

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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A LAME EXCUSE.

Those who desire to minimize the effects of bad government on mining in this province resort to all sorts of expedients for their purpose. One of the favorite methods is to blame over-capitalization.

Now, any one who has given the subject serious thought, knows very well that the capitalization of a corporation owning mining property in no way affects the true profit earning capacity of that property. If the physical condition of a mine gives it a profit earning capacity of \$50,000, a \$100,000 or \$1,000,000 a year the capitalization of any company that may purchase that mine does not per se affect its capacity. The mine will still be able to earn as much, whether it be owned by a company capitalized for \$10,000 or \$10,000,000.

CAPITALIZATION OF MINING COMPANIES.

In the organization of corporations to take over and operate mining property, the capitalization is arbitrarily fixed by the incorporators. The number of shares and the value given them are fixed at the incorporators' estimate of the present or prospective value of the assets of the corporation. This estimate may be approximately correct, or it may be over or under the true valuation. Moreover, it often happens that if the capitalization approximately represents the true valuation of the assets of a mining corporation when organized it may, in the course of a few years, become too low or too high.

For instance, a mine in British Columbia, having an earning capacity of \$300,000 a year in 1896 is purchased by a corporation organized for the purpose. It would be reasonable to give the corporation such par value as would be justified by the estimated earning capacity of the mine. Now, suppose a series of unfavorable conditions, including repressive legislation enacted by each session of parliament, would unfavorably affect the earning capacity of that mine, the reasonable capitalization of 1896 would become an excessive capitalization in 1902. It will thus be seen how bad government will affect the economic and commercial foundations of the mining industry, changing a reasonable capitalization into one excessively high.

A CANADIAN LEAD TRUST.

The question of how to revive the silver-lead industry of the province of British Columbia is perhaps not receiving the attention which its supreme importance demands, for upon its revival hinges to some extent the success of other branches of the mining industry in this province. If there was a successful and prosperous silver-lead industry in the province it would have an effect upon the gold-copper properties. In the first place capital would be more easily directed to the province, and in the second place the chances for success would be greatly increased from the fact that with the greater activity in the silver-lead mines the transportation of ores would be cheaper, as would also coal and coke and various other items which enter into the expenses of mining and smelting. The silver-lead industry is then the pivotal stone in the reviving of the mining industry of British Columbia, and the question of how to secure a market for our lead is the one which should secure the attention of the best minds of the province. A higher duty imposed by the Dominion government, as suggested in a letter in another column, will not in itself secure this result, unless there is a combination among the lead interests of the province. Unless the duty is absolutely prohibitive or forbids entirely the sale of the products of the American Smelter Trust it would not have the effect desired. The American Trust would simply make a slaughter market of Canada for a few years in order to kill off the various small smelting industries of the country. They could do this from the fact that even now they have some difficulty in regu-

lating the supply in their own country, and it is a well known fact that they find it profitable to pay some mines on the other side of the line large sums yearly, to stop production. They could, then, employ this yearly outlay to greater advantage and economy by themselves by allowing those properties to produce and sell their output in Canada at slaughter prices in order to kill off the Canadian lead mines, and thereby enjoy a monopoly of the market later on. It will be seen that even a high productive duty on lead may not alone produce the result desired, but it may be asked what other method can be employed. There seems to be only one other method, and that is to employ the tactics used by the principal lead producers of the United States. A few years ago they were drifting into a similar condition as that experienced here on account of the large imports from Spain and other lead producing countries, notwithstanding the high duties levied. They did not, however, conclude that nothing could be done, but set about to devise ways and means to meet the common enemy. The result was the formation of the United States Smelter Trust, and they are today enabled to not only control their own market, but are gradually making inroads upon the markets of foreign countries.

It seems, therefore, that the only reasonable means for the Canadian lead producers to secure the Canadian market is to employ the same methods as the American Trust. A Canadian lead trust would not require the enormous capitalization of the American trust, from the fact that it would not be forced to purchase a number of old and unnecessary smelters such as the American trust was required to do. And again, the product to be handled would not, of course, be nearly so large and therefore would require less capital.

