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IS THE C. P. R. TITLE WEAK?

People of East Kootenay Aroused to Enquire About the Crown Granting of a Big Block—A Strong Belief that the Land Still Belongs to the Crown.

FORT STEELE, May 6.—It is alleged that there is a cloud upon the title of another large East Kootenay land grant to the C. P. R. The recent signing of the lieutenant-governor of the bill cancelling the grant of over 600,000 acres in block 4593, embracing the whole of the southeast corner of British Columbia, has resulted in investigations here with regard to the titles to other C. P. R. land grants from the provincial government, and hence it is that a new and startling discovery has been made.

Adjoining block 4593 on the west is block 4589, containing about one million acres of coal, oil, timber and farm lands. The grant is many miles wide, and extends from the international boundary northwards across the Crow's Nest Pass railway and into the heart of the Elk river country. This tract of land is fully as rich, if not more so, than the now famous Flathead district contained in block 4593.

It is certain that the crown grant to block 4589 was irregularly issued if a survey was not made according to the prescribed rules of the provincial government. It is a plainly established fact that actual survey of the ground has not been made and notes of the same filed in the department of lands and works at Victoria before a crown grant can be properly issued.

Unless these rules have been complied with the railway company's title to the million acres in block 4589 is open to question.

Prospectors and surveyors returning from the Flathead district declare that they have been unable to discover any trace of the so-called eastern boundary of block 4589. It is thought that the crown grant was issued upon merely a description of metes and bounds, and therefore block 4589 is government land and open to location and preemption by the general public.

There is a rumor here to the effect that Col. Prior, the premier of British Columbia, has been aware of all this for some time, but the astonishing feature of it is that he has taken no steps to save this magnificent heritage to the people. It is not known whether E. V. Bodwell, the legal representative of the Great Northern railway at Victoria, has ever been consulted upon the subject, but there is a report in circulation to the effect that he is fully conversant with all the circumstances surrounding the issuance of the crown grant and could make some interesting revelations were he asked to do so.

The great trouble is that the people of East Kootenay have become so impoverished by the policy of the provincial government,

which has tied up almost the whole district for the benefit of the C. P. R., that they cannot raise sufficient funds to take up the case.

The fact that their representative in the legislature, E. C. Smith, has recently flopped to the government side of the house has left them in a worse plight than ever.

The outlook for East Kootenay is hopeless unless the oppositionists in the legislature come to the rescue. They feel that if Hon. Richard McBride, the leader of the Opposition, would come out squarely against the aggression of the railway company in this district, all would yet be well. There are millions of acres of land and millions upon millions of dollars to be saved to the province.

This rumor concerning the title to the million acres in block 4589 has started prospectors to the district. The block contains some of the richest coal, petroleum and agricultural lands in Western Canada. A great excitement is likely to follow, and an army of fortune hunters is expected from the United States. If it is finally proved that block 4589 belongs to the crown instead of the C. P. R. it is safe to say that there will be 50,000 strangers located in this section within the next two years.

PROGRESS IN THE MINES

White Bear Is to Have a Spur from the C. P. R. Line.

Survey Now Under Way—Straightening Spitzee Shaft.

The most recent development in connection with the plans for the White Bear this summer is that of securing direct connection with the railroad. Preliminary steps in this direction are now being taken.

R. A. Bainbridge, resident engineer of the Kootenay-Boundary division of the Canadian Pacific, has been in the city since Saturday night with a couple of assistants for the purpose of locating a spur to the White Bear works.

The surveyed line as demarcated up to the present time leaves the main line between the water tank and Union avenue, and follows the course of Trail creek to the mine buildings. An excellent grade can be secured at comparatively small cost for grading, and the land traversed is of comparatively small value for other purposes owing to its proximity to the creek.

An advantage to the company at this juncture will obtain from the prompt construction of the spur, inasmuch as they figure on extensive building during the summer and will secure a concrete advantage by the delivery of materials of all descriptions and machinery on the ground instead of being compelled to use wagons between the railroad and the mine.

WORK IN THE SHAFT.

