

(Editorial concluded from Page 4.)

ALIEN PLACER MINERS.

The editor of the Colonist asks the editor of THE MINER the following question: "Is it desirable to amend the mining law of British Columbia so as to prohibit the ownership of placer claims by aliens?"

THE MINER is opposed to the enactment of any law which would place the slightest restriction on the exploration and development of the Province. The placer miner is the pioneer of the mining industry. He is generally a man of limited means, and is induced to undergo the severest hardships and privations in the hope of finding diggings that will quickly make him a rich man. Thus it is that districts far removed from the centers of civilization are explored and the pathway is made for permanent settlers and the consequent extensive establishment of the more lasting industries. It matters little who takes the placer gold if through the efforts of the placer miner others are induced to follow him and place the more enduring resources of the country on a permanent and profitable basis. So far British Columbia has been slow of settlement, but nothing stimulates accession to the population so much as the discovery of new mining territory. It cannot be denied that the development of the Province is mainly attributable to the activity and enterprise of alien prospectors. It is largely owing to aliens that Cariboo was made famous, and the trail blazers of Montana and Washington have made the Kootenays what they are today.

Supposing only British subjects are allowed to own placer claims, it is not to be expected that the man who wins a large fortune from the auriferous alluvial deposits of the Atlin wilds, or the Peace River district, or the Omica country, is not going to spend any more time than he can possibly help in a mining camp. He will, in four cases out of five, return to his former home in the East or in the Old Country and take his money with him and live in comfort and where the good things of this world are within easy reach. In doing this he is no greater benefit to the Province than the alien. The alien is just as liable to make his permanent home in British Columbia as the man from Ontario or the English immigrant.

The number and importance of finds would be greatly minimized if prospecting, either for placer of quartz, were confined to British subjects. This being the case it would greatly retard the development of the country were the legislature to pass a law prohibiting alien ownership of claims.

KOOTENAY INDUSTRIES.

Some time ago THE MINER directed public attention to the success that has attended the policy of the city of Toronto in offering special inducements to industrial concerns to locate there, and suggested that Rossland might secure considerable benefit by following the example to some extent. The city council of Nelson seems to be fully alive to the advantages of such a policy. At the last meeting of that body a resolution was passed to the effect that the city open negotiations with capitalists to secure the establishment of bullion refineries, and in the debate that followed it was pointed out that in order to secure such works, it would be wise to pay a bonus to those willing to embark in the undertaking.

THE MINER is not prepared to say that the time has arrived for the establishment of metal refineries in this district. We have already remarked that local smelter men are unanimous in the opinion that the product of Kootenay smelters is not sufficient, nor is it likely to be for some little time, to justify the discontinuance of bullion shipments to the large refineries in the United States. It must not be forgotten, however, that the United States commissioners are inclined to have the 2 1/2 cents per pound import duty on lead bullion retained, and that the agitation for the establishment of a Canadian mint will bear fruit, very probably, in the near future. The retention of the duty will make it necessary to have local refineries with the least possible delay, in order to permit the successful operations of local smelters for the reduction of the silver-lead ores of the district, and the operation of a Canadian mint will be beneficial in providing a market for the gold and silver contained in the bullion.

It would be well for both the Rossland board of trade and city council to closely watch the developments in this connection. If metal refineries or any other industries are to be established within the district, the advantages of Rossland as a place for their location should be kept prominently to the front, and all reasonable means should be employed to induce them to come here.

AMERICAN ROADS HEADING THIS WAY.

Both the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways are making preparations to extend their tracks in the west. It is reported that the Northern Pacific contemplates building at an early date a railway from Coulee City, in the Big Bend country, Washington, to Chelan Falls, and so on up the Columbia and Okanogan rivers to the mines and farms in Okanogan county. If this road is

constructed it is almost certain that it will not terminate south of the international boundary, but will be extended into British Columbia by way of Osoyoos. This will give the miners and ranchers of South Yale a competing line with the C. P. R.

