Rossland Weekly Miner.

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A MISLEADING STATEMENT.

Bradstreets commercial agency is responsible for a statement, which is issued from its office in Toronto, dealing with the business situation in British Columbia, tern Canada to beware of the merchant's in our mining districts. /Among other ing towns for renewals than from any othed and the other camps in this portion factory than it is today, the merchants would it be possible to find any town in Canada in which fewer requests for reneways are made than come from the merchants here. This can be said with equal truth of Nelson, Grand Forks, of Greenwood, and of other camps which are rap idly rising in importance in the Boundary Creek country. The statement by Bradstreets is not only uncalled for, but it is maliciously hurtful, and the agency should take steps to correct the impression which it has created. If in any part of British Columbia conditions exist such as alleged do exist, then care should have been the public informed regarding the business situation of the country.

A FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

The theatre of warein South Africa of late has presented some rapidly shirting scenes, and of a kind that are most cleasing to the British public. So much is this granted to the War Eagle by the Trail the case that the London Times, the Thunderer of the British press, already feels that final victory is close at hand. and in no nucertain tones warns other nations to keep their hands off, and that at Northport does not possess, and in should in every instance, be given due contract with the War Eagle and the which is being waged not in their interest, all other respects is on an equal footing should not contract with the War Eagle and the which is being waged not in their interest, all other respects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war Eagle and the which is being waged not in their interest, all other respects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects of the contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects in the contract with the war expects is on an equal footing should not contract with the war expects in the contract with the con erated. The fighting blood of the nation many foes. The cry of "Let 'em all conte" matter of coke, a most important item, the non-compliance with the provisions of the force of Mr. Blackstock's words will be was never more heartily repeated than now, when the empire feels that it is in the .u. flower of its strength, and is consequently invincible to any outside hostility that may be directed agains. it. General Cronje and his forces are at bay, bate on the freight charges, while the this, it affects titles, creates distrust and all railway competition from the Poundand the shells of 50 guns are pouring their crease of 18,787 tons for the year. The fire into his camp, and at the present writfire into his camp, and at the present written in the invoice price of the coke at the mining properties. We believe that the shipments from the mines there, of necesing it seems impossible that he should escape, unless the unexpected happens. A that the Trail smelter is paying considerate mining matters great country at present at its mercy, and for peace or that they will fall back on plus of 24,470 tons of copper from the outreview of how the Boer General was erably less for its coke than \$6 per ton. in this respect, and that there what can be expected from a corporation Pretoria and prepare for a long siege. brought to his condition is interesting. Lord Roberts' movement for the relief of the smelter at Trail is in enjoyment of of the industry. There is considerable of to the fullest extent, without regard to and ended on Thursday evening, February of the management to share with their the manifest benefit of the industry. will mulet the mining companies of the and the carefulness with which they have and ended on Thursday evening, February of the column patrons and the public. Since the Canad-What is wanted are simple laws that the Boundary as it has does those of Ross. 118 days, the investment having been made 50 cents per ton for all ore melted. This effective on the 20th of October last. The was part only of the direct encourageoriginal number of Boers around the town ment which the people of Canada gave to was 6,000, but this force was increased the railway company to furnish reasonauntil it numbered some 20,000. The ad ble rates for smelter treatment, and al--vance of the British under General Meth- though the company accepted the money nen from the Orange river on November they have steadily refused to give value erable force of the besiegers to the Modeler river. The forces that had assembled around Kimberley seems to have split into two sections. The command of General Cronje, consisting of about 8,000 men, started towards Blomfontein, but its retreat was cut off by the British in the valley of the Modder river, and it is now surrounded on all sides and cannot escape. It is no wonder, therefore, that General Cronje asked for an armistice for the alleged purpose of burying the dead? This was a ruse to obtain time, which did not hoodwink General Kitchener, who told him that he must surrender or continue in this camp, neither the management of province which has endured at the hands the fight. Cronge replied that he intended the mines or the general public have ex- of the railway corporation the greatest clusion of the present state of affairs, and had no hand in bringing these men here, to fig... to the death, and his wish in this respect will probably not be interfered with, for he is facing in Generals Roberts has been maintained to the detriment of maining district of the Kootenay. When the solution of the question does not the give no encouragement to the importation and Kitchener, men who fight that way. Within the next 24 hours, therefore, there should come news that one of the most im-