On theoretical grounds, the people of Canada would no doubt be averse to the formation of a trust, but it must be recognized that we have a condition to deal with, and it seems to be the only effectual means of meeting it and building up a successful mining industry in British Columbia, employing thousands of men, and thereby creating a market for the varied products of Eastern Canada. It is a well known fact that previous to the creation of such industrial establishments as the Massey-Harris company of Toronto the small agricultural machinery factories of Ontario found it difficult to meet the competition of the large factories of the United States, notwithstanding the duties. They were forced to combine, and with their joint capital created such flourishing institutions that they were not only able to hold the Canadian market, but also to meet their competitors on a fair field in the foreign markets. With the same methods employed as regards the lead industry we believe like results will follow and the industry be brought out of the slough of despond into which it has now fallen.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL.

Toronto papers throw out the suggestion that unless the coal strike is settled soon the eastern cities must turn their attention in some other direction to get fuel for the winter. One paper suggests that possibly British Columbia can help supply the demand. Possibly it can. But the question of transportation will be an important factor. All the transportation lines are congested with freight now, being unable to handle with facility all the freight offered, so it is hard to see how the eastern demand for coal can be supplied from this province, assuming that the mines are equal to the occasion. We may wake to the realization one of these days that our coal measures are our greatest heritage.

A CHANGE MUST COME.

Our correspondent "Onlooker," in Wednesday morning's Miner, was not far out of the way when he stated that "Victoria and Victorians rule the province, and they have no intention of parting with their power. The mining centres are nearly all in the interior. Had they grown as we all hoped the balance of power would have shifted, and Victoria would have been out in the cold, and but for the harassing legislation passed they would have grown. Accordingly the astute individuals who run the province determined to kill or hamper the young giants. If mining develops sufficient on Vancouver Island to counter balance the mining in the interior, we may look for good mining legislation, but if it does not there will be no change."

We can expect no relief from the Dunsmuir government. It is wedded and belongs body and soul to the island city. The proceedings of the legislature last winter attest that. Everything was made to center at Victoria. Even the Canadian Northern was made to come out at Bute Inlet, and then ferry to Victoria, when it was clearly shown that a point farther north was the better terminus for the road. But that would prevent Victoria from reaping the benefits from the construction of the line. Our people should remember these

things and govern themselves accordingly. Victoria is not the only pebble on the beach if she is nearly surrounded by salt water. The great mining industry of the Kootenays cannot always be throttled. The time will come when the "young giant" will break asunder the shackles and step forth a power in the land. Our people, however, must stand together and insist that our rights be respected. It seems to be nearly the unanimous opinion that the mining industry is being throttled by the powers that be, and it is also nearly the unanimous opinion, outside of Vancouver Island, that the present government is doing all it can to retard the mining industry.

A HOMILY ON STRIKES.

To strike or not to strike, is the question now agitating the Vancouver teamsters. Perhaps the next question will be to eat or not to eat; to sleep, to dream and pass away the idle hours in sweet contemplation. From all accounts life in the growing and bustling town of Vancouver is getting somewhat strenuous, and perhaps it would be just as well for the teamsters to take a halt, un hitch their horses and call things easy. The rest of the people would follow suit. There are many good points connected with a strike. The Lord only knows where the people of the United States would have had it not been for the strike mania. The strikes have compelled them to stop running over each other. We all need a rest occasionally, and the only way for the people to get it in the aggregate is to strike. And think of the fun and excitement that accompanies it all. The grown boy can then follow out the practice of his youth of smashing windows in every vacant building by doing the same on everything belonging to his employer. True, it is a little tough on the man who employs, but the whims of one man or a dozen men should not stand in the way of the happiness of a hundred or more men.

Our exchanges have devoted columns to this question, bemoaning the spirit that prompts them and scratching their heads in devising means to settle them. They should change their tactics and look at the question philosophically. They are necessary to break up the monotony of life. The world is not good, and the demotion bow-wow. By all means let the Vancouver teamsters strike.

INCREASED ORE SHIPMENTS.

