

General News Of the Kootenay

THE LARDEAU.

There is now down at the freight shed at Trout Lake about 900 tons of Silver Cup and Nettle Ore. This is about 200 tons short of what the company intended to have down before the lake ice broke up, but the road conditions are such that it is impossible now to get any further than Ferguson. It is understood that there is in the neighborhood of 100 tons lying at Ferguson.

It is reported at Trout Lake that a deal is now pending on the St. Elmo, a very promising mining property, on the Great Northern mountain. Capitalists represented by George W. Stead, manager of the Ethel and Lucky Boy claims, Trout Lake, are said to be the parties wishing to invest.

The construction train and a large crew of men are now at work opening and repairing the Lardeau railway with a view to having it in running order shortly. The railway people expect to have Trout Lake open for navigation from five to six days after the train gets through to Gerrard.

There is now not a question but that a mail service between South Kootenay points and the Lardeau via Gerrard will be inaugurated during the opening season.

Negotiations are now well under way for the establishment of a chartered bank in Trout Lake. This, with electric lights and a big sawmill, are likely to be three of the substantial marks of Trout Lake's progress during the coming summer.

The plans are now out for the Oyster-Criterion stamp mill, on which work will be started as soon as possible.

W. B. Pool has bonded the Home-stake, Idaho and Detroit claims for \$100,000. The properties are near the Oyster-Criterion and Eva mines, and are owned by McKay Bros., Strutt and Beaton.

THE SLOCAN.

The provincial government expended \$35,252 on improvements in the Slocan district last year.

Ruby silver has been struck for the first time in the Payne. In the lower tunnel can be seen along the hanging wall a streak of this exceedingly rich ore.

The road leading out of Three Forks towards Sandon is being repaired by millers from the Monitor and local teams. The government will be asked to pay later on.

P. J. Hickey, manager of the Ivanhoe mine, has gone to New York. He will return about the end of the month.

The Paystreak printing plant was shipped to Vancouver last week by R. T. Lowery.

Indications are bright for a good summer for Silverton. Manager Lane will return there in a few days to resume work at the Wakefield. Work will soon be started on the Hewitt mill. The Fisher Maiden will resume ship repairs shortly, and there is the likelihood of the Galena Farm working.

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The impression that has got abroad that the Bonum stopped shipments of zinc ore to the Lanyon Smelting Co. is absolutely without foundation. The Iola people settled on terms entirely satisfactory to the mining company. All zinc ore is now going to Trail, as returns are quicker.

H. B. Alexander sails from England on the 20th inst., to open the Bonum mine, with a capital of \$130,000, has been registered in Scotland.

About a foot of clean ore has been exposed on the Meteor.

Connections were made last week between the shaft and the main workings on the Ottawa.

The Payne was again the only shipper last week, sending out 50 tons of concentrates.

The machinery for a compressor plant is being installed at the Rambler-Cariboo this week.

The lessees of the Bondholder have four tons of ore on the dump awaiting the trail to get in shape for packing.

The ledge on the Dayton has been crested by the lessees and drifting will now be undertaken to catch the ore shoot.

EAST KOOTENAY.

There have been several buyers from the Northwest looking for East Kootenay horses during the past week, and a number purchased. The West Kootenay Indians sold two carloads of horses for shipment and will likely ship several more when their horses are in better condition.

The Crow's Nest coal mines are being rapidly opened. In the three camps about 70 per cent of the men are at work, but at Coal Creek owing to the condition of No. 3 and the lower levels of No. 2 only about 50 per cent are yet employed. No. 3 is being pumped more rapidly than was expected, a large pump having been secured.

The future of Cranbrook was never brighter than it is now. Although in the past it has enjoyed prosperity, yet there never was a time when the people had reason to feel so good over the future of the town. Every element of prosperity in the district seems to be shaping in a manner that it is bound to contribute to the business and growth of the town.

Poss & McDonald have finished the rock work for the new coke ovens at Morrissey and have moved their outfit to Michel, where they have commenced similar contract. Of the 250 ovens to be built at the latter point E. Wiegman and F. D. Alexander will each construct 125, and Harry Oldland of Pittsburg has received the contract for the whole number at Morrissey. The brick for the ovens are on the way and are now overdue.