SMELTER TREATMENT

Europe as well as in British Columbia, who are interested in the prosperity of Rossland and the development of her great mineral properties, should give heed, not to one only, but to all the causes which contribute to such a state of things as we find here today. The temporary stoppage of shipments may be fittingly employed as a breathing space in which we can survey the actual conditions under which the camp has been existing during the past year and consider remedies for defects sus-

We are all aware that the prime requis ite of success for properties such as we have in the Rossland camp is cheap smelter treatment. Without this not a few of the properties, which, under favorable conditions, will prove great and valuable mines, must remain undeveloped; without it capital which otherwise would be congarded as prosperous. .

Now what are the conditions here, and have the conditions which exist in this respect had anything to do with the temporary suspension of work on two of the biggest properties of the camp?

Last year when the War Eagle company

do exist, then care should have been company to create the impression that over work, which are taken to point out the localities which are this rate was a magnanimous concession on in order to secure a crown grant for his they made? and how much is the camp ate efforts to break through the British future of copper prices. According to the so affected, but to make a sweeping state the part of the smelter company, and that property, and, under the circumstances, indebted to the public spirit and magnanment such as this, and injure communities the Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate and the minister of mines should modify his imity of the C. P. R.? We find that two which are enjoying a high degree of pros- Rossland camp would be the gainers, while ruling and at the same time prepare a bill and a half years after Mr. Shaughnessy's forced to submit to the inevitable. With perity and whose commercial soundness is the smelter company would be fortunate it which will make legal the work that was visit, at which time these promises were 8,000 of the best fighters which the Boers undoubted, ought not to be tille work of it did not lose by the arrangement. It was done previous to 1898. The board of trade made, the smelter at Trail is charging a possessed, under the leadership of a genan institution which undertakes to keep no great while, however, before it became at its meeting last night, adopted a mem- rate for the treatment of ores from the eral famed for his capacity and the relent- 934 tons over the total output of 1898. Imvery well understood that the mining syn- orial to the minister of mines, asking for mines here which has had a strong infludicate had got the worst of the bargain, the needed relief. and had entered into an understanding . The government, in its dealings with two of the largest shippers and greatest and whereby they stood to lose, because of the those engaged in the mining industry, richest properties in the camp. At the anexcessiveness of the rate, over half a mil-should be guided in its actions by the nual meeting of the War Eagle corpora- regarded as the beginning of an end that a considerable portion of the imports lion dollars. The Northport smelter re idea that the industry is one that needs tion, held in Toronto on the 22nd of this which will undoubtedly be protracted, of copper from abroad were not for con duced its rate for the treight and treat- fostering and encouragement, so that it month, Mr. T. G. Blackstock, the vice- but which it will materially help to hasten. samption, but for the purpose of subjectment of the ores in this camp to \$4.50 a may prosper and grow to its full stature. It ton or \$1.50 less than that reluctantly is but in its infancy, and at its age should the closing down of the mine was due in ing any further display of sympathy with the work. Now it is fully and clearly recsmelter and it makes a fair profit on ognized that the smeller at Trail has advantages for the treatment of ore which If the claim owner shows an honest desire of that at the Northport smeller, and that effect on the rank and file of the Boers duction and the net imports of 1899, there that at Northport does not possess, and in to obey the law, as he understands it, he the C. P. R. institution has an immense themselves, already weary of a contest with it and therefore is in a position to credit for his good designs, and should not Centre Star at the exorbitant rate of \$6 but for the benefit of a small clique of 2,400 tons of the metal which were sent smelter at Trail enjoys exceptional advan- mining statutes. There should be no attages. While the Northport smelter pays tempt to harass him in any shape or form, \$12 per ton for a passable grade, the Trail and this ruling of the minister of mines that this relentless corporation is seeking and that a stubborn resistance will be smelter not only obtains an unsurpassed would seem to be one that serves no oth- to "hold up" for the benefit of its smelt- offered to the British advance to Lady- While home consumptions have thus quality at half that price but the Canadi er purpose than to annoy him and put ing enterprise. It succeeded by the worst smith and Bloemfontein, we may expect grown enormously, it is noted that the toan Pacific Railway company makes a re- him to needless expense. In addition to kind of political machinations in excluding with the relief of one and the occupation tal exports as given above, show a de-Kimberley begun on Sunday, February 11, but which it has never entered the mind the legislation that could be wiped out to the interests of the people, except that it of General Frencht into the beleaguered ian Pacific railway began its operations at miner can understand, and which he will land. 12th, necessitated the sending of a consid- for it. This bonus continues in effect,