The Great Northern is also fully alive to the opportunities for a railway through the northern portion of the State of Washington and into South Yale. A party of Great Northern engineers are locating a railway line along the Columbia river from Wenatchee to Republic, where it would connect with the Kettle River Valley railway.

As soon as these two lines are in operation a country exceptionally rich in natural resources will be opened up to settlement and development, and Southern British Columbia will, as a natural consequence, be greatly benefited.

THE SILVER-LEAD INDUSTRY.

The probability that the international commission, now in session at Washington, D. C., will fail to secure the removal or reduction of the United States import duty of 2 1/2 cents per pound on Canadian lead bullion is a very serious menace to the silver-lead mining and smelting industries of the Kootenays. The lower grade galena mines of this district are absolutely dependent upon the operation of local lead smelters, but if the smelters are barred by the operation of this tariff from the only available market for their product—the United States refineries—they cannot be operated.

The prosperity of Kootenay depends to a great extent upon the development of its silver-lead industry, and it is, therefore, of very great importance that it be brought to its fullest extent with the least possible delay. The ill effects of a lengthened delay in the realization of this will affect the whole country.

Something must be done to save Canada from the disastrous and far-reaching effect of this inconsistent and wholly unnecessary duty. The Canadian and British commissioners should make a determined effort to have the tariff removed. If some sacrifices in other directions are necessary they should be made.

The West will hold the Laurier government responsible if an arrangement is not made satisfactory to the silver-lead industry of Canada. If the cabinet ministers who represent Canada in the commission fail to do this while at Washington they must be prepared to meet the demands of this district for governmental assistance for the maintenance of silver-lead smelters and refineries in Kootenay at the next session of parliament.

Meanwhile it would be well for the people of this Province to prepare for the worst. Every board of trade and municipal council from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific coast should be ready with its demands on the Federal government for the necessary subsidies to create a home market for the silver-lead ore and bullion produced in British Columbia.

"LET 'EM ALL COME."

The fact that the popular saying in Great Britain is "Let 'em all come," shows in a nutshell what the spirit of the people is at the present day. Great Britain was never in a better shape to make her greatest war than at the present time. Her navy is the largest and is well armed, equipped and manned for a long fight. It has taken years of preparation to get the navy in this condition. The British army, though not as large numerically as are some of those of the Powers of Europe, is in splendid fighting trim, and forms a skeleton which could be quickly placed on a very formidable footing. In short, both the navy and the army are in such shape that they could be absolutely relied upon for almost any emergency that the Empire might be called on to face, even if "they all come," as the populace by their expression evidently intend to imply. Under the circumstances, there is no disposition on the part of either the government or the people of the Empire to stand much pin-pricking or tail-twisting on the part of nagging enemies. Nations which indulge in these practices will arouse the war spirit of the Empire and will find themselves in the lion's jaws. The French, particularly, are playing with fire by her lion-baiting in Egypt, Newfoundland, Madagascar, West Africa, and in short, in all places where the interests of the two nations conflict. It is fully realized by the French people that they alone would be no match for Great Britain, but they hope if war ensues that Russia will come to their aid. The sentiment conveyed in the phrase, "Let 'em all come," reveals that the people of England are not alarmed even at such a contingency as a combination of France and Russia arrayed against her.

THE MINING METROPOLIS.

One of the best indications shown that the country to the west of Rossland is rich in present and future possibilities is the anxiety of the larger banks of the Dominion to establish agencies there. Indeed, the rivalry in this regard has at times been a race to see which of two banks would be the first to be ready for business in some of the cities of the Boundary Creek country. It must be obvious to the most unobservant that where staid and wise financiers show a haste, which, among this class of men, appears almost unseemly, there are fortunes to be made where they locate. They realize that the stirring scenes and the opportunities for investment that were characteristic of this camp three or four years ago will be reenacted in Greenwood, in Grand Forks, in Midway and perhaps other cities situated in this finely dowered country. While the possibilities of this section to the west are great, and while there are many opportunities for making money there still, we do not think that any city will grow up in that country that will ever be of greater size or more importance than Rossland. We say this without

MUNICIPAL REGISTRATION.

