

WELL-TIMED LETTER

The Question of the Hour and How it Should be Dealt With.

ATTITUDE OF THE POLITICIAN

A Calm and Judicious Commentary by Ex-Governor Mackintosh Upon the Question Affecting the Mine Owners and Mine Workers.

Editor Miner:—It doubtless surprised many to learn from various newspapers at a distance, that Rossland was virtually under martial law; that scores of special constables guarded particular precincts, and that the attorney-general of the province, moved by tender solicitude for citizens or specials or both, had been forced to reprove His Worship the mayor, and to ask for the name of the vicious magistrate who took upon himself the awful responsibility of swearing in these constables. This by-play might be humorous were it not for the issues involved, so far as the mining interests of British Columbia are concerned. The case of an attorney-general accepting one-sided testimony, and upon this, presuming to dictate to a constitutionally governed community, was quite sufficient proof that some one yearned to make political capital, even though a dire blow was directed at a particular district. We know that upheavals of every description are too often the opportunity for politicians; but there are periods in the progress of provinces, as well as nations, when he who attempts to utilize the tribulation of a community in order to advance his own interests, or the interests of any cotery represented by him, is guilty of treachery to the dearest safeguards of the commonwealth. All thinking men, all who realize their responsibilities, must be pained by the spectacle of robust assemblages of miners, grouped at every corner of Columbia avenue; all honest men must deplore the situation. No man I care not with what part he is allied, would for one moment dream of utilizing the position for the furtherance of partisan designs. Rather would he endeavor by this object lesson to draw the mine owner and the mine worker together; rather should all well thinking citizens pause ere committing themselves to any drastic policy or allying themselves with the politician, the demagogue or the agitator. Rossland mines require the services of skilled miners, if they are to be practically developed. Will this be accomplished by driving the best labor out of the camp? Will the problem be solved on the other hand, by antagonistic demonstrations against the mine owners? In short, will advantage to either accrue, consequent upon a war of capital against labor, or vice versa? We to the people, political maneuverers to play with the question, nor do we want foreign agitators. The hour has arrived demanding the best work of honorable, unprejudiced men elected from either side. British Columbia, or the greater portion of it, is essentially a mining area awaiting the industrial energies of all classes for development. Rossland, as well as the Boundary and Slooan, are essentially mining centers, and in striving to formulate reasonable principles of settlement, we must consider the mine owners, the mine workers, the province as a whole—then the politicians. I refer to the latter because the legislature must crystallize into enactments such measures as the electors approve of, and more than this, because the great Conservative party appears to be appealing to the people without a leader who can guarantee anything or vouchsafe protection to any class suffering from grievances. A platform may come into existence, but a platform without a frontispiece clothed with authority to give it life is poor material out of which to mould permanence. A conservative myself, I object to saffing under false colors. Hence, in all honor, I deem it proper to place my views upon record, irrespective of the imaginary advantage gained by reticence. In the first place my voice is against the Hon. Joseph Martin's eight-hour plebiscite. He proposes to keep the law as it stands until the Legislature meets. What else can he do? Can he suspend it? Can he annul it by an order in council? Certainly not. Next, the Minister of Mines, Mr. Smith Curtis, will make a diplomatic tour, striving to pacify all rival elements, after he has already put himself on record as the champion of measures which, placed within the covers of statute books, would prove more disastrous than any possible existing labor legislation. Mr. Curtis fails, then, a referendum; that failing—then chaos! We all know the fate of the prohibition plebiscite, and at all events, as has been said, compromises, like poor umbrellas, make very bad shelters in a storm. Mr. Martin's referendum would simply postpone action for at least a year; if it carried, his government would be forced to keep the eight-hour law on the statute or to violate every principle or pledge involved. He, on the other hand, if met with an ever-willing defeat, Mr. Martin would be forced to expunge the law from the ordinances of the province. Meanwhile, what would befall the miners who desired to work or the capital that, driven from the country, would be invested elsewhere? More than this, what would be the fate of those who had invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in commerce, trade, lumber, shipping and real estate? By the time Mr. Martin and Mr. Curtis had passed through the referendum ordeal, dragging all their interests at their chariot wheels, ruin would stare every man in the face, consequent upon capital withdrawing from a catch-as-catch-can policy. I am not overdrawing the picture, nor laying on black coloring where brighter tints might be used. I speak feelingly, but I speak sincerely. My one hope in writing this candidly is to promote an amicable settlement. Mr. Martin, Mr. Curtis, nay, a score of politicians and office seekers may profess solicitude upon behalf of all interests involved. My contention is that the bounden duty of mine owners and mine workers is to come together, not stand glaring off at one another. Again I say,

