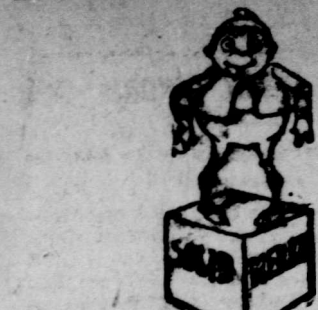


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A Brother's Error.

Dr. Blanchard seized the hands again extended appealingly, and drawing the old man nearer to the altar he looked into the haggard face, and, clasping him to his heart, cried out: "Valentine! Valentine! My brother, my brother!"

CHAPTER XXIV.

Capt. Brandon was as much amazed and set back by Bouton's reinforcements as that person was delighted. He knew that a fight in the open would be madness, and his only hope lay in ambushing the outlaws. Howard Blanchard, who, with John Clyde, had been watching from the summit of a neighboring hill, came running down at sunrise, and in answer to the captain's question said excitedly:

"They are coming this way!" "Bouton's men?" "Yes, every one of them, and they look like a cavalry regiment. Where can they be going?"

"I cannot say, Howard, unless it be to hunt us. If that is their object, the chances are all against their having a pleasant time of it." Then, changing his manner to one of command that so well became him, the captain called out: "Come, men, to horse, and keep close together."

From the elevations that crossed their course they could look back and see the cloud of dust that marked Bouton's advance, and in this way they knew that they were still keeping the same distance between them. Late in the afternoon they came to a mountain slope a half mile in length and with steep walls and rocky crests.

"They must come through here," said the captain, halting at the farther end of the defile. "Here we must bring them to a halt."

The men dismounted and led their horses up the northern face of the precipitous hill through which the defile ran. They secured the animals on a little plateau, and followed the captain to the top, which was covered with boulders of every size and angular masses of stone. From the mountain by volcanic action.

"Here is our ammunition," said the captain. "Imitate me."

He began once to roll the stones to the edge of the precipice, and he set the example of balancing one on the rim, so that a child's hand from behind could send it crashing down. To show how efficient these would be, he sent one rock over, and the men breathlessly watched it as with increasing speed and irresistible force it tore and crashed to the bottom, plunging over and against the opposite side.

"Sakes alive!" exclaimed John Clyde. "One of them stones would sweep down a regiment as a ball does nippins."

"Remember, captain," said Howard anxiously, "that my sister and Louis Kyle and his sister are with the outlaws. We must save them."

"I have got forgotten. We must watch out for them."

"But what if they wait till dark? We cannot tell then where the prisoners are."

"We must still show them that it is dangerous to pass. If they stay where they are, they make a dry camp, and so will break down their animals. See! Here they come!"

The cavalcade came on again, and as it moved into sight the men on the cliffs could see that the line was broken into three parts; that the horses were massed, and that in the center of each party was one of the prisoners. It would be impossible to so guide a rock as to be sure it would plunge through the center of each party and so destroy the very people they were so anxious to save.

On they came, and it was growing dark when the head of the party entered the dreaded defile. Capt. Brandon's men would not have been so anxious and nervous had their position and the fact been revealed just as the foremost horseman came abreast of the beginning of the obstruction a huge stone started, through the nervousness of the men behind it, leaped from the crest, and with the sound of thunder crashed down. A horse and rider were swept out of existence like flies under a trip hammer. Up from the depths came shouts of horror. Capt. Brandon peered down and could see the confused mass of men and horses, and he could hear the nervous orders of the leaders, high above which rang out Bouton's voice:

"Get back, men, get back! Brandon, curse him, is on the cliffs!"

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The first line fell back on the second and the second on the third, until, orderless and demoralized, they were out of the fatal rift.

"What are we to do," asked Pont Robb, who, with Bouton, had been trying to get out of chaos.

"Do?" replied Bouton. "We must stay here for the night. Dismount, men. It is not the first time we have been forced to make a dry camp."

