

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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A BIG IMMIGRATION.

Everything points to a big immigration to British Columbia next year. It may with truth be called the "coming country." There are two causes for this. One is the vast extent of unoccupied lands lying to the north of us, soon to be brought within easy reach by railway connection, and the second and main reason is the fact that nearly all the desirable land in the United States has been taken up by the homesteaders and people must look elsewhere. The jingle of the old song that "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm," is no longer applicable. The tide of immigration for the past 40 years has poured into and peopled the Middle West and Pacific Coast States, until the time has come when the large holdings of land are being subdivided and sold. It is true that there is a vast extent of territory in the semi-arid region that only needs water to make it productive, but it will take time to carry out the plans being inaugurated by the government to bring water on and reclaim these lands.

It is but natural, therefore, that the tide of settlement should come this way, in face of the fact first above given, and the further fact that the land is rich and capable of producing everything raised in the temperate zone. We believe that Canada is destined to be the great wheat producing region of the world. Not that it will entirely supplant all other countries, but the No. 1 hard wheat, for which the climate seems to make it peculiarly adapted, producing the finest flour for bread yet known, will always cause it to be in demand and make it profitable to raise. If it be true that bread is the staff of life, certainly we hold the key to the situation, as we possess that which other people must have.

Another thing, the outside world is beginning to find out that British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories as well, is not a bleak and frozen region, but is possessed of a milder climate than any of the regions lying on the Atlantic border, and has a soil of unsurpassed fertility. We say the world is just finding this out, from the fact that it was not necessary to investigate until recently, but from now on the news will spread rapidly. We are even told that the valley of the Yukon has agricultural possibilities, and we may look for permanent settlement there in the not distant future. But British Columbia, Alberta, Assinibota and Athabasca lie far south of Yukon and Mackenzie, and are capable of furnishing homes for millions of industrious people. We consider British Columbia the gem of all the districts named, for the reason of its varied resources and its long coast line bordering the Pacific. Here nature seems to have provided almost everything for the use of man—a productive soil, great mineral wealth, extensive forests, fisheries and the commerce of the ocean. Each will help to uphold the other.

The young, particularly, should grasp these facts. The opportunity to acquire should be taken at the first, which cannot fail to lead to victory.

MR. KIRBY'S ADDRESS.

The address delivered by Edmund B. Kirby before the Canadian Mining Institute last Friday in Nelson on "The Influence of Government on Mining," has attracted widespread attention. The Vancouver Province takes excerpts liberally from the address, with editorial comment, which we reproduce in another column. The Inland Sentinel publishes it entire with editorial reference, although mildly criticizing certain portions. And a majority of the papers of the province have made some reference to it. All this will get people to thinking, which means in the end that much good will flow to the mining industry of British Columbia.

A FISHING TOURNAMENT.

They have had a fishing tournament at Grand Forks. Prizes, such as \$10 in cash, a \$3 reel rod, a \$3 basket, 150-foot silk line, landing net, etc., were among those given. Of course no one but a genuine "sport" and in favor of protecting the trout streams engaged in this affair, but the thought is uppermost that some of the gentry will wake up some morning and wonder what has become of all the fish in the Kettle River. In 1896 the Kettle River was a famous trout stream, particularly the North Fork. How long it will continue the home of this most aristocratic of

all the finny tribe depends, not on how many tournaments are given for landing big trout and lots of them, but in the reasonable number that should be regarded as a catch. Slokan Junction used to be famous fishing grounds, but it is more famous now for the absence of the fish, and we never heard of any tournament, either. The Kootenay River has been "fished to death," and we will probably soon hear the same thing about the Kettle River.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THEM?

