

TO BUILD REFINERY

Mr. Aldridge Announces That the Canadian Smelting Works Will at Once Take Up the Enterprise.

He Also Speaks of the Reductions Offered in the Freight and Treatment Rates on Silver-Lead Ores.

TRAIL, Dec. 28.—(Special).—W. H. Aldridge has just returned from an extended eastern trip and states that the Canadian smelting works will proceed at once with the construction of a refinery at Trail of sufficient capacity to handle the present bullion output of the country. The plant will be to a certain extent experimental, but as soon as it is shown that sufficient bullion can be obtained to insure its becoming a commercial success it will be enlarged and extended, or, possibly, another plant will be built at Nelson or on the coast.

Mr. Aldridge says that all of the metal markets have been most unsatisfactory to the mines, smelters and refiners. The fall in lead and silver has affected the receipts of some of the Kootenay lead-silver mines to the extent of \$400,000 annually, comparing the quotations for these metals in January last with those at the present time. The smelters have also lost heavily in buying and selling on a falling market, it requiring on an average of from four to five months for the smelters to realize upon metals purchased from the time the ore has been brought from the mines.

The decline in metal prices since the beginning of the year has been, approximately, as follows: Copper from 17.1-2 cents to 12.1-2 cents per pound; London lead from £18 sterling to £10 sterling, and silver from 62 cents to 54 cents per ounce.

The railways and smelters are thoroughly alive to the situation, and while London lead is at present prices, will join in making a reduction for the coming year in freight and treatment charges on clean lead ores of \$4 per ton. The smelters are willing to reduce their charges providing they can be relieved from the danger of incurring further losses due to decline in metals, and as it is generally conceded that the present prices of metals have

nearly reached bottom it would seem entirely fair to the mines to make the change at this time.

To accomplish this it is proposed that preliminary settlements involving the payment of 50 per cent of the proceeds will be made as soon as the results are obtained from the smelter, the final settlement to be made on quotations for metals 90 days after the preliminary settlement. It is proposed to reduce the zinc limit from 10 per cent to 8 per cent. Which would mean that on clean lead ores carrying 40 per cent lead and over the total reduction in freight and treatment charges will be \$4 per ton, while on ores containing over 8 per cent zinc the net reduction will be \$3 per ton.

The above reductions in rates will not compensate the mines for their losses in the decline of metals from the first of the year to the present time, but as the quotations for London lead during the latter part of 1900 and the beginning of 1901 were abnormally high it is hoped that the mines will find it in their interest to continue operations at these figures. The average price of London lead for a number of years has been between £12 and £13 sterling, and as a reduction of \$4 per ton of ore is equivalent to 11 per cent of lead, assuming the ore to contain 40 per cent lead, and that the smelter pays for 90 per cent, this reduction of \$4 would correspond to an increased price for lead in ore of £2 6s, making the present lead quotation, on the basis of last year's rates, £12 9s 6d.

Mr. Aldridge says his company is spending large amounts of money in enlargements and improvements, and will continue to do so in spite of the present temporary depression in the metal markets, believing that there will shortly be an improvement in these prices and that the production of the silver-lead properties of the country will get back to former figures.

FILIPINO MURDERERS

RECORDS OF CASES SENT TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON.

NATIVES WHO TAKE SERVICE WITH AMERICANS SPECIALLY MARKED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Many Filipinos who accept service under American rule are visited with awful vengeance by their fellow countrymen. The records of a case have been received at the war department in which three native policemen, who had been sent from Laong to San Nicholas, in Northern Luzon, for duty at the latter point, were seized and bound by an armed band of Filipino outlaws, taken before a priest to be confessed and then hung alive into a well after being hacked with bolos. Their assailants then filled up the well with loose earth. One of the band, Wenceslao Rosales, who was brought to trial, was sentenced to be hanged.

Another native policeman met his death at the hands of an outlaw band in the Barrio of San Antonio, Laguna province. The outlaws were lying in ambush awaiting the passage of a patrol of three policemen, and upon their approach the waiting Filipinos sprang out and captured one of the three. A few days later his body was found in a neighboring river weighted with a heavy rock, showing wounds through his heart and in his neck. Two of the members of the outlaw band who were captured were sentenced by the military commission to be hanged.

