

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Monte Cristo and Colonna to Be Consolidated.

THE SALE OF THE CURLEW

It is Said That an English Syndicate Will Take It For \$30,000 - The Great Western Will Probably Be Disposed of Next Monday.

There will be a special meeting of the shareholders of the Monte Cristo Gold Mining company on Tuesday, January 23th, for the purpose of considering a proposition for the sale of any or a portion of the property of the company.

From another source, however, it was learned that the intention was to unite the two companies into one. The properties were practically owned by the same parties and they can be worked to more advantage if they be placed in one company than in the case at present with two companies.

A Group of Claims Bonded.

The Goldie-Rene group of mineral claims, owned by the Goldie-Rene Mining company, limited, have been bonded by a syndicate of English capitalists.

The Curlew to Be Sold.

A deal is on for the Curlew property in the south belt, by which it is to be transferred to an English syndicate for the sum of \$30,000. The owners of the property are Joseph Vogel and John Earle.

The Great Western Deal.

The Great Western company will have a meeting next Monday in the office of Daly & Hamilton in this city to consider the sale of the property. The British American corporation has offered \$100,000 for the property, but the Venhof syndicate, composed of Berlin and Hamburg people, is willing to give \$130,000 for it.

MINES AND MINING.

Strike of High Grade Ore Made on the Second Relief.

F. W. Cummings, one of the owners of the Good Hope claim, is in from the north fork of the Salmon river. He is en route for Spokane, where he purposes spending the holidays. He reports that on the second relief divisions the claim adjoining the Good Hope, an important strike has just been made. It consists of a vein of ore, three feet wide, that assays up to \$300 in gold.

Boundary Claims Bonded.

GRAND FORKS, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Messrs. McKenzie and Mann, the well-known Canadian Pacific railway men, have just bonded the following claims: Barron and Midgeon of Butte, Mont.; Stenwinder, Standard, Emma and Minnie Moore, Mattie Davis, Jumbo, Mountain Rose, Golden Rod, Enterprise, Phoenix, and Montezuma. These claims are situated both in the Grand Forks and Kettle River mining divisions.

The Silver Market.

New York, Dec. 22.—Bar silver, 66 1/2 c. per ounce; Mexican dollars, 45 1/2 c.; silver certificates, 66 1/2 c.

THE QUARANTINE.

The Dominion Veterinarian Explains Why It Was Established.

Robert S. Hickingbottom, Dominion veterinarian, is back from a visit to the Boundary country, where he has been most of the time since the 26th of October. While he was there he established a quarantine against the glanders that has prevailed on the other side of the line. Mr. Hickingbottom has been subjected to criticism because of his establishment of the quarantine. In talking about the matter Monday he said: "My attention was called to the fact that the horses coming from the other side of the line were afflicted with glanders. I made a thorough examination of the animals at Midway, Greenwood and Grand Forks, B. C., and finally I went to Marcus, Wash. I saw several horses that had glanders, and I sent one for mallein with which to test the animals. Then I returned to Grand Forks, and after the mallein arrived I set it on 11 horses that arrived there in teams and found that three of them were afflicted with the disease and I destroyed the same. I wrote to S. B. Nelson, the Washington state veterinarian at Pullman, and he did not put in an appearance until two weeks afterwards. The quarantine was established on the 22d of November. Shortly after this the teamsters who were bringing in the mallein from Washington killed several of the infected horses. In addition to those that I had ordered destroyed, to a large extent, stamped out the disease by removing the source of infection."

There can be no doubt whatever that the disease existed as with the mallein test it is impossible to make a mistake. The delay in the delivery of freight at points beyond Marcus was not caused by the quarantine, and besides it did not amount to anything. It simply prohibited horses from the infected section from going any further. There are lots of animals in that vicinity, and all that was necessary was to hitch in new horses and go right on with the freighted wagons. The delay was caused by the bad roads more than anything else. There is no talk about the town of Nelson being out of coal oil. As soon as the team arrived that contained the kerosene it was taken out of the team that brought it and put it into a lighter wagon and carried it on to Nelson, and it was carried thither in five days, and then the team and driver have been the same since. I ordered the quarantine discontinued on Thursday last. Still, I think that the disease will need to be watched. I will return within a day or two and apply the test to horses that arrive for some time. For this purpose I have some for and received efficient mallein to test 20 horses with."

