

COMING B. C. BOOM

Business in London Quiet During the Holidays.

CAPITAL OF THE B. A. C.

It Has a Capital of £1,000,000 and Will Absorb the Alaska Commercial Company—Hall Mines Meeting—Christmas Issues Devoted to B. C.

London Office, ROSSLAND MINER, 108 Bishopsgate street (Within).

LONDON, Dec. 11.—[Special.]—As we approach Christmas, business becomes beautifully less, and even that stalwart young member of the stock exchange, the British Columbia market, attracts but a small amount of attention just at the present moment. This week, no doubt, the issue of the long-expected prospectus of the British American corporation—the Whitaker Wright-Mackintosh concern—may infuse a little interest into the market, while evidence that promoters are not by any means lazy is proved by the fact that young Turner's company, which held its statutory meeting last Thursday, is about to become a parent. I also hear that that much-puffed and -be-ged concern, the Recordia syndicate, is about to be transformed into a more imposing concern. I also hear of companies being in course of formation in other directions, whose objects are closely identified with either British Columbia, the Yukon, or Ontario. So far Ontario has not been in the running with its two powerful rivals, but this province has many friends in the city, who swear by it and characterize the condemnation of those who have so severely criticized it of late as being purely dominated by malevolence.

Capital of the B. A. C.

It seems that the British American corporation is to have a capital of £1,000,000. Its board I have already acquainted you with in previous letters. I understand that the prospectus will be published on Saturday morning next, and there is no doubt that the skillful way in which the curiosity of the public has been whetted will be rewarded by considerable subscriptions, especially as the issue is limited to the existing shareholders in the London & Globe Finance corporation, and understood, from very good authority, that the new company will come to an arrangement with the Alaska Commercial company, and, no doubt this is a good move on the part of the promoters of the Whitaker Wright-Mackintosh corporation.

An Influential Syndicate.

An influential syndicate is being projected with the object of acquiring and working certain properties in the Lillooet and Fairview districts. By the way the annual meeting of the Lillooet & Fraser river company will be held on December 16th. I was looking up the other night the speech of Mr. Horns-Payne, delivered at the meeting held in December last. It will be interesting to see how this enthusiastic supporter of British Columbia mines will be able to explain the decision in the prospectus of his company which has taken place in the twelve months just ended, and which is so markedly punctuated by a fall of £1 in the price of the shares.

The Hall Mines Meeting.

The Hall Mines meeting will be held on Wednesday next, the 15th of December. Last year the feature of the meeting was the arrangement of the local management by Mr. McKenzie, representing the half-breeds who discovered the property, and who still, I believe, retain a large interest in it. Backed up by the substantial dividends declared and recommended, I suppose the directors, instead of being criticized, will be complimented. The report and the dividend has had no effect on the price of the shares, but together these will prove of material assistance to those who are constantly singing the praises of your province, for I need not point out you are a most generous and liberal worth a dozen promises in the opinion of the market.

Changes in Prices Unimportant.

There is very little new to tell you at the present moment. Changes in prices are quite unimportant, and the few meetings which take place from time to time, although characterized by extreme and pleasant optimism, yet not sufficiently important for me to bother you with verbatim reports of them. Of course, I shall take care to send you reports of such meetings as that of the Hall Mines and the Lillooet & Fraser River gatherings. I am busy this week compiling a list of the various Canadian mines introduced during the year now ending, and hope to be able to send you this in time for your last issue in the old year, as I think it will convince you more than all the year pictures that one can draw of the marvelous growth of interest in the mining affairs of the Dominion during the past 12 months.

A Wonderful Christmas Issue.

I ought perhaps to give a pat on the back to your London contemporary The Road. This enterprising journal has brought out a wonderful Christmas number in which it tells a great many things about Yukon and British Columbia which will come as news to the aristocratic crowd who read its pages. It is tastefully got up and will undoubtedly attract a great deal of attention. It is the first serious attempt that has been made to give a detailed account of the new B. C. issue, and is, therefore, doubly welcome. Quite a number of journals now devote a large amount of space to Canadian mining matters, and believe that this week or next the old Saturday Review will publish a special supplement dealing with British Columbia.

