

BARREN ORE.

Manager Kirby's Queer Report to Centre Star Directors in Toronto.

Toronto, April 30.—The Centre Star directors passed a dividend today, and indicated their intention of doing so for some months.

CLUB CAR A NOVELTY.

Pennsylvania Road to Extend Its Lines to the Pacific Coast.

New York, April 30.—Preparations are being made by the Pennsylvania to extend its lines to the Pacific coast, making a grand transcontinental system.

Part of the proceeds of the sale of this stock, in addition to that from the sale of debentures, will be used to acquire control of lines in the trans-Mississippi territory.

There is a strong belief in Vermont railroad circles that the New York and Ontario railway will soon become a part of the Rutland system.

The Chicago Terminal Transfer company is to be taken over by the Harriman roads centering at Chicago on a basis equal to 4 per cent guaranteed on its preferred stock.

The Club Car is one of the novelties of the passenger car equipment of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

The scenery along the lines covered by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad is probably the finest in the country.

There is hardly a mile of it from New York to Chicago, Cincinnati or St. Louis that is not interesting to the traveler.

It is rumored on the best authority that the American Car and Foundry has received the following orders for new cars: From the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, 25 gondola cars; Copper Range, 20 hopper bottom ore cars; California & Northwestern, 40 cars; Northern Pacific, 122 stock cars; Elgin, 50 flat cars; St. Louis & San Francisco, 500 box, 150 furniture and 500 coal cars, 15 cabooses, 5 chair cars, 5 coaches and 4 baggage cars; St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, 4 postal and 6 baggage cars; Southern, 1 sixty-foot baggage, 5 mail and baggage, 2 combination passenger, 50 ballast, 100 furniture and 300 box cars.

The New York Central management having tried with success the automatic block signal on several branch roads, will introduce it upon that part of the West Shore division between New Durham, N. J., and West Haverstraw, N. Y.

The Chicago Trans-Atlantic Steamship company's steamship Northwest, sailed on her first trip from Chicago to Germany this week.

By command of President Rouse of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, no officer or employee of the company can become a trustee, director or other officer of any other corporation without first obtaining the consent of the chairman of the board.

Mr. L. Henry Moffat, mining promoter, has returned from a visit to the east. He has been away four months and spent most of the time in Toronto.

TALKS ABOUT THE SIMILIKAMEEN.

Princeton Will Be the Centre of a Rich Mining and Agricultural Country.

Greenwood, B. C., April 29.—(Special.) Frank Brisley returned here today from a trip through the Similkameen. He said: "In arriving in Fairview I found a large number of the old timers had already left for Camp Hedley, the Stemwinder and the Dominion Consolidated, being the only properties at work in Fairview camp.

There is a wagon road as far as Sixteen-Mile creek. Thomas Bradshaw of Fifteen-Mile creek is doing a good business taking care of the travelers, who are coming in from all points, principally from Spokane via the Okanagan valley. Mr. Barnes of Princeton has made arrangements to run a tri-weekly stage line from Princeton to Princeton, a distance of about 60 miles.

The farmers in the Similkameen valley have finished seeding and in the valley it is like summer, but up in the mountains there is still five feet of snow. The old timers and Indians say there will be very high waters in the rivers and creeks on account of the late spring.

On Twenty-Mile creek D. Hickney has opened his log hotel; there is also a log cabin store under construction.

At Similkameen City J. N. Rear of Lindsay, Ont., is installing a \$3,000 saw mill and expects to start to cut by the middle of May. Campbell & Co. by the middle of May. Campbell & Co. have erected a shingle mill and can supply shingles to the townsite at \$4.00 per thousand. Mr. Rear says that with the amount of saw logs around this townsite he can supply lumber at \$15 per thousand. Messrs. Taylor and Kincher are erecting a log hotel; Messrs. Oliver and Petherstonhaugh are building an assay office and as soon as lumber is available the townsite company will build a factory and strangers are camped on the townsite, the reason is that several rich men strikes have lately been made on the mining properties adjoining Similkameen City.

The most important groups of properties close to the townsite are the Pollock group of four claims, the vein exposed on the Middle Leaf is 12 feet wide and has been traced for about 500 feet, which averages 2.5 in gold and copper per ton. The Wilson group of five properties are located on the same mountain, opposite to Similkameen City, but higher up the mountain. Considerable work has been done, and an eight-foot lead is exposed, and a 40-foot shaft has exposed ore which averages \$25 per ton in gold.