if a referendum declared against an eight-hour mining law, investors would be shrewd enough to postpone action, and, having postponed, would not be likely to again enter the arena. If, on the other hand, the law were maintained a double injury might be inflicted, for business, having been practically suspended for many months would not be likely to revive. In a crisis such as this every citizen should speak out. His interests are supreme, and his influence should be of paramount importance. I contend, with all due deference to the opinion of others, that the mine owner should be the last to lay his back against a company's bank account and issue the ultimatum "Work or starve or find employment elsewhere;" that the mine worker should think seriously ere committing himself to a hard and fast policy of "Eight-hour law or nothing, no concession, no sacrifice, no compromise." Each should pause before it is too late and be willing to make a sacrifice and each be willing to act reasonably. One of the greatest industries in the province is undoubtedly for the time being jeopardised, and why? Simply because a few politicians at a caucus privately agreed upon certain legislation and were forced to deliver the goods according to contract; that certain legislation was put through at telegraphic speed. Unfortunately, this was subsequent to immense sums of money being invested in British Columbia; not millions but tens of millions, and only when various investing companies compared their monthly time expenditures with work accomplished during the corresponding months of the previous year was it alleged that under the eight-hour law the greater portion of what should have been profits entirely disappeared. This was aggravating, sure enough, but doubly so when it was found that many above ground were receiving salaries for creating dissatisfaction amongst those working below, and that to foreign interference was traceable much of the discontent and unrest so gravely prejudicial to mining interests in various sections of the province. The legislature was appealed to without effect and finally many mines virtually closed, with the result that hundreds of able-bodied men were forced to seek other fields of operation. It had been said that these men would not respect law or order; that they were intent upon creating public disturbance in their praise be it recorded that not the remotest symptom of rowdiness was observed; no statute, municipal or provincial, was violated, furnishing convincing testimony that had all classes of miners been properly approached some reasonable solution of the problem might have been arrived at. True, all the mine owners asked might not have been conceded, nor all the mine workers demanded been agreed to; still a broad and effective conference, comprising not only the two parties but disinterested adjudicators might possibly have restored harmony. At all events, I have to know that this was done, and an only hopeful that it may yet be accomplished. Personally I feel a great deal of responsibility, having been instrumental in inducing investors to favor British Columbia. Despite the fact that they secured magnificent properties, it is to be feared that their capital has so far paid very small dividends. The mine workers reaped the benefit of the expenditures, while at the same time merchants, tradesmen, dealers in every line of commerce, hoping to make some profit, ventured their all only to find competition so active that the general public derived material benefit in being able to buy in a cheap and well-stocked market. Here again the mine worker, while receiving remunerative wages, was not allowed to pay extravagant prices. The merchant feels the depression today, and realizes how important it is to him and to all branches of business that the conflict between the mine owner and the mine worker be amicably adjusted. How is this to be accomplished? Not by abuse, not by acrimony, not by mutual distrust. Both sides must be willing to give and take; both be reasonable and forbearing. Mr. Martin's minister of mines may come and go; Mr. Martin may screw to "retard" until he is black in the face; the gulf will widen if the present opportunity for arriving at a better understanding is treated cavalierly. If the mine owners feel like being obdurate, they err very much indeed, and if the better thinking mine workers permit malign counsel to influence them, they will have themselves to blame. I have talked with many old mine workers, many of whom contend that they would prefer the ten-hour system, and at the same time prefer toiling below rather than above ground. They admit that in every properly worked mine the men stand out at 7 o'clock, have an hour at noon, leaving their work at 20 minutes before noon, returning at 1 and being allowed the time occupied in reaching their work, each shift suspending work for one hour in order that smoke from powder may be got rid of and pure air introduced into the mine. On the other hand, they claim that there is certainly great loss of time during eight hours in a big mine where immense quantities of powder are used, and the air dense and impure, while, added to this, it is an unwritten law that men only work eight hours where the bottom of the shafts are damp or at times partially flooded. Here, then, is certainly an issue that might be considered; as it proves that the mine owner cannot, in estimating loss under the eight-hour law, include the above as chargeable to legislation. Then comes the question of contract labor. Naturally enough a good miner can make more money by contracting than by day labor; but to accomplish this he must employ the very best skilled industry, for a miner who does not understand his business will destroy more drills and machinery than a contract can stand. The Rossland camp comprises huge beds of hard rock; the danger is not great, for there is little rock broken, and few masses to jeopardize life by falling, and once the machines are up, the air or steam being turned on, the machinery practically does its own work. On the other hand, contract labor, say, for instance, throughout the Slooan country, in many cases would not answer; less powder is used, but on the other hand, constant timbering is requisite in order to protect the workmen from the falling debris consequent upon loosening masses of soft rock. A score of other difficulties present themselves, so far as the system of contracting is concerned, each district presenting peculiarities. The questions are complex, but many more serious than this have been settled by a mutual desire to maintain harmony. This will not be accomplished by mere political interference, as whichever policy prevails will leave its heartburnings, its grievances, its sores. The eight-hour law need not be repealed, but an understanding could be arrived at, expunging fines and compulsory hours, and protecting miners, who desire to make contracts, from any interference upon the part of those who object to such being entered into or prosecuted. At all events, it does seem strange that the mine owners should be kept at arm's length, or the miners, anxious to work, be forced to remain idle. I have no interest in mine working. I am neither a mine worker nor a mine owner in Rossland or Slooan or the Boundary. I speak for myself alone, in appeal to both parties interested, to exercise a modicum of reasonable judgment in a crisis to be deplored by all who have the welfare of British Columbia at heart. I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant.

