but chiefly in ment, and it was that the ore ship Work will be con-

The Rambler, shipped a car of ore, ising surface show smelter. This outcrop returned gold, so it was a carload would return have not a breakage of one diamond drill, the had been putting spect the Rambler temporary stoppage repairs can be made

Maurice Gintzburger mine, passed yesterday on his way that the Monitor is the intention keep shipments of 100 tons a month to others. Gintzburger states proposition about er at Sandon and the United States with the city of rights. The proposition smelter would be there would be no that quantity.

L. R. Lindsay, on son yesterday on business connection Crown Mining company owns the Alice claims in Spring two miles from much has been creek basin, but for considerably more there during the in the past. The pany has in all de chiefly in two runs following a and then a lower manes and has This has not yet lead of the prop far from it, and has changed from the surface the most at it now. following exploration can has been a ment to others. In the same bas 2, owned by Mr. is being worked Pfeifer and Found doing well. A about two weeks expected to come

Bernard MacDon Le Roi No. 2, Ro and Kootenay m camp, arrived here ing and registers left yesterday m Hill mine and is evening.

At a special m holders in the Mining Company the Golden Eagle on the north fork at Greenwood re advisability of d pany's property. The mine, may occur, the nee given to the man action. Nine-ten represented at the person or by pro some time ago s smelter about 50 ore, values of w thought and silver, though, is heavy ditions.—Nelson

KASLO IS Activity Is Notice dustry—

(Special

KASLO, B. C. advent of spring improve its con in various ways, issued orders fo and are contem a new health by have taken up ment to the shu ling establishment.

Activity is also ing industry, of men have bee the working fore in the neighbor The True Blue announced the general meeting 27th inst., and have arranged for on while they wil eral meeting. The ore shipm ing the past we

Whitewater t Rambler to Reco to Nelson