While the captain was watching from the summit of the pass and the outlaws were tangled up in the darkness, another and an important observer occupied a position on the opposite hills. This was Henry Kyle, and he was accompanied by the faithful Kushat. All day Fairplay and his gang had followed them, but at a distance so safe that they never came within range of the dreaded rifle.

"They will start no fires tonight, Kushat," said Henry to his companion. "This must be my opportunity."

"To do what?" she asked. "To attempt the rescue of the prisoners."

"You would enter the camp?" "Yes."

"But if you are caught it will be death," she said, with a shudder. "I know that, but it will be death to him who tries to stop me. Stay you here, Kushat."

"What! Would you go alone?" "Yes. I cannot take you into such danger."

"Then I will follow," she said with decision. "I too, am armed. I am a Sioux, and you will not try to stay me. Where you go, I will go. Should you fall I will be beside you, and death shall not part us."

"She reached out her little red hand, and taking it he said with some resignation:

"Then come, Kushat. I have not so much love that I can lose yours. Let it be as you say."

Henry Kyle and Kushat crept so close that they could see in the indistinct light the groups of men standing by their horses, and from the speaking they were able to tell exactly where Bouton was. It was agreed between Henry and Kushat that they should not speak after they had reached a point within hearing of the outlaws. They crouched on the ground waiting for developments, when they heard Bouton ask:

"Where is Louis Kyle?" "He is here," said one of the men. "Where?"

"Har on the ground," replied the man. "I thought it'd be better to tie him up, and so I've done it."

"Louis Kyle," began Bouton, "your friends have blocked my way—"

"I am aware of that, and am glad of it," replied Louis.

"You will not be so glad when you hear my plan to defeat Brandon."

"You think not?" "I am sure of it. I have sent through twenty men, and when daylight comes Brandon will find himself under my rifles."

"And will not you be under his? You should know by this time that Brandon has a chance of shooting back."

"Let him shoot. But tell me—do you call him, your friend?"

"I do."

"I will give you a chance to test his friendship."

"Go on, I am listening."

"I propose to send you through, so as to be with Pont Robb when he makes the attack. My orders will be to place you in the advance. Then let Capt. Brandon shoot if he will," said Bouton, gloatingly.

"Carry out your plan. I am not asking favors of you, and I never expect to," said Louis Kyle, with a proud ring in his voice.

Bouton turned to two men who were standing behind him and said:

"Tie his feet, but keep his arms bound. Take him through the pass, and if he attempts to cry out, so as to attract Brandon's attention, shoot him down at once. Do you both understand?"

The men said they understood very clearly, but they did not reply like men at all delighted with the undertaking on hand. They advanced, and freeing the young man's feet told him to rise. Then they examined the ropes that bound his arms, and finding them looser than they liked, they tightened them and told him to follow. During the talking and the subsequent tramping Henry Kyle whispered to Kushat:

"They are going to take my brother through the pass. We must follow."

(To be Continued.)

The Question Answered.

The Reason Why Some Dealers Sell Poor Dyes

Many ladies who have been deceived by the imitation dyes so often sold by some dealers and druggists, ask the question: "Why will these merchants persist in selling us dyes that are positively worthless?"

This question is easily answered. The dealers who sell these common dyes do so for a very selfish object—profits. They buy these crude and poisonous dyes for much less than the cost of the Diamond Dyes, and they are sold to the ladies at the same price, ten cents per packet. The dealers in this way make long, big profits, while the deceived consumer must suffer loss at every time of using.

Dealers know well that the Diamond Dyes are the only true and warranted colors, but the love of gain is too great to allow them to treat the public honestly.

The ladies can soon compel dealers to do what is honest and right if they insist every time upon getting the Diamond Dyes. You can always find one dealer in your town that is anxious to sell dyes that will give entire satisfaction.

The person who has never moved does not fully appreciate the joys of this life.

Worms cause feverishness, moaning and restlessness during sleep. Mother Graves' Worm Extirpator is pleasant, sure and effectual. If your druggist has none in stock, get him to procure it for you.