at the present time

there is for curbing them.

UNFAIR TO MINERS.

The provincial minister of mines recently made a ruling which is working a considerable hardship on a number of claim holders. It was to the effect that under the law previous to 1898, no credit would be and mining recorders have always inter-

year or more. was made by the Canadian Pacific Railway as under it he will be compelled to do tions made in this article.

be ruled out of court on a mere technical

C. P. R. METHODS.

benefit to the industry.

An affectation of desire for the public interest is usually the specious pretext on too, until July 1 of the present year, so which a powerful and grasping corporathat the company is receiving this money tion acquires its license to plunder the people. There is no more telling illustration bly may be called upon by the Lieutenant-An interesting fact which it would be of this truth than the past methods of Governor, and entrusted with the task of An interesting fact which it would be of this truch than the past includes by the Canadian ractic forming, or attempting to form, a m'nistry.

Mad been imported to work in some of the had been driven away from the been driven well to bear in mind in considering any figures which might be submitted by the figures which might be form, a ministry.

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In the f public interested in mining, however, is management. Perhaps no part of the vorably upon the constitution of the vorably upon the constitution in their properties. In every instance the attempted to leave that institution since the had been first placed there early in the methods such as these, and while as yet British Columbia; and that portion of the pressed indignation that a rate at least one hardships, the most galling indifference, the may be desirous of seeing a government that they had no intention of employing the camp by the corporation which cork the management of this powerful corpora and it is a good thing it does not, with of this class of labor. portant commands of the Boor army has filled, the time is not distant when it they had hesitated for some years to see of the interior, would hardly be disposed have any interest whatsoever in the pri-

future progress of the district depends they themselves possessed, was likely to essentially on cheap smelter treatment of result. After it became evident to them may have been, it was much better than At the present unpleasant juncture of the ores, and when the ores can be treat that the mineral properties of the district any which Mr. Dunsmuir is fikely to form try, were little better than serfs, and who aftairs in the camp when we find a large ed cheaply, a corporation like the C. P. were very valuable, that the country had out of the material he could command in in this country, where they find themselves number of working miners thrown out of R. should not be permitted to pursue its a splendid future before it and that, there the present House. He is essentially an in the enjoyment of liberty, are apt to employment by the shut-down of the War policy of plundering the people to swell fore, it was a most desirable district t Eagle and Centre Star, it is timely that the purses of its stockholders. Already in obtain possession of they employed their form a cabinet from among the members cense and join violence to the ignorance our merchants and all, in the East and in Eastern Canada there is a strong feeling wealth without stint, and manipulated all of the old Turner ministry, and we would and uncleanliness which they brought trom abroad that the shut down of the War the many political wires under their con- have a relapse to the old, indifferent and their motherland. They are the worst Eagle is due very largely to a sentiment trol for the purpose of seizing the advant. unbusiness-like way of conducting the af- kind of citizens in any community, are of on the part of the management that they ages, which the original exploiters of the fairs of this province. If we cannot have no use to the merchants, or to the industrial were beguiled and "held up" when the con country had honestly obtained by their an administration composed of the ablest trial life of the country, and are in effect tract was made with the C. P. R. last energy and foresight, and of reaping a har- and most energetic members of the House, year. The fact that piracy like this is in- vest where they had refused to sow the it would be better that we should have a than the undesirable immigrant from dulged in when treating with an industry seed. It was not alone as public carriers general election and a new deal all around. China or Japan. in which so many prominent and influenthat they determined to come into the The best solution of the political probtial men, all over the Dominion are in country. They concluded that there were lem in British Columbia would be the forterested, proves the reckless buccaneering other lines of industry which they might mation of a government with an able and instincts of the corporation and the need enter upon with profit to themselves, if experienced business man from the internot with advantage to the people. They ior of the province at its head. The needs accordingly decided to interest themselves of the coast districts are fairly well known in the smelting business, and in pursuance and will continue to be well attended to of this determination, they purchased a under any reasonable administration, but smelter.

