

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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Table with 2 columns: Subscription Rates and Weekly Miner. Rows include Daily, Weekly, and Foreign rates for various periods.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

(From Friday's Daily.) IT IS JUST A WEEK TODAY SINCE THE ROSSLAND MINER PASSED INTO ITS PRESENT CONTROL IN THAT SHORT SPACE OF TIME NO LESS THAN SEVENTY-ONE SUBSCRIPTIONS—NONE OF THEM SOLICITED—HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST OF REGULAR READERS OF THE DAILY EDITION, AND VERY SATISFACTORY RESULTS HAVE ALSO BEEN OBTAINED BY THE PAID CANVASERS WHO ARE BUSY SOLICITING SUBSCRIPTIONS IN THE CITY. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE NEW SUBSCRIBERS ARE WAGE-EARNERS EMPLOYED IN THE MINES; THERE ARE, HOWEVER, NOT A FEW OF THE OLD SUBSCRIBERS AMONG THE BUSINESS MEN WHO HAVE ORDERED THE PAPER SENT TO THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS AS WELL AS TO THEIR HOMES—JUST TO HELP OUT THE NEW MANAGEMENT THAT IS TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING, AS SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO SAY.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY MINER UNDER THE NEW MANAGEMENT, APPEARED YESTERDAY. BEFORE IT WAS PRINTED, THE REDDIN-JACKSON COMPANY ORDERED 150 EXTRA COPIES. J. L. WHITNEY & COMPANY 125, C. E. BENN & CO 100, J. B. JOHNSON & CO. 100 AND R. A. O. HOBBS & CO. 50. THESE ENTERPRISING BROKERS, DESIROUS OF KEEPING ROSSLAND TO THE FRONT IN THE EYES OF THE OUTSIDE INVESTING PUBLIC, HAVE MAILED YESTERDAY'S WEEKLY MINER TO THE CHIEF CENTERS OF CANADA, THE BRITISH ISLES AND THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT SEVERAL OF THE FIRMS MENTIONED WILL INCREASE THEIR ORDERS NEXT WEEK.

THE MINER IS NOW PUBLISHED SOLELY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE KOOTENAYS. THERE ARE NO STRINGS ON IT, AND ITS ONLY AIM IS TO DO ALL IT POSSIBLY CAN TO PROMOTE THE PROSPERITY OF THE ROSSLAND CAMP AND THE SURROUNDING DISTRICT. IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE ROSSLAND MINER.

THE EAST KOOTENAY "RESERVE"

The Miner has only one purpose to serve in publishing an account of the reasons leading up to the present shortage of coke at Kootenay smelters. It desires to see the situation relieved as quickly as possible. It has nothing against the C. P. R., but vigorously protests against the government's action in establishing a "reserve" that serves no purpose except to retard the development of the coal and precious metal mining industry of the Kootenays. As the Miner understands it, the Provincial government reserved a large area of the surface rights of Southeast Kootenay to allow the C. P. R. and other corporations to make selections of lands in connection with the British Columbia Southern and Columbia & Western branch lines. All the selections that may be made have been secured, but there is still a large acreage in the "reserve" that remains Crown land. The Provincial government, however, continues in its refusal to throw open these remaining lands to private individuals. This applies not only to the surface rights but also to

the issuing of coal licenses. As for the mineral rights, they never were included in the reserve, either by act of the legislature or by order-in-council. It is inconceivable, then, that the government should continue to block the progress of the country.

The Miner has endeavored to show the gravity of the situation. At the present time the Crow's Nest collieries are the only mines producing coal that makes really good coke. There are other collieries in the Crow's Nest, but we are given to understand from an authoritative source that none of these are capable of supplying the requisite quality of coke. There is, however, the right kind of coking coal in almost limitless quantities tied up in the "reserve." If this were available the problem of coke supply for Kootenay, as well as near-by American smelters, would be quickly solved. It is the unquestionable duty of the Victoria authorities to immediately see to it that the disabilities as herein set forth are removed and every opportunity granted to those who are ready and willing to supply the much-needed fuel.