The Kootenay Central survey party, which has been operating in the vicinity of Steele for the past two weeks,

moved its camp to Fish lakes last week. There are 12 men in the party. A number of new placer locations were recorded at Fort Steele last week. James Cronin, manager of the St. Eugene silver-lead mine, still adheres to his determination to keep the mine closed until the Dominion government increases the duty on lead and lead products.

THE BOUNDARY.

Work on the bridges over the West Fork of the Kettle river is progressing favorably.

The Anarchist Mountain district is fast becoming famous as a stock country. Mixed farming is also very profitable there.

Kettle river and Okanagan horses are being extensively shipped to the Territories.

Double shifts are now at work extending the tunnel on the Blue Jay, a couple of miles below Phoenix.

It is understood that the Sunset smelter at Boundary Falls will shortly begin the installation of a fourth furnace.

It is expected that the work of installing the two additional furnaces at the Granby smelter, making six in all, with a total capacity of 2200 tons of ore daily, will be started about May 1, the additional furnaces to be shipped from the makers, the Allis-Chalmers Co., from Chicago shortly.

Seventy-five men were put to work at the Mother Lode mine last week, and shipments to the company's smelter at Greenwood were to have commenced yesterday.

During the month of March the Granby mines shipped 22,315 tons to the company's smelter. In February the tonnage was 27,857, and in January 28,254, making a total of 88,799 tons for the first three months of 1903.

REVELSTOKE DISTRICT.

J. D. Sibbald, manager for the Revelstoke and McCullough Creek Hydraulic company, feels elated over the fact that he has sold all the stock authorized to be issued for development purposes. The company is reserving 25,000 shares.

Rev. Dr. Herdman has arrived at Fire Valley to open the Presbyterian church.

The Yale-Columbia Lumber company is making arrangements for a lumber camp to be put in at Fire Valley.

E. J. Bangs has charge of the government work of putting in two new bridges on the Fire Valley and Kettle River trail, work to be commenced right away.

OLD CASE CONCLUDED.

Supreme Court of Canada Rules in Interesting Action.

The following outline of recent developments in a case of local interest will attract attention:

The Kootenay Brewing & Malting company of Trail being indebted to the Bank of Montreal, the bank insisted on receiving a mortgage covering the company's property and an assignment of their books debts, and also obtained a judgment against the concern. Another creditor then brought an action against the bank to set aside the mortgage, assignment and judgment, on the grounds:

(1) the mortgage was voluntary and fraudulent; (2) that it was a preference in favor of the bank; (3) that it was not executed as required by company law; (4) that the assignment was void for the same reason and also being in contravention of section 90 of the Bank Act, which provides that no higher rate of interest or discount than seven per cent shall be recoverable by a bank; and (5) that the judgment was also fraudulent and void. The judge at the trial in British Columbia, affirmed by the supreme court of that province, held that there was good consideration for the mortgage, and as it was given under pressure, it ought not to be set aside, although it comprised the whole of the brewing company's property, and was given at a time when the debtor was insolvent circumstances to the knowledge of the bank and had the effect of depriving other creditors being paid their claims. It was also held that the mortgage, which had been made by the directors without proper authority, had been legally ratified by a subsequent resolution of the shareholders of the company. The creditor then brought an appeal to Ottawa, but the supreme court also affirmed the validity of the securities obtained by the bank. (32 Supreme Court Reports 719, Adams vs Bank of Montreal).

ON THE DIAMOND.

Arrangements for the Opening of the Season Today.

NEW YORK, April 14.—As the national baseball season will begin tomorrow at Philadelphia and St. Louis and at New York and Cincinnati on Thursday, President Pullman of the National League announced today the assignments of his umpires for the initial games as follows: At Philadelphia, Moran and O'Day; at St. Louis, Johnstone; at New York, O'Day; at Cincinnati, Emalle.

