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SAVANTS SEE SIGHTS

They Surveyed the Volcanic Area From the Heights.

A HUGE METAL HORSESHOE

Their Eyes Bulged Out When They Saw Bodies of Ore That Were 70 Feet Wide Between Walls—Agree With McConnell.

The second delegation of members of the British Association arrived in Rossland Sunday afternoon by special train over the Columbia & Western. The visitors were met at the station by a committee, including Mayor Scott, J. B. McArthur, John R. Reavis and other prominent citizens, who escorted them to the Allan house, which was their headquarters while in the city.

Personnel of the Party.
The party was headed by Dr. Dawson of Ottawa, director of the Canadian geological survey, and probably the foremost authority on geology on this continent. Among the other visitors were C. Le Neve Foster, professor in the Royal School of Mines at London, and expert geologist for the English government, who was accompanied by Mrs. Foster and the Misses Foster; J. Scott Kellie, secretary of the Council of the Royal Geological Society, and one of the editors of the London Times; Professor Crookshank of London, one of the foremost of living chemists, and Mrs. Crookshank; Sir George Robertson of London, formerly one of the members of the Council of the Royal Geological Society; Dr. M. T. Blanford, London; T. Hudson Pearce and Mrs. Pearce, London; Hugh Robert Mill, an eminent chemist of London, who was accompanied by Mrs. Mill; E. H. Chapman and G. Dawson to a MINER reporter Monday.

"I had anticipated seeing a great mining community, but I was unprepared for what I have really witnessed since here. You have the making of a great camp here—how great, only time can tell. The vast ore bodies which we saw in the Centre Star bear every indication of persisting to any depth that can be attained."
"Will values increase as depth is attained?"
"Really, now, it seems to me that you already have a good enough thing as your mines stand, without asking for any increased values."
"Transportation and treatment charges are now matters of considerable importance to the camp, as reduced charges will enable you to market your low grade ores."
"Not being a metallurgist I can hardly say whether or not some method other than smelting could be applied to these ores. While in Trail we visited the smelter and I was most favorably impressed with its facilities and equipment. You have a fine smelter there."
Dr. Dawson was one of the first geologists in the Yukon country, though as it was 10 years ago that he was there, Klondike was not in existence at that time.
"Yes," said the doctor, thoughtfully; "the Yukon is a wonderful gold district, and it will yield millions of wealth. Nevertheless, the present rush is most unfortunate, for there is sure to be much privation and want, if not actual starvation."

A Horseshoe of Shaft Houses.

On Sunday afternoon, accompanied by several of the residents of Rossland, the party took a long walk. They soon reached a commanding position on the high terrace on the northwest side of town, and from that point of vantage they had a fine view of the horseshoe of shaft houses on the north and south and south belts. Dr. Dawson had a profuse copy of the geological survey made by Dominion Geologist R. G. McConnell and staff last summer, and with that as a guide took a survey of Red, Index, Spokane and Deer Park mountains and the valley below them. The profuse showed the volcanic area in deep red and around this was the horseshoe shaped belt of mineral veins, which was plainly marked on the landscape by the buildings erected on the north and south belts by the several mining companies. The horseshoe, framed as it was by mountains and decorated with evergreen trees with accessories of valley and buildings, made a picture that drew forth the enthusiasm of the party.

Coincided With McConnell's Theory.

Dr. Dawson coincided with Geologist McConnell's theory that the valley was the theater in which a great and very active volcano once played, and that the center of the greatest plutonian activity was where the town of Rossland is situated. Dr. Dawson examined the reefs of gabbro, and they were undoubtedly of plutonic or volcanic origin. All the other scientists also agreed with Geologist McConnell's deductions as to the volcanic origin of the mines of Rossland. The party returned to the Allan House at 6 o'clock, much pleased with what they had seen. In the evening they held an informal reception, and conversed about their trip, science, and other subjects with many of the leading residents of the city.

Visited the Centre Star.