C. H. MACKINTOSH.

Rossland, March 15, 1900.

ANOTHER CASE OF SMALLPOX.

Mr. A. Lorne Becher Was Saturday Taken to the Pest House.

Mr. A. Lorne Becher, the mining broker, was Saturday found to be afflicted with smallpox, and was taken to the pest house by Dr. Reddick, the medical health officer. It is not known to a certainty where Mr. Becher contracted the disease. It is thought he may have been exposed in Spokane. Mr. Becher went to Spokane on Sunday, February 26th, with the Rossland ministrals, and did not leave there until Wednesday, February 28th. That would make yesterday, when the disease first manifested itself, 18 days from the time of the supposed exposure in Spokane. Like all contagious diseases, smallpox has a period of incubation following the time of exposure and preceding the time when there are recognizable evidences of the disease. The period of incubation is variously calculated at from seven to 21 days. If Mr. Becher caught the smallpox in Spokane it took from February 28th to March 17th for the disease to develop itself to such an extent as to be recognizable. Mr. Becher, it is claimed, was not vaccinated and refused to submit to the operation.

Dr. Fagan, provincial health officer, yesterday announced his intention of ordering the city authorities to vaccinate compulsorily.

NEW COURT HOUSE.

Building Is Stopped for Lack of Grant—Possible Issue of Special Warrant.

A letter has been received by Mr. John Honeyman from the provincial authorities at the coast anent the new court house. It stated that no funds had been provided by the late legislature for the completion of the building and that there were not even sufficient funds for the discharge of the salary of the clerk or works, Mr. Thomas, whose dismissal was therefore ordered on these grounds. The architect, Mr. John Honeyman, taking advantage of the presence of a member, the Hon. Smith Curtis, of the present government in the city, has brought the matter to his notice and it is probable that some arrangement may be able to be made by which the building of the court house may be proceeded with.

The first proposals with regard to the court house were that it should be a permanent structure, that it should fulfil certain requirements, but that its cost should not exceed \$15,000. These terms were found to be incompatible and in consequence fresh plans were proposed which brought the total cost, including furnishing and heating, up to \$45,000. This was sanctioned, but the extra funds were not voted. In the meantime the original \$15,000 sanctioned, not being used, lapsed last summer.

On the promise of the government to vote the total sum necessary at the next sitting of the legislature the contract was let for \$38,000, for the building, exclusive of the furnishings, etc. Work was started and some progress made until stopped by the setting in of the present winter. Under the circumstances if some means are not devised for proceeding with the structure immediately the contract may be thrown up. This may result in heavy loss to the city. Moreover if building does not begin before July next the court house cannot be finished before next year, though the roof may be completed before the snow flies.