A new list of municipal voters must be compiled each succeeding year. The

next municipal elections will be held early in January, and it is very desirable that every eligible citizen be registered in order to qualify as a voter. For this reason THE MINER desires to direct public attention to the notice to municipal voters which appears in another column. Perusal of the advertisement shows that there are three classes of voters, viz., ratepayers, holders of trade licenses and householders. To enable a ratepayer to vote at the next elections it is necessary that he shall have paid, on or before Monday, December 5, 1898, all taxes charged against him by the municipality. Residents carrying on business subject to an annual license of not less than \$5, must also pay up on or before December 5, 1898, if they wish to have a vote next January. The term householders covers any male subject who pays not less than \$60 per annum for house or room rent. To become voters persons of this class must make a statutory declaration before a magistrate or notary public, and file the same with the city assessor or city clerk, on or before December 1, 1898.

Business men residing in one ward and conducting a licensed business in another may vote for aldermen in both wards, if the necessary declaration is made.

For the accommodation of miners and others who are unable to register during the day, W. B. Townsend, J. P., has kindly consented to be at the city offices on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next, between the hours of 7 and 9, for the purpose of taking depositions.

Everyone who is alive to his own interests will see that his name is on this year's voters' list.

FREE SILVER FOR THE U. S. SETTLED FOR SIX YEARS.

In the United States senate, as it will be organized from March 4 next until the end of Mr. McKinley's presidential term, there will be 50 gold Republicans and six Republicans who have coquetted with the silver question but are pledged to vote with their party against free silver. Then there are two gold Democrats. These bring the anti-free-silver vote up to 58, a majority over the Democrats, Populists and free-silver Republicans, not less than 26. That is, the majority against free silver in the next senate will be in itself equal to the entire Democratic senatorial representation.

In the presidential election of 1900, of the 30 senatorial seats at stake these will be from the Republican list of 56: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, West Virginia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Oregon—18.

In view of the results of the free-silver campaigns of 1896, 1897 and 1898 there is extremely small probability of the return of 12 free-silver senators. All the possibilities of practical politics point to the return of at least 14 gold senators from those states, and probably 15. Yet the sound money Republicans could lose 10 of the 18 and, making no gains elsewhere, would still have a majority against free silver.

Now, suppose that free silver shall still be the issue in the next elections of 1902, the middle of the next presidential term. Suppose, in defiance of all probability, that the number of sound-money Republican senators shall have been reduced by the elections 1900 from 56 to 52, leaving a sound-money majority of 14 for the free-silverites to overcome in 1902. The sound-money Republican seats that will be at stake in 1902 are: New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Oregon, California, North Dakota, Kentucky.

Can the most optimistic free-silverite see a chance for a free-silver gain of seven in that list of states? Yet if the free-silverites do not gain in the elections of 1902 at least seven seats from the list no free-silver bill will have the remotest chance of being enacted in a period that covers the entire term of Mr. McKinley's successor. It would, therefore, seem that free silver for the United States is not likely to be an accomplished fact for at least six years.

THE MINING METROPOLIS.

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any desire to detract from the importance of the favored section known as the Boundary Creek country. There will, perhaps, be centers there that will in time reach the present size of Rossland and perhaps be larger, but by that time this city will be much larger than it is at present. We think that it will always head the procession of mining cities of British Columbia. There is no other place that has so many productive mines and prospectively productive properties immediately surrounding them the same as Rossland. Even the most conservative mining men, who understand fully the situation here, feel certain that this city will within the next few years be many times its present size.

In the Boundary Creek country and, in fact, anywhere in the mining section of British Columbia, the mines are scattered over large areas and do not lie so close together as is the case here. For, that very reason the mining towns are much smaller than this camp. This being the case it seems certain, in our humble opinion, that the title of Rossland to the claim that she is the biggest quartz mining camp in the Dominion will never be successfully questioned.

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR suggests that the government should purchase the Plains of Abraham, outside Quebec, and keep it for the people. The idea is a good one.