A PERNICIOUS PRACTICE.

Loyalty to the camp is a virtue that should be cultivated by some Kootenayans. It is occasionally the custom of speculators and operators in London and Eastern Canada to ask questions concerning the merits of Trail Creek and other Kootenay properties in which, perhaps, they purpose investing. Too often those who are shortsighted, unwise, ungenerous and selfish give information that is calculated to hurt the property in the eyes of the engineer. The idea of men of this stamp is that by tearing down, they build themselves up. In other words, they seem to think that by "bearing" the properties of others here they are "bulling" what they desire to sell. In point of fact, every word they utter against the properties of this district is a boomerang that returns to hurt the proposition for which they are pleading. The wiser policy would be to give due credit to a property where it deserves it. By following this rule more deals would be put through than have been. There should be no advocacy of that which is dishonest, but rather the practice should be to give praise where it is due, and which in the end will result advantageously to the district. The engineer that has been informed by an over-zealous promoter that all competing properties are valueless, will be certain to imagine it is simply impossible that his informant has the only meritorious mine in a perfect wilderness of worthless "wildcats."

Where it is positively known that a property has no intrinsic value, the inquirer should be told the facts, but a system of wholesale condemnation of all others, simply through the hope of adding to the chances of selling the mine one is interested in, is both vicious and unwise. It is fortunate that the mines here have sufficient merit to withstand this sort of foul work. If it were not for the big output and the immense bodies of ore that have been exposed, this indiscriminate decrying would have resulted in doing much more serious harm than it has. At best it has resulted in preventing the consummation of a number of big deals, but the merits of the district have generally triumphed over misrepresentation. On the Eastern and British investor, it must be remembered, much of the future of the Kootenays depends, and nothing that will stand in the way of his putting his money into legitimate mining properties should be done or tolerated. The policy of depreciating the value of properties, which are of known merit, should not, therefore, be indulged in by those who have the best interests of self and the district at heart.

A CORRECTION.

In a review of the London stock market for 1902, the London correspondent of the Engineering and Mining Journal refers to the "disappointing results at the Le Roi mine."

We admit that the Le Roi company did not pay a dividend last year, but that was not the fault of the mine. The Le Roi, as a matter of fact, earned \$578,000 net during the last eight months of 1902, and accomplished this in the face of many drawbacks and obstacles. The five furnaces at its smelter were not worked to the full capacity, owing to the shortage of the coke supply last summer. The price of copper has also had its effect on the earnings of the mine. Then there was the labor trouble with its numerous attendant disadvantages. It is only reasonable to suppose that if everything had operated smoothly, the earnings for the period mentioned would have been considerably larger. But as it is the profits amounted to more than ten per cent on the share capital of the company. We consider this an excellent showing, and one which completely disproves the allegations of the Engineering and Mining Journal.

During the current year the Le Roi should make a still better showing and become a profitable investment to its owners. The mine is now on a very satisfactory basis, there have been recent substantial reductions in the cost of fuel and general working expenses, and the general condition of the mine remains just as good as it was last year.

THE KOOTENAY COKE SUPPLY.

In the January 17th issue of the Fernie Free Press is a leading editorial concerning the present coke production of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company. The article quotes Mr. Tonkin, the company's manager, as being the authority for the statement that the coal company is now producing 850 tons daily, while the average demand of the Kootenay and Northport smelters is 550 tons daily. "This," says the Free Press, "shows clearly that the supply, allowing for a fair estimate for the irregular small demands from other quarters, is ample to keep these smelters in constant supply." The Free Press also makes the assertion that the Trail smelter has 2000 tons of coke now on hand.