I must not forget to say a line about McMillan's lecture on the mineral resources of British Columbia and Yukon at the Imperial Institute. This was largely attended by a deeply interested audience. The chief point Mr. McMillan made was the great comparison he drew between the governing methods in Canada and in the Transvaal, a point which was vociferously applauded by the patriotic crowd that had gathered to hear McMillan talk about the northern gold fields.

LOCAL BRIEVITIES

Fire Friday destroyed one of the ore bins at the Poorman mine. The loss was small.

Married, December 22, at Rossland, by the Rev. H. Irwin, W. G. Perkins of Bristol, England, and Miss E. Keed of Quebec.

The court of revision to overhaul the voters' list convened Tuesday before Magistrate Jordan, but adjourned until Thursday.

A slide on the main line of the Spokane Falls & Northern railway delayed the Red Mountain train Thursday. It did not arrive until 5:45 o'clock.

The O. P. R. is running the steamer Nelson from the town of the same name to Goat river, to carry freight into the East Kootenay country.

The license commissioners held their adjourned statutory meeting Thursday afternoon and wound up their business for the year. A number of liquor licenses were transferred.

All of Aaron L. Jaffes's holdings, amounting to 750,000 shares, in the Ansoconda Mining company, have been attached in a suit brought to recover wages due some of his old employees.

Jas. Reeder, a Christmas celebrant, who in a moment of exuberance incident to the festivities smashed the Tom and Jerry layout at the International, was fined \$10 by Magistrate Jordan Tuesday. He was also required to pay for the broken crockery, valued at \$10.

James Breen, the manager of the Le Roi smelter at Northport, was among the arrivals Tuesday evening. Mr. Breen says that the smelter is complete and will be ready to commence operations as soon as the shipments from the mine are received. He expects the first charge to go through about Jan. 10.

Early in the week Frederick Mansfield was before the police magistrate on a charge of being cruel to an old and decrepit horse that he drove. Sentence was suspended on condition that Mansfield kill the animal. Friday he appeared before the magistrate and informed him that he had killed the horse.

Mayor Scott has changed the location of his campaign headquarters from the former Japanese restaurant on First avenue to the room recently vacated by Escalante, the restaurateur, on Columbia avenue, next door to the Vendome. This is much more central than was the place on First avenue. It is the intention to have a grand rally of the supporters of Mr. Scott on Thursday evening next.

The warm breath of the chinook that prevailed for the past two days has melted the snow off so that nearly two feet of it has disappeared. If the thaw had continued for a day or two longer the snow would have entirely disappeared. Last night, however, it turned colder, and this prevented a further disappearance of the snow, which is now probably destined to remain until at least the latter part of March.

The Catholic church was crowded on Sunday night, the occasion of midnight mass. The rendition of the mass by a choir of 15 voices was grand and impressive, and the services were of an interesting character. A second mass was said at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning. The children of the Roman Catholic Sunday school had a pleasant Christmas tree and entertainment Sunday afternoon in the church.

The management of the Hotel Allan is already preparing the menu for the supper to be given at the dance on New Year's eve. It will probably be the finest spread ever given in the city. Mrs. King is sparing no pains to surpass even the hotel's already famous standard in the matter of entertainments. The entire ground floor of the house will be given over to the guests, and the dancers will have full sway.

Martin Geo, proprietor of the Leland restaurant, incensed by the unbecoming language of Arthur O. Lake, reproved Mr. Lake by punching him in the jaw. Thinking that this constituted an assault, Mr. Lake had Signor Geo arrested, but when Magistrate Jordan heard of the language that Lake had used he released him a stern reproof and let his assailant go.

Frank Mansfield was up before Magistrate Jordan Thursday for beating a miserable, broken down hack which he had been driving. The complaint was made by S. A. Hartman, who was present as a witness, as was John R. Reavis, who also saw Mansfield's brutal assault. The magistrate gave Mansfield a severe reprimand, but sentence was suspended on his promise to destroy the animal which is so old and decrepit as to be unfit for use.

