

Weekly Rossland Miner.

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also in advance.

Shipments of Ore.

From January 1 to October 31, inclusive, the shipments of ore from mines at Rossland to smelters were as follows:	
Mine.	Tons.
Le Roi.	47,847
War Eagle.	5,773
Columbia & Kootenay.	2,399
Iron Mask.	2,779
Jumbo.	31
Gold.	87
Cliff.	107
Centre Star.	56
Red Mountain.	774
O. R.	39
Swimming Star.	12
Giant.	21
I. X. L.	10
Venet.	10
Little Joe.	15
Total.	63,432
Concentrates.	
From January 14 to June 10, inclusive, the ore milled in the camp was as follows:	
Mine.	Tons.
D. R.	2,473
X. K.	299
Total.	2,772

A DISGRACE TO CANADA.

A condition akin to that of peonage or slavery is in existence among the laborers who are employed on the construction of the Crow's Nest branch of the Canadian Pacific railway. The men are brought from the eastern provinces, and before they are engaged are compelled to agree to work for a certain length of time. When they arrive at the scene of operations they find that conditions are not what they were represented to be. The accommodations are of the roughest character. In addition to this the men are made to board and lodge with those for whom they work, and the boarding houses are conducted on a plan of making all that can be extorted from the unfortunate laborers. Nor is this all. By a peculiar system of bookkeeping, the men are compelled to work more days than there are in the month in order to get a month's pay. Another thing that they complain of is that \$30 of their wages are withheld from them for railway fare when, in many instances, it was represented to them at the time they were engaged that there would be no railway fare to pay.

It is frequently the case that the men become disgusted with the almost intolerable conditions and have endeavored to escape from them. Then the Northwest Mounted Police are put on their track and they are hunted down in much the same way as slaves are who escape from their masters. It is said that, as soon as captured, the men are taken before a court and are sentenced to from 30 to 30 days imprisonment for desertion and debt. The statement in an eastern paper, signed by A. Alcorn, a reliable man, to the effect that at one time recently there were 140 deserters locked up in the jail at Fort Macleod and 75 more at Pincher Creek, has not been controverted.

We wonder if the government is aware that the mounted police are being used for such a purpose. The justices of the peace who sentenced the railroaders to imprisonment might also make known the section of the criminal code that justifies their conduct in this matter.

In view of this bad condition of affairs, it is no wonder that the labor organizations of the country are meeting in conclave and passing resolutions denouncing the railway contractors, and the officers of the law who have evidently exceeded their authority.

The Federal government should at once institute a thorough investigation of the condition of the laborers employed on the Crow's Nest Pass railway, and see to it that the men be given treatment that should be accorded to human beings.

The Canadian Pacific railway is primarily responsible for these outrages. Canada's Greatest Monopoly is becoming bolder and bolder in its disregard of the rights of the people. With the exception of the Kootenays and the Boundary country, it has Western Canada in its anaconda-like folds. Its "freeze out" policy in this district is more apparent day by day. However, Southeastern British Columbia is not without hope. So long as independent, competing lines of transportation exist here, the prosperity of the district is assured. The Federal government is fully alive to this important fact and there is excellent reason to believe that its railroad policy in the West will be governed accordingly.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The recent action of the British government regarding the question of bimetallicism disposes of any early chances of favorable international action, it is true, but it does not remove or lessen whatever necessity for such action previously existed. However, those who assert that the silver question is dead,

are certainly in error. Bimetallists in various countries will be apt to become more aggressive in their operations. In the United States there has been a marked throwing off of the mask since the last presidential election. Very many of the gold men, who kept up a pretense of friendliness to silver, have discarded it. They are now openly for the single standard, and ridicule and denounce every effort to return to bimetallicism. This will make the contest sharper. The country did not pronounce last year distinctly in favor of a single gold standard. What it may do in 1900 depends on the condition of industry and business at that time, on the admission of the populists to silver or their demand for fiat paper money, and on other eventualities. At present the silver cause is very far from dead. It is strong.

"FREEZE OUT."