What to do with the Doukhobors in Canada is a question that is filling considerable space in the press of the Dominion, and no doubt causing a feeling of anxiety among those in authority. That they are fanatics almost past redemption goes without saying. Now that these strange people have decided that it is sinful to eat meat, milk, butter, eggs and cheese, or to wear woollen clothing, or furs, or leather, and against the law of God to use cattle and horses as beasts of burden, it is high time to devise some means of preventing them from working their own destruction during the coming winter. If they are allowed to perish it is pointed out that the Western prairies will be condemned in the eyes of the world as too cold to live in, and the government will undoubtedly be called upon to feed them during the coming winter. It is understood that they wish to return to their native land, and certainly the czar's domains seems the best place for them to be.

A certain class of reformers can take a few lessons by studying the lives of the Doukhobors in Canada. They can learn that it is not always possible to transplant a people, or a considerable portion of them, from the land of their fathers, and make them grow rich and contented. We have been accustomed to look upon the czar as an autocrat, being, moulding everything to his opinion, and perhaps his is the best form of government suited to the people under him. Certain it is if any individual, or class of people, desire to come to Canada to make it their home they should come of their own free will, but with a better understanding of our laws and government than the Doukhobors seem to have.

ANARCHIST ALTMAN.

Our local columns told yesterday morning of the sentence of Gus Richard Altman, the junk dealer, to three years at hard labor for receiving stolen goods. Judge Leamy scored the prisoner, and told him that if it had not been for his wife and child in Germany, reported to be dependent upon him for support, he would have made the sentence five years. Considering the nature of the offence Altman got off easy. The mere fact of knowingly receiving stolen goods is the least part of his crime. It has been known for some time that certain young boys of Rossland were breaking into vacant houses and visiting temporarily abandoned mining works and carrying away all they could conveniently, selling them to Altman. In this he gave them every encouragement and was fast leading them on the downward road to ruin. Considering the circumstances he fully deserved a life sentence.

No one who has ever read the story of "Oliver Twist"—one of Dickens' masterpieces—but can here see a parallel case of Altman and Fagan the Jew, who tried to corrupt poor Oliver Twist and kept a place to receive stolen goods. It took the pen of Dickens to show up what a mean character he was, and indignation could not but rise in the heart of the reader as Fagan's methods were depicted. But that was supposed to have happened in the slum quarters of London, in an atmosphere of ignorance and crime, in a bygone period. And we have here in the sunlight of Rossland, surrounded by every influence that should make men and women honest, true and patriotic, a creature who is every counter-part of Fagan the Jew, not one whit less entitled to the sympathy of his kind.

This man Altman, we are told, one year ago, when the nations stood aghast at the cruel taking off of the good President McKinley, expressed his delight at the killing and said he was glad of it. In other words, Altman is an out-and-out anarchist, believing in no law and seemingly having no sense of honor. It is pleasing to contemplate that for the next three years he will have a taste of British justice, but we very much regret that Judge Leamy did not see his way clear to give him the full limit of the law.

GOVERNMENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT.

Mr. Tarte says that the policy of all Canadians should be "Canada for Canadians." If he means by this that it should be the policy of the government to encourage all the natural industries of the country, he will strike a responsive cord among the mining men of this province, but if he means the protecting by high duties of a number of manufacturing concerns in the east, whose principal market is the mineral province, his purpose is contradictory.

If the honorable gentleman will investigate the problems of the mining industry, he will find that the duties bear heavily upon it, as pointed out by Edmund B. Kirby in his excellent address before the mining institute at Nelson, and that it is largely because of these heavy taxes in the shape of duties that the industry is not expanding more rapidly.

Mining is an industry which requires governmental encouragement as well as any other industry. The government has recognized this as regards the iron industry in the east by granting bounties on the production of iron and steel, and, in the case of the Clergue Syndicate, by giving a large contract for steel rails. The evident desire of the government, and it is a laudable one, was to encourage these industries during their initial stages so that they would be able to place the industry on a substantial basis. But it never seems to have occurred to them that there is a mining industry, and a greater one, in British Columbia which also requires some consideration, and that consideration is the removal of the heavy duties on the machinery required in the handling of their output. The removal of such duties would no doubt decrease the profits of several eastern factories and would probably reduce the number of men employed by them, but this latter point is questionable. However this may be, it is beyond question the mining industry of British Columbia, if relieved of these oppressive duties, would receive such an impetus that the whole Dominion would quickly feel the effect. The number of men employed at good wages would greatly exceed even that of the iron industry of the east. The government, in its effort to encourage native industries, should not neglect the greatest of all Canada's resources. To the wonderful development of the mineral resources lying in the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to the 49th parallel the United States owes much of its wonderful progress, and the development of the mineral resources of the Rockies from the United States boundary to the Arctic circle will prove to be the greatest factor in the upbuilding of Canada. History will repeat itself, but repetition will be much slower than is anticipated by many Canadians if the development of its great resources is retarded by oppressive taxation.