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PROSPECTUS OF THE BIG THREE GOLD MINING COMPANY

CAPITAL - - - \$3,500,000.
DIVIDED INTO
3,500,000 SHARES OF THE PAR VALUE OF \$1 EACH.
1,000,000 shares of this stock are in the hands of the Company's Treasurer for development purposes. All stock issued is fully paid and non-assessable.

THE BIG THREE MINERAL CLAIMS ARE LOCATED IN THE CELEBRATED TRAIL CREEK GOLD MINING DISTRICT OF

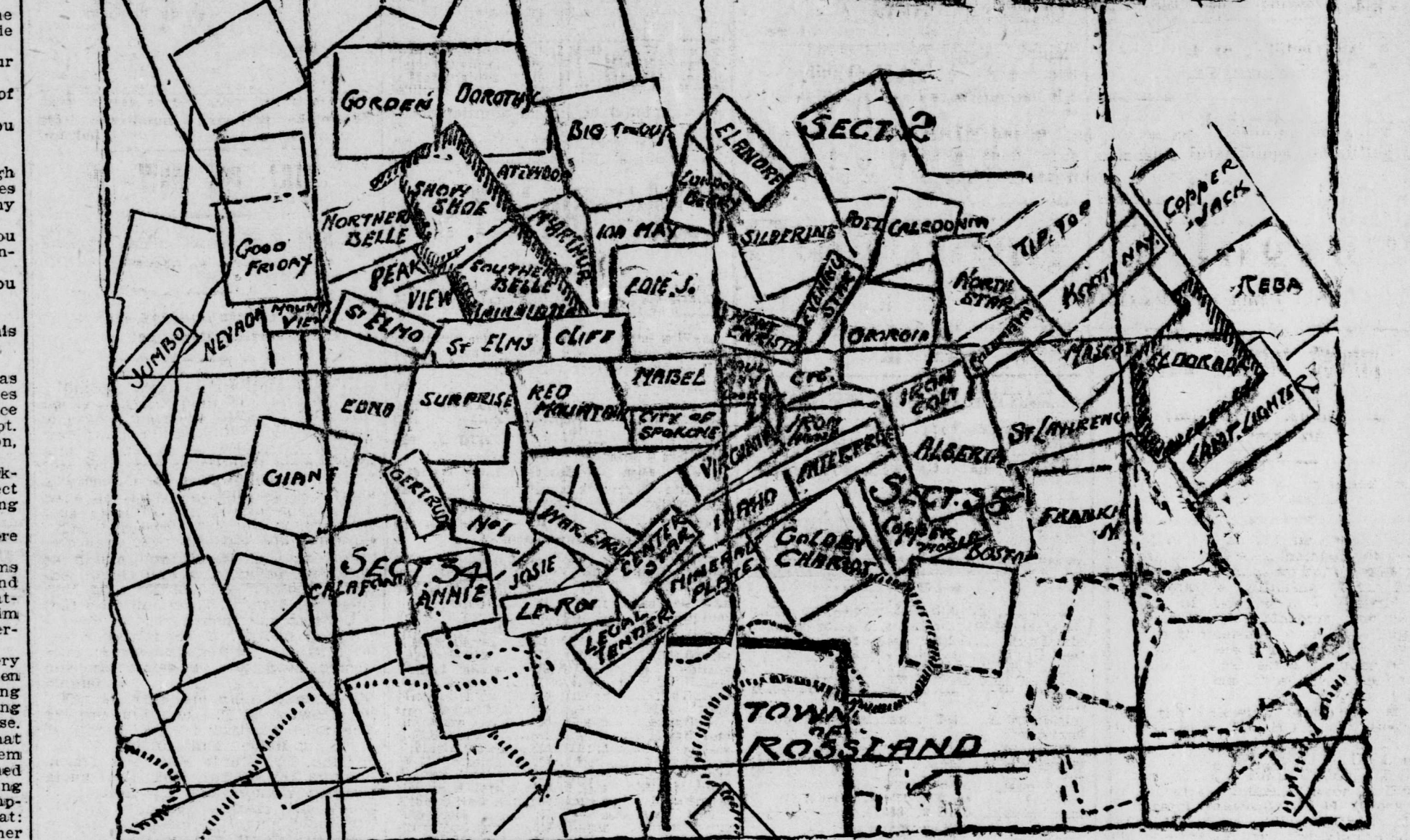
BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICERS:
RUFUS H. POPE, M.P., Cookshire, Que. President
O. G. LABERRE, Rossland, B.C. Vice-President
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TRUSTEES:
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The management of the development work will be conservative and under an able and experienced Mining Engineer. This Company has been formed for the purpose of opening up and developing the Eldorado, Snow Shoe and Southern Belle claims.