THE PROPOSAL to modify the Rush-Bagot treaty so as to allow the construction and maintenance of war ships on the Great Lakes should be frowned down.

THE LATEST GAG in London is "Let 'em all come." It is heard everywhere. The phrase has its origin, probably, in the fact that Great Britain is thoroughly prepared for any emergency.

THE REPORT of criminal statistics for the year ending September 30, 1897, has just been published. It shows that Canada compares very favorably as a law abiding country with any other.

SAYS THE TORONTO GLOBE: "The mining of British Columbia has passed beyond the placer era and beyond the stage of speculative purchase and stock selling. It is now established among the substantial industries of the Dominion, and as such it must be considered in dealing with our industrial development."

THE PROGRAM for the European conference called to devise measures to repress the anarchists, which is to be held at Rome on the 29th instant, has been arranged. Its primary purposes are, first, to remove anarchists in all countries from the category of political offenders to the category of common malefactors, and second, to secure similar action against anarchists pursuant to the first purpose.

HON. GEORGE E. FOSTER says "Every man ought to be a party man; a 'neutral' is good for nothing." Political bosses will heartily agree with him. But a man may take an active interest in public without binding himself hand and foot to a faction, and it would be a good thing for the country if more electors followed this rule. When the great interests of the country are imperilled, as beyond doubt they often are, who but the "odious neutral" is to come to the rescue? Political independence is a very fine thing.

THE MAYOR and board of aldermen of the municipality of Kaslo have followed the example of the Rossland city fathers and given notice of their intention to vote themselves salaries, the mayor to have \$1,000 and each of the aldermen, \$200. The Kootenayan, commenting upon the subject, expresses the hope that the city council will draft the bylaw so that it will go into effect in 1899, and thus leave the citizens the opportunity of nominating a council pledged to repeal the bylaw, if any acceptable candidates can be found to run upon such a ticket.

THE STATEMENT has been published in the Coast papers that the officers at Lake Atlin have forbidden prospecting until June, because there is said to be some doubt as to where the boundary line between British Columbia and the Yukon territory is. There is nothing in the Mineral Act that prohibits prospecting or deprives any man, who discovers a mine, of his right to it. The gold commissioner has no right to refuse to record a claim properly staked at any time. There is a growing tendency of too much officialism and red tape in the administration of the mining laws of this Province which should be checked.

AS AN INSTANCE of the rapid increase in the general prosperity of British Columbia it is interesting to note the growth of the imports and exports of the Province for the last ten years. The table is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Imports, Exports. Data for years 1889-1898.

THIS IS A VERY satisfactory showing, but everything points to a much more rapid growth for the next decade.

THE DISPATCHES announce the resignation of A. W. McNeill, as the representative of the Alberni district in the legislature, and that a proclamation has been issued for a new election. Mr. Mc-

Neill was elected as a supporter of the Semlin-Cotton-Martin party. Prior to the last campaign Alberni invariably returned a supporter of the late government. It will be interesting to watch the outcome of the approaching contest in Alberni. The probabilities are that, as it is only a bye-election, the candidates will run respectively as Government and Oppositionist. The district contains, however, more Conservatives than Liberals, and the leaders of the former may avail themselves of the opportunity to nominate a man who will be more Conservative than Government.

IF A RECIPROCITY treaty is finally found by the High Joint Commission now in session at Washington, D.C., and ratified, one of the most fruitful sources of debate in the Canadian parliament and the United States congress during the consideration of tariff measures will be eliminated. In every tariff discussion which congress has had for the last 20 years, the articles which Americans buy of Canada, and of which Canadians buy of the United States have found a very prominent place. The border States in particular have had cause for complaint, and Canadian towns near the boundary line have also had just cause for desiring that an international agreement be arrived at which would eliminate the commercial and industrial hardships from which they are suffering.