Apparently the only way remaining is to proceed by raising the money by special warrant, not the full amount, but a few thousand dollars, enough to meet expenses until such time as the legislature is again in session. The Hon. Smith Curtis has promised to give the affair his consideration, but the matter is not one which is in his hands, but one which will have to be referred to the coast.

BACK FROM BUTTE.

Mr. Foley Returns to Rossland—Meeting Tomorrow Night—Prospects of Peace.

Mr. Chris Foley returned yesterday afternoon from Butte, Montana, for which place he left Rossland last week as a delegate from the Miners' union here to the Western Federation at Butte, with the object of ascertaining the Federation views on the contract system and kindred labor questions. The results of Mr. Foley's journey have not as yet been made public. The rumor which gained some credence round the camp yesterday afternoon, that the Western Federation was not willing to interfere actively in the contract system controversy, is stated to be without foundation.

A meeting of the miners will take place tomorrow evening, and there seems judging from statements made by some of the various parties concerned on either side, to be prospects of a definite clearing up of the misunderstanding.

Masquerade Ball.

Owing to the fact that so many members of the order of Eagles are now absent from the city, the local aerie have decided to defer their proposed masquerade ball for the present. Later on a date will be agreed upon and the proper announcement made through the press.

In the police court yesterday "Scotty" who is not entirely unknown to the officers, was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly, and was fined \$15.

THE MANAGERS' SIDE

Mr. Bernard Macdonald Reviews the Situation in the Camp.

THE CONTRACT LABOR SYSTEM

Hon. C. H. Mackintosh's Letter Generally Endorsed, but Some of the Statements Examined and Criticised—The True Points at Issue.

Editor Miner: I read with much interest the letter of Governor Mackintosh appearing in yesterday's Miner. In this the governor said many things that cannot fail to do good in the present disturbed condition of the mining industry in this camp; at the same time, however, the letter contains several remarks that can hardly fail to be misleading to the casual reader. But the good overshadowed the bad, and I think the governor has struck the keynote of the present unfortunate condition of affairs in the following paragraph, quoted from his letter:

"Unfortunately this (the enactment of the eight-hour law) was subsequent to immense sums of money being invested in British Columbia; not millions but tens of millions, and only when various investing companies compared their monthly time expenditures with work accomplished during the corresponding months of the previous year was it alleged that under the eight-hour law the greater portion of what should have been profits entirely disappeared. This was aggravating, sure enough, but doubly so, when found that many above ground were receiving salaries for creating dissatisfaction amongst those working below, and that to foreign interference was traceable much of the discontent and unrest so gravely prejudicial to mining interests in various sections of the province. The legislature was appealed to without effect, and finally many mines were virtually closed, with the result that hundreds of able-bodied men were forced to seek other fields of operation."

This is the kernel of the whole situation, and this is the way it came about. The original owners of the large producing mines of British Columbia offered their properties for sale at a price based on their dividend-earning capacity. They opened their books to the experts of prospective purchasers seeking mining investment. In these the past earnings of the properties were seen, while an exaggerated estimate of the mine workings showed their probable earning capacity in the future. Satisfied as to the merits of the investment, based on the satisfactory showings made, the properties were purchased and the stockholders expected the returns predicted on their investment. At this stage the eight-hour law was enacted, and the productive capacity of the mine was reduced (3-19) three ninetieths—that is the wages that secured 19 hours' work from miners before the enactment of the eight-hour law only received 16 hours' work afterwards. In other words, the law in effect raised the wages of the miner earning \$3.50 to \$4.05 based on the time worked, and the mine owner was obliged to pay the latter sum for the amount of work formerly done for \$3.50, hence, as Governor Mackintosh said: "The greater portion of what should have been profits entirely disappeared." Under these circumstances what was to be done? The shareholders considered it decidedly unfair that the provincial legislature should pass a law compelling them to pay \$4.05 for the work formerly obtained for \$3.50. They naturally considered several remedies. The reduction of wages commensurate with the reduction of hours was the most natural and equitable solution.