The owners, after doing considerable work and demonstrating to their own satisfaction that they had valuable properties, and that with further development they could make shipping mines, incorporated the Big Three Gold Mining Company, and now offer a limited number of their shares for sale.



Trail Creek Mining District.

Of all the mining districts in this Great Northwestern Territory none have been so full of surprises and none have been more prominent in the brought before the country as a whole than TRAIL CREEK.

Less than two years ago a mere tract of prospects, today the acknowledged richest gold camp in the world. The substantial basis upon which the present producing mines are working and their output after so comparatively a small amount of development, is an evidence of the permanency of the great ORE BODIES in the camp.

The district has been one of mineral surprises. The character of the ore changes with depth, and in every case INCREASES in value. In some instances ledges of silver and lead have been uncovered, while free milling quartz is not a rarity. Iron and copper predominate on the surface. A conservative estimate of the production of this district for this year will be 400 tons daily, and as the value of the ore will probably run from \$30 to \$50 per ton (although much will exceed \$100), an average of \$40 per ton can be relied upon, which will amount to \$16,000 per day.

Producing and Dividend Paying Mines:

Le Roi.
The most interesting as well as the most wonderful of the many valuable properties in the Trail Creek district is the Le Roi. This property was originally purchased for about \$35,000, and has since been bonded to a London syndicate for \$5,000,000. The company was incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington, U. S. A., by American citizens, and the stock was floated on a basis of 10c per share, capital stock being 500,000 shares, par value being \$5 per share. A portion of the stock was sold at 10c per share. Later developments proved it to be very rich, and in March, 1895, the stock was floated at 40c, and July, 1895, sales were made at \$1 per share. This property has recently paid dividends of \$175,000, being 5c a share per month.

The latest improved machinery is being placed upon this property at a total expense of \$40,000, and it is the sincere belief of the management that they will be able to pay \$100,000 per month in dividends when in full operation.

War Eagle.
The War Eagle lies adjoining the Le Roi. This property was purchased by American citizens in October, 1894, for about \$38,500, and was incorporated for 500,000 shares par value of \$1 per share.

In February, 1895, the property paid a dividend of \$35,000, and offerings of \$1 a share were made, but none could be obtained. Since then a total dividend of \$175,500 has been paid, and in addition they have placed the latest improved mining machinery at a cost exceeding \$50,000.

This property has recently been bonded by a London syndicate for \$1,000,000, and one-fifth of the shares of the new company to be organized, with a capital of \$500,000, in London, England.

Nickel Plate.
This property lies south and east of the Le Roi and is owned and operated by individual holders. They have placed machinery upon same, and large shipments of ore are being made. This property will be an early dividend payer.

Monte Cristo.
This property is located upon the Monte Cristo mountain. The capital of said company is 1,000,000 shares of par value at \$1 per share, stock being sold now at 20 cents share. The management has recently purchased the latest improved machinery, and it is expected that this mine will shortly be a dividend payer.

Georgia.
This mine is east of Monte Cristo and not far from the Columbia and Kootenay. The management is pushing development work and expect to place machinery upon same at an early date.