As a matter of fact, the Boundary smelters are now suffering from a large shortage of fuel. The Boundary Falls plant is operated to the extent of only one-half of its full capacity, and both the B. C. Copper Company and Granby works are seriously hampered for the same reason. The Northport smelter is also prevented from operating more than three of its five furnaces because of the inability of the Crow's Nest company to furnish it with an adequate supply of coke. The Trail smelter has absolutely no reserve supply of coke, and is being operated on a hand-to-mouth basis. These statements can be easily corroborated, if the Free Press cares to take the trouble. We would also point out for the benefit of the Fernie paper and the general public that, were the coke supply of the Crow's Nest company fully up to the present requirements of Kootenay smelters, all the plants mentioned would be working to their full capacity.

The Crow's Nest collieries at the present time enjoy a monopoly of the coke supply for Kootenay smelters. They are assisted in maintaining this by the refusal of the British Columbia government to issue licenses for the development of the coal areas contained in the surface rights "reserved" in Southeast Kootenay. If these restrictions were removed, the coal lands in the "reserve" would be developed as rapidly as possible. There then would be a healthy competition between coke producers, by which the Kootenay smelting and mining industry would experience almost incalculable benefits, and general prosperity would become promptly and firmly established throughout this section of the Province.

The present condition of affairs is becoming intolerable.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Miner is highly gratified with the result of its efforts to bring about a unity of sentiment in all elements of the population for the up-building and promotion of prosperity of Rossland. Its suggestion that the Rossland board of trade be made really representative of all classes has met just what we hoped for and expected. We particularly desire to draw attention to the public-spirited and manly utterances of Mr. M. P. Villeneuve, the secretary of the local branch of the Miners' Union. The union miners of this camp are giving every evidence of an earnest desire to help build up the camp. In the ranks of the union are some splendid fellows who, in the matter of intelligence and local patriotism, can give pointers to many of the business men. The present management of the Miner is a consistent friend of trades unionism and is proud of it. This office pays the highest rate of wages of any printing establishment in British Columbia and will continue to do so, even if it "goes broke" in the attempt. We hope, therefore, that every encouragement will be extended by the business men to their fellow-townsmen who work in the mines to join with their council in promoting a greater prosperity of the Golden City than has hitherto been the case.

It is the unquestionable duty of all those who are not now supporters of the board of trade to follow the admirable example now set by the trades unions.

THE FUEL QUESTION.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

The announcement is made this morning that the Trail smelter has been compelled to temporarily shut down one of its copper furnaces, owing to the shortage of the coke supply. This will not have any immediate ill effect on the shipments of ore from this camp to Trail, but it is only reasonable to suppose that if the Crow's Nest Coal company cannot meet the demand for coke, the Rossland mines will be effected in course of time.

The Miner calls upon the management of the Crow's Nest Coal company to state just what may be expected in this respect.

Meanwhile it is the duty of the Provincial government to allow the development of the coal lands of the East Kootenay "reserve." We also desire to warn the government that in removing all restrictions from the development of these lands, there should be no partiality shown any particular company or class. The general public should be allowed a chance to own some of this land. If any favoritism is shown to

the C. P. R., the Crow's Nest company, the Great Northern or any of the other big companies, the government will be wholly discredited in the Kootenays.

INFORMATION WANTED.

The manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star mines is nothing if not conservative. In the long run it is probably just as well that it should be so, but the Miner wants to publish all the news of the camp and finds it difficult to get Mr. Kirby or any of his staff of assistants to give the information that will allow the public to form an intelligent estimate of what the real situation is so far as the plans of these companies are concerned in the immediate future. It is an open secret that Mr. Kirby has solved the intricate problem of successfully applying concentration to the lower grade of ores of the camp. If he has, he has worked out the salvation of Rossland. It is also a matter of common report that the War Eagle and Centre Star have an almost unlimited tonnage of this class of ore blocked out ready for stopping. It is equally well known that these companies have decided to build large concentration works as soon as the weather permits.