The prosperity of Kootenay depends upon the development of the district, and development to the fullest possible extent can only be accomplished by the existence of adequate and cheap transportation and smelting facilities. It is unreasonable to expect that such a condition will ever prevail if a railway monopoly is created and the smelting business is controlled by one corporation.

As soon as the marvelously rich mineral resources of Kootenay were discovered, men of enterprise and capital became interested here, and railways and smelters were built. The construction of the Columbia & Western, Nelson & Fort Sheppard, Kaslo & Slovan and C. P. R. systems, each line entirely independent of the others, has advanced the development of the country to a remarkable extent. The erection of the Trail, Nelson and Pilot Bay smelters, operated by separate and distinct companies, has demonstrated beyond question that the ores mined here can be treated to a greater advantage in Kootenay than elsewhere.

But the development of Kootenay has been brought almost to a standstill by the vicious greed of the Canadian Pacific railway. The C. P. R. was the last transportation company to look for business in this district, and it refused to do so until the taxpayers had provided it with a railway system. Now, the Big Corporation is not content with a large share of the carrying trade that was developed by other railway companies. It insists on a monopoly in that respect of the entire district. To accomplish its ends, it has commenced a long game of "freeze out" with its little rivals. In the meantime, it has placed a check upon the smelting industry by refusing to haul the silver-lead ores of the Slovan to the Trail smelter, and Rossland ores to the Nelson and Pilot Bay smelters. In other words, the C. P. R. refuses to make a reasonable traffic arrangement with the Columbia & Western system.

The advancement of Rossland is also prevented because the "National Highway" (Robbery) has not enterprise enough to construct its own line between this city and Robson. It insists that Mr. Heinze, who is at the head of the Trail smelter as well as the Columbia & Western, shall turn over to the C. P. R. a good portion of the Trail-Robson branch of the C. & W., or continue to work for Slovan ores with which he might otherwise smelt the low grade ores of Rossland. But this is not all.

With reasonable assistance from the Dominion parliament, the Columbia & Western company is prepared to give the Boundary country a railway service, which, at the Columbia river terminus, will give Southeast Yale the only opportunity that section could possibly have for the competition of at least three transcontinental lines. The C. P. R. is doing its utmost to prevent the construction of the road. It wishes to avoid the necessity for competition with other lines, and wants the district all to itself.

If the C. P. R. policy in Kootenay and Yale is successful, the Big Monopoly will have the transportation business of the entire Dominion cornered. If it were not for the noble men who are at the head of Federal affairs, the outlook for southeastern British Columbia would be a very gloomy one. Fortunately, however, they are familiar with the situation, and, consequently, will not fail to see that the public are protected.

THE NEW YORK ELECTION.

Greater New York's first election, the most titanic municipal political struggle that ever took place on the American continent, has resulted in the election of Justice Van Wyck, the Tammany candidate. There were three other candidates in the field, who, before the result of the contest was known, were considered to be Van Wyck's formidable rivals for the position of mayor of the American metropolis. These were General Benjamin F. Tracy, the Republican nominee; Seth Low, the standard-bearer of the Citizens' Union, and Henry George, who headed the Jeffersonian Democrats. The result shows that Van Wyck has received as many votes as Tracy and Low combined, and each polled a much larger vote than George. The latter was left hopelessly behind in the race. The man who won the election is a nobody, and his chief claim to distinction is that he was selected by Richard Croker, the Tammany chieftain, to head the ticket. People wondered why it was that an obscure justice, who had never manifested any ability beyond that of

"standing in" with Tammany, was chosen for so important a nomination. The presumption was that he would do as "he is told" by the Tammany leaders, and that is all that is desired in a wigwag candidate.