FASHION'S DECREE.

And now we are told that the stomach must go. It has heretofore been given a prominent and important place in the fashion of dress. But the National Dressmakers' Protective Association, holding its annual convention in New York, has given forth the edict and "straight fronts or nothing" will be the slogan this winter. We may look for an entire new style of dress. How the thing is to be managed we know not, but fashion's decrees are arbitrary and must be obeyed. We are used to changes and quirks. Some 35 years ago we had the hoop skirt, swelled out to the proportions of a small balloon. Empress Eugenie of France was the dictator of fashions of that period. She set the example, and straightway the femininity of the world adopted it. It seemed all right at the time, but for a woman to appear on the street now attired in one of those balloon-shaped skirts would stop traffic for the time being. Then followed the Grecian bend, which was the direct opposite of the hoop skirt, although more grotesque and comical.

The corset, with expansive front, has been worn by women and enjoyed by men for to these many years, and now to be ruthlessly told that we must give up these things is asking a great deal. We use the plural pronoun advisedly. This change will not be made without at least a slight protest from the male community, for are we not all directly interested in this matter of change? Do we not walk up one side of Columbia avenue and down the other on a pleasant day that we may see a beautiful woman decked in fashion's gay attire? It is one of the joys of life, and say what the cynics may we are all interested in this question of dress. But this last announcement that the stomach is no longer in style is a corker.

ANOTHER SMELTER.

It now seems an assured fact that the Snowshoe mine will erect a smelter of its own in the near future, presumably in the vicinity of Grand Forks. The mine has a shipping capacity of 600 tons daily, which can be increased with further development. It will thus be seen that the mine has the capacity to supply a smelter, even if ore is not obtained from any other source. For obvious reasons it is better for a mining company to own and operate its own smelter. It is also better for the town in which it is located. A smelter thus operated is less liable to shut-down than one run on custom ore. The company owning both are interested in keeping the two in operation. The Snowshoe bears all the marks of becoming one of the great mines of the country, and the announcement that another smelter will be added to those already built in the Boundary district will be hailed with delight.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TAXATION.

The speech delivered by Edmund B. Kirby on the economic aspect of mining in British Columbia at the recent session of the Canadian Mining Institute at Nelson is receiving considerable attention from the press of both the east and west. The Toronto Globe, after referring to the character of the speech as an innovation at a meeting of mining engineers, where the discussions are usually confined to engineering and chemistry, says:

"The argument, as developed, goes to show that the industry is bearing a tax of from 20 to 30 per cent, which is killing off the weaker properties and increasing the burden on the stronger, thus gradually but surely strangling the industry. Of the entire wealth production of the province, \$27,382,000, about \$15,070,000, or 55 per cent, is from metal mining, and the yearly taxation, both provincial and federal, is \$5,350,000, or 10 per cent on everything produced. This taxation is taken from a province whose population does not exceed 125,000 or 130,000 whites. Through the shifting of taxation by other industries on to mining the burden on the latter probably approaches 30 per cent of its product. In this state of affairs the fact that mining exists at all is cited as the strongest evidence of the value of British Columbia's ore deposits and of the future which awaits the industry whenever the artificial burdens are removed. It is contended that even if the total load permitted it, low-grade ores must remain for the most part untouched on account of the so-called 2 per cent tax on the gross output of mines. The tax is only one item in the total, but it has the peculiar effect of exacting an increasing proportion of the net profits when applied to the lower grades of ore. On the milling grades of Rossland it takes from 10 to 20 per cent of the net profits.