It may be that Mr. Kirby has substantial reasons for delaying a definite announcement of his plans for the immediate future. If it is true that the failure of the Provincial government to do the right thing by the mining industry has delayed the fulfillment of Mr. Kirby's hopes of success, he is not to be blamed for the postponement of operations. We are also willing to admit that he may be laboring under other temporary difficulties of which we know nothing, for the reason that the present management of the Miner does not enjoy the same confidential relations as did its predecessor.

Rosslanders, however, are desperately interested in the final outcome of Mr. Kirby's experiments and await with the liveliest expectations a definite statement of his elaborate plans for next spring. They have a right to know this, and it is to be hoped that the general manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star will take them into his confidence at the earliest possible date.

THE B. C. MINING ASSOCIATION.

The Coast papers are giving special prominence to reports of the recent meetings held at Victoria for the purpose of organizing a Provincial Mining Association on the lines of the California Mining Association.

The credit for setting in motion this important organization is in no small measure due to J. B. Hobson, of the Cariboo Consolidated Hydraulic company. It is fortunate in having such a man for its originator. In consequence of his influence it has been based upon a foundation much broader than might have been the result had he not taken a very active interest in its inception. Mr. Hobson is a broad-minded man, and one who has a very extended knowledge of mining in all its details from the hardships of the prospector to the perplexities of the capitalist who has thousands invested in a critical undertaking.

The conditions surrounding the mining industry of British Columbia, the principal industry of the Province, have become so burdensome that capital has ceased to flow into this country. Efforts have been made by certain classes of the community, sometimes on behalf of practical miners, sometimes on behalf of mine owners, and sometimes by delegates from the municipalities, to secure relief from the Dominion parliament and from the Provincial legislature. All such efforts have heretofore failed, partly owing to imperfect knowledge of our difficulties possessed by our legislators, and partly owing to the lack of united organization fairly representative of all persons interested in the mining industry. With a view of overcoming such obstacles, and securing for the mining industry the support which it deserves, it is proposed to form a large and representative association of miners, mine owners, merchants, bankers, farmers and professional men, and all other persons who may be directly or indirectly interested in the mining industry. By this means, and apparently only by this means, can we secure relief for the industry and such favorable legislation as will restore confidence in foreign capitalists. If the B. C. mining industry can be made prosperous, every other industry in the Province will naturally and necessarily share in such prosperity. The present depression of nearly all such other industries is the natural and necessary result of the depression in mining.

The proposed association is not an untried experiment. Some years ago the miners and mine owners of California found themselves hampered as we are now, with a lot of unjust legislative conditions. A few individuals met, together to discuss the situation and devise a remedy, and they started the California Miners' association for the purpose. The idea was grasped immediately by the working miners, the merchants, farmers and others, and the result was that within a very short time the association succeeded in obtaining all the remedial legislation they required, and the mining industry of the state increased by leaps and bounds, and brought pros-

perity to all other industries also. Fortunately Mr. Hobson was one of the originators of the California Mining association, and there is every reason for the belief that he will lend all the assistance he can to make a similar success of the British Columbia Mining association.

It was decided at the Victoria meeting that the first thing to be done in each town and district is to call a meeting as promptly as possible, and especially of the practical working miners, mine owners, merchants, farmers and others whose business prosperity is affected directly or indirectly by the prosperity of the mining industry, and let each man sign the membership roll. Each community is entitled to send one delegate for every 20 members, or one delegate in the case of a community of less than 20 members. The chairman of each meeting will promptly send in the names of all members to the secretary, H. Mortimer Lamb, Victoria. The delegates' credentials will consist merely of a letter signed by the chairman and secretary of each local branch, certifying the number of members enrolled in the city or district, and the names of the delegates appointed.

The constitution and by-laws of the new association will be settled at the convention to be held at Victoria on February 25th.

This is a matter worthy of the immediate attention of the Rossland board of trade.

ROSSLAND'S INACTIVE MINES.

The Miner is anxious to promote the prosperity of this community and feels that this end cannot be better attained than by assisting in every way possible the mining companies, now inactive, to resume operations.