Monday morning at 8 o'clock, sharp, the party left the hotel and went direct to the Centre Star mine. They were met by Mr. Durant, who first entertained them by panning out free gold from the Centre Star ore. This operation served to greatly please the party. Each was then given a lighted candle and the party looked like an impromptu torchlight procession, as it entered the tunnel of the Centre Star. When they had advanced 500 feet several of the ladies, not liking the darkness, thought they had gone far enough underground and retreated to the surface. The rest of the party continued on through the Egyptian darkness and were shown through the main tunnel and various crosscuts of the mine as far as the east end of the Le Roi. Dr. Dawson and Professor Foster were especially interested in the large bodies of ore shown there. This was especially the case when bodies ore 70 feet wide between walls were brought to their attention.

Scientific Detective Work.

The scientists and those who accompanied them came out to the surface and were shown the croppings on the surface of the Centre Star mine. They traced two sets of croppings, one of them led into the War Eagle ground and the other into the Le Roi. The Le Roi and War Eagle about the Centre Star on the west side. The savants showed as much delight in this scientific detective work as though they were a lot of children playing hide and go seek.

Next they inspected the Le Roi shaft

house and its large hoisting machinery and skips.

Secured Some Fine Specimens.

Then they went to the dumps, where some 15 men were engaged in sorting ore from the Le Roi mine. The ore was first sprinkled with water from a hose, which carried off the dust and lighter particles. Then the waste is picked out and thrown away, and two assortments made of the ore. Here the savants secured some beautiful samples of high grade ore from the 600-foot level of the Le Roi ground. It was then getting toward the noon hour, and as the party was due to leave on the 2 p. m. train via the Columbia & Western, and as the balance of the time would be necessary to pack up, get luncheon and catch the train, they returned to the Allan house.

Were Sorry They Had to Go.

On the way down the slope they expressed themselves as being sorry that they could not remain a day or two longer. Their itinerary is so arranged that they will have to take a certain ocean steamer and so as much as they regretted it, they were compelled to depart. Dr. Dawson, however, promised to return when he had more leisure to make a more thorough examination of the mines and the district generally.

When the scientists left on the train a large throng was at the depot to wish them a safe and pleasant journey back to their homes.

Among those who escorted the party about the camp were: Mayor Scott, J. B. McArthur, C. C. Woodhouse, A. B. Clabon, C. O. Lalonde, and Mr. McCain. Fortunately during the stay of the party the weather was unusually pleasant, and this added greatly to the pleasure of the visit to both guests and hosts.

A Chat With Dr. Dawson.

"The camp far exceeds my expectations in every respect," said Dr. G. M. Dawson to a MINER reporter Monday. "I had anticipated seeing a great mining community, but I was unprepared for what I have really witnessed since here. You have the making of a great camp here—how great, only time can tell. The vast ore bodies which we saw in the Centre Star bear every indication of persisting to any depth that can be attained."

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Professor Foster Inspected.

C. Le Neve Foster, professor in the Royal School of Mines in London and one of the most famous geologists in the world, was no less enthusiastic than Dr. Dawson had been. "This trip has been a great surprise to me," said Professor Foster. "I looked for a fine camp here, but never for a moment did I realize the true immensity of the mines around Rossland."

THE MONTE CRISTO.

Sudden Rise in Price of Stock—All Kinds of Rumors Afloat.

The sudden shut down of the Monte Cristo mine kept brokers and mining men guessing all day Monday. It was a remarkable fact that the cessation of operations was accompanied by a sharp upward movement in the price of the company's stock. Ten days ago it was for sale at 7 1/2 cents, but there was an extraordinary demand Monday for all shares offered at 16 cents. Only small lots were obtained at that figure. It was rumored that recent important strikes in the mine were the cause of the sudden activity, but this report could not be confirmed.

The controlling interest in the property is held by Montreal people, who bought a majority of the stock about the middle of last June. Two payments on this stock have already been made, and the final payment comes due on Monday next. The present management has already put about \$50,000 into the property, and the payment to be made next Monday will be somewhat in excess of that sum. It is understood that the balance due on the controlling interest has already been secured, but the managers are desirous of 90 days more in which to make the payment. An expert was through the property about a week ago, but the nature of his report is not known.

George Pfander, the general manager of the property, declined to make any statement regarding the situation at the present time, but remarked that he would probably be in a position to make an announcement in a very few days.