Work has been commenced in the shaft of the Spitzee mine, and the resumption of underground operations is thus to be facilitated. The level of the horizontal reduced to the level of the horizontal workings, the management concluded to proceed with the alterations to the shaft as the result of which a straight incline will be secured instead of the irregular angle previously in existence. The work will be carried on concurrently with the unwinding, and the end in view is to have matters in such shape that when the mine is unwatered, the shaft will be in shape to receive the new winding plant, and development of the 100 and lower levels can proceed without interruption.

APPROACHED CITY.

Yesterday the Spitzee company took steps to procure permission from the city to dump the material extracted in development work on the streets in the neighborhood of the mine. Their proposal is to deposit this waste material on the streets under the direction of the city engineer. Two advantages, however, that his client receives a cash consideration that was deemed reasonable and runs into a considerable amount. RK epap, vaO the cmfwpj cmfw

ceeded at once with development work, employing twenty or twenty-five men as soon as these operations are properly under way. The second advantage claimed for the suggestion is the improved thoroughfares to be secured. The roads on which the waste will be deposited are at present mere foot-paths through brush and low-lying land about "small creek." Waste rock placed evenly over the roads will make the best possible basis for a permanent and substantial road of considerable value to that section of the city. The addition of a foot of soil to evenly distributed waste would finish off a road that would be unequalled in the city. The board of works has the request in hand and will report to council next week.

AFTER MANY DAYS

LONG DRAWN OUT SUIT OF CLARK VS. COLLOM CLOSED YESTERDAY.

SETTLEMENT BY WHICH PLAIN-TIFF SECURES A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.

A famous Kootenay law suit came to a sudden close yesterday afternoon when the litigants in the long-drawn out action of Clark vs. Colloom agreed upon the terms of a settlement, which disposes of the issue altogether. The case was set down for a hearing at this sittings of the Supreme court, but has been withdrawn from the calendar.

The case received notoriety from one end of Canada to the other last year because of the committal to jail of William McAdams, editor of the Sandon Paystreak, for contempt of court in making comments on the delays in Clark vs. Colloom, which the Supreme court judges deemed offensive. The treatment of the editor evoked a storm of criticism, and McAdams's sentence was speedily revoked.

Almost three years ago, J. K. Clark, of New Denver, commenced suit against Frank Colloom, managing director of the Arlington mine, near Slooan City, to compel the delivery of \$3,000 shares of stock in the Arlington company, which Clark maintained was due him as commission on the sale of the property to the Arlington company. The action was vigorously fought by the defendants. A series of points were raised in the Supreme court and then appealed to the full court, thus dragging out the litigation considerably. Finally the delays of the law were exhausted, and the matter was to have been fought out here this week. The plaintiff has been in Rossland for several months, and was joined here on Monday by his solicitor, F. L. Christie, of Sandon. On Sunday W. A. Macdonald, K. C., solicitor for the defendant company, came over to consult the plaintiff with a view to a settlement. Yesterday afternoon the matter was finally closed up, the agreements signed, sealed and delivered, and the case concluded.

The sum involved in the settlement has not been divulged, on the ground that value might be placed on Arlington stock by inference, this being one of the clauses of agreement. Mr. Christie intimates, however, that his client receives a cash consideration that was deemed reasonable and runs into a considerable amount. RK epap, vaO the cmfwpj cmfw

NEWS OF GREENWOOD.

Smallpox Crosses the Line — Telegraph Absorption.

GREENWOOD, May 11.—It is stated that smallpox is spreading at Chesaw, across the international boundary line south of Rock Creek, and now a case is reported from the British Columbia side of the line, towards the Anarchist Mountain farming section. A Mrs. Butler, whose husband was in the saddlery and harness business in Greenwood for several years, is said to be in a precarious condition, suffering from this disease in severe form. The proper medical officer at Greenwood some time since placed guards at Midway and Myers Creek, but there is such a long stretch of unprotected boundary line that it is not practicable to entirely prevent communication between the infected district and points on the British Columbia side of the line. For instance, a man was in Greenwood from Chesaw last week, and to get here he had first gone to Republic, so it is alleged, crossed the line there to Grand Forks and so round to Greenwood. The case at Anarchist Mountain is supposed to have been occasioned by a visitor from Chesaw to the farm in question, prior to that visit there was no known case on this side of the line in that district. The victim is a child of a farmer named Wisted. Government Agent McMynn upon receiving the report promptly took precautions to prevent the spread of the disease and also arranged for medical supervision of the case.