The Filipinos who took part in the murder of an unknown native, accused of being an American spy, beheaded the body and buried it in the city of Manila, were sentenced to be hanged.

Another outlaw band seized a native man and woman for no apparent motive and killed them by striking them with clubs on the back of their necks. Mariano Zales, a native member of the band, who was brought to trial, gave the following rather vague explanation: "They were relative, uncle and aunt, of mine, and I had to do it to save my life."

The military commission which tried him found him guilty of murder, but the sentence was confinement at hard labor for 20 years. General Chaffee approved the sentence and fully concurred in the remark of the department commander in forwarding the papers in the case, that the sentence was inadequate.

WORD OF MISS STONE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 28.—Dispatches from Salonica report W. W. Peet, treasurer of the missionary society in Constantinople, has established communication with the brigands who hold Miss Ellen M. Stone captive and hopes that the release of Miss Stone will be accomplished within a fortnight.

SCHEEPERS ON TRIAL

ADMITTED THAT HE HAD ORDERED WHIPPING AND KILLING OF NATIVES.

ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY HIS ACTS ON GROUND THAT VICTIMS WERE SPIES.

GRAAF REINET, Cape Colony, Dec. 28.—Commandant Scheepers, who is probably the most hated of all the prisoners now in the hands of the British, and whose trial was recently suspended owing to his physical collapse, today testified in his own behalf. He made a vigorous defence and denied six of the seven murders with which he was charged. He declared that in the other case the man killed was a native spy who had been tried regularly and convicted.

Scheepers admitted whipping natives who had been found guilty of conveying information to the enemy, so-called unarmed native scouts being in his opinion, simply native spies. He said that he had had them whipped frequently, and justified their shooting.

He declared that the looting and burning of government buildings were reprisals in accordance with De Wet's proclamation. Scheepers asserted that he always fed and treated his prisoners as well as he was able.

BECOME MORE STRAINED.

WILLEMSTADT, Island of Curacao, Dec. 28.—Reports received from Caracas say the relations between Germany and Venezuela become more strained every day. The Venezuelan government suspended traffic on the German railroad because the company, in view of threats of insurgents, refused to transport troops unless the government guaranteed it against losses which might be sustained by the destruction of its road and equipment. The German legation at Caracas has entered an energetic protest against the government's action.

A TEXAS FIRE.

Two Lives Lost and a Large Amount of Property Destroyed.

DALLAS, Texas, Dec. 29.—A special to the Times-Herald from Calvert, Texas, says fire this afternoon had up to 1:30 o'clock caused the loss of two and probably more lives, and property to the extent of \$150,000. The telephone wires then were burned out and it is feared there were more casualties and greater loss.

THE TIENTSIN QUESTION.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 28.—A report has been received here to the effect that Yuen Shi Kai, viceroy of Chi Li province, has advised the Chinese court to remain at Pao Ting Fu until the ministers of the foreign powers to China consent to restore Tientsin to Chinese control.

TALE OF THE TELEPHONE

Behind the suit for foreclosure and the winding up of the affairs of the Columbia Telephone & Telephone company, says the Vancouver Province, instituted in this city by Mr. R. Kerr Houlgate, and in which Mr. Justice Irving made an order here last Friday, there is an interesting bit of history which The Province gleaned from a gentleman just arrived in this city from Grand Forks.

The story deals with the efforts of two telephone companies to maintain and operate systems in the Kootenays with connections to Spokane. As is generally the case where two telephone companies enter into competition the strife for patronage was great, and the result is that one of the companies has been operating under great loss, while the other has also lost money and the subscribers have had to incur the expense of having two telephone lines if efficient service was desired.