At the time that these negotiations were pany and a numerous following of ower officials, visited Rossland, and in most ex and on Vancouver Island. With a premier, breaking the back of the war. It looks as and warning the wholesale trade in East of dently and readily invested will seek given for more than \$100 a year on any plicit terms, acquainted the people with other fields where the dividends of the single mineral claim. This would prevent what they termed their intentions. Not has not hitherto, and we could look for a other fields where the dividends of the single mineral trains. This what they termed their intentions. Not has not hitherto, and we could look for a shareholders are not reduced almost to a an owner of claims, even if he had personly only were they going to give the camp the wise expenditure of money in the opening things it says that more requests have vanishing figure by the exorbitant rates formed work to the value of \$500 in one completest railway facilities, but been received from British Columbia min- charged for treatment of the ores. This year previous to 1898, from securing a cer- would furnish it with aerial tramways run charged for treatment of the ores. This year previous to look, it is would furnish it with acrial training to the various mines. They were gomediate benefit. er part of the Dominion. The whole state- before the people of this district. It is vi- would have to do \$100 worth of work for ing to give it such reduced smelting rates ment is intended to give a black eye to tally essential to the success and further five years before he would be allowed to as would make the cheapest ore in the this district, and whether there may or progress of the camps and the prosperity secure a certificate of improvements and camp profitable, and for this purpose ev may not be any truth in it, it certainly is of the merchants. It means, if reasonable cottain a crown grant. Of course, had he had purchased the smelter; and indeed, utterly false as far as Rossland is concerned rates can be secured, more money for the done \$100 worth of work for two years the promises which were made, and made miners as well as greatly increased work, previous to 1898, he would only have to voluntarily, were so alluring that the citiof West Kootenay. The condition of bus larger dividends for shareholders and there to secure a zens themselves were even then disposed and limited acquaintance with the proviness in Rossland was never more satis fore greater faith in the district, a more certificate of improvements. The law has to doubt their genuineness. Their definite ince, except in the vicinity of Nanamo ready investment of capital and more vig- since been modified so that a claim owner statement regarding the treatment of ores and Victoria, and whose enormous private were never more prosperous, nor, we think, or in exploiting and developing the can obtain a certificate of improvements was that they proposed to smelt at cost. interests on Vancouver Island, render name country. It means general commercial ac- at any time when he has done \$500 worth They had no desire whatsoever to make tivity and that wide and arduous industrial of work, whether it has been done in one money out of their institution at Trail. life without which a country cannot be re- year or five years. Gold commissioners Mr. Shaughnessy departed from Rossland glowing with self-satisfaction, and in the preted the law to be the same as it now full assurance that he had deluded the peois, and have given certificates of improve- ple of the camp into believing his utterance ments whether the work was done in one To citizens of Rossland whom he subsequently met in Montreal, Mr. Shaughnessy It will, therefore, be seen that this rul- reiterated the intentions of his company, ing, which is retroactive in its action, is a and reaffirmed the statements he had smelter to furnish 300,000 tons of ore to be most unfair one to the claim owner, and made in this city. There can, therefore, of the Modder river, has at length been instance of the New York Metal Exchange, smelter to turnish 300,000 tons of ore to be treated at a rate of \$6 per ton an attempt is one that works a great deal of hardship be no doubt as to the truth of the asser-compelled to surrender. His obstinate re-