It is well known that quite a number of the idle mines of this camp have great merit and only need development and the introduction of facilities now available to become steady shippers and profitable propositions. Take, for instance, such properties as the Iron Mask, Jumbo, I X L, Virginia, Monte Cristo, Mountain View, Eureka, Consolidated, St. Elmo, Enterprise, Idaho, Southern Cross, Commander and several other promising showings on Red Mountain and in the South Belt. Nearly all the properties mentioned have been shut down for the last two years or more. Yet they were, for the most part, worked at a time when the actual cost of mining was much higher than is the case at the present time. It was then estimated that they had large ore shoots of sufficient richness to leave a substantial profit for the companies operating them after freight and treatment charges of \$11 to \$12 per ton had been paid. Since many of these fine properties suspended operations there has been a steady reduction occurring in the cost of freight and treatment, and the expenses in actual mining have been reduced at least 25 per cent. But for the present inadequate coke supply, which at worst is only a temporary matter, the smelting charges have been reduced to one-half the cost that obtained three years ago, and there are still further reductions to be made in the near future. The Trail smelter management makes no secret of its ability to smelt Rossland ores at a considerably lower rate than can be obtained at Northport, while the Northport people will have to make still further reductions if they desire to continue doing custom work. In fact, it is quite reasonable to expect that before next summer both the Trail and Northport works will be glad to take Rossland custom ores at less than \$2 per ton, otherwise, the big mines here, that at present do not have smelting works of their own, will be compelled to build for themselves, and so greater competition will be created for the smaller properties that may have ore to market.

The Miner is in correspondence with the officers and larger shareholders of all the companies owning meritorious properties here that are now inactive. This paper is offering its services gratuitously to assist in every possible way to bring about a general resumption of work. Were the real facts published in connection with these properties—their past records as profit-earners, their considerable ore reserves, together with such statements of facts relative to their general needs and opportunities as would acquaint all the shareholders with the real situation and demonstrate to them that the present juncture has features that promise better things for the mines of Rossland and these properties in particular, we feel satisfied that the results would be decidedly gratifying. The Miner is prepared to do all this free of charge, because we feel that we would

be rewarded in the long run by the enhanced prosperity of Rossland.

It is to be hoped that all those to whom The Miner has written about the matter will furnish the desired information as promptly as possible, so that we may have every opportunity to assist in getting things started as soon as the season opens. We may also say to those who have been overlooked in the correspondence now under way, if they will send us full particulars about other inactive mines that should be working in this district, we shall be pleased to publish the same.

THE ROSSLAND SHARE MARKET.

Rossland is the cheapest and best place in which to purchase the stocks of mines of this and adjoining camps. This contention is borne out by all the facts in the case. There are no mining stocks in the Kootenay district that are more dealt in than are those of the mines of the Trail Creek division. The head offices of most of the mining companies operating here are located in Rossland, and even if some of them are extra-provincial companies, whose principal offices are situated outside of the Province, they are compelled by the laws of British Columbia to maintain an office and to have an attorney to represent them here. There are millions of the shares of the companies operating in the division held in this city. The reason why shares can be purchased cheaper here than in the East or Spokane is obvious. This is a selling market, while outside points are, to a considerable extent, buying places for shares. Here the shares are acquired in the course of the organization of companies. Prospectors, in numerous instances, sell their holdings for a certain number of shares in the companies that are formed to operate them. The promoters, in a large number of instances, are residents of this city and they, too, receive big blocks of stock as compensation for their services. The result is that there is usually a large supply of stock in hand here in the properties in which the "strikes" are made. When a "strike" is made in a local property and there comes a sudden demand for the shares, where do Toronto, Montreal, London, Spokane, Butte and other cities send to when they desire to purchase? Not to Spokane, not to Butte, not to Toronto, not to Montreal, not to London, but to Rossland, where the bulk of the purchasable shares are held. That is why Rossland is and always will be the share market of the mines of the Kootenays. It is here, more than elsewhere, too, that the value of the shares of the local companies is best understood. Even though this be the case the holders in Rossland are at times long on stocks and short on money. They are compelled by reason of the peculiar condition to part with shares that they know are worth more than the price at which they sell. This, too, helps to make Rossland the leading share selling center of the West. If anyone interested in this subject will take the pains to look at the quotations under the headings of snags and bargains, in the several advertisements that appear in the columns of the Daily and Weekly Miner and compare them with the prices quoted by the brokers of Toronto, Spokane and other cities, they will immediately be convinced that our contention is true that Rossland is the cheapest market in which to purchase British Columbia mining shares.