The miners of the Slooan have yielded to the compromise scale of wages offered by the mine owners there, after an eight-months' strike, during which the mines of that region were almost entirely closed and neither miners, merchants or shareholders earned anything.

But the writer believes \$3.50 a day is little enough for a good miner—little enough for a man who has had years of practical experience in all the branches of mining, as the result of which he has become an all round miner. That man is surely worth \$3.50 per day or more to any mining company if he is honest, and gives the fair day's work he is capable of doing.

It is the intention of the mining companies operating in Rossland, so far as the writer is informed or will advise, to exhaust every probable means of modifying the effect of the eight-hour law before attempting to reduce the wages below the present schedule. The conclusion has been reached, after very mature consideration that the contract system, recently proposed by the Le Roi, War Eagle and Centre Star mines, affords the best possible solution of the bad effects resulting from the eight-hour law.

I can positively state that it is not the intention of the Le Roi to let any contract to any miner for less than the cost of the same work to the company when done by the average miner. At this price the good miners will make high wages on all contract work taken up by them. The average miner will make at least average wages, and the unskilled or partially trained miner will have the opportunity of becoming proficient, having before him the stimulus of the high wages earned by the experienced miner.

By reason of the opportunities thus offered, the best miners will settle in this camp and become permanent residents—they and their families. It is a fact that Rossland is the only mining camp in the Rocky mountain regions where contract work is objected to by miners' unions. There is no cause for this objection from past experience, for the writer is aware of no camp where the contract system proved hurtful to the interests of the miner. Furthermore, it is the writer's belief that it will do away with the friction between the mine owner and the employees resulting from the eight-hour law; that it will prove satisfactory to the mining companies, and be a benefit to the miner and the merchant. The belief was expressed at the beginning of this letter that there were several reasons in Governor Mackintosh's letter that could hardly fail to

mislead the casual reader. The following quotation contains one of these remarks.

"I contend, with all the deference to the opinions of others, that the mine owner should be the last to lay his back against the company's bank account and issue the ultimatum 'Work or starve or find employment elsewhere.'" From the quotation marks in this alleged ultimatum the reader would naturally infer that these were the words of the managers of some of the mines. I cannot believe that any mine manager did or would use such an expression meaningfully. Whether it be believed or not, I will state, speaking for the mine managers of the camp, including the writer, that they entertain the most considerate feeling for their employees, and that, while admitting the soft impeachment that they stand with their backs against their companies' bank accounts, that nevertheless they are in sympathy with their employees' desire to better their condition, and with the merchants of Rossland in their desire for the peace and prosperity of the city.

BERNARD MACDONALD, Genl. Mgr. B. A. C. Mines.

WILL BE SETTLED HERE.

No Outside Dictation in the Settlement of the Contract System.

Editor Miner: The Evening Record desires to convey to the public the impression that the sending of a delegate by the Rossland Miners' Union, in the person of Mr. Chris Foley, to Butte, Montana, to consult the officers of the Western Federation of Miners, means that on their authority will depend whether the miners of Rossland will reject or adopt the contract system.

The members of the Rossland Miners' Union are quite competent to deal with this important question without appealing to the methods employed by the above organ, namely, to create prejudice among the Canadian, English and American miners. The attempt will no doubt meet with the contempt it deserves. The Record insinuates that the Miners' Union has been guilty of as grave an offense as the mining companies, which employed over 20 special constables, professional corporation soldiers, many of whom were taken from Homestead, Pa., to the imaginary battle fought on Red Mountain, when the day was saved by the magnificent operations of the secret telephone system and the splendid strategy of General Warner and the heroic charge of the reserves which saved the guns; when lo and behold, the enemy vanished into space.

The delegate to Butte is a citizen of British Columbia, born on Canadian soil, in whose integrity the community has the utmost confidence. If the world was blessed with such men with the noble traits of character and talent which elevate him and the general officers of the Western Federation of Miners, to a place among nature's noble men, then, indeed, would the world be happy. Surely the public has had sufficient knowledge of this dynamite rot. Such articles as appear almost daily are not calculated to add to the public welfare, and have no good effect on the prosperity of this camp where chance the Record claims to champion. If the working miners are let alone and not abused when there is no cause for such, the mine owner and they will settle their own troubles.