The announcement in our local columns yesterday morning that the War Eagle and Centre Star mines will increase their ore shipments in the immediate future does not come as a surprise, but is in line with the policy that was foreshadowed several weeks ago. And this is but the beginning. When the low grade ores of the camp are treated by concentration, as we have every reason to believe they will be in due time, the increase in the number of men employed, as well as the enlarged pay-roll, will make its influence felt. Rossland is on a more solid foundation than ever before. Our people can look on the golden side of the shield.

AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW.

The Miner devotes considerable space on the first page in today's issue to an interview with S. Severin Sorensen, M. E., late general manager of the Velvet mine, who departs in a short time for England. No man in British Columbia is better able to speak of the mines of the province and the mining industry in general than Mr. Sorensen. We take a double pleasure in printing the interview and in calling special attention to it. Our readers will find in it food for thought. What he says of the Velvet mine, of course, is authoritative. It is so near Rossland as to be considered one of our big mines, and while it is a liberal shipper now we may look for greater results in the future. Be sure and read the interview.

TRAIL PEOPLE CONTENTED.

Our neighbors at Trail are all covered with smiles these days. It is not altogether owing to the beautiful October days now upon us, which of itself is enough to make all creation happy, but our friends seem well contented looking on the material side of things. The smelter is not exactly running full blast, but probably will be in the near future. If the War Eagle and Centre Star increase their ore shipments, and we are fully assured such will soon be the case, it will mean the smelter being run to its full capacity. Three furnaces are now in operation night and day, about 500 men being employed about the big establishment. This means a very neat pay-roll, encouraging to the people of Trail and of substantial benefit to Rossland.

THE CAVE NEAR AINSWORTH.

The mammoth cave near Ainsworth has at last been explored, and instead of the underground chambers being miles in extent it was found that they were mostly quite small, although the largest one is about 500 feet in extent. There was found to be nothing particularly striking about the cave, and now

that it has been entered the wild stories concerning it will be dropped. At one time we were almost led to believe that West Kootenay possessed a rival of the great wonder of Kentucky; one man set afloat the story of finding gold hanging down from the roof of the cave; another told of wild beasts that made it their lair, making it dangerous to attempt to enter. But then people sometimes enjoy fairy tales, and it is really a shame to prick these bubbles and get down to solid facts. The exploring party found no gold and were not disturbed by wild beasts.

THE SPIRIT OF UNREST.

The strike mania seems to be spreading in the United States. This is cause for serious alarm. The mere fact that strikes are occurring is a matter of less concern than the outbreaks of mob violence which accompanies most of them. In Sunday morning's Miner the dispatches told us that a mob of fully 5000 sympathizers of the Hudson Valley Railway strikers paraded the streets of Glens Falls, New York, stopping all cars that came through and storming the cars, breaking windows and cutting trolley ropes. One man was seized and beaten until his life is despaired of. The police were unable to cope with the mob and a company of militia was called out to preserve order. We are not acquainted with the merits of the case, neither does it matter for the purposes of this article. It is merely cited to illustrate the state of feeling and unrest that seems to exist in the great country to the south of us. The anthracite strike has absorbed great interest all over the world. And all these events occur at a time when the country's treasury is overflowing with gold, when great crops are being gathered and there is a demand for labor, when the laborer works shorter hours and receives a larger income than ever before, when all the transportation companies are taxed to their utmost limit to handle the business that is pouring in upon them, and, finally, when all the industrial and financial conditions of the country are almost at flood tide.

It is a matter of grave concern if the spirit of mob rule shall be allowed to prevail. No child is so great, nor can it long prosper, under such conditions. No particular community has ever gone through the process of an industrial strike, whether followed by mob violence or not, without leaving the marks of destroyed industry, enforced idleness and general mistrust, at least for the time being. What must be the effect of this when the spirit is widespread and affects every section of the country?

