

couver. Rossland is already passing beyond the board and batten wooden building stage. Several erections are now being constructed of brick and stone, and more are to follow. There are now four banks in the city, the Bank of British North America, the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Toronto, which opened on the first of the month in the first stone building erected in the city. The Bank of Montreal are erecting a handsome brick and stone edifice in the very heart of Columbia avenue.

Montreal has bought largely into the Monte Christo, at Rossland, and has displayed the utmost faith in the management and in the property. Now the mine has been shut down and the wildest rumours are being circulated as to the cause. If the shareholders have been deceived in their expectations it will certainly tend to weaken the belief in the Kootenays, which have recently been reawakened in Eastern Canada. Already the suspicion of such a possibility has caused the stock market to suffer all round to some extent. It is a pity that the management do not take the public into confidence and state through the columns of the mining press the real causes which have governed its action. The effects do not concern the company alone and cannot be considered to be their private business, as the well-being of a whole people is influenced. Freedom of action surely does not mean license to hurt your neighbour.

Laws that are made, however well intentioned, and not carried out are but gangrenes on the body politic. Mr. Kelly, with no doubt the very best intentions in the world, was instrumental in passing the Truck Act through the Legislature, at the last session of the Provincial House. Of this Act much political capital was made during the late elections. Now, if the law is a bad law it ought not to remain on the statute books. If it is a good law it ought to be enforced. If in its enforcement certain unforeseen developments take place, the law at all events will have had its trial and can either be amended or ended. We have not heard that the boarding houses have all been shut down by the employers within the three mile radius of a corporate city. On the contrary, the War Eagle are building a magnificent boarding house on their property, where, it is needless to say, their employees will be expected to mess. It is probable that this palatial residence will not be in the name of the company, and will equally probably be in the name of some perfectly disinterested third party, but there are more ways of killing a cat than smothering it with cream.

Nor is this all. Not to mention other mining companies who are doing much the same kind of business as the War Eagle, there is to be seen a regular camp of railway men under canvas, pitched in the very centre of the townsite. What kind of evasion are these law-abiding people trusting to? Within a few weeks there was to be seen another such a camp about a mile down the track. A small subcontractor lately stated the clear up of his gang there for the week was \$13, after the board bill, tool account, prices for overalls and tobacco was paid. One man was recently public spirited enough to bring action about similar treatment that he had received near Brooklyn. Unfortunately it was shown that

the camp of the work was outside the three mile radius and the cause was lost. Why does not some other public spirited individual try the same sort of case again, taking care that he is well within the legal radius? There is plenty of opportunity.

Cariboo's greatest hydraulic gold gravel mine—that of the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Co., in which so many shrewd C. P. R. magnates are interested, is again making a fair preliminary showing this season, the gold yield to date amounting in value to some \$101,000, with a third and final wash yet to be made before the season closes. This may add a further value of between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The yield is not at all remarkable and it cannot in any way be considered as a test of the capabilities of the mine, in view of the fact that most of the season's work has been centered in the construction of the Moorhead ditch and other preliminary operations. It will remain for next year to be the first in which any real test can be made of the apparently large dividend earning possibilities of this and others among the greater gold gravel companies of old Cariboo the preliminary development operations at one and all of which, with their many miles of ditching, fluming and hydraulic workings, have occupied several years of skilfully directed labour, which richly deserves to reap a good reward in the early future. The same remark applies to the splendid engineering and hydraulic work that is being done in the bed of the Quesnelle River by the Golden River Quesnelle Co. Substantial production here cannot begin before next summer. However, these things notwithstanding, Cariboo gold yields of 1898 should show considerable advance on that of 1897.

The latest complaints against the undue competition of Chinese labour, which can here, after its meagre wont, subsist on a wage of as little as fifty to seventy-five cents a day, are the freighters on the historic Cariboo road, who aver that they cannot compete with the sweated imported labour from the Orient in the carriage of mining materials and provisions to the Cariboo goldfields. Thus, pending the judicial settlement on appeal of the constitutionality of the Chinese Underground Labour Exclusion Act—no sooner are the Chinese got out of our Vancouver Island colliery workings, than their protean competition springs up elsewhere to harass the unfortunate white worker, who naturally declines to lower his standard of living to that of the pig-tailed Chinaman.

In an article we publish this month from our London correspondent, the views of a number of prominent men, whose interests are more or less closely identified with this Province, are quoted on the subject of the closing of the British Columbia Agent-General's office, in London. Opinion from such a source must at least be regarded as unbiased and disinterested. There can be no question of political animus, and while it is possible some of these gentlemen with whom our correspondent conversed were on friendly or even intimate terms with the late occupant of the post, Mr. Vernon, it should be noted that they condemn not that gentleman's dismissal, but the fact that no successor is to be appointed to