A ROAD TO BOUNDARY.

Herman Luekman Thinks It Would Prove of Great Benefit.

Herman Luekman returned Monday from an attempt made to visit the Big Four group on Sophie mountain. Mr. Luekman left on horseback Sunday morning, but quit the animal at Barney's ranch and started up the trail on foot. He got over the summit, but there the day was so deep that he could go no further, and as night had come on he was compelled to camp in the snow, which was nearly four feet deep. As the night was bitterly cold Mr. Luekman did not dare go to sleep, for fear of freezing to death, and consequently he spent his time beating about and forth through the snow. Yesterday morning he recovered the trail and returned to Rossland.

The Sealers' Claims.

The Joint Commission Has Awarded Them About \$1,000,000.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 20.—After a week of conference in Boston, Justices Putnam and King, the commissioners for the United States and Canada respectively in the arbitration of the Behring sea claims, have completed their work for the present, and it is understood will soon begin the preparation of their reports to their respective governments. The commissioners have been holding daily sessions in this city, during which time they have gone over the disputed claims, step by step, reviewing the evidence as in the case of a law court. It is understood that an agreement as to the amount of an indemnity claimed has been reached in all but a few cases, and these are likely to be settled without the appointment of an umpire, which is provided for in the convention authorizing the arbitration. The amount awarded to Great Britain will be paid within six months of the time when the final decision is reached, whether it is made by the two commissioners or by an umpire. It is not known what claims have been ruled out, but it is understood that the total approved claims will amount to more than \$1,000,000.

Ymir District Looking Well.

Dan and John Beaton, owners of the Jenny Lind and the Golden Gate, on the Salmon river, between Hall's siding and Ymir, were among the arrivals in camp Tuesday. They have been working all fall on their claims and have done nearly \$700 worth of work, and are getting in some good quartz, carrying gold and copper. They came to spend Christmas here. The Ymir district, they say, is looking very well, and there are nearly 300 men at work in that camp.

ACCEPTS THE OFFER

Council Will Sell Its Bonds to the Bank of E. N. A.

AN ADVANCE OF \$14,000

Deal Includes the Sale of \$85,000 Worth of 25-Year Debentures to the Bank at 5-2 Per Cent—Council Must Retire in Debt.

At the meeting of the city council Tuesday almost the only subject considered was the proposal of the Bank of British North America to advance immediately to the city the sum of \$14,000 on the security of the \$15,000 debentures, conditioned upon the agreement of the city to sell to the bank the sum of \$85,000 in 5% per cent 25-year bonds. With the proceeds of this sale the city could redeem its present loan of \$50,000 at the bank, as well as the prospective advance of \$14,000. If the council accept the offer, the bank would at once loan the city the latter amount.

The discussion was brought up by Mr. Fraser, who appeared at the council fresh from a meeting with W. T. Oliver, the manager of the Bank of British North America.

He announces that Mr. Oliver was willing to deliver to the city the sum of \$14,000, on condition that it pledge the \$15,000 debentures, and agree to sell to the bank \$85,000 worth of debentures, drawing 5% per cent for a period of not less than 25 years. Mr. Fraser was in favor of the bank's proposition. Either W. B. Davey, the sewer contractor, must Wednesday be paid at least \$6,000 of the amount due him; or he would go on with the suit that he has commenced to recover the money owing to him, said Mr. Fraser. By accepting the bank's terms the city could clear itself of the Davey suit and get possession of sufficient funds to pay off its current indebtedness. If the bank's proposal were not accepted, he declared, action would at once be commenced by some of the ratepayers to set aside the two \$7,000 bylaws.