The Coloma, the sister property of the Monte Cristo, was also closed down at the same time with the latter property, but Harold Kingsmill, the secretary of the Coloma company, explained that the suspension of work on that property was caused by the shut-down of the Monte Cristo compressor, which was supplying both mines with air.

IS A HIGH GRADE MINE

Iron Mask Is Shipping Some Rock That Is Rich.

DUNDEE OWNERS TO MEET

It Is the Intention to Begin the Shipping Ore From the Dundee—Work Begun on a Spokane Mountain Claim.

The Iron Mask is a property which has not been making a great deal of noise lately, but work has been pushed steadily along and some very promising ore bodies are being opened up. The shipments for the year have aggregated 2,600 tons, but that does not come near representing the capabilities of this property, as it has been the policy of the management to ship only enough ore to defray operating expenses. The shipments already made have gone almost exclusively to the Trail smelter, with the exception of a few cars sent to East Helena. Actual smelter returns are giving values from \$27 to \$35 per ton, made up of four per cent to six per cent copper, from one to three ounces in silver and the rest in gold. One ounce of chalcopyrite now being worked will return from \$70 to \$150 per ton, but no exclusive shipments of this high grade ore have been made.

If good society counts for anything, the Iron Mask is most fortunately located, as it is bounded on one end by the War Eagle, while the Centre Star is its neighbor to the south. There are four known veins on the property, although two of these were almost covered by wash, and the cutting of the wagon road up Centre Star gulch was instrumental in their discovery. The ledges are the iron capped veins common to Red Mountain and run approximately east and west.

The most extensive development thus far accomplished has been in the tunnel, which extends almost the entire length of the claim, and has opened up three of the ledges on the property. This tunnel extends clear up the War Eagle end line, and the War Eagle property are now continuing it into their own property for the purpose of developing it.

There are also two shafts on the Iron Mask, one on the upper part of the property and the other close to the mouth of the tunnel. These are exclusive of a 25-foot assessment hole, completed early in the history of the mine. Besides the development work already enumerated, about 500 feet of drifting and cross-cutting has been accomplished in opening up the property.

Superintendent S. W. Hall now has 28 men at work and is making rapid progress in developing the mine. Two machines and three sets of hammers are constantly at work night and day. At present the War Eagle compressor is furnishing power for the drills and the hoist.

Will Join the Ore Shippers.

A meeting of the directors of the Dundee Mining company will be held today in the office of Weeks, Kennedy & Co. The principal business to come up will be the question of shipping ore. There are over 300 tons on the dump and plenty more in sight. The intention is to ship the ore to the smelter at Nelson, as that is the most convenient point at present. When the Robson-Trail line is completed, Trail will be the nearest and most convenient point. From the recent development of the mines in the vicinity of Ymir, the smelters will soon be competing for its ore.

Will Meet the Stockholders.

J. H. Adams, superintendent of the Sunset mine, went to Revelstoke yesterday to meet a party of stockholders who are coming from Toronto. The party consists of William McKenzie, a railway contractor, and one of the largest stockholders in the Sunset; J. C. Dewry, secretary-treasurer of the company; Dr. Wilson of Toronto, and Andrew Dewry. The party will arrive in Rossland on Saturday as it is their intention to visit points in the Slovan country while en route.

A Way Up Property.

D. W. Maloney yesterday put four men to work on his claim on Spokane mountain. The claim is called the Apex because it is so near the top of the highest mountain in the immediate vicinity of Rossland. The Apex is said to be a promising property.

A Copper Wonder Assay.

A. G. White had a sample of the Copper Wonder assayed yesterday, and it went \$63.94 to the ton. The values were distributed as follows: \$18 in gold, \$45.10 in copper, and \$4 in silver. The Copper Wonder is located on Sophie mountain.

Have Purchased Founder's Interest.

Harris, Kennedy & Co., for their English stockholders and themselves, have purchased all of G. A. Pounder's interest in the Silver Bell and Ibez properties.

New Mining Companies.

The Ruth Mines, limited, has been organized and licensed as an extra provincial company. The company takes over the Ruth group of mines near Sandon. The capital stock is 120,000 shares of £1 each. George Alexander, of Kaslo, is the local agent, and the head offices are in London, England.