"Mr. Kirby regards the present state of affairs as instructive not only to the mining profession, showing how unwise government can injure mining, but clearly to students of economics, presenting an extreme case of the blighting effect of taxation upon industry. To the student the phenomenon is marked by the same familiar symptoms which always accompany evils caused by acts of political organism. There is the same curious indifference and refusal to see facts as they are, the same tendency to ascribe the evils to every cause but the right one. There is the usual effort to conceal the truth from the outside world, and to condemn those who boldly and clearly call for reform. There is the same old anxiety, not to correct the evil, but to find excuses for evading action. The writer quotes Buckle's view that the progress of civilization is the abolition of bad laws. Beyond that, he says, industry requires nothing. All it wants from the State is what Diogenes asked from Alexander, 'Keep out of my sunshine.' The State, he argues, is all-powerful to injure industry, but cannot directly aid it except by the familiar process of assisting one branch by robbing others for its benefit. The paper concludes with a strong appeal for relief in the matter of taxation, and for the adoption of scientific methods devised since the time when Colbert summarized finance as the art of plucking the goose with the least amount of squealing."

OBSTACLES NOT INSURMOUNTABLE.

That was cheering news that came over the wires Sunday morning from Grand Forks, stating that James H. Kennedy, chief engineer of the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern Railway, had returned after making a reconnaissance between Midway and Vancouver, and was satisfied that no insurmountable obstacles will be encountered in building a road over the Cascade Mountains. This is different from the report made by Edgar Dewdney some months since, who stated that it was impracticable to build a road over the Hope Mountains. We are perfectly willing to accept Mr. Kennedy's statement. Three railway lines already cross the Cascade range, two in the State of Washington and one in British Columbia, and it would be a strange coincidence if the mountains presented a barrier too great to be overcome in the route from Midway to Vancouver. The barrier is undoubtedly great, but not sufficient to retard such a man as Mr. Hill.

We can now look for work to commence on this line in the near future. It will open up a very rich section of the province. The Similkameen country, especially will be benefited. It is not only rich in all the precious minerals, but undoubtedly contains extensive coal reserves that cannot be exploited to advantage until the advent of a railroad. We know what extensive coal reserves mean for a country. If we had no other mineral reserve than coal and iron—and the province has plenty of both—our future would be great. With the advent of the proposed new line these undeveloped resources will be added to others known to lie within the region now bottled up, but which will be given free inter-

course with the outside world when that time arrives.

And right here the bonus-hunter pops up again. One of the McLeans says work will commence on his proposed line just as soon as the Dominion government sees its way clear to add to the bonus already granted by the province. The Miner has expressed its opinion on the bonus question too often to need repeat it, but the powers that be seem so determined to defy public opinion in this regard that nothing less than continued opposition and remonstrance will seemingly prevent it. No substantial reason can be given why any railway promoters should be given land and money to build their roads. We all know that Mr. Hill stands ready to build the road under consideration, bonus or no bonus. Then why should the public domain be given away, or the people's money donated to individuals, which goes into their own pockets exclusively? It makes the man having the well being of British Columbia at heart, and looking into the future, faint in spirit when he contemplates these things.

While the Coast-to-Kootenay road will do a great deal for the country through which it will pass, the country will do more for the road, so that all obligations are reciprocal.

A HOMILY ON TROUT FISHING.

Now that we are in the height of the trout-fishing season considerable comment is indulged in, in regard to the best methods of preserving the near-by trout streams for future use. The Kootenay River below Bonnington Falls has been the Mecca for the disciples of Izaak Walton living in Rossland and Nelson for many years. It has been known far and wide as a prolific trout stream, and wonderful catches have been made therein. But the conditions are fast changing. Except at rare intervals the reports come this season that the fishing is poor, and the catches are small compared with former seasons. This is not to be wondered at. No stream that has been fished for any length of time but will show the effects of the overdrift, and the Kootenay River is no exception to the rule.

