Rossland Weekly Miner.

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A TREACHEROUS PREMIER.

Now that he has shamelessly repudiated his pledge to repeal the two per cent tax, Premier Prior will have to reckon with the Provincial Mining Association, and in so doing he will have to face a condition that will probably result in his speedy and permanent retirement from British Columbia politics.

For the time being the premier may control a small majority of the legislature by his evil influences, but he can never hope to either control or cajole the patriotic and public-spirited men of which the Provincial Mining Asso-

The Association was organized because the stupidity and recklessness of the present as well as the preceding government had brought the mining industry to a condition far below the prosperity that is justified by our magnificent resources. The suggestion that ed to become members. They recognized the great need of such an organization because mining is rightfully the chief industry of the Province but that it cannot be expected to flourish so long as it is oppressed by inimical iegislation.

At the Victoria convention of the as sociation it was generally admitted that the two per cent tax was as bad as any burden now affecting the mines The demand for its repeal was carried with a whoop. If it were not in the best interests of the mining industry and of the Province, why was this done? Surely the gentlemen who attended the convention knew what they were advising; and they certainly were actuated by nothing but the loftlest motives.

their demands.

the men who attended the Victoria in the House that he did not intend to repeal this iniquitous tax.

The premier now stands a self-conbridges behind him, may be expected adroitly worded discussion calculated to breed dissension among the members of the association.

CORNERED AT LAST. The Victoria dispatches to The Miner

anent the airing of the East Kootenay scandal in the legislature, may require a little explanation to those who are not familiar with all the circumstan-Contrary to every principle of good try. He speaks also of amendment to

Kootenay. Pending the selection the government placed a reserve on the surface rights of the land. When the time expired for the selection of these lands by the railway company, a large area remained unselected. However, a little thing like that did not deter the rascals hand over everything by a crown grant specially authorized by an order-incouncil. The order-in-council was ac-

the House. Reserves, if any, only ap- ing the last fiscal year was far short plied to the surface rights. Knowing of \$100,000, and was only \$84,077. The this, and acting under the advice of the \$25,000 which Mr. Galt assumes to be best legal and engineer talent available, approximately what the government a number of bona fide prospectors propetroleum on crown lands in the Flathave complied with every requirement of mining, under existing conditions, of the law, but the commissioner of lands and works has persistently refused to accept the money that they have tendered for licenses, and, conse quently, no licenses have been issued The attempt to bluff these prospector out to the Victoria ringsters has failed in every respect. The locators are absolutely sure of their rights and stoutly refuse to be victimized by any such rascality.

Less than three months ago The Miner became aware of the real facts of the case and lost no time in exposing it from beginning to end. As a result the whole province became aroused, and honest men stand aghast at the rottenness of

The scandal has grown to be the fea ture of the present session of the leg- him until just previous to the opening islature. The members had only just of the present session of the legislature. convened when John Oliver, the member from Delta district, brought the mat-need of support and hunting high and ter to the attention of the House. He low for it. They found Smith, and, was ruled out of order, but waited for judging from what the coast papers a better opportunity. Within a few days have to say about it, Smith was quite he returned to the attack. He now has willing to be discovered. As a result, the commissioner of lands and works an understanding was arranged between practically cornered and the government the administration and the man from self-confessed conspirators.

Mr. Oliver's interrogatories to Chief ommissioner Wells were very much to the point, except that his questions referred to applications for "leases" instead of "licenses." The chief commissioner was foxy enough to take advantage of the mistake and easily answered of the Canadian Northern scheme by in the negative. But this slip will be the premier satisfies Mr. Smith." Howremedied within the next day or two. ever, he "realizes that the question of The next time Mr. Oliver goes after the coal and petroleum lands of his the chief commissioner, it will be to constituency will form a very important ask: "Have any applications been re- subject for debate this session." The ceived for coal and petroleum LICEN-SES in blocks 4593 and 4594 in South East Kootenay?" The Miner is also in- not lifted the reserve on the lands, and formed that Mr. Oliver intends at the no claims have been recorded. They it be organized was no sooner made same time to ask the chief commissioner are being staked, however, on a giganthan it was received enthusiastically in the house why he (the chief commissioner tic scale by a Spokane syndicate. The government, he says, seems to be agree-sioner) persistently refuses to issue lihas only been in existence a month or censes for coal and petroleum lands in hands of the C. P. R. This is perfectly two, but in that short space of time thousands of the most patriotic and public-spirited citizens representing almost every walk of life have hastenwill be in such a predicament that it would seem impossible for it to explain away the rascality that has crept into the affair.