Archie B. Mackenzie returned Friday morning from a trip to the east. He brought with him two fine young fox terriers, with a pedigree reaching back almost from the creation, which he acquired from Geo. H. Gooderham at the Norfolk kennels in Toronto. Mr. Mackenzie says that although interest has been temporarily diverted from British Columbia to the Klondike, yet the people in the east have come to accept this camp as having solid, substantial merit, which is bound to make it one of the greatest gold camps in this world.

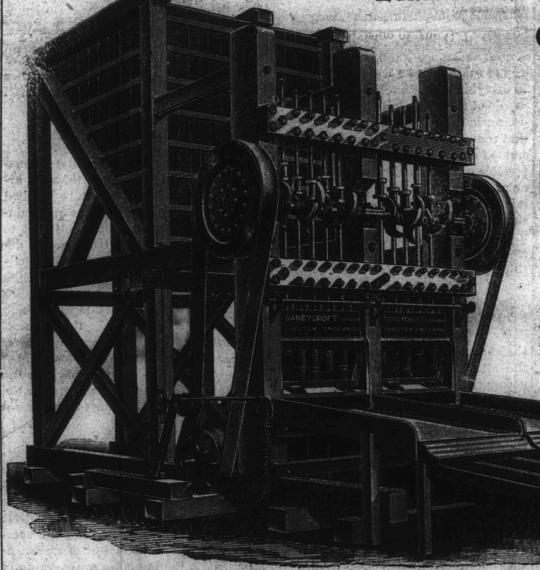
Alderman Johnson stated yesterday that a man is to be placed in charge of the fire department headquarters immediately to take care of the apparatus and keep it in readiness for use. At the very earliest possible moment, too, horses will be procured to haul the apparatus. The fireplugs, during the cold spell, need looking after so that they may not be frozen and so rendered useless, perhaps, at the very time that they are most needed. The man who is to be placed in charge of the headquarters should look after these plugs, inspecting them each day. It would not be a bad plan to have them boxed up to prevent the frost from getting into them. In the event of a conflagration, the boxing could be removed in a few seconds.

A joint meeting of the Rossland and Victoria hockey clubs was held in the office of Edwin Campbell & Co. on Wednesday evening, with Le Baron De Veber in the chair. The meeting was almost entirely informal, and the evening was spent in a discussion of hockey matters and in laying out plans for the winter. It was agreed that while the two hockey clubs should be rivals at home they should be as brothers when it came to playing outside clubs. In the event of a match game with a team from Nelson, Sandon or Kaslo the very best material in both teams should be selected, so that the outsiders might be defeated. It was decided that the Rossland Hockey club should practice in the Palace skating rink on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and that the Victoria

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club should do its training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Archie E. Smith, who is better known as "Coolgardie" Smith, left on Monday night's train via the Vain for Vancouver. He is Mr. Smith's intention to go from Vancouver to the Klondike region, and will make the trip overland. It is his opinion that he can make the trip within the next 30 days. He is in fine form through the training that he went through for the fight with "Billy" Scott, and he feels certain that if anyone can get through he can. He will take a sled and dogs from Skagway across the pass and from thence will follow the frozen lakes and rivers wherever practicable to Dawson City. He laughs with scorn at the idea advanced by a friend that he would not be able to get through until about the first of March. "I'll be very much disappointed," he said, "if I do not get through before the first of February. Once I get started it will be a mighty cold day that will stop me."

Judge W. V. Spinks of the county court with headquarters at Kamloops, back from the Boundary country, where certain charges against him were investigated, and he was completely vindicated, as there was not a bit of evidence to substantiate them. The charges were heard before Mr. Justice McColl of the supreme court at Midway. Peter McCollam, who preferred the charges, stated that a barrister of Grand Forks had brought a letter to him which requested Sir Wilfrid Laurier to use his influence to have a commission appointed before whom Judge Spinks could be summoned for investigation. After some persuasion Mr. McCollam attempted to injure Judge Spinks, and the evidence offered revealed that there was no ground whatever for the charges. Mr. Justice McColl at once dismissed them, thus exonerating Judge Spinks. As soon as the authorities at Ottawa are heard from, to whom the evidence in the case has been referred, it is the intention of Judge Spinks to proceed against the parties responsible for them under the criminal libel law.