Several remedies for this have been proposed of late. One is to limit the catch anyone shall take out of a stream at one time; another suggestion is to prohibit the market fishermen from plying their vocation, and establishing patrols to carry out the provisions of the enactment. A question here presents itself, Would this not be class legislation, and therefore against the principles of our government? As we look at it the market fisherman has as much right to fish to supply the wants of those who toil and cannot find time to "whip" the trout streams, provided he does it within season, as the "gentleman sport" has simply for his own pleasure. The streams belong to the public and should be enjoyed by the public, with the restrictions necessary to adopt to ensure the preservation of the fish. With this end in view a fishing season has been established, which should be obeyed by all. As a matter of fact there is no greater destroyer of the finny tribe than the "professional sportsman." It is true he obeys the law religiously as regards the fishing season, and is rightly indignant when he hears of its violation, but when the season opens he invades every near-by trout stream, accompanied by his sisters, his cousins and his aunts, and together they "whip the streams" from early morn till dewy eve, never seemingly to know when they have enough. Big catches are what they are after and which they delight to show their friends. The effect of this overdrift on the streams is soon seen. So noted a stream as the Kootenay cannot even stand it, and we know the result.

In face of the fact that the people will fish, and it is perfectly right that they should fish, The Miner would beg to suggest that our local sportsmen, instead of trying to get legislation to restrict fishing to a certain number, and practically confined to a few individuals, that they double their efforts to have the legislature appoint a fish commission, with power to establish hatcheries and plant spawn in all the trout streams of the province. This plan has worked well in California, where it has been in vogue for over 20 years. The over-fished trout streams of one season are restocked for the next season, with the result that the sportsman and all citizens as well can enjoy rare fun in nearly all the streams of the State during the open season. The expense of the commission is more than repaid by the supply of fish furnished the public.

To visit one of these hatcheries is an interesting study. One can see how nature can be assisted in the propagation of fish. The spawn taken from a fair-sized salmon is estimated to number upwards of 2000 eggs. The female fish, accompanied by the male, ascends the streams emptying into the ocean as far as they can wiggle their way, where the female deposits her spawn, when her work is finished. Many enemies prey upon these eggs, and out of the immense number deposited probably not more than five or six reach the sea and gain maturity. The same can be said of the brook and lake trout. The spawn is deposited, which is left to care for itself, and but few survive. But in the hatcheries the conditions are different. The spawn taken from the female is not only all saved but nearly all the eggs hatch and the young reach maturity. There are no enemies to destroy them and nothing is left to chance. At the proper time the young fish are placed in different rivers, lakes or brooks desired to be stocked, and when the season opens there is fishing for all.

It seems to us that this is the only permanent and rational solution of the question. The time is not far distant when it will have to be adopted. In California the hatcheries are not confined alone to brook and salmon trout, but young salmon are turned loose into the Sacramento and other rivers by the millions each season. We have not reached the period when it is necessary to restock our rivers with the king of all food fish, but the time will surely come if present methods of catching salmon are persisted in many years longer. The fish traps used are veritable death traps.

We would ask those who have been talking of going to the legislature for assistance to think this matter over. It must come sooner or later, and why not grapple the bull by the horns right now? By the means above indicated the Kootenay can always be kept a good trout stream.

The telegraph told us yesterday morning that 350 Roumanian Jews were on their way to Canada and the United States. The excuse given for leaving their native country is that they cannot find employment, still they steadily refuse farm labor. These people are not desirable immigrants. In this western country there is plenty to do for the man who is willing to take off his coat and jump into almost anything. And the farm laborer, above all others, is the one more particularly in demand just now. It is against the people above named that the United States is seeking to protect itself by inviting the attention of the signatories of the treaty of 1878, and we also learn that Great Britain is taking action on the same lines. We have taken one bite of Doukhobors, we don't need any Roumanian Jews.