The election of Van Wyck places corrupt Tammany in the saddle once again in New York. For a while Tammany was defeated and the friends of good government had control in New York, and it was thought that the better element would be able to maintain its position, but now that this misfortune has occurred it means that Greater New York will take a step backward. It means that the very worst element in the city will take charge of it and its affairs and that corruption of the worst kind will thrive to a greater degree than ever before. The only difference between now and when Tammany was in the ascendant on former occasions is that the opportunities for plunder and all sorts of political oppression will be greater than on previous occasions, because the city is larger than it was at any former time when the tiger had undisputed sway. How a free people could by their ballots place in power such a dishonest, corrupt, ignorant and vicious element as are in the Tammany organization, when they could have elected men who would have given them an honest, clean and intelligent administration of city affairs, is hard to understand. A government, however, is never better than the people who make it, and the newly elected rulers of the American metropolis are probably quite equal to the people, collectively, who placed the reins of government in their hands. It is, nevertheless, a shame that such a state of affairs exists.

AN INSOLVENCY LAW.

The question of the adoption of an insolvency law by the Dominion is attracting a large share of public attention. A delegation of London merchants waited on the Hon. Mr. Fielding, minister of Finance, a few days since, and requested his good offices in favor of such a measure. The dispatches from Ottawa announce that the insolvency law will be one of the principal measures to be brought forward at the next sitting of the Dominion parliament.

An insolvent act was passed in 1875, but though it was carefully drawn and with a special view to prevent frauds, so many steals were perpetrated under its provisions that parliament, in 1885, repealed it. Since that time there has been almost constant agitation for the enactment of a similar law.

The principal demand for an insolvency law comes from England. Canadian importers buy most of their supplies in the Mother Country. This is the case with fabrics of all kinds, and even if a merchant desires French and German goods he purchases them in the London market. It is the same with all kinds of fine liquors. As a result of this the English merchants often carry large credits in this country, and are not on the ground to protect themselves from the "preferred" creditors as they are called. For instance, we will suppose that a merchant is insolvent. He owes perhaps 25 creditors. By collusion with relatives or friends, and other fraudulent devices it is possible for one creditor to get a judgment, sell the merchant's stock of goods and other assets, secure the entire proceeds, and leave the other 24 without any means of settling their accounts. This is just what the insolvency law is intended to correct, as under the provisions of a properly framed law all the creditors get a pro rata of the assets of an insolvent merchant.

A bad feature of the present law is that the local creditors, either through sympathy or through their more accurate knowledge of the affairs of an insolvent, get the major portion of his assets, and wholesale merchants in the larger cities or abroad often make no effort whatever to secure what is due them, knowing by experience that it would be useless. Then, at present, each of the provinces has its own method of treating insolvents. This is an embarrassment to the British trader, and often prevents the Canadian merchant from getting the credit to which he is entitled in the old country. It is also a preventative to credit for some of the provincial traders when they seek to purchase stocks in the larger cities of the Dominion.

On the whole THE MINER is convinced that a carefully drawn insolvency law would be of benefit to the Dominion of Canada, and we believe that one can be framed that will be an aid to honest trade. It will, of course, be impossible to satisfy all the interests concerned. Such safeguards should be thrown about it and the penalties for infraction or fraud should be so severe that it would not be profitable to even attempt anything of the kind. Among other things there should be a public examination of the debtor on oath as to his transactions of a commercial nature. There should also be an official liquidator appointed by the government and paid by fixed salary. Keeping proper books of accounts by a trader should be declared compulsory; a debtor should not be allowed to give preference to one creditor over another, except and only under special conditions; the examining judge should grant a certificate of discharge to a debtor, should suspend it for any time he thinks fit, or refuse it altogether, and the expenses of the bank-

ruptcy, which are paid for out of the estate, should be settled by the act itself, thus preventing the estate being swallowed up in expenses.

A SMELTING REVIEW.

The October number of the Canadian Mining Review is quite up to the standard of previous issues. It is a typographical triumph, contains pretty pictures of mountain scenery, statistical information about Evaporative Performance, Commercial Horse Power, Thermal Units, and has several pages of state mining news from British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia. If the Review is rather shy in its customary batch of intelligence concerning the doings and opinions of scientific fledglings and "yellow legged experts," it must be attributed to lack of space, caused by the publication of an article on British Columbia smelting development. This article is undoubtedly intended to be the principal feature of the last issue of the Review. It is two and one-half columns long, and is worthy of the pen of the individual, who, in the previous issue of the paper, discussed at considerable length the question of an export duty on ores. The two articles show the same blissful ignorance of the present condition of the Kootenay mineral industry. Their respective claims to the attention of the intelligent reader are completely destroyed by the series of fearful blunders and preposterous assertions that they contain. However, if possible, the treatise on smelting is the more stupid of the two.