The last issue of the British Columbia Gazette contains notice of the registration of the Native Silver Bell Mining company, capitalized for 1,000,000 shares of the par value of \$1. Olive Pringle of Rossland, is mentioned as local agent, and the head office of the company is at Spokane.

WORK ON THE CLIFF

A Large Quantity of Development on the Property.

MACHINERY FOR SUNSET

It Has Arrived and Will Soon Be in Operation in Developing the Ore Body, Which in This Mine is Constantly Improving With Depth.

Colonel S. M. Wharton, manager of the Cliff, has discontinued work in the tunnels, and will concentrate operations on the vein about 275 feet west from the face of the upper level. There is a good surface showing at this point, and some work has already been done, inclusive of a 25-foot shaft. It is now proposed to concentrate work there, and if a satisfactory ore chute is disclosed, work will be resumed in the upper tunnel to tap the ore-body. In that event the compressor will again be started up, and machine drilling may be resumed.

Close to a thousand feet of work has been done on the Cliff. It comprises an upper and a lower drift, each 350 feet long, and connected by a hundred foot upright, while about 200 feet of cross-cutting has been done in the lower level. The Cliff is famous as producing the richest copper ore in the camp. It is a chalcopyrite, and has been in active demand among smelter men. At present the ore is averaging between \$23 and \$24, though single shipments have returned far above those figures. A notable example of this latter class was the body of carbonates discovered near the mouth of the upper tunnel which was stopped clean out to the surface.

The Iron Colt.

Work has been suspended on the Columbia and Kootenay, pending the completion of the purchase of the property. As the Iron Colt was being supplied with air from the Columbia and Kootenay compressor, it also was compelled to shut down when the latter property discontinued operations.

"The Iron Colt will probably be running again inside of three days," said John R. Reavis, the general manager of the company, Monday. "If the Columbia and Kootenay plant does not resume at once, we shall almost surely put in a compressor of our own. Arrangements have already been made to secure a plant now in the camp, and we can obtain that in case the Columbia and Kootenay does not resume. The property is looking in the best of shape, and as we have plenty of funds on hand, you may be sure that work will not be allowed to flag."

The Elise Mine.

Now that the Elise is cleared from the cloud hanging over the title, the affairs of the company are taking decidedly an upward start. Two different parties are completing the purchase of the mine, and it is probable that at least one of them will make a definite proposition to the stockholders at their meeting on the 22nd instant.

Free Gold in Rossland.

A story was current on the street Tuesday that free gold had been discovered in the Iron-Colt. The rumor proved to be unfounded. Nevertheless, there is far more free gold in this camp than most people realize. Pretty specimens of visible gold are frequently met with in the lower workings of the Le Roi, and all the Centre Star ore is free milling in the greater or less degree. One of the most interesting incidents in connection with a visit to the latter mine is to pan out a shovelful of ore from the dump, when a glistening show of colors is almost sure to result. Oliver Durant, the manager of the Centre Star, says that much of his ore could be profitably treated by an amalgamating process, though of course this method would not save the values contained in the sulphides.

MATTERS IN SLOVAN.

The Silver-Lead Miners Pleased With the Advance in Silver.

"The advance in silver to 56 1/2 cents per ounce," said J. L. Parker, who has just returned from the Slovan country, "has greatly encouraged the owners of the silver-lead mines of the Slovan. Not a single silver-lead mine that I know of has shut down, even when silver touched the lowest point ever reached, but the general effect was to make them a little blue, because they feared that the white metal might fall to a point where mining would not be productive even on their high-grade properties."

"While away I visited Slovan City, and it is a very pretty place. Back of that place, on Lemon creek, there are some gold properties, and a half of gold is the by-product. They get from \$10 to \$12 per ton in gold out of the ores, while the main yield is from 80 to 250 ounces in silver."

"At Sandon the Payne company is crowding the work, and the result is an output of 60 tons of ore per day, that runs from 120 to 180 ounces of silver and 70 per cent lead."