> It is highly gratifying to know that the government has been completely its attempt to sacrifice th rights of the people to the C. P. R. and the Victoria ring, but nothing can be done to repair the injury that has been inflicted upon the Kootenays by the failure of the government to grant the East Kootenay licenses and so afford an opportunity to break the fuel monopoly that now controls the district.

MINE TAXATION.

On Tuesday last the Colonist pub lished a timely contribution from A. C. And the Premier agreed with them at two per cent tax, which will be found the time and promised to accede to in another column. Mr. Galt makes a strong appeal to the legislature "to do a magnanimous act for once towards knows better. He knows more than all our greatest industry which has been convention, and he as much as told years past, and grant it a bonus in the them so the other day when he declared shape of freedom from taxation for a few years."

Almost incredible as it may seem the government organ actually listens fessed traitor to the Provincial Mining to the appeal and admits the wisdom Association, and, having burnt his of adopting the course recommended Mr. Galt may well feel pleased at havto give that organization a body blow ing successfully stormed the citadel of whenever an opportunity occurs. The the champion of prohibitive taxation. public may any day have sprung upon It is, of course, too much to expect them by the government press some that the Colonist would capitulate gracefully. Accordingly we find that while it admits Mr. Galt's conclusion it "absolutely disagrees with him on every one of his premises, and on the arguments he bases on them." The following quotation from the editorial will show the Colonist's reasoning.

"He says that 'the revenue derived from the mineral tax is but a drop in the bucket compared with the other items of revenue which the govern-ment realizes from the mining indusment realizes from the mining in government and in direct violation of the two per cent tax to a tax on net the rights of the people, the Columbia & \$100,000 to a revenue of \$25,000, and western Railway, which is a part of then he says that doing away with this of no value to anybody except the holdthe Canadian Pacific system, was al- taxation altogether would be the 'end lowed to select certain lieu lands in East of the system of bleeding the industry to death which has heretofore prevailed.' These propositions are obviously inconsistent with one another."

The supposed inconsistency is made to appear by a palpable misquotation the present laws to become the scene did not say that doing away with this prosperity. It has more diversified re- iquitous tax. He subsequently received would have averted the catastrophe to syndicate which afterwards came beat Victoria from a deliberate attempt to taxation would be the end of the sys- sources and is easily the richest district from practically every British Columbia human life and the setback which the fore the courts under charges of wrongtem of bleeding the industry to death. bonus such as I have suggested would gress. Its vast areas of mineral, tim- that he had manifested in the matter, coke supplies. Then there was an adtually passed, and the crown grant was be taken to indicate the commenceprepared and signed. It was afterwards ment of a new attitude of encourage works has been forced to admit this in rived from the two per cent tax dur-

would realize from a tax on net profits mate. We do not believe that a tax would realize \$10,000.

for the Province to shoulder in order out of their rights and parcel the land to commence a new era of prosperity and to restore confidence to foreign capitalists.

A TYPICAL B. C. LEGISLATOR.

The case of E. C. Smith, M. P. P. for South East Kootenay, is worthy of some attention, owing to his recent extraorpolitics.

In a three-cornered fight at the last to wriggle into the House as a Mar-The Prior government was in desperate East Kootenay, and Smith became a government supporter.

Of course Mr. Smith felt that it was incumbent upon him to make explanations, and he has done so in a column interview in the Victoria Times. According to that journal, "The forsaking Times continues:

"Mr. Smith says the government has throwing open the lands a grave danger is anticipated. There would, on the date proclaimed, be a rush of all rivals which proclaimed, be a rush of all rivan which might result in riots and possible bloodshed. His own proposal is that the reserve should not be lifted at all. He would prefer to have the land, which has been proved to be rich, held in perpetuity for the province. The mineral lands could be rented for a considerable term of years to a syndicate to work." term of years to a syndicate to work."