The opening paragraph of the article contains the statement: "The Hall Mines smelter, though doing a general custom business, is mainly intended for and increasingly devoted to the treatment of the vast silver-lead deposits of the Silver King Group and other rich properties of the Hall Mines company, in and about Nelson."

There are only four mistakes in the above quotation. The Hall Mines smelter is not a general custom plant, although it will be one at some future time. If the Canadian Pacific railway had only furnished the Hall Mines smelter with Rossland ores at lower rates, the smelter might have been conducted on a general custom basis some time ago. The management of the Hall Mines will be very much surprised to learn that the Silver King Group contains "vast silver-lead deposits." The property has been very extensively developed and is acknowledged to be one of the great mines of the world, but it happens, however, that the values in the ore are silver, copper and gold. There is no lead in the Silver King ore. The company owns no mineral ground "in" Nelson.

The next blunder of the Review is that "Somewhat heavy freight and other charges largely confine the operations of the Trail smelter to the ores of the Rossland district."

The smelting editor of the Review is evidently ignorant of the fact that there are different processes in smelting. The blast and reverberatory furnaces at Trail only admit of smelting with copper as a base. The British Columbia Smelting & Refining company has tried for months past to procure Slovan ores in order to furnish a market for the low-grade pyrrhotites of Trail Creek, but as that company could not afford to pay the C. P. R. the same rate for the delivery of Slovan ore at the Columbia river as is charged to American smelters 2,000 miles away—a tariff of about \$10 per ton—the works at Trail have not been adapted to general custom business, and are consequently prevented from smelting as economically and advantageously as the company desires.

The next paragraph states that: "A third West Kootenay smelter, at Pilot Bay, near Ainsworth, has for some time been closed down, but will probably—after reconstruction is now proceeding—be reopened shortly, and then again become capable of treating a very modest quota of the silver-lead ores of South Kootenay."

It so happens that the Pilot Bay smelter has a lead stack with a capacity of fully 125 tons a day. It is not being reconstructed, although the Braden syndicate stands ready to make the daily capacity of the plant equal to 1,000 tons, if the C. P. R. will transport at reasonable rates to Kootenay lake the ores of Rossland and Slovan.

The Review then says: "Other smelter buildings there are of small capacities at Revelstoke and Golden, but for diverse reasons there seems to be little likelihood of the realization of the limited opportunities which they could, if fully equipped and worked, supply."

The miners around Revelstoke and Golden believe there are as good properties in North Kootenay as in the southern portion of the district, and their belief is well justified. The works at Revelstoke may not be of much use, but the plant at Golden is substantially built and may very shortly be enlarged and blown in to treat the product of the numerous valuable mines in the neighborhood.

The next paragraph solemnly sets forth that difficulties are encountered in obtaining suitable fluxes in Kootenay. As a matter of fact, the various ores will almost flux themselves, and there is lime and iron at easily accessible points in almost inexhaustible quantities.

The Review then goes on to state that because Kootenay ores cannot be treated by local smelters they are sent to

President.
Hon. Geo. E. Foster, M.P.,
Ex-Minister of Finance,
Ottawa, Ont.

Vice-President and Consulting Engineer.
C. C. Woodhouse, Jr., M. E.,
Rossland, B. C.

General Manager
Edward C. Finch,
Box 78, Rossland, B. C.

The Silver Queen Mining Co., Ltd.

Capital, \$1,250,000. Treasury \$350,000.

Incorporated Under Laws of British Columbia. Head
Office, 14 Columbia Avenue, Rossland, B. C.

OWNERS OF

The Silver Queen Mine

That famous gold-silver property on Cariboo creek. Eight claims, including 280 acres of ground and covering the main lead for a distance of about 6,000 feet, are comprised in this property. All of this ground has been surveyed and a

Crown Grant Earned and Applied For.