Mr. Rear, the saw mill man, has got permission from the government to run a ferry across the Similkameen river and has been supplied with cables, etc., from the government, to connect the town and the townsite, as in high water one has to cross over in a boat, the ford being too deep.

I made several good locations on Red Mountain, which adjoins the townsite on the north. The most promising property on the mountain is the Red Chief, owned in Princeton by the Allison's. This claim was located in 1898 and has a four-foot ledge exposed for about 300 feet, which runs from \$20 to \$50 in gold per ton.

On going up to Princeton, which is situated about 23 miles northwest of Similkameen City, I found there was a considerable coal boom going on, some C. P. R. experts having taken up six square miles of coal lands and several other coal claims with good indications have been bonded for large sums. Mr. Saucier of Rossland has also a bond on several coal locations. I met him going back and he says he will be out again shortly with a diamond drill to prospect his claims. I managed to get hold of a few miles of coal fields myself, and in one place on Whipaw creek a good mine claim seam four feet wide is exposed.

JAMES BREEN'S SMELTER.

Awaits Outcome of Railway Situation Before Locating Site—Plans Ready.

Greenwood, B. C., April 29.—(Special.) Regarding James Breen's proposed smelter in the Boundary district, the following extracts from a letter received tonight from a Toronto man who is associated with Breen in the Dominion Copper company show that Breen is evidently awaiting the outcome of the railway situation before locating any site.

"Mr. Breen has been here for some days, but has left for New York. Plans have been drawn for the company's proposed smelter, but the site has not yet been selected. The company will wait until the railroad situation develops further. It is given out here that both the Great Northern and V. V. & E. will build into the Boundary this year. The Dominion Copper company will wait until one or the other road is built and the spur reaches the company's mines at Phoenix."

Rathdrum Group Bonded. Greenwood, B. C., April 26.—(Special.) Mr. L. A. Thurston of Slooan City said to represent English capital today bonded the Rathdrum group of three claims in Summit camp. The consideration is \$21,000. The property is owned by Fred Kaiser, Patrick Collins and S. McUrban. The terms of the bond provide that at least \$5,000 should be spent in development during the first three months, and at the end of this period the first payment of 25 per cent is to be made.

TURNER'S BUDGET. V. V. AND E. OFFER.

No Announcement Made Respecting Ry. Policy Owing to Butlers' Attitude

Victoria, April 29.—Finance Minister Turner delivered his budget speech in the legislature this afternoon. Contrary to expectations, he made no reference to the government's railway policy; in fact it is understood that he was unable to do so, although the caucus of the government members lasted until 2 o'clock this afternoon, no arrangement was arrived at with the bolting members. He, however, stated that this was probably the last time that he would deliver the budget speech. It is the thirteenth time he has done so, being finance minister that many years, with a break of but one year, and a member of the legislature fifteen years. He is going to London as agent-general for the province.

DUNSMUIR BACKING DOWN. The Railway Bill to Be Modified by the Government.

Victoria, B. C., April 25.—The government members had a caucus this morning and it was arranged to modify the railway bill to meet the wishes of the bolting members.

Vancouver Jottings. Vancouver, April 30.—The Great Northern is inaugurating many improvements in the service on the railway between here and Seattle.

A Vancouver syndicate has sold fifteen copper claims at White Horse to an English company for \$100,000.

JIM WARDNER'S LATEST. Has Secured a Townsite and Timber Land on Kettle River.

Grand Forks, April 29.—The Grand Kettle Gazette makes the following announcement: James Wardner, the celebrated mining plunger and promoter, left for the east yesterday to float a scheme in which he has become interested, involving some excellent property up the North Fork.

The parties who are to furnish the capital for this scheme are C. P. R. and Des Moines, Iowa, capitalists, and Mr. Wardner is confident that the proposition which he can lay before them will be one which they will certainly accept. He has secured an option on over 2,000 acres of land up the North Fork as well as water and timber rights and says that he can develop as much power as the Granby people are at present using. The scheme at the start will consist principally of townsite which is so centrally located as to be assured of becoming the metropolis of the North Fork country. It is located at the forks of the North Fork and the west fork of that river, and has the entire country in Franklin camp as well as a scope of about eight miles in all directions tributary to it. Here also, the Yale-Northern, the charter for which was granted this week, forks, one branch going up the west fork to Franklin camp, while the other branch goes straight through to Arrow lakes.