Late last Friday night D. C. Corbin and A. M. Thomas arrived from Spokane, and met there John Dean, George A. Keating and A. H. MacNeill, of Rossland, and Duncan Ross, of Greenwood, these several gentlemen being officially connected with either the Yale Kootenay T. & P. Co. or the Great Northern. The meeting held after the arrival of the Spokane contingent was for the purpose of formally ratifying the sale to the Great Northern of the telegraph system in the Boundary district put in under a provincial charter obtained in 1899 by the Yale Kootenay T. & P. Co., which built a line in British Columbia from the boundary line at Cascade to Carson and from Midway to Greenwood, the connecting lines giving through communication to Spokane and other points being in Washington. The Yale Kootenay company's telegraph business in this district was generally regarded as the Spokane Northern system, but since the first of this year, when it passed into the hands of the Great Northern, it has been called the Yale Kootenay system. Probably it will in time become known as the Great Northern, but after all the name does not matter much.

FOR WATER RIGHTS.

Several Applications Filed with the Gold Commissioner.

Several applications for water rights in the Rossland district have been filed with the gold commissioner. The White Bear company is asking for 40 miners' inches of water, to be taken by a flume from the Black Bear pond and returned to Trail creek below the company's works. The application comes up on May 21st.

The Jessie F. Mining company of Trail asks for 500 inches from Sheep creek, and their application will be heard on May 30th.

F. R. Newman asks for 100 inches to be taken from Little Sheep creek near Paterson, to be utilized for agricultural purposes.

WEEK SEES AN ADVANCE

Mining Review of Especially Gratifying Nature—Progress Made.

More Mines Ship, Tonnage Greater—Construction Work.

The past week has seen further advances in connection with the mining industry of the Rossland district. The Kootenay has attained the shipping list, the Jumbo and Spitzee mines are on the working list anew and the announcements of the White Bear point to substantial activity at that property this summer. The outlook for a prosperous season in the Golden City is substantially enhanced as the outcome of the week's developments.

Shipments, too, are larger than for several weeks previous, and undoubtedly afford a criterion of the magnitude of the camp's weekly output when conditions conduce to increased tonnage, which should now be at a comparatively early date. The Rossland mines are prepared to ship a much larger tonnage than they have produced for some weeks, but the coke shortage is still felt at the smelters, and until this disability is removed the mines will not have a free hand in respect to shipments. The report from Trail in regard to coke supplies is that the plant succeeds in maintaining its three copper furnaces in operation by extraordinary precautions. To quote one of the officials' expressions, "the usual program is closely adhered to with satisfactory results."

At Northport conditions are practically unchanged, although a report is to hand that coke is coming in from East Kootenay a little more freely. This slight relief enables the management to keep three furnaces running, but the company is still suffering a severe economic hardship by reason of its inability to obtain the other half of the furnace. It is obvious that Rossland's interests are affected adversely, but, fortunately, the prospect is bright for radical improvements in connection with fuel supplies, principal among the factors that will contribute to the bettering of the situation being the construction of additional cokers at the various Crow's Nest collieries.

The outlook for still further increases in the list of working mines in the Rossland camp continues to be bright. It is expected that at an early date the construction of new headworks will be resumed mining at the property, which adjoins the Giant on the north. The New York directors of the New St. Elmo are also understood to be making inquiries here, the effect of which is to indicate their intention of resuming work on the property. The nature of the developments are understood to be on the tapis.

It seems likely that the Rossland camp will see considerable construction work under way this summer. The White Bear people are on record in respect to the erection of new headworks, the completion and framing shop; the Le Roi Two will have its mill buildings under way within the next few weeks; the Kootenay has plans under way for a \$25,000 tramway; the Spitzee is preparing plans for compressor plant and headworks; the Centre Star concentrator has construction work planned that will employ further men. The ensuing summer is, therefore, likely to be the liveliest in this respect for several years.