This season's work of development on the Silver Queen has brought most satisfactory results, exposing values

Great Beyond Even the Wonderful Promise of Its Earlier Days.

Our engineer has always said, and today affirms with greater emphasis than ever before, that "if

"This Is Not a Mine

"Then there is not a mine in British Columbia."
We have two strong and well defined parallel veins, both very rich, and one of them carrying an immense body of ore over

Forty Feet in Width.

All of this is not shipping ore, but that portion which will not ship at a profit will concentrate at a profit. From one three-foot section of this great ledge we have had an

Assay of \$180 in Gold and 520 ozs Silver

and the general average of the same section, obtained from many samples, is \$109.50 in gold and silver.

Treasury Shares Are Now Offered

At 12½ cents. Our 10 cent block of Treasury has all been sold. Our 12½ cent block will not last long.
All inquiries, verbally or by mail will be cheerfully answered and additional printed information, including map of property, will be forwarded to any address.
Call at our office, 14 Columbia avenue, Rossland, and see a 1,000 pound sample of our ore.
Address all communications or orders for stock to

EDWARD C. FINCH, General Manager.

Box 78,

Rossland, B. C.

Remittances may be sent through the Rossland Bank of Montreal subject to delivery of stock.

and Jennings. It is news to Kootenaians to know that a smelter exists at Jennings, or that a pound of ore has been sent from the district to San Francisco reduction works.

The Review states that the Canadian Pacific railway can easily command all the capital that is required to erect smelters in Kootenay. If this is so, the Big Corporation is open to the severest censure for not establishing such facilities several years ago.

It is deplorable that a journal which sets up the claim of being the chief organ of the Canadian mining industry should exhibit such appalling ignorance of the principal mining district of the Dominion.

THE CITY ELECTIONS.

On Thursday, January 13, 1898, a mayor and six aldermen will be chosen to govern the affairs of the municipality of Rossland for the ensuing year.

A candidate for the office of mayor will have to qualify as a male British subject, more than 21 years of age, and, six months prior to nomination, the registered owner, in the land registry office at Victoria, of land or real property within the city limits of the assessed value on the last municipal assessment roll of \$1,000 or more, over and above any registered incumbrance or charge.

The qualifications necessary for aldermen are that they shall be male British subjects, more than 21 years of age, and for six months prior to nomination registered owners in the Land Registry office at Victoria of land or real property within the city limits of the assessed value on the last municipal assessment roll of \$500 or more over and above any registered incumbrance or charge.

The existing city council will have to pass an Election bylaw, regulating the next municipal elections, during the month of December next.

Nominations for mayor and aldermen will take place on January 10, 1898. Polling, if any, on the following Thursday, January 13, 1898.

The list of voters will close on the first Monday in December, and it will be corrected, revised and certified not later than the third Monday in December.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

An eastern exchange refers to the Imperial Institute of London as "a costly cafe chantant or flitarium."

STRANGE as it may seem to many, it is nevertheless true, that British Columbia has an agent-general in London.

The Nelson Tribune recently referred to Rossland as the only city in the Province that has a discredited city government.

Dr. Dawson, chief of the geological

survey and one of the greatest living geologists, says: "There are untold mines of wealth in the Kootenay, Cariboo and Cassiar districts yet, but it will take time, labor and capital to develop them."

This public has been repeatedly informed that the C. P. R. intends to extend its system to Rossland and erect a smelter at Robson. The statement might be received with some degree of belief if the company would only offer some evidence of its willingness to do so, besides the windy utterances of its private agents.

ARCHBISHOP CLEARY of Kingston, Ont., has publicly denounced a young woman solely because she acted as a bridesmaid at a wedding at which a Congregational minister officiated. This is not the first time that Mr. Cleary has proved himself to be a bigot.

"THE principal newspapers of Eastern Canada are again interesting themselves in Kootenay. They are beginning to realize very forcibly that Kootenay is the richest district in the Dominion. If the press of Canada will only publish the truth about Kootenay mines, they will do the country an incalculable amount of good."