It is the intention of the company, after getting its townsite scheme well under way, to take hold of some good mining property and to direct the tributary to the townsite can be made as much of a smelting centre as the Granby smelter is making Grand Forks.

The option was secured from Colonel W. C. Hayward of Grand Forks.

ACTIVITY AT PHOENIX. Ore Shipments for the Week Ending March 26th Were 4,629 Tons.

Phoenix, B. C., April 29.—(Special.) Plans are being drawn for the finishing up of the Miner-Graves syndicate bunkhouse, The Granby, it being the intention of the management to turn the unused space in the basement into a large used spacious dining room. This step became necessary on account of the anticipated increase in the working force at the mines. W. M. Macy & Co., who now run the Old Ironside hotel, the company boarding house, will in all probability take charge of the new dining room. Mr. William Macy's catering, having been highly satisfactory in the past. A new building will likely be erected in the rear of the bunkhouse, which will be used as a drying and wash room.

Although the football season was late in arriving a large number of Associated football enthusiasts gathered at the school house of 1901. A large number of good players are available, and the management expect to turn out a team capable of giving a good account of itself. Officers were elected and the following committee chosen to look after the welfare of the club: Messrs. Ewing, Cook, Lawrence, Buckton and John as the balls arrive. The Monday evening a clerks' union was formed, to be known as the Phoenix Clerks' union, and the following officers were elected: President George S. Mackenzie; vice-president, A. S. Williamson; secretary, Bert Decker; treasurer, J. T. Williams; guard, H. B. Schooley.

One shipment for the week ending March 26th was 4,629 tons, made up as follows: Old Ironside, Victoria and Knob Hill 4,579 tons; and 50 tons from the Snowshoe.

E. R. Purdy, manager of Bradstreet's Nelson agency, was in town Thursday and Friday.

L. G. Henderson of Henderson's British Columbia Gazette and Directory has been in town securing data for this valuable publication. Dr. R. B. Boucher, provincial health officer, and E. W. Monk of McArthur & Monk, left for a three days visit to Grand Forks yesterday. Walter B. Cochrane of Cayley & Cochrane, left for a short visit to Grand Forks yesterday. Kettle men report trade improving, quite a number of commercial men and prospective investors having come to town the past week. All danger from smallpox is over and the few remaining patients in the provincial pest house will be let out in a few days. There have been no cases in the city pest house for a month.

THE LEAD BONUS.

Delegates Believe That It Will Be Granted by the Government.

The members of the bonus-seeking delegation are nearly all come again speaking of their success at Ottawa, M. L. Grimmett of the Sandon delegation, states that there is every reason to believe that there will be a bonus awarded by the government. The ministers promised that there would be something done in the immediate future, and the spirit in which the delegation was received could mean nothing less than that the ministers were in sympathy with the movement.

Should this bonus be awarded there is every reason to believe that a Canadian refinery will be started as soon as possible. There is no probability that the refinery will be built in the Kootenay, as any such location would be far from advantageous or economical to the prospects of the Slooan Hamilton, refinery promoters. Either Hamilton, Toronto or Montreal would be likely points for the location of the refinery. The establishment of a refinery of this kind will in all probability go to some eastern city also, most likely Ottawa.

This is, however, a matter of small moment to the mine owners of this camp. As expected, the establishment of a Canadian refinery is followed by the construction and operation of more local smelters in the Kootenay and the enlargement of those already established. The operation of a lead smelter in Kaslo or some other adjacent point would not only give a handy market for galena ore, but would create a boom in the dry ore belt on the North Fork of Carpenter and Sloan division capable of large production which can not be operated at present owing to the long haul and high treatment rates demanded. A smelter in Kaslo would create a demand for this class of ore at a rate which would pay operators to give the dry ore belt considerable attention.

There is no reason to hope that the establishment of a Canadian refinery and the enlargement of the smelter capacity would assure a higher price for lead. The indications are that Canadian lead prices will be regulated altogether by the British market and that the price of settlement will be the Liverpool price, less the freight to that point. Canada produces 19,000 tons of lead per annum and consumes 12,000 tons, leaving 7,000 tons for export. It may be expected that the refinery and smelter interests will eventually secure a protective duty on refined lead sufficiently heavy to prevent importation, which will put them in control of the Slooan market for the commodity, and as a consequence domestic prices will advance, but it is hardly likely that Slooan mine owners will secure any part of this advance. The price obtainable for the exported surplus will always be the figure paid for the raw material. This is the basis on which settlements are now made by the Hall and Trail smelters.