One of the causes that has built up the States to the south of us is that it has been possible for men of energy and capacity to engage in business, acquire lands and property, and usually such men become rich. Most of the great captains of industry of that country have, started at the bottom of the ladder. Their names are well known to all intelligent readers. Great industrial establishments have sprung up in every city and almost every county, and their products have invaded the markets of the world. The United States has also been a country where the poor and homeless of all nations could go, and by thrift and economy could at least secure a home. We have seen the tide of immigration flowing westward, behold! the mighty commonwealths of the great middle west and those bordering on the Pacific! Here is a work, all within the limits of a lifetime, to be proud of and to fight for and to preserve. But let this spirit of mob rule prevail for a few years; let the supineness of looking idly on while human beings are perishing in the flames; let the demon of unrest have uncontrolled power in the face of piety and prosperity, the end will certainly be a mighty revolution which the bonds of unity may not be able to withstand.

Turning our eyes to this side of the international boundary line, while many strikes have been inaugurated at divers times—and no one questions the right of any man or set of men to quell work when he or they feel aggrieved—there has up to this time been an entire absence of mob spirit. We have never heard of big mills being blown up such as occurred in the Coeur d'Alenes, nor of cars stopped, windows smashed and ladies insulted, such as disgraced St. Louis two or three years ago, nor of lives sacrificed at the behest of mad passion such as has taken place all over the country to the south of us at frequent intervals. Therein we read the lesson of good government and permanent civil and political institutions. Americans of all classes living among us point with pride to the fact that our laws are enforced, and person and property is fully protected.

We have not called attention to these things through any motive of ill-feeling towards our American cousins. Our relations with them are too intimate and too important to indulge in any sentiment but brotherly love. But the cloud hanging over the southern horizon is portentous of a coming storm. It is

the law-abiding people of the States should cast aside the politicians, the demagogues and the agitators and let reason, law, order and stability have full swing. Mob rule means ultimate ruin.

WONDERS NEVER CEASE.

And now William R. Hearst has been nominated for congress in one of the New York city districts. Mr. Hearst is chiefly known as the son of his father, who inherited the Lord only knows how many millions, and conceived the idea at an early age that he was a born journalist. The Examiner of San Francisco, the American of Chicago and the Journal of New York are the products of his genius—and money. To squander two or three millions a year on yellow prints such as these cuts little figure with Billy, as it tickles his vanity and keeps his name before the public. We may take it for granted that the nomination above referred to is equivalent to an election, as politics are generally understood in the slum districts of the Manhattan Island city, for did not Tim Sullivan make the nomination, and the highly honest and moral Devery second the nomination, and who should question the words of these two great Tammany braves? So Hearst will probably "get there."

Mr. Hearst's father wanted to be governor of California in the early eighties, but even a barrel of boodles failed to land him. He did tackle the legislature afterwards and got elected to the United States senate. His methods were open and notorious, on a par with those employed by Senator Clark of Montana, not one whit less shameless and brazen. The younger Hearst will make it pleasant for the boys living in his district. They will probably make hay while the sun shines. All of which reminds one of the oft-quoted saying of "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

MONTANA POLITICS.

This from the Butte Miner: "Never in the history of the great west, since organized labor has had a place in the hearts of mankind, and recognition in the laws of our country, has it received a graver insult, or a more dangerous blow, than that administered by the paid grafters and debauched political manipulators of the Helms movement." We know very little, and care less, what Mr. Helms is doing, but we all know that a political contest is on in Montana to capture a judge of the supreme court, in which Senator Clark is taking part through his organ, the Butte Miner. The hysteria of the Clark mouthpiece is more amusing than anything else. It comes from the lips, not from the heart. Perhaps the Helms organ talks after the same fashion. Both men are after votes, and, of course, have got their dragnets out for suckers. There are lots of queer things connected with Montana politics from all accounts.

OUR LARGE CONSTITUENCY.

The Miner is not given to looting its own horn. We are content as a rule to let each issue speak for itself. But our attention has been called to the fact that it is not only widely quoted throughout the Dominion of Canada and the United States, but the great London monetary and mining journals as well copy liberally from its columns. Probably no paper published in Canada enjoys greater privileges in this regard. This is owing to the presence of our great mines. Everything concerning them is eagerly seized upon by foreign investors. Among the papers of wide circulation that copy freely from the columns of The Miner we can mention the London Financial News, the London Financial Times, the London Mail (has a circulation of nearly one million), the Sovereign, the Colonial Gold Fields Gazette, the B. C. Review (London), British Mining, the London B. C. Gazette and the Australian Mail. Here is a formidable list of influential papers. It is no exaggeration to state that they reach millions of readers. What appears in The Rossland Miner of importance to the mining world is of once seized upon and given to the mining world, if not immediately through our own columns, at least through the medium of many great papers of the world. We refer to this matter with some pride, as we feel that we are really addressing a large constituency.