There are clear indications of a forward movement in the mining districts of the interior of British Columbia. These have been going through a period of liquidation brought about by the drop in the prices of silver, lead and copper, which happened to follow a most ridiculous over-capitalization of mining companies and inflation of mining stocks. Now the mining industry has been accommodated to saner conditions. Confidence is restored, production is large, capital is procurable, and as a consequence, abundant prosperity is at hand.

The loss of life and property in the forest fires recently raging on the coast is awful to contemplate. Whole communities have been wiped out, and the exact loss of life will probably never be known, as there were many small camping parties and logging outfits scattered through the devastated regions that did not survive to tell the tale. Governor McBride of Washington is asking assistance for those who were left homeless, and the response should be prompt from those who have plenty. Nothing like it has ever before occurred on the Pacific Coast.

President Diaz was 71 years old on the 15th, which was the occasion for a two-days' celebration throughout the republic. The grand old man of Mexico has given the people a stable government and they have prospered as never before. If his mantle should fall on the shoulders of an equally level-headed man as himself Mexico will be one of the garden spots of the world to live in.

And now we are told that some excellent fire clay has been found, associated with the coal measures of the Similkameen. Thus one by one the natural resources of the province are being made known.

Three Victoria schooners will exploit the sealing grounds off Cape Horn and the Falkland Islands this season. The sealing business seems to have been overdone on the north Pacific Coast.

Eleven coaches filled with humanity on pleasure bent left Rossland yesterday morning for Nelson. It looked almost like an exodus.

Some 100 men are employed at the Mother Lode mine and 270 at the Grand Canyon. About 60 men are at work at the B. C. mine.

She cannot sing a little bit, Her acting's bad, indeed! But still she makes a wondrous hit, She fills the boxes and the pit; The baldheads fight for seats, and it is needless to proceed.

—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE

SANDON ORE.

The following are from Sandon for the Mine.
Payne
Ruth
American Boy
Vancouver
Ivanhoe

Total

—Mining R.

THE DEMOCRAT

It looks now as if Steele was at length his several years of camp. He is the Democrat in the Idaho short time ago his lease on it. This week workmen struck two that run 175 ounces in gold indications are of solid ore is not far Review, Sept. 20.

TWO SHIFTS ON

The lessees of the mine the property was on the upper and lower tunnel. They roomy cabin and made the winter and from attend strictly to get for the big shipment make this winter. From the property are being very well with quantity of ore in a Topic, Sept. 15.

A TEN STAM

Now that machinery come into the Larder slackening. The last party to take this step Development Syndicate They have a ten stam way and by the close the plant stamping gold quartz in the Lake Topic, Sept. 15.

NICKEL PLATE C

A recent arrival brings the news that the Nickel Plate reached Penikese. The reaching construction is said to be due to part of the Nickel Plate mine a portion of the near Hedley City, which for their purpose. Concerning this ground, small is expected to be Similkameen Star, S.

250 OUNCE SIL

The Lead on the V Being Sampled Gay Ed. Morgan is doing ment work on the V Trout creek. He has in several places and taken together and ounces silver to the ground. The lead has been the workings and built. The lead has shape on the slope of to get out or difficulty. There is a ore exposed and it is shipment will be Trout Lake Topic, S.

STRIKE ON WER

J. A. Darrough, manager Star group on having encountered look head of concent carrying a good per cent. Darrough through Miner office and they that the strike is on enthusiastic faith in property. This lead proved to be a good one. The claim and the V is known locally as defined and strongest it is rumored the W company-incorporated as "Workers' Gold Mine" reported now to be the purchase of a pr big gold property in Rossland Miner, Sept. 15.

CALIFORNIA

Rich Strike Has Be the Third and F Advances from the telephone on a late have the gratifying a large body of high opened on the inter-ween the third and the mine. From the inception mine under the mat-DeBridges, it has been turned down to been turned it into promising mines in It has yielded the and is still doing so, recently shipped, at 400 tons, returned \$1200 per car load. The ore is shipped at Nelson, B. C., & Great Northern 25 men on the payro increased to 85 on American, Sept. 20.