The Miner publishes in another column this morning a description of the Hunt method of leaching with an ammoniacal cyanide solution such copper-gold ores as are found in the Rossland camp. The method has been closely examined by that eminent metallurgist, Professor Janin, and he has decided that it has great merit and will probably revolutionize the present practice of saving values. So much the better for Rossland, if true. Meanwhile, Mr. Kirby, general manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star, has very cleverly perfected a system of concentration for the low grade ores of the camp and upon which he is willing to stake his reputation. It has been stated on good authority that Mr. Kirby will commence the erection of his huge concentrating plant as soon as the weather permits. If the Provincial legislature when it next assembles will only do the right thing by the Kootenay mining industry, Rossland will be enjoying unexampled prosperity by the end of the present year.

The Seattle newspapers are discussing the question of the repeal of the United States tariff on coal and coke and express fear that the collieries of Western Washington will suffer from Canadian competition. There is no cause for alarm in this respect. Western Washington has yet to produce coal of a requisite quality to supply the needs of the Eastern Washington, Idaho and Montana smelters. With the tariff they are not selling a pound of coke to the smelters just mentioned. They will lose nothing by the repeal of the tariff.

Advertisers should remember that The Daily Miner reaches the wage earners.

THE MINER TO INAUGURATE THE LEAD ORES ON A COMPANY ARE YET TO BE CO... THE EXPECTATIONS ARE GRATIFYING... THE CONSTRUCTION... THE DETAILS... UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER... PLATED AT THIS... FOR THIS PURPOSE... IF THE RE... NO. 2 TO ERECT... THEIR MINES, TH...

NEWS OF

THE PROGRESS SOUTH BRITISH COLUMBIA THE SITUATION ENAY NEAR RESE...

From the Rockies Southern British Columbia make fairly good progress had legislation and assistance from the agent-general in London for considerable improvement, but with the recent development of the Canadian ducts that rich district recover and enjoy greater Lardens country is a very well and will activity this year the Kootenay is in a favorable position, but the refusal government to open any coal "reserve" development of the district attention is being agricultural lands all valley, but as soon as is developed there, will be created for ducts, and the whole district.

YMRIR DI Four cars of ore have week from the Hunt. It is reported that some litigation, Horn and Wilcox property.

The rumor is again a deal in connection with a few men engaged in clearing up the situation. The first sold brick mill has been taken up by F. Burne, the secret Hill company. The weighed 7 pounds, the product of a party a run of 16 days. To be much freer than cessitating a few of the plates. Most of retained in the mortar clean-up has been a White, the superintendent, states that in a ground on the rich quantity of low grade be taken out, and this preliminary run of the...

THE SILVER Jim. It is reported that company is negotiating the Lucky Jim.

The people of Slope Bank in their city. The Silver Glacier, shipped another car of is still holding its highest grade proposal. Dr. Rogers and D. are interested in the...

The main shaft on down 300 feet. The terraces has deprived power for its drills. The Monitor work shifts without any t under excellent paid a 10 per cent. The long drawn out Kerlin has been settling...

The American Boy Helens, having made a smelter trust. Paddy Murphy has the Silbert, and W now sole proprietor Sendon hotel.

The lease has been. There is plenty mine and the companies. The Slocan mines tons of high grade g...

EAST KOOTENAY

The Fort Steele careful canvas of the to the conclusion t will enjoy great p current year. The that the Provincial...

E. G. PRIOR