Alderman Wallace pointed out that to accept the proposal would be virtually to admit that the council was forced into the bargain, which would prove a bad one in case a better offer for the bonds could be secured. If the debentures were sold by tender, he rather favored the sale of the bonds by tender.

Mr. Fraser urged that the city ratify the deal in the regard, since the \$85,000 bonds which should be sold to the bank would contain a clause permitting the city to repurchase them. If, then, he argued, a future offer would be made for the purchase of the bonds at a better price than the bank's figure, the council could issue a new series of bonds, and buy up the debentures already sold to the bank.

To this Alderman Wallace replied that the original bonds to be sold to the bank could only be repurchased at a price to be mutually agreed upon, and this fact alone would invalidate Mr. Fraser's suggestion.

There was a lengthy discussion over the proposal. The necessity of securing some money to carry on the city's work, while at the same time the council hesitated to accept the terms of the bank on account of the clause requiring that the latter be sold the entire issue of \$85,000 worth of bonds. At last the proposal of the banks was accepted, but another motion was generally adopted to further consider the matter.

The resolution as adopted is as follows:

"Resolved, That the mayor and corporation of the city of Rossland do cause to be issued the full number and amount of debentures under authority of bylaws 18 and 19 of said city, namely, for the sum of \$15,000, and do pledge and hypothecate the same in due form to the Bank of British North America, as collateral security for an advance or loan thereon of the sum of \$14,000, further secured upon a promissory note hereinafter mentioned.

"That a promissory note for \$14,000 be drawn in favor of the said bank, payable on demand, bearing interest at 6 per cent per annum as well after as before maturity, and signed by the mayor and finance committee of the municipal council of said city and under the corporate seal of said city.

"That the city collector prepare and settle a fresh bill of the said city providing for the issue and sale of debentures to the extent of \$85,000. For the purpose of repaying the two former loans of \$25,000 each under the authority of bylaws of said city numbered 12 and 16, and accrued interest on the sum of \$60,000 secured thereby; and secondly for redeeming the said debentures for \$15,000, to be issued under authority of bylaws No. 18 and 19, thereby repaying the said bank the aforementioned loan and advance of \$14,000 thereon and the accrued interest, and that the said \$85,000 bylaw be duly passed, reconsidered and finally passed by this council, presented to the vote of the ratepayers and given effect by this council, if approved by such vote.

IS A COMMON POINT

Rossland Bid of the Burdensome Local Freight Charge.

WILL CHEAPEN LIVING

It Will Reduce the Cost of Freight From \$4 to \$3 Per Ton and Enable Our Merchants to Compete for Wholesale Trade of this Section.

On January 1st Rossland will be made a common point with Nelson, Trail, Northport and other places along the Columbia river by a transcontinental agreement. This concession the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway company has been working for some time, and G. E. Martin, the auditor of the road, has been almost untiring in his efforts to bring it about. The Columbia & Western people also active in their co-operation to attain the good end that has been reached. Freight received in Rossland had to pay in addition to the through rate, from 20 to 25 cents per hundred, as a local charge from Trail and Northport to Rossland. It was the same-way freight that was sent away from this city. This freight delivered here cost from \$4 to \$5 per ton, and with considerable traffic that this local rate has shut them out of business. It is understood that the transcontinental lines will absorb most of this local rate, and that the road Mountain and the Columbia & Western will absorb the remainder. Rossland will become a common point on January 1st.

THE MARKET FOR STOCKS

Demand Continues Good Despite the Holidays.

British Syndicates Seem Determined to Acquire as Many Rossland Properties as Possible.

The stock business is increasing in volume, and though it should be dull during the holidays, the opposite is the case. To show how steady and reliable the demand is, it may be said that one firm told a reporter yesterday that there had not been a single day since early in September but what it had sold stock. Evidently to that time there had been a period of great dullness, and but little stock was sold for two months, owing to the collapse of the wildcat boom, which carried down with it the good and the bad shares into the financial slough of despond. Early in September the revival began, and since that date the business has steadily increased, so that many of the brokers are now enjoying a fair degree of prosperity, and feel that the market is a rising one.