Some five or six years ago a telephone line was installed and operated from the Kootenay country to Spokane. Systems were placed in Spokane, Rossland, Nelson, Greenwood, Grand Forks and other points where it was thought business could be secured. This line was built by the Spokane & British Columbia Telephone company, the principal stockholders in which concern were Messrs. Oakes and Aris. At nearly every point where the Spokane & British Columbia Telephone system was installed it was forced to enter into competition with the Vernon & Nelson Telephone company, which was first in the field. The inevitable result was that the rates for telephones were cut to the ground. Lots of instruments were installed by both companies, but the revenue derived was not of such proportions that either company could pay operating expenses.

Both companies concluded to make the fight one to a finish, and the public laughed and imagined itself benefited, but it turned out that the majority of people were forced to subscribe to both systems so that telephonic communication could be secured with all the persons who used the telephone. The result was that taken in the aggregate the rates for service were higher to those who were forced to use both systems and a great deal of dissatisfaction was felt.

Early in the game Messrs. Oakes and Aris felt the loss of the money which they had invested, and finally they were forced to sell their holdings to Mr. C. O'Brien Reddin, well known throughout the province as a mining and investment broker. When the sale was put through Messrs. Oakes and Aris' losses were figured up at about \$10,000—a small amount for a mining man like Mr. Oakes to pay for the privilege of owning a telephone line for a short while.

The Columbia Telephone & Telephone system was maintained for a time by C. O'Brien Reddin, who was at that time a resident of Rossland. His destinies did not remain long in his hands for he sold out to Messrs. Donald and Davis of Grand Forks, and it is rumored that when the telephone interests and Mr. O'Brien Reddin parted company his experience in the opposition telephone company was not a happy one.

Messrs. Donald and Davis concluded that they would force the fighting and put the opposition of the Vernon & Nelson Telephone company on the shelf. With this idea in view they interested the financial of a well known institution of Grand Forks. Backed by practically unlimited capital Messrs. Donald and Davis extended the system of the Columbia Telephone & Telephone company and the plan was put in such condition that it was at all events the equal of that belonging to the opposition company. A great deal of ready cash was invested in these improvements, but the proprietors found that as their operations became more extensive there was even a greater shortage in the receipts than had formerly been the case. Messrs. Donald and Davis felt the loss to a certain extent, but their financial backers bore the brunt of the cost of maintenance, and it is reported that close on \$150,000 was sunk in a very short time. All this occurred during the past two years, and during that time the Columbia Telephone & Telephone company has been steadily losing money, and so did the Vernon & Nelson Telephone company, till the Columbia company was, as the suit indicates, forced to the wall.

The suit which was instituted by Mr. Houlgate will likely culminate in the purchase of the interests of the Columbia Telephone & Telephone company by the Vernon & Nelson company, and so the disastrous competition, which has been continued so long, will end. It is estimated that after the purchase of the interests of the former company has been effected the loss to the financial institution which backed it will not be less than \$70,000—not very satisfactory for the backers.

It is but the natural sequence of events that where two telephone companies seek patronage in one particular district one should be forced to the wall. From the point of view of The Province's informant two telephone companies are a decided nuisance and competition in such cases is a thing not to be desired again by those who have experienced the experiment. With few exceptions competition is a good thing, but in the case of telephone companies it is something which one should pray to be preserved from.

SENATOR SEWELL DEAD.

CAMDEN, N. J., Dec. 28.—United States Senator William J. Sewell died at his home here yesterday. He suffered from diabetes, complicated with stomach and heart troubles.

TRANSPORTATION



TIME CARD OF TRAINS.

SPokane Time Card.	ARRIVE	DEPART
No. 11, west.....	6:35 a. m.	7:05 a. m.
No. 12, east.....	8:55 a. m.	10:05 a. m.
No. 1, West Bound.....	11:40 p. m.	11:50 p. m.
No. 2, East Bound.....	10:45 p. m.	10:55 p. m.
*Coeur d'Alene Branch.....	6:00 p. m.	7:35 a. m.
*Palouse & Lewiston.....	1:15 p. m.	6:10 a. m.
*Big Bend Special.....	10:05 a. m.	1:45 p. m.
*Local Freight West.....	5:45 p. m.	7:35 a. m.
*Local Freight East.....	5:45 p. m.	7:40 a. m.