RECENTLY THE MINER published a dispatch from its London correspondent which contained what purported to be a list of promoters of a company organized in England to construct a smelter at Vancouver and to acquire certain properties, and included in the list was the name of Jas. F. Garden, mayor of Vancouver. Mr. Garden writes to the press strongly resenting the unwarranted use of his name in this connection. Neither THE MINER nor its London correspondent are to be blamed for this. The information was obtained from the printed prospectus of the Vancouver Smelting company, and it had no reason to doubt the truth of the statement that Mr. Garden was one of the advisory board of the company. We hasten to do Mr. Garden justice by stating the facts of the case, and would recommend him to take up the matter of the unwarrantable use of his name, with B. H. Martindale, C. B., chairman of the Vancouver Smelting company. THE MINER does not hesitate to say that a corporation that will take such liberties as has the Vancouver Smelting company in this instance, can scarcely expect to enjoy the confidence of those familiar with the incident.

THE HANDSOME NEW assay office, just completed by the B. A. C. on Nickel Plate flat, was partially destroyed by fire at 12:30 o'clock Sunday morning. The flames originated in the furnace room, and doubtless were due to a crack in the chimney, which permitted the surrounding woodwork to become overheated. The loss on the building was about \$500, while on the fixtures and apparatus the damage was equally great.

THE BUILDING was just completed last week. The furnace had been in use yesterday, and although nothing out of the ordinary was noticed, yet the severe heat must have caused the brickwork of the chimney to crack near the roof.

A FEW moments before midnight, Charles Magraw, a miner employed by the Canadian Pacific Exploration company, happened to be going home when, as he neared the Red Mountain station, he noticed that the roof of the assay office was ablaze. Magraw was joined by one or two other passers-by returning from the theater. The party broke open the door of the assay office, and set to work putting out the blaze with a miniature bucket brigade. They could do little by that means, however, and the fire spread rapidly.

MEANWHILE the Nickel Plate company sounded out the alarm by prolonged toots of its whistle, and at the same time an alarm was turned in from the box at the corner of Washington street and First avenue. The department made a quick run and soon had two lines of hose playing on the building. After that it was the work of a quarter of an hour to get the fire entirely under control.

ALL THE BALANCES and most of the other valuable equipment of the office were saved. The loss is fully covered by insurance in the Commercial Union, represented by A. B. Mackenzie & Co.

THE ASSAY OFFICE was one of the finest and most complete in the west. It had facilities for doing all sorts of chemical work, as well as for carrying on metallurgical experiments. The building itself was a handsome structure, which cost complete \$2,000. The damage last night was largely limited to the furnace room and the roof.

LANGELIER WILL NOT RESIGN. MONTREAL, Que., Nov. 26.—Charles Langelier presents a letter in Le Soleil denying that he will resign his candidature in Levis at the request of Mr. Tarte, and declares that Mr. Tarte, instead of being opposed to him, is in his favor, as will appear during the election. Pacad declared in Le Soleil the other day in favor of keeping federal and provincial interests separate at Levis, intimating that otherwise the feeling against the federal ministers there would jeopardize Langelier's election to the legislature.

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Write to DR. ROBERTZ, he is THE DOCTOR WHO CURES Weakness of men. Expert scientific treatment. Instructive books free.

Address G. H. ROBERTZ, M. D., 252 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Certificate of Improvements. NOTICE. Wide West Mineral claim, situated in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District. Where located: About 1 1/2 miles south of the city of Rossland. Take notice that J. N. F. Townsend, acting as agent for Ross Thompson, No. 5267, A. and D. J. Burke, No. 8202, A. intend, 60 days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

Certificate of Improvements. NOTICE. Ophir Mineral Claim, situated in the Trail Creek Mining Division of Kootenay District. Where located: Between the Gold King and Coxy Mineral Claims on Red Mountain. Take notice that J. A. Kirk, acting as agent for the Jumbo Gold Mining Co. L.A. (foreign) free miner's certificate No. 13,082A, intend, 60 days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