It is understood that the British syndicates seem determined to acquire as many Rossland properties as possible. The Hall Mines has declared a dividend of \$26,750 on its preferred and ordinary stock, and this has had a good effect on local stocks, although the property is outside of the Trail Creek division, still it is in the West Kootenay district. The addition of a dividend-paying property to the list makes the outside people in the east and across the Atlantic, look with more favor on our stocks and mines. There is a danger that the British syndicates will buy up the property in the west, which our friends on the other side of the line effect only a fear of.

In addition to the British already absorbed by the large British companies, two other large properties in the camp are now under bond to British investors for a sufficient time to have them examined by experts. When these British operators begin to get in full swing in their mining operations in this camp it is fair to presume that the activity in stock transactions will be infinitely greater than it is at present.

BEER AT DAWSON.

The Cattle Sent in From Calgary Have Arrived at the Goldfields.

P. Burns, the wholesale butcher, received two Tuesday that William Perdue of this city had reached Dawson City, and that everything was well with him. There is a story behind this dispatch which is worth telling. When the news came, late in July, of the big strikes that had been made on the Klondike, Messrs. Burns and Perdue conceived the idea of sending a drove of cattle to the new goldfields. With men of the stamp of these two it was not long before they had their plan in operation. Eighty-five head of as fine cattle as could be procured in Alberta were gathered together at Calgary. These were put on the C. P. E. cars on August 4, and two or three days later they were transferred to the stamper at Vancouver en route for Skagway. They arrived at Skagway on August 28, and the next day the journey over the pass was begun. The cattle were gentle, and the necessary outfit was packed on their backs. Nothing definite was heard from them until the dispatch that came yesterday. The route supposedly taken was via the lakes and rivers to Dawson City, where they arrived on November 4th. The journey from Calgary to Dawson had just occupied three months. The presumption is that large scoops were built and the cattle floated down the river and stops made here and there along the banks for food for the cattle. There is plenty of grass in that region. The cattle averaged 1,440 pounds when they reached Dawson, and probably dressed 800 pounds. As the herd arrived at its destination when the inhabitants were almost completely out of food it is certain that \$1 per pound was the price for which the meat sold. This would make the meat bring the immense sum of \$88,000. By this the cost of the cattle and their transportation was \$28,000 and their arrival at Dawson, this would leave a net profit of \$40,000 on the venture. The profit will be divided between Mr. Burns and Mr. Perdue and will be quite an addition to the fortunes of both. Mr. Burns put up all the money but will share the profits equally with Mr. Perdue. There must have been a hot time in Dawson when the beef arrived there.

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IS 50 PER CENT SHY.

Williams' Estimate of the Number Employed in the Mines Here.

The Spokesman-Review of yesterday contained the following: "At no time in its history has Rossland had a better outlook" said L. F. Williams, secretary of the Le Roi company, yesterday. "There seems to be an abundance of capital for the purchase of promising properties, and the camp has a fine pay roll." Mr. Williams gave the following estimate of the number of men working in the mines of the camp:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Number of Men. Includes Le Roi, Jumbo, Cliff, Sunset No., Mountain View, Velvet, Great Republic, War Eagle, Evening Star, etc.

"Other small properties will bring the total up to about 500 men," he added, and as they are paid an average of \$20 a day, the total pay roll of \$10,000 a day, or \$4,000 a month. There is the additional pay roll of about 100 men employed in the mines here, actually 50 per cent greater than the figure placed by the review, and the corresponding greater.

From an accurate statement of the number of men employed in the larger properties around here:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Number of Men. Includes Le Roi, Jumbo, Cliff, Sunset No., Mountain View, Velvet, Great Republic, War Eagle, Evening Star, etc.

That this district has smaller properties around the camp will employ only 60 men. The average wage paid around the mines is not less than \$3 per day. It is evident that Rossland's mine payroll to the miners alone exceeds \$60,000 or over \$200 per day. This does not include the pay of the other industries around the camp, each of which contributes liberally to the payroll.