THE OUTPUT.

Shipments from the Rossland camp for the week ending May 9th and for the year to date are as follows:

	Week.	Year.
Le Roi	3120	66,834
Centre Star	2040	29,848
War Eagle	990	20,205
Le Roi No. 2	700	9,237
White Bear	20	189
Valve	150	2,346
O. K.	25	25
Giant	335	335
Kootenay	220	445
Honestake	90	90
Totals	7945	129,454

AMONG THE MINES.

KOOTENAY.—As the largest producer to rejoin the shipping list this week the Kootenay is naturally to the fore. The production for the week can scarcely be regarded as an average, inasmuch as the road was not in the most desirable shape for the first few days of the week, while some of the teams were new to the work. The present week will see more ore handled, the forecast being 300 tons for the week. At the mine the commencement of shipments has not altered the program, as a very large tonnage of ore had been broken in a large way. The various levels are being sampled to break ore. No new development work of importance has been undertaken.

LE ROI.—The week has passed uneventfully at the Le Roi, although the report of new developments in lower levels is persistently circulated. The fresh developments in connection with the mine, the usual program of development, exploration and stoping being carried ahead steadily. It is intended to blow in additional furnaces at the smelter as soon as the coke supply is adequate, and this will have the effect of increasing the shipments from the mine substantially. Shipments for May will probably be a few thousand tons greater than during April.

LE ROI TWO.—In the Josie mine work is carried ahead as usual on the two, three and five levels. In the No. 1 the second and third levels are being developed along the routine lines. It is stated that the big dump at the No. 1 contains a big tonnage of ore admirably suited to milling purposes, and that a large supply of such ore is being taken out in anticipation of the inauguration of concentration at the company's properties. Developments are promised shortly in connection with the mill.

CENTRE STAR.—The mine has been much to the front during the week in connection with the interesting litigation commenced a few days since. The underground operations have not been changed during the week. It will be noted that a slight increase in shipments has taken place.

GIANT.—Interesting developments are expected in the course of the next few days in connection with the Giant. The lower tunnel is rapidly approaching the point where the intersection of the vein should be effected. Much depends upon the dip of the ledge, which, of course, can only be approximated with the experience gained in the upper workings as a criterion. The mine was not able to resume shipments last week, the Trail smelter, it is stated, not being in a position to take the ore for a few days longer.

SPITZEE.—During the week substantial advances were made with the unwinding of the mine, which is proceeding under the direction of the foreman, Frank Nicholls. The water has been taken out to the back of the 100 level, from that point the unwinding process will be somewhat slower, but no time will be lost in lowering the pumps, which has been the case heretofore. It is probable that the straightening of the shaft will be undertaken early in the week. This will permit of work being resumed in the horizontal workings practically as soon as the water is drained.

WAR EAGLE.—No developments of importance are reported for the week in connection with the War Eagle. The usual program is closely adhered to with satisfactory results.

J. H. L.—The lessees are now at work seeking taking out ore and preparing for further extraction. It is probable a shipment will be made at an early date.

O. K.—The report from the mine is that work is proceeding steadily along the usual lines. Another shipment is being prepared.

JUMBO.—The Jumbo is again on the working list, and while the operations at this particular juncture are on a small scale, the fact is accepted as an augury of increased activity as soon as circumstances are propitious. A portion of the wagon road is out of the direct axis of the sun, and still carries snow, precluding necessary repairs for a short time. Pending this and the conclusion of negotiations now under way with the smelter, no important underground operations will be undertaken.

ST. JOSEPH'S.—Manager Blochberg was in the city for a day or two last week. He stated that the men at the mine had removed their families to the property and that a camp on a small scale had been started. He is anxiously awaiting the verdict of the provincial authorities as to the construction of the much-needed wagon road, stating his willingness to employ ten or twelve men as soon as machinery and supplies can be taken to the property on reasonable terms, which is impossible under existing circumstances. The tunnel at the present level has about 25 feet to run before the ledge will be picked up.