Certificate of Improvements. NOTICE. Oakland and Emma Weber mineral claim, situated in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District. Where located: On the west side of the middle fork of Sleep creek, about two miles west of O. K. mine and adjoining the Cruiser mineral claim. Take notice that J. Kenneth L. Burnet, acting as agent for Joseph E. Walters, F. M. L. No. 33828, A. free miner's certificate No. 34063 A, intend, 60 days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

Certificate of Improvements. NOTICE. St. Bernard mineral claim, situated in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District. Where located: One half mile southwest of the O. K. mill and is a re-location of the St. Bernard, located 14th of April, 1895. Take notice that J. Kenneth L. Burnet, (as agent for Victor Mounier, Esq.) free miner's certificate No. 34063 A, intend, 60 days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

Application to Purchase. Notice is hereby given that I will, sixty days after date, apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to purchase the crown land hereinafter described, that is to say: Commencing at a post marked "Anthony John McMillan, S. E. Corner" and planted on the west bank of the Columbia river, about two miles north of the international boundary line, thence west 40 chains, thence north 40 chains, thence east 40 chains to the west bank of the said river, thence south, following the meandering of the said river to the said post, containing 150 acres, and being situated in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District, and being the abandoned pre-emption of one Foulton. Dated this 25th day of October, 1898.

Certificate of the Registration of an Extra-Provincial Company. "COMPANIES ACT, 1897" "Northwest Development Company." Registered the 20th day of September, 1898. I hereby certify that I have this day registered the "Northwest Development Company" as an Extra-Provincial Company, under the "Companies Act, 1897," to carry out or effect all or any of the objects hereinafter set forth to which the legislative authority of the legislature of British Columbia extends.

The head office of the company is situate in the City of Spokane, State of Washington, U. S. A. The amount of the capital of the company is six hundred thousand dollars, divided into six hundred thousand shares of one dollar each.

The head office of the company in this province is situate at Rossland, and William York Williams, mine superintendent (not empowered to issue and transfer stock), whose address is Rossland aforesaid, is the attorney for the company.

The time of existence of the company if fifty years. The objects for which the company has been established are: To work, operate, buy, locate, acquire, procure, hold, mines, metal, and mineral claims of every kind and description within the States of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and within the Province of British Columbia and the North-West Territory, Canada, and the Territory of Alaska; to carry on and conduct a general mining, smelting, milling, and reduction business; to purchase, acquire, hold, keep and operate electric light and power plants for the purpose of furnishing light, creating power for all purposes, and in connection with the mining and treating of ores; to bond, buy, lease, locate and hold ditches, flumes and water rights; to bond, buy, lease, construct, build and operate railroads, ferries, tramways, lines of vessels, either on rivers or on the Pacific Ocean; to own, bond, buy, sell, lease, locate timber and timber claims, and to do the everything consistent proper, convenient, requisite for the carrying out of the objects and purposes aforesaid in their fullest and broadest sense, and especially to buy and sell for the purpose of gain and profit, mines, mineral claims and real estate and timber lands; to authorize and empower the Board of Trustees of this corporation to make all purchases and all sales of property owned by this company, without the consent of the stockholders; and likewise to buy and sell stock and stocks in other corporations organized under the laws of this State and organized under the laws of other States of the United States and of foreign countries; and likewise to loan money upon any security or securities therefor as to the Board of Trustees of said company shall from time to time seem meet and proper.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Victoria, Province of British Columbia, this 24th day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

S. Y. WOOLTON, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. A Dangerous Crossing. Editor MINER—Sir: Since the council saw fit to promulgate a bylaw about the condition of the sidewalks, does it not for a moment strike the board of works that a like bylaw to keep the crossings and steps at First avenue and Washington street in safe condition would not be inappropriate? What is meant by the dangerous death-trap on South Washington street? Perhaps the council is in hopes that some of its critics may fall in these places. I am, etc., P. ESTERIAN.

Engagement Announced. The engagement is announced of Miss Nancy Tuttle, the charming daughter of Mrs. Emma L. Tuttle, to W. H. Aldridge, the manager of the Trail smelting works. The engagement was commemorated with a dinner given by the mother of the fiancée on Sunday last. The date of the marriage has not yet been announced.