URALITE.

Some interesting experiments have been carried out in England with a new fireproof material called "Uralite," says the Scientific American. It originated in being the invention of Col. Ichenetsky, of the Russian artillery, and takes its name from the Ural mountains, where a large quantity of asbestos, which constitutes the fundamental component of uralite, is obtained. It has proved a highly efficacious fire-resisting material, capable of withstanding a much greater degree of heat, without exhibiting any apparent effect, than any fireproof material at present on the market. Coupled with this fact it is extremely light, is of great

strength, is durable, and is manufactured in sheets of varying sizes and thickness, thus rendering it a first-class material for building purposes. Another recommendation in its favor is its extreme lightness.

Although asbestos enters largely in the composition of uralite, it is by no means the only important substance incorporated in its manufacture, since asbestos in its pure form, although it will resist high degrees of heat, is liable to disintegrate under the influence of excessive temperature, and this peculiarity to a large extent nullifies its utility.

SURPLUS LEAD PRODUCT.

Mining and Scientific Press: There is a constant discussion in British Columbia, interesting to silver-lead miners everywhere, as to what producers there shall do under certain conditions. Those conditions being the U. S. tariff and the restriction of the American Smelting & Refining Co. The latest from the northern province is a projected revision of the tariff. There also seems to be hopes of some adjustment of U. S. lead mining conditions as between purchasers and producers that may accrue to Canadian profit, though the latest patched-up arrangement between the Coeur d'Alene lead miners does not afford much present aid or comfort. There are a few things to be born in mind. There is no U. S. market for Canadian lead. A European market seems impossible because of transportation and insurance charges. The Oriental market is a peculiar one. There exists a certain limited demand there for a specially refined lead for native use as "tea lead," this soft, specially prepared lead being largely furnished by the Selby Smelting & Lead Co. of San Francisco and the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. of Australia. The claim that the different lead products can be manufactured in Canada and there find a home market is not borne out by the minister of mines' report of an annual production of 60,000,000 pounds of lead and an annual consumption of lead products of 25,000,000 pounds, though in the last project lies largely the ultimate solution of the problem of Canadian mines—what to do with their surplus lead product.

In a letter to the Nelson News Mr. N. C. Schou of Vancouver endeavors to show that Mr. Kirby's estimates as to the relative importance of the mining industry to the other industries of the province, is at variance with facts. He says that the taxes which embarrass the mining industry are not as large as pointed out by Mr. Kirby. Notwithstanding the ingenious method in which he endeavors to refute Mr. Kirby's statements it is quite evident he hardly understands the subject as it is regarded here. Mr. Kirby's figures are taken from the records of the province, and therefore must be approximately correct, while Mr. Schou's figures are largely the product of his own estimation. He also forgets that a large number of the industries he mentions were created by the development of the minerals of the province and but for this development they would not be in existence today.

The announcement is made that Tracy W. Holland has resigned as general manager of the Kettle Valley Lines. We are further told that all passenger and freight trains have ceased running—everything is idle. The promoters of this enterprise, who spent something over \$1,000,000, will not receive very much sympathy, all things considered. The wily Wylie C. Morris should write a book telling what he knows about railway building.

The Mining and Scientific Press, dated September 27, came to hand yesterday, and, as usual, contains much information of value pertaining to mining. We observe an article headed, "Notes on Machinery Constituting a Mining Plant," written by Alfred C. Garde, M. E., general manager of the Payne mines at Sandon. The same article was read before the Canadian Mining Institute meeting at Nelson held on the 12th of last month.

The statement made at Grand Forks by a well known mining man that investors nowadays prefer the low grade propositions because they carry the element of permanence, is well worth considering. Our low grade bodies of ore are of such vast extent that all possibility of working them out soon is banished. Their profitable treatment means permanent mining conditions, something that has not always been associated with mining on the Pacific Coast.