was made by the Canadian Pacific Railway as under it is throughout the world and the prevalent over work, which he has already performed thow have they fulfilled the promises which ing assistance from his friends; his desperversity of opinion as to the immediate O ence in causing the temporary closing of is but in its infancy, and at its age should be aided in every possible way by the government. Above all things, the powers which require extreme purity that be should not be technical with it. Trail smelter is \$1.50 per ton in excess. Natal, and it will have a discouraging in the grade. Taking the domestic pro-

supments from the mines there, of five supplied that it will quite readily be seen mining legislation of the province has alsity, go to Trail. The C. P. R. has that made and that either the Boers will sue 277,594 tons, and leave an apparent sur-But there are other direct benefits which has been too much of it for the good which never failed to use an advantage

PROVINCIAL POLITICS.

The latest political prediction from the coast is that there may not be a dissolution of the provincial House, but that some member of the opposition, who has not taken any very active part of the proceedings, or at least, who has not made himself conspicuous on the floor of the Assemsible that Lieutenant-Governor McInnes reply was most emphatic and most satis-

Island man, and would almost certainly allow this privilege to degenerate into his the interior, and especially the growing at length been successful, and this victory mining sections, are an unknown country concluded, the vice-president of the comthe cities and rural districts on the coast

British Columbia would reap great and im-

Whatever may be the result, it is scarcely likely that the members in their pres ent frame of mind, would be inclined to accept the leadership of Mr. Dunsmuir. whose limited knowledge of public affairs undesirable as a minister and impossible

GENERAL CRONJE SURROUNDED.

The best move yet made in the great game of war in South Africa has been won by the British. General Cronje, who for a week has been hemmed in in the valley statistics, which have been compiled at the fusals to capitulate in the hope of obtainlines have all been vain and he has been figures just submitted, the domestic prosuperior force and abler tactics. It is the year reached the unprecedented amount of their countrymen. While there is little doubt the Boers forces in the field will of copper. The same authority estimates But it is not alone the Roseland camp be kept strongly in hand by their leaders home consumption during 1899 at 162,000

The successful trapping of Cronje proves the scientific lines on which Robetrs and Kitchener are conducting the campaign lar operations, and, therefore, can hardly mapped out the program for the conduct of the war. The news of their success win come as a relief and an assurance to all parts of the Empire.

THE SLAVONIAN ARRIVALS.

the arrival in the city the day before yesterday of a company of 26 Slavonian mine laborers from Duluth, was calculated house on Tuesday, has escaped and was a good many of our citizens. The first ther stated that Stevens had applied to idea which seized the people was that they the Sisters' Hospital to be taken in, but had been imported to work in some of the had been driven away from that institu-

worse, because less peaceable, residents

LADYSMITH RELIEVED.

At an early hour this morning comes the welcome news, officially announced of the relief of Ladysmith. General Buller has taken in conjunction with the capitulation of General Cronje, should go far towards if the Boers were concentrating their forces for a big fight before Bloemfontein, and we may now expect almost any day to receive news of an engagement at that point between the largest strengths of the contending armies. With Roberts and Kitchener in command, there is little doubt how such a battle would result.

The confidence of the Empire in her soldiers has been amply restored, and a series of uninterrupted successes may be looked for from this time forward.

U. S. PRODUCTION OF COPPER

Official figures are now at hand giving the production of copper in the United States during the year 1899, together with the movement of the metal to and from the United States, says Bradstreet's. These throughout the world and the prevalent . 39 858 tons, an increase of 26,958 tons over vear. Deliveries during 1899 are figured at over the same period the year before. timated domestic consumption, amount to put of the year's operation. It is, however, explained that considerable portions of the surplus are held by newl, establishbe considered as indicative of an in :2003 in the supply.