There is a fine blending of cunning orted, it is inconceivable that y of intelligent people should man to represent them in elect such a man to repres

Here is a case where a deliberate atof acres of the most valuable lands in Mask people are getting in their assessthe Dominion of Canada. Foiled in their ments with a view to making that mine attempt to arrange this for the railway a large and steady shipper. The Cali- is very mountainous, there are no agricompany, the Government now seeks by every possible subterfuge to prevent bona fide prospectors from attaining time from his interests in the Granby growth of underbrush and trees of their legitimate and unquestionable mines. The I. X. L. will resume as soon various sizes. It presents a forbidding rights. The government admits that as Mr. Baker recovers from a severe prospect to the ordinary settler. Howthere is no reserve on the petroleum and attack of typhoid fever. There are also coal lands of East Kootenay, but persistently refuses to issue licenses for the same. Mr. Smith prattles about "no teinable, it probably would not be safe much longer will the metalliferous same. Mr. Smith prattles about "no claims being recorded." He evidently to count upon them doing anything. mines of Southern British Columbia petroleum and the law concerning mineral claims. Then he refers to a "Spokane syndicate." If, as we believe there are, a large number of "wildcatters" now "snow locations," that has nothing to do with the government's delay in issuing licenses to Kootenay prospectors who have complied with all the requirements of the law. Mr. Smith either wilfully hopelessly stupid.

The gentleman from East Kootenay is also afraid of "riots and possible bloodshed" if the "reserve" were removed. There is not the slightest possibility of anything of the kind happening. The of no value to anybody except the holders of coal and petroleum licenses. All this is but another instance of the terribly degraded conditions that ex- House a few days ago that he did not line of action followed. ist in the legislative assembly. Southber, grazing, agricultural and horticul-

ROSSLAND'S FUTURE.

Five years ago today The Miner had the passing show, but it does not require ovens are shut down the coal company occasion to congratulate the people of a close study of the man to see that his will turn the screw a little harder on Rossland because the total number of effusiveness is not the genuine article, the consumers of coke just to add zest ceeded last summer to locate coal and is undoubtedly a very sanguine esti- men employed in the Trail Creek mines Under the surface is a selfishness and to the bitter pill which the country has amounted to 600. Everybody was hap- repellant coldness that leaves but one to swallow through the cessation of head and Lodge Pole valleys. They of even five per cent on the net profits py and the future looked bright. But impression, viz., that he views the public the supplies so essential to the operathe mines were not then proved, and the ax a lot of "suckers" whom he hopes tion of the mining and smelting indistrict labored under many difficulties to use for his own particular benefit. But whether the extent of the and disadvantages that no longer exist. It now looks as though the premier bonus would amount to \$100,000 Systematic mining had barely commenc- will be made to pay dearly for his when the Crow's Nest Coal company or to only \$10,000 a year, it is ed. But two properties were developed treachery. As we have already pointed secured its enormous acreage of choice certainly a comparatively trifling sum to the 500-foot level. The idea of sink- out, he will have to reckon with the coal lands was that fuel was to be furing to the deep levels had not been thousands of electors who are members nished at a reasonable figure. The seriously considered. The extensive sur- of the Provincial Mining Association. It company, however, is absolutely indifface improvements that have been made lies within the power of the association ferent as to its obligations in this resince were then unplanned. Concentra- to put an end to his political existence spect. tion was not thought of. Freight and at the next elections. Meanwhile the smelter charges were then double what Opposition will give him many a bad ther exactions, and the policy of the they are now. The banks had not decided to invest here as they have since, the Opposition is really desirous of pro- clearly and unmistakably in the and there were only half the present tecting the people against the treachery culminating advance in coke, that a dinary change of front in provincial number doing business in the camp. Oliver Durant then, as now, was asking it behooves them to prepare a thorough that would lend its aid to such an ina couple of millions for his undeveloped case against them during the present stitution. Yet this is exactly what the general elections, Mr. Smith managed Idaho—the eastern extension of the session. Prior should be brought Provincial government is doing when Centre Star. Governor Mackintosh was to his knees over the question it withholds licenses to provincial coal tinite. Little or nothing was heard of in London raising the B. A. C. millions of inimical mine legislation, and Wells for the purchase and development of and his co-conspirators in the East Rossland properties. Heinze was doub- Kootenay scandal should be thoroughly ling the capacity of the Trail smelter, exposed. extending the Columbia & Western railway to Robson and planning to build through the Boundary and the Okanagan to tidewater. Rosslanders were busy booming their own town and the whole of the Kootenay country. Copper was much lower than it is today, and there were no converters or refineries in the country. But there were no kuockers about. It was the optimism of the people that made things go.