The ostrich farming industry of Southern California represents an investment of three quarters of a million dollars, and the annual output of feathers is worth about \$100,000. The industry commenced about 20 years ago. The first birds were shipped from California for two weeks at Woodward's Gardens, San Francisco, before being taken to Southern California. At that time it was considered an experiment, but it has proved to be a very successful one, the climate of the Golden State being well adapted for the raising of the birds.

CONFERENCE COM

Committee Representers Meet President Others at Buffalo but Nothing Defin

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 7.—The following statement was given out: The committee of the National Association of Manufacturers has listened to the explanation of the present strike difficulty as offered by a special committee of the United Mine Workers, at the head of which was John Mitchell. The National Association of Manufacturers' committee has learned what it could of the conditions, and now goes to Philadelphia for the purpose of meeting the committee of mine operators with the idea of getting their side of the difficulty. The National Association of Manufacturers' committee carries no propositions from the mine workers and has no other mission than the desire speedily to bring about a settlement of this dispute. (Signed) DAVID M. PARRY, President of the National Association, George H. Barbour of Detroit, Richard Young of New York, Frank Leake of Philadelphia.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 7.—The conference between the committee appointed by the National Manufacturers' Association and President Mitchell and his lieutenants, held at Iroquois hall this afternoon, did not result in any definite plan being agreed upon for the partial resumption of work in the anthracite coal fields, but the members of the Manufacturers' Association committee stated that they were greatly pleased with the progress made. The fact that communication was established with the operators by long-distance telephone and an appointment made to meet a committee representing them in Philadelphia tomorrow, is looked upon as significant, as it had been announced by members of the Manufacturers' committee that there existed no understanding with the operators prior to today's meeting, and no step in that direction would be taken until the negotiations with President Mitchell reached a stage where such a meeting would promise results.

HE LOOKS AT IT ASKANCE. Mr. Mitchell this afternoon positively declined to discuss the matter with a President Roosevelt to President Mitchell to use his influence to induce the miners to return to work, with the promise of the appointment of a commission to investigate the miners' grievances. It was learned from a reliable source, however, that Mr. Mitchell does not regard the proposition favorably, and that he will decline to ask the miners to resume work under the conditions stipulated. The following gentlemen represented:

SHAMROCKS DEFEAT VICTORIAS

(Special to The Miner.) VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 7.—The Shamrocks beat the Victoria lacrosse team today by 11 to 8. The Victorias were not in good condition, and in any event were outclassed. The Shamrocks took matters easily until score tied, 8-8, ten minutes before time called and then rushed in three goals in short order. A big crowd witnessed the game. The team leaves tonight for Seattle, en route to St. Paul, where they will play on Sunday next, making Montreal on Wednesday or Thursday. The exhibition opened here today. The district exhibits were excellent and the commercial displays also, while over a thousand entries were made in live stock. There will also be some good racing.

GIRLS REFUSE TO BARE THEIR ARMS.

MONTREAL, Oct. 7.—Doctors from the civic health department are visiting all the schools insisting that marks of vaccination be shown. In most cases evidences are forthcoming, and where not guarantees are given that it will be remedied. In some convents the superiors refused Dr. Laberg, city medical officer, saying the young ladies would not bare their arms in the presence of gentlemen. The doctor then said that the young ladies must produce evidence by showing their arms.

Finally a compromise was arranged by which the young ladies bared their arms in private, and covered them up again, leaving only the vaccination mark bare for the doctor to examine.

GIVES AWAY MANY PLANTS.

City Gardener Distributes Good Class of Hardy Flowers. WINNIPEG, Oct. 7.—Three thousand plants from the flower beds of a city hall free of charge, and as a result there was a steady stream of applicants all day until the stock was exhausted.

The announcement was made that the flowers would be distributed at the city hall free of charge, and as a result there was a steady stream of applicants all day until the stock was exhausted. Many hardy outdoor plants of the better class were given away, but the city gardener had taken the precaution to take cuttings from them for next year's supply.