*Daily except Sunday, all others daily Sunday—Coeur d'Alene branch, leave 8 a. m., arrive 7:30 p. m.

CITY TICKET OFFICE:

Ziegler Block, Corner Riverside and Howard.

2 TRAINS - 2

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A. D. CHARLTON, A.G.P.A., Portland, Oregon.

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Buffet service on trains between Spokane and Nelson.

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 10, 1901.

Leave Day Train Arrive

9:30 a. m. Spokane 7:15 p. m.

12:25 p. m. Rossland 4:30 p. m.

9:40 a. m. Nelson 8:45 p. m.

H. P. BROWN, H. J. JACKSON, Agent, G. F. & P. A., Rossland, B.C. No. 710 Riverside Ave. Spokane, Wash.

T. Mayne Daly, Q. C. C. R. Hamilton

W. de V. le Maistre

Daly, Hamilton & le Maistre

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7:45 a. m. EAST MAIL—For Coeur d'Alene, Pullman, Garfield, Colfax, Pullman.

*Moscow, Walla Walla, Dayton, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Baker City and all points for the EAST. *Except Sunday.

FIRST MAIL—From all points EAST, Baker City, Pendleton, Walla Walla, Dayton, Walla Walla, Pomeroy, Moscow, Pullman, Colfax, Garfield, Pullman, and Coeur d'Alene.

3:45 p. m. EXPR. 1901—For Pullman, Garfield, Colfax, Pullman, Moscow, Lewiston, Walla Walla, Portland, San Francisco, and all points EAST.

EXPRESS—From all points EAST, Baker City, San Francisco, Portland, Colfax, Garfield and Pullman. 9:50 a. m.

STEAMSHIP LINES.

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STEAMSHIP SAILS FROM AINSWORTH DOCK, Portland, at 8:30 p. m., and from Spies Street Wharf, San Francisco, at 11:00 a. m., every five days.

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Steamers between Riparian and Lewiston leave Riparian daily except Monday at 3:40 a. m., returning leave Lewiston daily, except Monday at 7 a. m.

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For through tickets and further information apply to any agent S. F. and N. System or at O. R. & N. Co.'s office, 400 Riverside Avenue, Spokane, Wash.

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EAST BOUND Leave Spokane 8:15 a. m.

WEST BOUND Leave Spokane 7:15 a. m. and 8:00 p. m.

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Atlantic S. S. Lines

(From St. John.)

Allan Line-Parisian..... Dec. 28

Allan Line-Numidian..... Jan. 4

Allan Line-Ionian..... Jan. 11

Allan Line-Tunisian..... Jan. 18

(From Portland.)

Dominion Line-Omilion..... Dec. 28

Cunard Line-Campania..... Dec. 28

Cunard Line-Umbria..... Jan. 4

Cunard Line-Lucia..... Jan. 11

White Star Line-Germania..... Dec. 25

White Star Line-Celtic..... Dec. 21

American Line-Philadelphia..... Dec. 25

American Line-St. Paul..... Jan. 1

American Line-St. Louis..... Jan. 15

Red Star Line-Vaderland..... Dec. 25

Red Star Line-Haverford..... Jan. 1

Red Star Line-Friesland..... Jan. 15

Red Star Line-Zeeland..... Jan. 8

Anchor Line-Furnessia..... Dec. 28

Anchor Line-Astoria..... Jan. 11

Anchor Line-Anchorage..... Jan. 25

North German Lloyd-Kronprinz..... Jan. 4

Wilhelm..... (From Boston.)

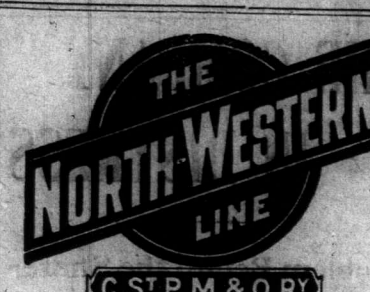
Cunard Line-Ivernia..... Dec. 28

Dominion Line-Commonwealth..... Jan. 4

Dominion Line-Cambrian..... Jan. 15

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