NEWS OF NELSON.

NELSON, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Wm. Braden, of the Pilot Bay smelter, states that about 2,000 tons of ore so far have been milled, and the result is over 500 tons of concentrates, which will probably average from 75 to 80 ounces in silver and 70 per cent lead. It will be shipped this or next week to the Quebec smelter.

The Hall Mines smelter has stopped shipping matte and is saving it for the purpose of converting it into blister copper through the smelter at the plant. The smelter is now in the process of erecting furnaces, which will soon be fired again.

The powder magazine across the river is worrying some of the councilmen, and the far-reaching effect of the recent explosion of 5,000 pounds of nitro-glycerine in the United States has caused them to wonder what 50,000 pounds would do to this town. It is a fact that the opinion that if the magazine should explode, it would wreck this town from one end to the other. Considerable speculation was indulged in, but no action was taken.

Fat Burns and W. J. Wilson of this city, have bonded James Brennan's interest in the California claim in New Denver. The terms were \$15,000 of which \$5,000 was cash and the balance in promissory notes during the year 1908. Tomorrow evening the citizens will hold a meeting for the purpose of electing a committee to represent the town in the Canadian militia.

The Masons of Nelson will on their grand annual banquet at the Queen's hotel on next Monday evening, December 27.

G. V. Holt, manager of the Bank of British Columbia, left for Vancouver yesterday, and he returns will be accompanied by his wife. The employees of the bank here, as elsewhere in this part of the country, will suffer a reduction of salaries of 10 per cent, dating from January 1.

MINING NOTES.

J. M. Robinson of the Canadian-American Gold Mining & Development company, who at present is in Winnipeg, has just negotiated the sale of the Ethel claim for \$75,000 to an English syndicate. The property was bonded a year since to Colonel Topping of Trail for \$50,000, but he failed to make the payments and his option died. It is located near Trout lake.

Big values are being received from the Porto Rico, the Canadian Pacific Exploration company, which is reported to be a heavy producer. The mine is owned by the late manager, who is now in the north fork of the Salmon and owned by Jay Benn. Assays of the ore give an average of \$30 per ton with the principal values in gold. They also carry copper, lead and silver.

News reached this city of a strike of a seven-foot vein of copper ore in the Sitka claim, which is located on the north fork of the Salmon river, near the town of Sitka. The late E. P. Strydom, who killed himself on Friday last was one of the owners of this property.

The Evening Star has shipped nearly 100 tons of ore during the past week. Work is being continued in the drift at the bottom of the main shaft.

Alexander Dick, mining engineer, is back from a visit to Slocan, where he examined the Evening Star for English clients.

Edward Leckie, the manager of the New Goldfields of British Columbia, is again in the camp.

The New Goldfields of British Columbia has suspended work on the Exchange group near Slocan City.

The station in the tunnel in Sunset No. 2, which is being blasted out for a holding engine, is almost finished. It is now certain that the hoist will be in working order in a few days. Excellent progress is being made on the property in all directions.

The Reddin-Jackson company reports an important strike in the Twin, near Ainsworth, in which it is interested. At about the 130-foot station in the drift a body of solid ore two feet wide has been encountered. It carries 70 per cent lead and about 80 ounces of silver. The ledge at this point is 3 1/2 feet wide.

Ernest Woodcock, a London mining man, C. S. Drummond, also of the world's metropolis, who is likewise interested in mines and has large holdings in the Kootenays, and Captain F. J. Duncan of Nelson, were among the arrivals at the Allan Monday night. Tuesday they inspected the Cliff with a view of acquiring it. The party went north Tuesday evening without announcing its conclusions regarding the possible purchase of the mine.

H. L. Simmons, representing the Latimer syndicate, who was looking over the ground at Nakusp and at Kaslo with a view to building smelters there, has returned to England to confer with his principals regarding the result of his trip. He was well pleased with the districts visited.