According to President Pullman, all the principal claims of the clubs on players have been satisfied with the exception of affairs of Edward DeLahanty and George Davis. DeLahanty has made arrangements to pay back to the New York club what money he owes to that organization within a week, so that he can fulfill his contract and play with the Washington American league team when the season begins on April 22nd.

Davis has no intention as to what he intends doing in reference to his indebtedness to the New York National league club. Davis says his affairs are entirely in the hands of his legal advisers.

John Hartline was ticketed to Grand Forks over the Spokane Falls & Northern yesterday.

PROVINCIAL ESTIMATES

Still Heavier Expenditure Proposed by the Government.

An Announcement in Regard to the Two Per Cent. Tax.

VICTORIA, April 14.—The estimates were tabled this afternoon by Hon. Mr. Prentice, and the house goes into supply tomorrow. The estimated expenditure is \$2,491,566, as against \$2,475,467 last year.

The charges for the public debt have increased about \$24,000; civil government salaries \$3000; administration of justice (salaries) about the same; maintenance of public institutions about the same; hospitals and charities \$14,000; increase for administration of justice other than salaries, about \$6000; education about \$29,000, and transport \$5000. Against these increases a marked reduction is made in the appropriation for public works, which falls from \$555,200 to \$568,250.

The increase in civil salaries is due to several additions to the staff, like Rod Tolmie, deputy minister of mines, at \$150 per month. There is no change in the administrative staffs at Nelson and Rossland. A mining recorder is added at Revelstoke at \$1020.

For the construction of \$10,000 for the appropriation of \$40,000 is made. The government wanted it limited to \$20,000, but Mr. Houston is said to have insisted on doubling that. Plans have been prepared for this building by Architect Rattenbury. They show a four-story handsome building, with turret and tower, slate roof, etc.

The appropriations for the upper country include \$14,000 for Northeast Kootenay, \$17,000 for Southeast Kootenay, \$14,000 for Revelstoke, \$14,000 for Slocan, \$14,000 for Nelson and \$15,000 for Rossland. There is \$10,000 for surveys through the province. The Fernie conciliation committee cost \$210.

An appropriation of \$4500 is made for the new government house and a further appropriation of \$10,000 for the reformatory at Vancouver, together with \$4500 for different contingencies in connection with the new government house in this city.

Premier Prior in the house this afternoon, in answer to the taunt of Mr. Curtis that he had failed to keep his promise to repeal the 2 per cent tax, replied that the tax would be repealed, an act for that purpose being brought down later in the session.

On the second reading of the assessment act, the government withdrew the provision taxing mineral claims 50 cents an acre, the old rate of 25 cents being retained or not.

Mr. Curtis' motion, that in the interest of good government we should have a dissolution and an appeal to the country at the close of the present session, caused consternation, as Mr. Martin came out in support of it, and Mr. Ellison being absent the result of a division would have been the effect of causing a large amount of work to be done, or the owners would abandon their properties and allow others with more faith or more enterprise to take hold of them and work them.

"We beg to point out in this connection that if redemption is permitted the inducement to purchase these claims when sold for taxes will be almost nil. The same dog-in-the-manger policy which has tied up so large areas for such a long time would likely induce these people, as soon as they found others willing to pay taxes on their claims, to reclaim their property within the period of redemption, without any assurance that such reclamation would result in work, without which the properties would be of no real value to the province, while during the period of redemption the new owners would not dare to do any work thus keeping the property useless idle."

"With regard to the second object, that of producing a reasonable revenue to the government, we beg to point out that no owner of a crown-granted claim is required to pay any taxes at all. All he has to do is to work his property, in which case he is exempt from taxation, but if he does not work his property we are firmly convinced that a tax of 50 cents an acre is a very small penalty to be inflicted on him for keeping his property idle to the detriment of the country."

"We also consider that it is a most essential part of this policy that the claims unsold should instantly revert to the public domain, so that they may immediately be made available for relocation, in which case they would at once become revenue producing properties again."

DON'T ALL SEE ALIKE

Protest Offered Against Postponement of Tax Sale.

Some Think Government Should Have Proceeded With It.