There was no secret about the delegate going to Butte. He was not smuggled away under cover of darkness, neither does he belong to a foreign agency, but to an international organization similar to a great many other societies, such as the Odd Fellows, K. of P., Masons and Eagles, to which many members of the Miners' Union belong.

The principles of the Western Federation of Miners are to brighten the pathway of the human race, regardless of creed, color or nationality.

There shall be no outside dictation as to the action of the Miners' Union on the contract system. The system as proposed by the mine owners is unprecedented, and requires careful consideration from not only the miners of British Columbia, but all the Rocky Mountain region.

JAMES DEVINE, Rossland, March 16, 1900.

RAILWAY NOTES.

The Spurs in the Boundary Are to Be Completed.

Engineer Sullivan, of the Columbia and Western railways, is now making the necessary arrangements for completing the spurs to the Mother Lode to Phoenix and to the Rathmullen. It will be remembered that work on these spurs was abandoned last winter about four months because of the depth of the snow and the shortage of steel rails. With the completion of these spurs there should be a considerable increase in the output of ore from the Boundary creek country.

It is said that the Canadian Pacific railway is about to reduce the grade considerably on the main line in the vicinity of the Kicking Horse pass.

DON'T THROW YOUR FADED THINGS AWAY.

DIAMOND DYES

Give New Life to Old Garments.

That faded and rusty dress, skirt, blouse, case, jacket, cloak, or your laces and ribbons that you are thinking of consigning to the rag bag can be made as good as new if dyed with any of the fashionable colors that Diamond Dyes can produce.

Your husband's, son's or brother's dingy and faded overcoat or suit can be renewed for another season's wear by the Diamond Dyes at a trifling cost.

Diamond Dyes work wonders and save scores of dollars annually for thousands of homes on this continent. All well managed homes use the Diamond Dyes and extol their beauty and usefulness. Guard against imitations and substitutes. See that your dealer gives you the Diamond Dyes when you ask for them.

PRESENT SITUATION

The Position Taken by the Managers of the Properties.

THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH EXIST

Why It is Contended That the Contract System Must be Adopted—What it is Proposed Shall be the Conditions of Work When Resumption Takes Place.

Since the interests of Rossland depend on the prosperity of the large mines of the camp and the apprehension of possible labor troubles is causing much anxiety to citizens it seems proper to make public at this time an explanation of the present situation and of the plans of the companies so far as they affect the public welfare.

With this end in view the editor of the Miner has obtained from the managers of these properties the following information, which he is authorized to make public:

It is a well-known fact to all mining men and miners in Rossland that the costs of mining here are very excessive for the conditions presented. This is true, with all due allowance for the fact that the rock is harder than in most districts. The causes which have resulted in this state of affairs are also well understood. It is due partly to special difficulties with machinery and equipment; partly to the fact that the methods of operating have not been perfected; and largely to the fact that only eight hours work is given here for the wages which, throughout the west, command 10 hours of labor. It is a matter of common knowledge, however, that the principal cause has been the fact that the labor employed has not been as efficient as it ought to be. The number of tons stopped, per man, and the number of feet of heading driven, per man, have not been satisfactory.

It is also well-known that the average grade of ore, produced from the Rossland ore deposits, is low, and it will require economy to secure satisfactory returns on the capital invested. Moreover, large bodies of ore now exposed in the mines must remain untouched until the expense of mining and reduction are lowered. The prosperity and future of this district depends upon the extent to which these economies can be carried.

It is useless now to argue the question of whether legislation, the mining companies, or their employees are most responsible for the present state of affairs. The work to be done is to reform it. The companies are fully aware of their own deficiencies, and are endeavoring to improve them as rapidly as possible. After the most careful consideration, however, it has become apparent that it is impossible to cure existing evils of the wages system, and it must, therefore, be abandoned. To secure the required efficiency of labor, it is necessary to change to the contract system, paying by the quantity of work done instead of by the time spent in doing it. Under the wages system, the best miners from a sense of comradeship, refrain from doing their best. This is because it would reflect upon the poor workmen, and the penalty would be ostracism. Under the contract system, on the contrary, every man has an incentive to do his best, and superior skill and industry bring the higher reward to which they are entitled. The increased wealth produced is clear gain, and the mining companies are willing that the miners should have a fair share of it. In most mining districts the best miners prefer contract work.