CONTACT.—Henry P. Jackson, managing director, states that conditions are improving in connection with Burnt Basin, and that operations at the Contact may be resumed shortly. The scale of operations depends largely upon the decision of the provincial authorities in respect to the wagon road, which is essential to the delivery in Burnt Basin of the machinery necessary to extensions of the main workings.

GREEN MOUNTAIN.—Work at the mine is still confined to the surface. It is understood that the proposed additions to the plant will be got under way shortly.

HUNGRY MAN.—A start has been made with mining on the property, and the next week or two is likely to see increased activity.

BIG FOUR.—Work is being done in the second level of the property, where the breast of the tunnel carries a thirty-inch showing of good looking ore. The company hopes to make a shipment at an early date.

BOUNDARY SHIPMENTS.—Boundary ore shipments for the past week were as follows: Granby mines to Granby smelter, 708 tons; Mother Lode mine to Greenwood smelter, 255 tons; Emma mine to Trail smelter, 450 tons; B. C. mine to Greenwood smelter, 780 tons; Snowshoe mine to Greenwood smelter, 240 tons; Total for the week 11,938 tons. Total for the year to date 174,079 tons. The Granby smelter treated last week 7338 tons, making a total of 114,720 tons for 1903.

TO ENGLAND SOON.

Anthony J. McMillan will Re-cross the Big Pond Shortly.

Anthony J. McMillan, managing director of the Le Roi and Snowshoe companies, has just returned from a week's visit to Victoria, where he had business with the government.

He states that the political situation is very complicated. No one seems to know what will happen from day to day, but general opinion seems to be that the even should an appeal to the country be decided upon, there is hardly likely to be an election for three or four months yet. Mr. McMillan expects to leave for England within a few days, probably returning to Rossland with George S. Waterlow.

BIG STRIKE IN JOSIE MINE

The Rich Annie Vein Picked up on the 700-Foot Level.

Adds Thousands of Tons to the Mine's Rich Ore Reserve.

Recent developments in connection with the Josie mine are of such a nature that the property must hereafter be classified among the most valuable in the Rossland camp. In addition to the facts chronicled in Sunday's Miner, further information is to hand that indicates conditions at the Josie that are of vital importance to the property and to the camp.

The rich Annie vein has been opened up on the 300 and 500 levels west of the dyke that intruded into the workings and led to the condition of affairs developed last fall and exploited at great length in the press of London and Rossland. On both levels the Annie vein has proved as strong as was the case east of the dyke, and the values are exceptionally high.

Within the past few days the vein has been picked up by diamond drilling on the 700 level. This is an extremely important strike. Yesterday a drift was started to open up the ore body on the 700 level, and these workings will be in ore at a comparatively early date. The diamond drill has been dropped to the 900 level, where drilling will be commenced with a view to picking up the continuation of the vein on that level.

The importance of the foregoing discoveries will be grasped at a glance. It means that between the 300 and 700 foot levels the remarkably rich vein known as the Annie has been proved to exist. The tonnage thus blocked out runs into the thousands, and assures prosperity and profits to the Le Roi No. 2 for several years at least. The conditions justify the prediction that the Annie will be maintained in the future, much to the advantage of the Rossland camp and district.

It is possible that by reason of certain conditions the mine may not increase its output at this juncture, but confine its attention to opening up these ore bodies in shape for production on a large scale at the expiration of two or three months.

TWAS PAY DAY.

Over \$43,000 Distributed Among Miners of Three Companies.

Yesterday was pay day at several of the larger mines, and a considerable sum in cash was placed in circulation among the employees of the respective concerns.

The Le Roi paid out \$27,500, the Le Roi No. 2 distributed \$12,000, and the Rossland-Kootenay company disbursed \$4000 in wages. The total sum thus earned by the employees of the three companies was \$43,500.

The Veivet mine paid out about \$3000 for April wages and the War Eagle and Centre Star companies' disbursements for the month were \$1000, which will swell the aggregate Rossland wage roll for April to about \$75,000.

NORTHPORT SMELTER BLAZED.

Some Damage Done to the Calcade Building on Sunday.

NORTHPORT, Wash., May 11.—Fire did about \$1000 damage to the roof of the fine dust chamber and to the south end of the calcade building of the Le Roi smelter yesterday morning.