The net return for lead by present quotations is something like \$1.80 per hundred weight. This is a very low price, but even at this rate mining in the Slooan will pay handsome dividends and if a large market is assured the industry will show the effects immediately.

It is significant, though irrelevant here to state, that nearly all the delegates are now firmly convinced that the mining industry can be safeguarded from future onslaughts by the American trust only by the establishment of a refinery under government control. The danger that the trust will either buy the Canadian refinery or flood the Canadian market with refined lead at such a low price as to make the operation of the home industry unprofitable, is clearly apparent. In the meantime, however, the awarding of a bonus on refined lead, will have a stimulating effect on the mining industry and citizens of the Slooan are awaiting in suspense a declaration from the government.—Sandon Paymaster.

A MAMMOTH ENTERPRISE.

A One Hundred Million Dollar Company to Operate in Russia.

During his recent visit to the city J. A. Macdonald, general superintendent of the West Kootenay Power & Light company, gave some interesting information with regard to a giant enterprise in which with regard to a giant enterprise in which the promoters of the company and other capitalists have embarked. He stated that the executive officers of the West Kootenay corporation had as yet but a smattering of information regarding the proposition, but that the outlines of the situation had been made known to them.

The undertaking is no less than a syndicate of capitalists, prominent among them being Sir Charles Ross, well known in Nelson through his connection with the Boundary Falls Power plant. Richard Croker, the millionaire boss of the Tammany wigwag in New York, and James Ross, the Montreal street railway magnate, with a capitalization of a hundred million dollars to operate lighting and power plants throughout the empire of Russia. For political reasons the corporation is an American institution.

Mr. Macdonald stated that the syndicate has already secured the lighting plants in St. Petersburg and other large cities. It was their intention to extend operations throughout the empire, and arrangements have been made with the government for exclusive privileges in many instances. The syndicate has a corps of electrical engineers in Russia at the present time, and it is not at all unlikely that the principal officers of the West Kootenay Power & Light company may receive marching orders for Russia within the present year. Report has it that L. A. Campbell, manager of the company, is slated for an important post in connection with the syndicate's Russian concessions and that it is to be transferred to the land of the Tar on the completion of the extensive additions to the plant at Bonington Falls—Nelson Miner.

A Prospective Glove Contest.

There has been considerable rivalry of late between Jack Morrissey and Redmond Hand, miners, as to which is the better man with the gloves. To settle this mooted point it has been decided to have a 20-round glove contest. The time and place for holding this contest has not yet been definitely settled, but will be announced at some future time.

GRAVES IS A HUSTLER.

May Erect a Large Smelter and Refinery at Vancouver.

Vancouver, B. C., April 27.—(Special.) Mr. J. P. Graves, manager of the Granby smelter, is here and he announces that if the conditions are favorable and the ore supply can be practically guaranteed, his company will at once erect a large smelter and refinery in Vancouver.

FIRE BUG ESCAPED.

Cameron, Serving Six Years for Burning Escaut's Hotel, Eluded Guards.

Vancouver, B. C., April 29.—Cameron, the convict sentenced to six years for burning the Columbia hotel at Columbia, escaped this morning and at a late hour tonight had not been found. He was working with other men near the woods and slipped away unnoticed. Tickets for Skagway were being at \$5 here today in consequence of the northern rate was increased. There is talk of forming an amalgamated association of all the sporting clubs in the city.

SYLVANITE ON MOUNT SICKER.

Victoria, B. C., April 29.—A rich strike of sylvanite ore similar to that which made millionaires out of the owners of the Comstock, has been made on Mount Sicker, about 50 miles from this city. Similar ore in small quantities had been found in the Lenora mine, but this later strike is on the Tyee, and the lead ran through a three-foot vein. A lot of free gold was found in the ore. There has been quite a boom in the mountain, which the strike has increased. The Tyee, owned by local and London capitalists.

Unfounded Yellow Fever Scare.

Victoria, B. C., April 29.—H. M. S. Condon, which arrived from the south on Sunday, did not have any yellow fever on board, all patients having been landed at Panama. One slight case occurred after the vessel left Panama, but the patient was better the next day, and an disease was contracted at Tumaco, Colombia. The vessel is still in quarantine being fumigated.

POOR SEALING SEASON.