"Early in the spring a prospector coming in from a tour, found the Eldorado prospect within a mile and a half of Silverton. The prospector is developing the property himself and now has 10 men at work, and has \$25,000 worth of excellent ore in sight. It is one of those mines that pay from the grass roots. Near Silverton work is making good progress on the galena farm, and there are several English and one Scotch company that are making good progress in developing what appear to be good properties."

"At Ymir I found everything in a promising condition and there are at least three mines that will soon join the best of shippers and bullion producers. The Dundee has about 300 tons on the

dump and plenty more in sight in the mine and should soon be a shipper. The Ymir, which is being developed by a London company promises to soon begin shipping. The Canadian Pacific Exploration company, which is operating the Porto Rico, and the Wilcox and Bywater claims is also about ready to market its ores. The Wild Horse Gold company is making excellent progress with the Nebraska Girl. W. H. Corbould is building a wagon to the Porto Rico, and a road being constructed to the Ymir mine. Ymir is the scene of considerable activity and the outlook is that it will be a camp of some importance.

RAILWAY TO PENTICTON.

A Corps of Surveyors Working on the C. & W. Line.

GRAND FORKS, Sept. 12.—[Special.]—Engineer Sullivan with his staff of surveyors belonging to the Columbia & Western railway are camped today in the northern portion of the city. It has been learned that they are on their way to Penticton, when they will survey this way. There aim is to have this work fully completed within the next 90 days.

A PHENOMENAL SHOWING

Sum of \$142,000 Expended on Assessment Work This Year.

This Sum Has Been Spent on 1,420 Claims Against 1,206 in the Year 1896—Cost of Recording.

An examination of the books in the Recorder's office of Trail Creek mining district show that a large amount of assessment work has been done during the present year. It also reveals that the district stands high in the estimation of those who have located within its confines. The showing is phenomenal, when it is considered that the Trail Creek district occupies an area of only twenty miles by sixteen miles and is the smallest in the Kootenay country. The records reveal that since the 1st of January of the present year, assessment work has been done on 1,420 claims in the district. As the law requires \$100 worth of work to be done on each claim, this represents an expenditure of \$142,000. The number of assessments done in 1896 in the district was 1,206 which represented and expenditure of \$120,600. It is expected before the year 1897 is ended that the total number of claims on which assessment work will be done will reach 1,600, representing an expenditure of \$160,000. This will be about 400 more than in 1896, and will make the expenditure \$40,000 more this year than last.

The cost of recording each certificate of improvement is \$2.75. This would amount to \$4,400 on 1,600 claims.

The owners of claims never get off with \$100 in doing assessment work. A number of the claims are owned by people who live outside the district, and who, as a rule, are not accustomed to manual labor. They have to pay railroad fare to Rossland, and often remain here a week or so before they make their arrangements for having the assessment work done. Then provisions and supplies have to be packed to the locations of the claims. In one way or the other the assessment work in this way runs into \$200 instead of \$100, and in the aggregate the 1,600 claims it will run up to a total of about \$300,000. A large proportion of this money goes into the hands of the merchants of this city, and this finds its way into all the avenues of trade. The money spent for assessment work when added to the payroll in the mines makes a vast sum in the aggregate, and forms the firm basis on which the prosperity of Rossland is built.

SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS.

Properties of the Canadian Pacific Exploration Company Looking Well.

Information has been received of a very encouraging character as to developments in some of the properties of the Canadian Pacific Exploration company, of which W. H. Corbould of Rossland is the manager.

The Porto Rico, in the Salmon River district, continues to hold a leading position. Three tunnels are now being driven in on the vein. The old tunnel, which is now the No. 2, or middle tunnel, is in 125 feet, with three feet of solid ore in the face, assaying \$136 in gold. This tunnel has never been out of the ore since it was started, consequently, it has developed an ore chute 125 feet long, the ore having an average value of more than \$80 per ton in gold. It is one of the richest and finest ore bodies yet opened in West Kootenay. The upper or No. 1 tunnel is also in ore of fine grade. No. 3 tunnel, though recently started, is looking well. The Porto Rico now has 300 or 400 feet of tracks and will soon be in a position to take out a great deal of ore for shipment.

Sunset No. 2.

