

THE MINING REVIEW

A weekly newspaper devoted to the mining interests of Trail Creek District.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Bank of British North America has purchased the lot presently occupied by Messrs. Thomas & Smith, the grain dealers, and will erect a bank building on it. As the business of the Bank of British North America is directed from London this shows the standing that Rossland is beginning to acquire there.

THE Victoria Colonist has some remarks to make about THE MINING REVIEW. It says that THE REVIEW is a new journal making a bid for popular favor, and that it hurts itself and hurts British Columbia by making violent remarks about the land policy of the British Columbia government. Poor, dear Colonist! Its horizon is limited by the city of Victoria. Twenty thousand exceedingly provincial people are its world. Their esteem is to it the breath of life. By their censure it would die. Here in Rossland we have a wider horizon and a freer air. We speak our own thoughts and care little what people may think of them. At the same time, how fatuous is the Colonist! It quotes in full an article from THE REVIEW which it thinks, because it astounds the Victorian public to whom the clique that runs the government are as gods not to be lightly spoken of, will not forcibly appeal as true and righteous to a wider audience.

THE Boundary Creek district is on the horns of a dilemma. It cannot get capital because it has not a railroad, and it cannot get a railroad without tonnage. There are very few people who can afford to lock up large sums of money and wait a year or two for returns. The large sums of money paid for properties in Rossland have been largely subscribed in sums of \$1,000 down. It is the small investor who is carrying Rossland during the period of its output's incubation; and it is not easy to interest the small investor where he cannot go to work digging out (or at least trying to dig out) dividends. We have the small investor chafing at the delay occasioned by the necessity of installing machinery on the Monte Cristo. Is he likely to await with patience the installing of a railway into the Boundary Creek district or to invest where he knows he has to do so? Consequently prices will not rise or trading in mining property be active in Boundary until transportation is provided. But as a mining district Boundary is all right. Those who have faith and patience will be amply rewarded in the long run.

THE Miner came forward last week with a most extraordinary suggestion regarding Provincial politics. It proposes to divide them by Dominion party lines. Woe is me! Must I, because I am a conservative in Dominion politics, only half content to see the fruits of their corruption visited upon the heads of the government which has been so long in power, by humiliating defeat, only half content, in the interests of pure government to see the opposition in power because I know that it is powerless to subvert the continuity of Canada's great policy in its essential particulars, must I then indorse the imbecility of the Turner government and the unconstitutional and dangerous extent to which the lieutenant-governor in council and the various departments of the government have usurped the functions of legislation? Do you want a party division? Do you want an opposition programme? Here is one. Make your platform

a demand for the restoration of constitutional government particularly in regard to the land of the province. Make your party cry "no more Star Chamber legislation," and "the land for the people," and you can sweep these unrighteous prerogatives into the limbo of forgotten things and the Turner government with them.

It is extraordinary the extent to which people are under the influence of preconceived ideas. There is a notion prevalent that a mining camp closes down when snow comes and that during the winter there is an unwelcome cessation of business. This is a legacy from the days of placer mining, when the frost bound up the soil and froze the water necessary to wash it. A quartz mining camp does not hibernate like a bear. It is quite hopeless to convince the inhabitants of the British Columbia coast of this fact. They form, in matters pertaining to mining, an instructive pathological instance of arrested development. And when the perceptive faculty of changed conditions is completely atrophied it is idle to waste time explaining these new conditions. But the virgin intelligence on matters relating to mining, of the eastern investor ought to be open to the facts. Winter, it is true, brings snow, and snow interferes with prospecting on top of the ground but it facilitates prospecting under the ground. Is the scene of work far away from roads? Then it can be reached more easily on snow shoes; and, wherever it is, supplies can be brought in and ore taken out more easily than during the summer. Work is most active during the winter and as a rule business is good. It is the wise investor's opportunity and he is not slow to take advantage of it. Certainly very noticeable premonitions of winter have been visible around Rossland lately, but so far as activity in work and business is concerned there is no reason to dread the winter.