NOTHING IN AL.

Escape of Stevens From the Smallpox Hospital Denied by Dr. Reddick.

yesterday afternoon that Stevens, the third smallpox patient who was sent to the pest to startle, and certainly at first did startle wandering around the city. It was fur-

The Lenten Season.

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday, the first the camp by the corporation which cork the management of this powerful corporation and it is a good thing it does not, with of this class of labor.

day of Lent. Special services were held screwed its way into the country on promition decided to construct their line of Lieutenant-Governor McInnes. The people it will be felt generally that this is the ises which were never intended to be full railway into this country, it was after ple of the Mainland, and especially those sentiment which should animate all who churches. At St. George's there was communion service at 8:30 a. m., matins at 11 o'clock and in the evening the litteen either completely destroyed or has will be necessary to insist beet this ex-trendered. The use to accept such a termination. The use ress or prosperity of this camp. We do any and a special Lenten address was rendered. The use to accept such a termination. The use to accept such a termination of this camp. We do any and a special Lenten address was rendered.

pawabrokers and Second ers Protest Against

MESSAGE TO

City Solicitor Will Go Water Rights Appl Standing Committees-Other Business Transa

His Worship the Mayo Dean, Mchae, Talbot were present at the reguing of the city counsel la Solicitor Abbott, Dr. L health officer and Chief present to give informat regarding their respective The following patriotic manimously passed by the Mayor sent Col. Otter a

adjournment.
Moved by Alderman Me by Alderman Talbot learn with pleasure of the Cronje by Lord Roberts, of the British forces in t that the congratulations conveyed to Cor. Ofter behavious of the Cana (which this city contribu

zens) at the final engager.
The city solicitor advithat the Littooet, Fraser I gold fields offered to give for five years of the right city of Spokane claim for but the company claimed minate the lease at any five years upon giving tw This is objectionable, but not make any further off Mr. Abbott further dir

of the council to the ne vey of the right of way o "The application of the Sheep creek," writes Mr up before the Lieutena council on the 7th of of the fact that looked into this mathere are two or three nies opposing the city's a it advisable that I sho down to the coast to lo a trip of this kind is by the law which defin would ask the council to this by resolution with ing that I shall be paid

for my expenses and se above my regular salary "I may say that the panies above mentioned together and secured the E. P. Davis, Q. C., one nent counsel of the coast the matter should be v into before the Lieute

"I am presuming that thoroughly made up t Sheep Creek water is al hecause not only will rense of this application cure the water I antici have litigation with so companies before our secured." Mr. King, o wrote a strong protest rates the Hotel Allan h light and water." The hand goods presented a a repeal of certain clat concerning second-hand cently passed by the co complained of are 13, 14 strict record to be ke transacted for the use The petitioners think jected to shou d relate

ing business only and
Mr. Silverstone, who asked to address the genteman asked that ce pawnbrokers' by-law betered. As it is at pres-vents him from doi thought an alteration which would suit all McRae gave notice the in a bylaw at the next recil amending the clay complained of, and als by-law relating to sec

ready mentioned.
The reports of the f the health and relief mittees and the board no other recommendat payment of sundry as lire, water and light \$2,010.75; health and r of works, \$61.50. No

for special mention.

The tender of the Y company for a car \$4.50 per cord being the ders put in, was ac Alderman McRae.

The Henderson wrote the council offer information concerning forthcoming issue of directory for \$15 per will supply all nece statistics, figures, etc will have to be free of Alderman Dean's m

city solicitor to go water rights question reasonable sum for he the approval of the matters referred to letter were allowed ent until a city eng There being no othe posed of, the council

UNDESIRAB Slavonian Laborers Engaged at Du

Considerable curio Monday when it be tween 25 and 30 Sla reached here by the and that they had from Duluth. The of many of the citi considerable body people who had co or been brought for ing in the propert the members of the

bia avenue. It wa