Fully 350 people crowded the Presbyterian church Tuesday evening to witness the Christmas festival of the Sunday school scholars. The program consisted of the production of the cantata of "Mother Goose," and the rendering of merry Christmas carols. The cantata was such a great success that it was rapturously applauded. One of the prettiest features was a sleigh drawn by six little girls, who represented reindeer. In the sleigh was seated a boy, who personated Santa Claus, Jr. The team, the sleigh and the occupant formed a pretty picture that fairly delighted the young folks. What brought forth the most approval from the little people was when Santa Claus came in with a big pack full of presents and proceeded to distribute his gifts and favors among the children. Then the true climax of the enjoyment of the evening was reached, and the little ones exhibited their presents as proof positive that they had been good, or else Santa Claus would surely have passed them by without giving them anything. Much of the success of the entertainment is due to Miss Cora Aldrich and Miss Lottie Lockhart, who trained the children.

There was a great commotion on the corner of Washington St. and Columbia ave., Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock and some one said the newboys were on a strike. A few minutes thereafter the entire fraternity of paper vendors pointed into Tax Mixer's office and in a short time the president and secretary of the newboys union made a statement to the effect that they had struck against "Shorty" Meyers, the man from whom they get their foreign papers. When

asked the reason why the reply was that one of their members, Elmer Isaacson, had entered Captain Shaw's store, which is Meyers' headquarters and had sold a paper there and that for doing this he had been mistreated by Meyers and ejected from the place. This made them indignant. In addition to this they declared that Meyers had made them sell copies of a San Francisco paper of the dates of the 22nd and 23rd instant when he had on hand the same paper of the 24th. This they alleged was a breach of the confidence that they had in Meyers that they felt could no longer be borne with patience and so they notified Captain Shaw that he must serve the outside papers to them in person as they did not care to have any more dealings with a man who had so deceived them. At a later hour the matter was amicably adjusted and the boys claimed they had gained their point.

THE CARPENTERS. They Will Form a Union to Protect Themselves Against Cheap Labor. The carpenters of the city had a meeting last evening in Beatty's hall to organize a local trades union. The meeting, which was held under the auspices of the Trades and Labor council, was attended by about 75 carpenters, and it is expected that when the union gets in running order this number will be considerably increased. Further meetings will be held subject to the call of the committee appointed at last night's meeting. The necessity for a local union among the carpenters arose from an attempt recently made by one of the employing contractors to import men from Spokane to work on one of the buildings now under way. These were to be paid at the rate of 25c an hour, a cut of 5c under the present minimum rate. The carpenters are all opposed to such a cut.

THAT O. P. R. EXTENSION. An Announcement Again Made That Work Will Commence Soon. E. Marpole, general superintendent of the Pacific division of the O. P. R., and C. E. Perry, superintendent of construction in Kootenay for the road, came down from the north last evening and are quartered at the Allan. Their mission, it was announced, had to do with the "immediate construction of the Canadian Pacific into Rossland." How soon work would be commenced, however, was not given out. No more definite answer was vouchsafed than that the work would be undertaken "soon." Mr. Marpole, it will be remembered, arrived in Rossland for the last time on Dec. 2, when he affirmed that ground would be broken on the road's line "in a fortnight." The fortnight has expired twice over, but still the virgin soil around Rossland has not been impinged by pick or shovel in the interests of the O. P. R. Some days ago it was given out that work would be started by January 1, and the declaration was officially sanctioned by the officers of the road, but the new year is almost here and still nothing has been done towards commencing operations. The conclusion is, that in the sight of the O. P. R., as in the sight of the Lord, a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day; which, being translated, means that day operations on the road into Rossland will commence in the fall of the year 1897.