The postponement of the tax sale of crown granted mineral claims did not meet with the approval of all interests. As secretary of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern B. C., H. W. C. Jackson has addressed the following communication to Hon. J. D. Prentice, minister of finance, under date of April 14. The letter represents the opinions of those who deprecate the introduction of a redemption clause into the Mineral Act, and says:

"As the Rossland Miner contained a telegram from Victoria this morning announcing that you would postpone the sale for taxes of crown granted mineral claims, I write you at length on the subject, urging that the sale proceed."

"In explanation I desire to state that the action of the government so far has been strictly in line with the policy suggested by the Associated Boards of Trade, and a postponement of the sale will only consider the first departure from that policy and as involving unnecessary expense and delay which would be detrimental to the mining industry. When the Associated Boards of Trade recommended to the government the increase of taxes on crown granted mineral claims from 25 to 50 cents per acre and prompt collection of the same, it had in view two main objects: (1) The encouragement of the mining industry, (2) a reasonable contribution to the provincial treasury. The first object could only be secured through the government adhering to the policy of offering for sale on a specified date non-working crown granted mineral claims on which no taxes had been paid and selling these claims without redemption. This policy was in strict conformity with the spirit of the Mineral Act, which leaves to the individual a mineral claim on the understanding that he does \$100 worth of work each year or pays to the government \$100 in lieu thereof. That it is the intention of the act that the work should be done to perpetuate the lease is evidenced by the fact that the government exacts the full cost of assessment work in cash where the work is not done."

"We found that when claims were crown granted and assessment work was no longer necessary, with a tax of only 25 cents an acre, which was not promptly collected, there was no inducement or incentive to work these claims, with the result that enormous areas of mineral lands in Kootenay were tied up for a long period of years, furnishing no market for either labor or supplies and contributing practically no revenue to the government. We therefore thought that with a doubling of the taxes, together with the assurance that the failure to pay taxes promptly, meant that non-working claims should be sold without redemption, would have the effect of causing a large amount of work to be done, or the owners would abandon their properties and allow others with more faith or more enterprise to take hold of them and work them."

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"With regard to the second object, that of producing a reasonable revenue to the government, we beg to point out that no owner of a crown-granted claim is required to pay any taxes at all. All he has to do is to work his property, in which case he is exempt from taxation, but if he does not work his property we are firmly convinced that a tax of 50 cents an acre is a very small penalty to be inflicted on him for keeping his property idle to the detriment of the country."

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COAL LAND TACTICS

DIFFERENT TREATMENT OF THE DISTRICTS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

LICENSES GRANTED IN PLACES AND REFUSED IN OTHERS.

VICTORIA, April 14.—"Why locations in the Similkameen and other districts made in accordance with the law are to be recognized and those in South East Kootenay not, is not clear to me," says Smith Curtis, M. L. A., discussing the matter of the reserved crown lands.

"The main ground upon which they can reject those in South East Kootenay must resolve itself into this, that the present law is not sufficient to protect the public interests and the power of refusing applications is to be invoked, but if that is so in regard to South East Kootenay it must be so in regard to every other coal district of the province, and therefore all applications for coal should, according to this contention, be rejected. The government, of course, has not been rejecting, and does not now reject, such applications from other districts. I think the time has come when the press should dwell upon this phase of the case where it believes the present applications should not be refused."

"You will have learned that the government propose to make the cancellation of the crown grants issued to the Columbia & Western railroad company effective by passing an act confirming the order in council which cancelled the grants. It is the suggestion I made in my interview in the Rossland Miner three or four weeks ago, and will eventually shut out the Canadian Pacific from these lands, but may leave the province liable for a large amount of damages to the Canadian Pacific."

"The holidays cut the week in two, and business was not brisk on the trading days. Prices show very little net change from the opening. North Star was strong, two small sales being made at 13-12 and the quotations closing at 14 and 13. Rambler has also shown some strength, advancing to 23-4 in the bids, but with no sales recorded. Cariboo McKinney has remained fairly firm around 13, and White Bear sold at 3-4, the asking price being advanced to 4. There was very little movement in the rest of the list."

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