The last portion of the machinery for the seven-drill plant for the Sunset No. 2, consisting of the boiler, receiver, etc., arrived here on Saturday evening and was being delivered yesterday. The plant will be in running order by Oct. 1. While the machinery is being installed, the sinking on No. 2 shaft is in progress and a depth of 50 feet has been reached. The ore body improves as depth is attained. The buildings in which the machinery is to be housed are completed and the vicinity of the mine is a scene of considerable activity.

THE OUTPUT FOR THE WEEK.

Several Causes Produced a Somewhat Lessened Tonnage of Ore.

The ore shipments last week from the Rossland mines were not quite as large as the average established by the camp. Several causes conspired to reduce the output. A slight accident to one of the skips in the Le Roi cut down the product of that mine by several hundred tons. Then, too, the Columbia and Kootenay worked short handed, which cut into its output, while the War Eagle and the Centre Star adhered to their policy of holding ore pending the reduction of treatment charges. Of the other regular shippers, the Iron Mask cut down its production slightly, while the Cliff remained at its old standard of 40 tons per week. Nevertheless the total for the week was no less than 1,540 tons, which surpassed that of any single week in the history of the camp prior to June 1 of the present year.

NEWS OF THE MINES

The Silver Bell Mine Leased to Butte Miners.

START WORK AT ONCE

The Existence of Free Gold in Rossland—The Waterloo Camp Mines—General News of Properties in and Around Rossland.

A deal was consummated on Tuesday by Harris, Kennedy & Co., brokers, whereby the property of the Silver Bell Mining company passed into the control of Boston people, represented by Messrs. J. A. Harrington and F. W. Connolly, under a lease for one year, with an option for renewal. It was probably the first lease on a mining property given in this camp, though in other mining communities it is a common thing to operate mines on a royalty.

The new management is said to have ample funds behind it with which to operate the property, and it is announced that work will be commenced at once.

The claims involved in the transaction are the Lone Jack and the Nancy Lee, about two miles and a half south by west of Rossland. They are well known as the most prominent silver propositions in the camp. The lead carry silver-lead ore with small values in gold and an occasional trace of copper. There are besides some high grade carbonates on the claims. Some \$12,000 has been expended on the property, most of which was spent in the development of the Lone Jack, on which a 100-foot shaft had been sunk. The equipment includes a 26-horse power boiler, a 35-horse power engine, a hoist, and two steam drills. All the mining machinery will be placed at the disposal of the new management.

The deal was completed at a special meeting of the Silver Bell company, held Tuesday morning. At the same time G. A. Pounder, presented his resignation as president and general manager of the company. It was received with regret, and in accepting it the directors expressed their thanks to Mr. Pounder for his past valuable services. John Harris was elected to succeed Mr. Pounder, and M. O. Tibbets was made secretary, while Graham Kennedy was elected assistant secretary. The office of the company will hereafter be with Messrs. Harris, Kennedy & Co., in the Cosmos block, where the next general meeting of the company will be held on November 17, to elect officers for the succeeding year.

The Waterloo Camp.

Chester Robbins, the assayer of Waterloo, and Tom Robbins, the manager of the Bryan group near there, were in town this week on business. The Bryan is the property which recently attracted much attention because of the anomalously high values carried in the ore, assays of which went as high as \$2,000.

Three men have been at work on the shaft of the Bryan, said Mr. Robbins, "and we are now down 20 feet on the lead. We have sacked five tons of the ore, and it will be treated at the Trail smelter. Of course we cannot tell what it will return, but I hope that it will yield close upon \$100 per ton. The ore is a quartz, mixed with galena, sulphides and tellurium, so that, notwithstanding the high values it contains, it carries no visible gold. Among the owners of the Bryan are Sir Charles Ross, W. DeV. Le Maître, H. Robbins and Charles D. Hamilton.

"The Waterloo camp is enjoying unusual prosperity right now. People are coming steadily in, and prospectors are returning who some time ago decided to abandon the camp. Keen satisfaction is felt over the strike recently made in the district. Numerous trails have been built of late, both through private enterprise and with government aid. The most important of these is a three notch trail leading from Waterloo leading to Eric on the Nelson & Port Sheppard railway, a distance of 15 miles. Its construction was a matter of considerable importance to both districts, and although just completed it is already receiving a heavy flow of travel."