If it is true that Marquis of Salisbury designs retiring from the leadership of his party, it will be left in a condition of weakness and disorganization little better than that of the Liberal party when Mr. Gladstone retired. There is not in sight a leader who can heartily unite the Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists. Lord Salisbury has a magnificent public record. His successor in the Foreign Office equals the achievements of Lord Beaconsfield. Lord Salisbury's successor will probably be the Marquis of Londonderry or Mr. A. J. Balfour.

GREAT interest is manifested in Kootenay concerning the outcome of the Le Roi deal now pending in London. If Englishmen buy the mine we may expect good times in Kootenay, as the construction of reduction works on this side of the international boundary would naturally be the result. If London capital is invested in the Le Roi, it is almost a certainty that the company will build a general custom smelter in Kootenay, provided the C. P. R. can be induced to deliver silver-lead ores at Columbar river points.

Low grade ores of Rossland will then have a market, the mine owners of the Slovan will not be forced to pay freight rates for a 2,000-mile haul, and they will not be mulct by the United States import duty of 1½ cents per pound on lead.

(Editorial continued on Page 3.)

ALL TO BE

Claims Not Used for
poses Must Pay

30 PER CENT

This Was Granted to
Townsite Syndicate
ment on the Black
From \$300 to \$500

The municipal court met Tuesday, afternoon all the land comprised claims situate in the city such portions as are a mining purposes. It all per cent the assessment of the property owned townsite syndicate.

The question of taxing the mineral claims had session held the previous no decision had been an opinion of the city McLeod. This opinion handed in Tuesday, that "under statutes 186, the council has the 66, the council has the 15, sub-section (b) to be more clearly defined lands are taxable with in the sub-section men Centre Star is in question but part of that but in assessing it the should only represent surface."

In accordance with the court of revision decisions assessments levied on the city limits should stand, where it could be shown towns placed by the city excessive.

Only two requests for assessments were made These came respectively Bear and the Nickel Plate of the former claim, included 49 acres of which exempted as being un purposes, and the remainder had been assessed at \$8 J. S. Clute, jr., who a Le Roi company, which Bear, claimed in this excessive, and the court decided in this view, as the ground had been assessed \$300 per acre, while the claim had been exen purposes. Peter Cunningham, agent of the company, ally to ask for a reduction, and as it appeared acre was an excessive reduced to \$150.

John Ferguson McCre for the Montreal Townsite present personally to see of the assessments levied by his syndicate's land. repute were located south avenue and east of They had been assessed value of about \$150 each in the aggregate over \$6 Crae contended that the high, and asked for a so forcibly did he press the court reduced the as entire disputed land by O'Brien Reddin, r Nelson & Fort Sheppard company, requested the company from the ass several squatters' houses located on the company belong to it. These a been erroneously charged railway company, and that they should be lev proper owners.

The only case where occasion to raise an a connection with the R Light company, which b \$36,400, while the stat by the company when it the plant to the city a actual cost was over \$79 considered that the dif \$36,400 and \$79,000 was much, and ordered wa \$50,000. After several the court adjudged.

THE MANITOBA

The Globe Has a Dis question
TORONTO, Ont., Nov. says editorially: There in an article in the B gencer, solemnly warni Manitoba school question The Intelligencer does pope has assented to its question which the pop decide is whether or n for Catholics to keep u against its settlement, settlement should stand there does not seem to tion or much discussio new arrangement is w intelligence finds another the question is alive in Alphonse Desjardines is Desjardines was one of sioners sent by Tupper endeavor to bring ab his colleagues being St and Hon. Mr. Dickey, longer occupies any offic he is an estimable gentle Pope desires to interv adian affairs, nobody has plain.

The Intelligencer fur whole question is reviv issued by the Domin This return can scarcely a revival, inasmuch as which happened, bel ber 16th and Janua that time there were Catholics in Manitoba, a tions were adopted pr the school settlement, sion of the question at meetings reflected the Catholics of Manitoba. admitted that it is a that the settlement was any of the citizens of M question of religious schools intended mal instruction is not a q easily settled to the everybody.