Columbia and Kootenay.
These properties are located upon the Columbia and Kootenay Mountains and run in a northeasterly and south-westerly direction, the same as the Le Roi and Center Star. They were bought in 1894 by Chicago capitalists, and the company was organized with a capital of 500,000 shares, par value of \$1 per share. No stock is offered.

At the low Prices of ten cents per share (\$1 par Value), in blocks of not less than 250 Shares. Please forward remittances or instructions at once and Stock Certificates will be issued from Toronto Upon Demand.

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The quotation made upon the same is \$1 per share.

The company has recently purchased the largest mining machinery in the camp, and the same is being placed upon the property. They have shipped a good deal of ore from this mine. It is confidently believed that they will become early dividend payers.

Jumbo.
This mine lies nearly west of Red Mountain and is a real jumbo. The claim made by the owner is that they have the largest ore bodies ever uncovered in the history of gold mining. This property was bought three years ago for \$500 and stock in same now meets ready sale at \$1 per share.

Cliff.
This property lies on east side of Red Mountain, and in same vein as Monte Cristo, St. Elmo and others. The property is mining and shipping some very fine ore, and is considered one of the big mines of the district.

View.
This mine is located nearly on the top of Red Mountain and is just developing into a splendid property. The latest reported assays being \$7 in gold per ton and 14 per cent in copper at a depth of about 50 feet.

Properties of the Big Three Gold Mining Company are as follows:
Eldorado.
This claim consists of about forty acres, and lies on the south side of the Columbia and Kootenay Mountains. It is well located for tunnel work, and has a very strong vein, being about 600 feet south of the Kootenay mine, and in places on the surface is forty feet in width, being one of the largest surface showings in this district. The development consists of a tunnel about 75 feet in length, showing a good body of ore and numerous open cuts and small shafts at different points on the vein. The Red Mountain Railroad is surveyed over this claim, and will be built by October of this year to the Kootenay mine.

Southern Belle.
This property consists of about 30 acres, and is situated on the north-east slope of Red Mountain, which adjoins the cliff in the north and the vein on the east. Evidencing two valuable mines located on two sides of this property. The development work on this claim consists of two shafts about 15 feet to 20 feet each, resulting in the exposition of very promising ore. By the recent development on the "View" mine one of the adjoining properties on which work had been done within 50 feet of this claim. The continuity of this vein is absolutely traced the entire length of the Southern Belle, being perfectly verified by the shafts and open cuts in this claim. The promoters, by the evidence thus placed at their disposal, feel confident that a small expenditure will result in the development of a valuable property as one of the permanent assets of the company.

Snow Shoe.
This claim is located on the north-east slope of Red Mountain adjoining the Southern Belle on the north and west and the Northern Belle on the east, and consists of about 40 acres. The development consists of numerous open cuts and shafts. The ore taken from this claim is very high grade for surface showing and the assays have been very satisfactory. The vein passing through or making the Northern Belle mine is known as the snow shoe vein. This claim lies well for tunnel work, and will be developed by that method.

We wish in particular to call the attention of the investing public to the fact that the policy pursued by the most successful mining men is to invest in a large number of different mines instead of investing their all in one property. This is the policy of the Big Three Gold Mining Company in consolidating these three properties into one company, thereby giving the smaller investor an equal chance with larger investors, and the company has no hesitancy in stating in offering the public an opportunity to purchase stock in the Big Three Gold Mining Company, that they are offering one of the safest mining investments ever offered, as these three properties were all bought on their individual merits. By the system adopted through the consolidation of these properties the operating expenses will be materially reduced. For instance, one set of machinery will be sufficient to develop and operate the Snow Shoe and Southern Belle claims; also much money may be saved, from the fact that the general manager, chief engineer and office employees required to operate the entire group will not be more than would be required to properly manage a single property, under the ordinary system of separate organizations.

We are instructed to offer to the public a limited number of shares, including sufficient treasury stock to enable the company's management to commence immediate development work upon the three claims of the company simultaneously.