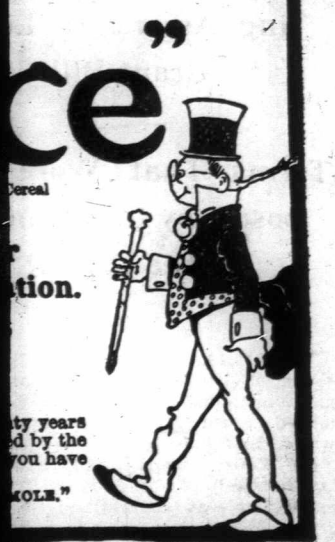
When first noticed the flames were rising out of one end of the false roof over the dustroom. Before a line of hose could be run the entire roof was ablaze. This roof extends over a large arched brick chamber used to collect fine dust, which is made into bricks and resmelted. The wood was as dry as tinder, and the heat from the brick. No ventilators had been provided to expel the heat, which became intense enough to almost cause combustion. It is supposed a spark touched some wood by coming through a crack or break in the arches of the roof. The flames worked up the caves of the calcade building and for a time it seemed that the building was doomed. Insurance is ample.

ON LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Yesterday's quotations for Rossland shares on the London stock exchange were as follows:

Le Roi	21 1/2
Le Roi No. 2	21 9/16
Le Rois are quoted at the figure that has ruled for some days. The sharp rally of a couple of days before in the Le Roi Two has been followed by a slight relapse, but the shares are still \$1.50 above the figure quoted for some days previous to the rally.	

at unfriendly man a hermit plan. for a friendly smile, in his moody style was served to him—him "Sunny Jim."



BROS. COLUMBIA

Agents: Bank of British North America, Rossland, B. C., and London, England, of Montreal, Rossland, B. C.

OFFICERS ELECTED

ANNUAL MEETING OF NO. 1 COMPANY ASSOCIATION HELD.

RIGHTS NEW YEAR UNDER FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES—SHOOTING SOON.

(From Wednesday's Daily.) The annual meeting of No. 1 Company Mountain Rangers association came and gone, and the company commences a new year under favorable auspices. In connection with the local militia is an association distinct from military organization. This association receives all the pay drawn by officers and men of the company disburses the funds so pooled for benefit of the members as a whole. Shooting arrangements, mess rooms, uniforms and other features not provided for by the militia department are financed by the association, which constitutes an important factor in the prior economy of the corps.

The officers elect for the current year are: Sergeant Walter P. Dockerill—President.

Sergeant-Major Charles A. Barrett—Vice-president.

Private Carpenter—Secretary-treasurer.

General Committee—Privates McKenney, Johnson and Rigby.

Range Committee—Captain Townsend, Corporal Smith, Lance-Corporal Roberts and Private Dell.

Finance Committee—Eugle-Major Barrett, Privates Carpenter, Harvey and Dell.

The invitation to the company to spend Dominion Day in Nelson was accepted with certain stipulations that have been communicated to the Queen City committee.

The matter of the shooting program for the season was gone into after a report had been received from the retiring range committee to the effect that on Sunday last they had gone over the ranges and done considerable work, the fact of which was to render the ranges ready for use at any juncture. Shooting will commence on Saturday and Sunday next, and will be maintained throughout the season.

FATALITY AT YMIR

WATCHMAN AT WILCOX MILL KILLED BY BEING CAUGHT IN MACHINERY.

HIS BODY FOUND REVOLVING YESTERDAY WITH THE MAIN SHAFT.

YMIR, May 5.—A frightful fatality occurred during last night at the Wilcox mill. When the day shift went to work this morning between 5 and 6 o'clock they were horrified to discover the dead body of W. J. Salmon revolving with the shaft of the main pulley. Life had apparently been extinct for several hours, and a hole 12 inches in depth had been worn in the ground beneath by the continuous beating of the body.

Salmon was 23 years old and a native of Ottawa, Ont. He had been employed at the Wilcox mine for the past nine months, and was in charge of the mill during the night. While at work a portion of his clothing became caught in the shaft, and he was whirled to death without a chance for his life. The remains will be taken to Ottawa by Thomas Wilson of Ymir.

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