There are various possible ways of measuring the quantity of work done, and for the present two methods will be used. One is to measure the length of holes drilled; the other is to measure the cubic feet of advance made by a heading. The latter method is in such common use that all experienced miners are familiar with it, and it requires no explanation. The other method, of payment by the number of feet of holes drilled, has been selected because of its extreme simplicity, and because it is best adapted to the mines in their present condition. Another advantage of the method is that all parties concerned can estimate more accurately the quantity of work per shift to be expected from any given ground.

Drilling will be confined to two 8-hour shifts in the twenty-four. Blasting will be done by the company during the remaining hours. Rock and ore will also be removed by the company. In applying the contract system to these mines there will be no sub-contracting. Men may choose their own partners and elect their own foreman.

The rate of payment for each particular working place will be fixed by mutual agreement between the company and the contractors who undertake it. It is believed that the pay received will average much higher than under the wages system.

The mines have been entirely closed for a short time, in order to thoroughly overhaul machinery and hoisting arrangements in preparation for the introduction of the new system. The companies are now ready to start their mines, and to put on men as fast as the contracts can be let. Many of the best miners have expressed their satisfaction with the new arrangement, and are anxious to begin work. A certain number, however, prefer the old wages system.

The companies wish to give ample time for consideration in the hope and belief that all their old employees will decide to accept the new arrangement, and co-operate heartily in getting it under way.

THE "PLUNGE" MEANT DEATH.

But for the Timely Aid of South American Kidney Cure.

A promising young printer and publisher in a northern town, while overheated from wheeling, took a "plunge" in the lake. Inside of a month kidney disease developed and dropsical swelling was very apparent. He treated with local doctors, and on their advice he visited a specialist in Toronto, but was told his case was a hopeless one. He quit the doctors, went to taking South American Kidney Cure, and today he's in the best of health. He has been so for 12 months. Sold by Goodeve Bros.

C. R. Hamilton, le Maistre. On & le Maistre, Solicitors, Rossland, B. C.

T & SHAW, SOLICITORS, PUBLIC.

GALT, etc., Rossland.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Notice.

claim, situate in the division of West Kootenai.

About three miles east south of and adjoining mineral claim.

William E. Devereux, for Horace J. Ray, B. 29,047, Ida May, B. 12,831, Mike Sullivan, B. 13,156, T. W. Shipley, and sixty days from the date of the mining recorder of obtaining a crown grant.

Notice that action, must be commenced before a certificate of improvement.

day of October, A. D.,

M. E. DEVEREUX, P. L. S.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Notice.

mineral claim, situate in the division of West Kootenai.

On Record mountain, I. O. B. N. Wilkie, R. W. Northey, F. M. C. H. Smith, F. M. C. sixty days from the date of the mining recorder of improvements, for obtaining a crown grant of the

Notice that action, must be commenced before a certificate of improvement.

day of March, A. D.,

O. B. N. WILKIE.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Notice.

Violet mineral claims in Creek mining division district.

About two miles south Lake mountain, near the mineral claim.

I. Kenneth L. Burnet, Elroy, free miner's certificate, intend 60 days from the date of the mining recorder of improvements, for obtaining a crown grant.

Notice that action, must be commenced before a certificate of improvement.

day of January, A. D.,

METH L. BURNET, 1-25-106

IMPROVEMENTS.

Notice.

Fraction mineral claim, in Creek mining division district.

On Trail creek in the bounded on the west by the Foothill and Pool Hen south by the Pool Hen claims and partly on the Horn claim.

I. R. E. Young (acting as Curtis, free miner's certificate No. 10,849 A), free No. 13,446 B, in compliance of the above claim, to apply for a certificate of the purpose of obtaining the above claim.

Notice that action, must be commenced before a certificate of improvement.

day of December, 1899.

E. YOUNG, P.L.S.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Notice.

and Cecil Rhodes mined in the Trail Creek of Kootenay district.

On the summit of

I. J. A. Kirk, acting for Thur. H. Greene, free No. 29,034, intend, 60 days hereof, to apply for a certificate of the purpose of obtaining the above claim.

Notice that action, must be commenced before a certificate of improvement.

day of March, 1900.

J. A. KIRK.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Notice.

Potts, barrister, is in Rossland. He has been how on his way home for a day or two with