THE Nelson Tribune has something to say about F. A. Heinze. It is rather useless to drop down on Mr. Heinze, or anyone else for that matter, because he was able to work the British Columbia government for a big land grant. Mr. Heinze has merely done what the natives of the coast have been doing for years, only he did it on a larger and more systematic scale due to his higher intelligence and greater energy. We like to see the Lieutenant-Governor and the members of the legislature bound to the chariot wheels of Mr. Heinze, because it may awaken the people of the province to what contemptible varlets they are. But it is creditable to Mr. Heinze's energy and intelligence. He belongs to a race upon whom the obligations of conscientious patriotism have never had much hold. He is a citizen of a country where greed of individual gain has long debauched public morality. He has come to a country where sublime stupidity, if nothing worse, holds the reins of power. Mr. Heinze cannot be blamed for not having the public interests at heart. Mr. Heinze's interests are all he can be expected to attend to. At the same time if it be true that he has failed to put his railway scheme through with all the inducements offered, that is the best excuse could be given for these inducements. If the government of British Columbia must by the law of their being rob and plunder and ravage the resources of the province by all means let a man like Mr. Heinze who has proved that when he takes a scheme up he does more than talk about it be the beneficiary.

It is refreshing to see how the Canadian Pacific Railway Company take credit for the development of West Kootenay. As a matter of fact West Kootenay has been developed in the face of the continuous, persistent and powerful opposition of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. That seems to be a very strong statement, but it can be proved, and proved up to the hilt. In 1890 the Canadian Pacific Railway Company entered a claim for all the mineral found within their land grants. Fortunately for Kootenay the catastrophe of their success was averted. In 1892 they used all their power to prevent D. C. Corbin acquiring an extension of his charter to build the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway, and but for that railway West Kootenay, and Trail Creek especially, would be a desert to-day. They fanned popular prejudice against American enterprise and used their influence in Vancouver to cause the Board of Trade there to condemn the railway as calculated to injure the trade of the province, a piece of besotted prejudice for which West Kootenay has never forgiven

Vancouver. If it had been a geographical possibility to open this country to the north at that stage of development, or an economic possibility to provide capital to overcome the obstacles, the people of this country would have been well satisfied. But as it was neither they had to put up with what they could get in the way of transportation and be glad to get it. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company persistently fought the construction of the Kaslo & Slocan railway and for two years they have prevented the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway from securing terminal facilities at Nelson. And now they turn round and say, "Look at the result of our handiwork," while West Kootenay actually owes her present development to the anti-Canadian Pacific prejudice which exists in Victoria. Of course no one objects very strongly. The man who has most reason to object is D. C. Corbin, but he can well afford to let the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have the credit—he has got the plum.

THE published report of Geldenhuis Deep, the first deep-level mine to come into operation on the Rand, shows a loss on actual working expenses. The returns from the first crushings of ore reported last January were unsatisfactory. They showed that at depth at which the reef was tapped the ore, while it contained as much gold, about 13 dwt., as it did on the surface, was of a more refractory nature, and a larger percentage of it could not be recovered by amalgamation, which meant a second treatment for the sulphide portion of the ore. This, coupled with the largely increased cost of mining at so great a depth has shown an absolute loss to the company. The bearings of this result upon deep mining is obvious; but it has a greater significance for the future of South African field as a whole. It points to a much more rapid exhaustion than was dreamt of 18 months ago. It is true that a few long-headed individuals were doubtful of the ultimate success of mining ore of such a grade and at great depth and after the water level had been passed and the ores began to change to sulphides, but in the wild frenzy which overtook investors their warnings were unheeded. How true is the generalization made long ago by Professor Suess of Vienna, that the centre of gravity of gold production is moving further and further afield and its sources becoming exhausted with wonderful rapidity; that is compared with the sources of iron, coal, tin, silver and copper. The professor's conclusion from this was that gold is bound to go on appreciating in value unless the demand can in some way be lessened. The Rand appeared to have crushed his theory, but recent developments there seem to afford an additional justification of it. The fact is that a steady supply of gold depends not on the discovery of new alluvial and free milling deposits, but upon the application of new and cheaper processes to low grade sulphide ore containing gold. The future of gold mining will be the history of mining sulphide ores such as we have in Rossland.

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