Schooner Enterprise Lost Three Men—A Water Spout. Victoria, B. C., April 26.—The sealing schooner Enterprise arrived tonight with her flag hauledast, she being the first of the fleet to return. She had on 183 skins and reports that the seal season has been a bad one, the weather being too bad to allow of many lowering. While in Drake's Bay two of her men, Leonard Barr, of Buffalo, and Frank Irving, of Victoria, were in her stern boat. The schooner had come back before the season closed. On the 29th the schooner narrowly escaped destruction by a waterspout, which was first seen three miles to leeward and broke quite close to the vessel. Three schooners were spoken, all with small catches.

Smallpox at Revelstoke.

Victoria, April 26.—The provincial health officer has been notified of a case of smallpox in a hotel at Revelstoke. The patient came from Banff. The hotel was quarantined.

Hydraulic Mining News.

Victoria, April 26.—A company has been formed here to work on an extensive plan a hydraulic lease on Leach river, 30 miles from Victoria, out of which much gold was taken in the early sixties.

Rich ore has been found on Tony claim, Mount Sicker, owned by C. H. Dickie, M. P., and others.

Yale Northern Ry. Bill Passed.

Victoria, April 25.—(Special.)—The house today passed the Yale Northern railway bill, which authorized the construction of a railway from Grand Forks up the valley of the north fork of Kettle river via Franklin camp to a point on the lower Arrow lake. Mr. R. A. Dickson, barrister of Grand Forks, had charge of the measure before the Railway committee. The promoters are Messrs. Geo. A. Fraser, R. Gilpin, E. A. Sinclair, A. W. Fraser and Fred Williams.

Dunsmuir Steamer Wrecked.

Victoria, B. C., April 25.—The steamer Dolphin which arrived at Union brought the news that the bulk Colorado loaded with a valuable cargo of concentrates from the Treadwell Mines for Tacoma smelter went ashore in Wrangell narrow and broke her back. She was in tow of the tug Pilot. No particulars as to whether the cargo could be saved. The Colorado belongs to Robert Dunsmuir & Sons of this city.

JIM HILL'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

Kettle River Ry. to Republic Will Be in Operation This Fall.

In reply to an inquiry Mr. J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railway, wired the following announcement to the Spokesman-Review: St. Paul, Minn., April 24.—Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Wash.—Your message received. We expect to connect with Canadian line at Boundary and have connection with Republic and Kettle river districts in operation this fall.

JAMES J. HILL.

Rich Vancouver Island Placers. Victoria, April 29.—Wreck Bay black sand placers on the West Coast, Vancouver Island, yielded \$600 in two days last week.

Two Dollars

IN THE OT MINING

Phoenix Shipments

Months of 75,512 Tons

Mr. Breen Awaits Railway Situation

Building S

The summary of the Kootenay encouraging nature the reports from Phoenix camps are satisfactory before long it is claimed erection of another there, but is awaiting railway situation before the Boundary output in excess of the smelter plants must be present erected to account and the future output. There is considerable work. The St. Ke party intends to redevelop work. In E is even more than the Tecumseh group has New York parties for properties have been

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Shipments Have R 75,512

Last week P. Mc secured an option fr and Thos. Murray a mineral claim for \$3 for three months, an disease was contracted at Tumaco, Colombia. The vessel is still in quarantine being fumigated.

A carload of ore group, near Bounda the Greenwold this being the first three claims. The Republic, Last Ch Hidden Treasure cl and situated about the Boundary Falls Such has the distinct location in its th continuously on the mining recorder ve was made by W. T. About 150 men a roll at the Mother camp.

The Diamond Dr Spokane, has begun at the B. C. mine. The Republic-N Smith's camp, sli the Greenwold sm which gave returns The Morrison m has made a two c of the Greenwold sm are said to be ve on the Rawhide shoo. Contractor (depth of about 85 he has encountered ore.

The shaft on th the 100-foot level, ably be done at it is an incline for a it is vertical.

It is expected R. Bell, toward w Driven from the main shaft, will the course of two Foreman Trevar says his three mac ing in ore, and th be started today. kind of material. Jay P. Graves, Co., has been at ing over the situ with a large s or near Vancouver Grading for th smelter at Grand past week. It is s ing has been for four furnaces inst

The new bunk has been complet the contractor, a cently for the b building has acco 40 men.

Andrew Laidl Standard Pyritic resigned to look ing interests, and Harry E. Price, dent of the com For the smelter per Co.'s smelter