Death of a Banker. NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Charles Manning Foster, a well known banker and broker, died last night, aged 44. With Henry Claws he founded 20 years ago the firm of Henry Claws & Co.

TO HELP THE MINERS

Canada Will Co-operate With the United States. NOT BE TIED BY RED TAPE

The Americans Can Use Troops in Carrying Out the Measures for the Relief of the Klondikers Who Are Said to Be Out of Provisions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.—From the advice of the Canadians it is likely that Skagway will be chosen instead of Dyea as the terminal point of the relief expeditions. The reason for this choice is said to be the fact that Skagway has wharves at which ships can discharge cargoes directly, while at Dyea there are nothing but lighters to land the goods. Hon. Clifford Sifton, Canadian minister of the interior, said tonight that he hoped to conclude his visit within the next two days, and that there was no doubt the two governments could make arrangements which would be mutually beneficial in extending relief to the Klondikers. The minister's attention was called to reports that Canada might not be willing to co-operate in the use of the military arrangements of the United States government, as provided by the bill which recently became a law. He said, however, that he apprehended no difficulty in that direction, as the only purpose of the two governments was to effect the relief in the most feasible way possible.

There appears to be no desire on the part of the Canadian officials to interpose any technical obstacles to the execution of the relief measures, and for this reason it is expected a satisfactory arrangement will be reached within the next two days.

To Help the Klondikers. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.—The expected conference between Secretary Alger and Hon. Clifford Sifton, did not take place today. Secretary Alger had overestimated his strength and found that he was not sufficiently recovered to undertake the work of arranging the details for the relief expeditions. The Canadian visitor is to remain in Washington for a few days, however, so that the conference is merely postponed for a short time. Capt. Brainard has been authorized to issue advertisements for the supplies that are to be carried by the relief expeditions.

Data as to Hudson's Bay. OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 28.—Dr. Wakeham, who had charge of the Hudson's bay expedition last summer, has just returned from a sojourn among the whalers of New Bedford, Mass., where he gathered much information to supplement his report upon the navigability of Hudson's bay and straits. Some of these men have been going into these waters for the last 30 years, and although the industry is not as profitable as it used to be at least two whalers winter there right along. They confirm what has already been said by Wakeham as to the season when these waters open. Dr. Wakeham was also assured by the men, who have been all over these waters, that there are two straits running right through the big island known as Baffin's island, and the whalers have been in them. The charts and maps do not show these passages.

Kennedy Bros. & Purgold

Weekly Market.

The most important news of the week is the sale of the Great Western to the British American corporation for the consideration of \$100,000 for the mine and \$5,000 for the surface rights, the purchase price being on the basis of 10 1/2 cents per share.

The local market has been quiet during the holiday season, but we look to its opening strong after the New Year. The first block of treasury stock in the Kenneth Mining & Development company has been placed on the market at 15 cents. This company has been formed with the object of developing the well known Tamarac group at Ymir. Work has been resumed on this company's property and is being vigorously pushed forward. The shaft, which has been sunk in the ore body to a depth of 50 feet, is now in ore of high grade, showing fine gold, which is being sacked for shipment. We can strongly recommend stock in this company, both as being good for a rise in the near future and also as an investment.

Smelter returns from the second shipment of Dundee ore are to hand and show a net profit of \$22 per ton, after deducting transportation and smelter charges. This result is highly satisfactory, and we consider stock in this company at 75 cents to be the best investment offering on the market.

Table with 4 columns: NAME, Par value, Price this week, Price last week. Lists various commodities like Butte, Deer Park, Dardanelles, Dundee, etc.

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ROSSLAND, B. C. CODES: Bedford McNeill, A B C and Clough's. Cable Address, "Nuggets."

Correspondence Solicited. The Price of Silver. New York, Dec. 28.—Bar silver, 57c. per ounce; Mexican dollars, 45 1/2c.; silver certificates, 57c. New York, Dec. 28.—Bar silver, 56 3/4c. per ounce; Mexican dollars, 45 1/2c.; silver certificates, 56 3/4c.