since 1898 has been nothing short of phe- it should be. Seeing that the governnomenal. But it never did have a fair show. With the exception of just two the rights of the people and the advancegroups-Mackintosh's B. A. C. and the ment of the mining industry of the Koot-Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate—the marvellous mineral resources in this Opposition to fight the matter out to neighborhood have been overlooked by the bitter end. investors of large capital. It takes much money to develop a mine to a dividend is, however, very significant that success tainly mines in the truest and best sense, Province. and the time is near at hand when the try. Then we may expect a reasonable amount of attention from the large in- East Kootenay matter. vestors, and so bring many of the promising but only partially developed pro- NO EXCITEMENT; NO MONOPOLY.

perties to the dividend paying stage. Meanwhile, it is highly gratifying to know that this year will witness much more activity than usual among the partially developed mines. The Giant has once more renewed operations and is more than paying its way by shipments made from development work. The White Bear has all arrangements perfected to become a shipper, and is rapidly becoming a great mine. The mammoth Jumbo vein is to be extensively worked next month. About \$50,000 will As the best of the coal and petroleum be expended this year on the Spitzee. The Novelty will resume operations be-the middle of part lune, the rent their rights, there is not even the posfornia. The Miner is assured, will start cultural or grazing areas, and the up as soon as Mr. Graves can spare the whole country is covered with a dense rumors of other properties starting up, terest to the general public. What

the regulations for acquiring coal and these many properties preparing to re- grasping monopoly of the Crow's Nest sume operations. None of the owners are collieries? over-burdened with money; some, in fact, experience a difficulty in paying and Works had done his duty last year their assessments, but they have an and promptly granted licenses to prosin East Kootenay making irregular abiding faith in the camp and the pluck pectors who had complied with all he to back their judgment with whatever requirements of the law, the monopoly funds are available. These properties are of genuine merit, and, although they It is up to the Opposition now to are being developed slowly, are show- make the Chief Commissioner of Lands ing up better with every additional foot and Works do his duty. The Opposiof work. They have already reached the erstands the situation or he is of work. They have already reached the tion have it within their power to do stage where a little more work is all this. that is necessary to justify elaborate improvements and preparations for deeplevel mining. When that time arrives capital will not be so tardy as it has heen. Then will Rossland really come into her own and take equal rank with Johannesburg and Butte.

A RECKONING NEEDED.

intend to repeal the 2 per cent tax he

veneer. He may momentarily succeed coke. We may expect, in view of this

THE OPPOSITION'S CHANCE.

From the determined and systematic manner in which the Opposition is bombarding the Government with questions concerning the East Kootenay coal and petroleum scandal, it is evident that Smith Curtis of Rossland. Mr. McBride and his followers are bent on seeing justice done to the bona fide prospectors who have spent considerable The progress of the Rossland camp licenses from the Crown. This is as of the people." ment is so corrupt and indifferent about enays, it is undoubtedly the duty of the

Mr. McBride now has the chance of a lifetime. He has the Government paying stage, and until that money is "dead to rights." There is enough eviforthcoming, Rossland cannot expect to dence of rascality to quickly put the attain her proper place among the prin- administration out of existence if the cipal mining camps of the world. It case is conducted with even ordinary care. As for the Chief Commissioner of has attended every big undertaking in Lands and Works, the Opposition should this camp. The few properties that find it an easy matter to forever drive have been properly opened up are cer- him out of public life, if not out of the

Mr. McBride and his political assooutput from them will astonish the councilates can sweep the country at the next elections if they do their full duty in the

The Miner sees no reason for the be lief expressed in certain quarters that in Southeast Kootenay that has arisen the removal of the government reserve to the surface rights of crown lands in East Kootenay will be followed by a stampede for land-a sort of Oklahoma rush The surface rights in the Flathead

and Lodge Pole districts are of no value to anybody except those who own the underlying coal and petroleum rights. has already been staked by orossibility of an excitement arising there about anything. The land in question ever, this is not a matter of great inchiefly concerns Kootenaians is: How does not know the difference between It is particularly encouraging to see have to remain at the mercy of the

If the Chief Commissioner of Lands would have been broken by now.

A CHANGE IMPERATIVE.

If the Crow's Nest Coal company, now monopolizing the coal and coke supply for the magnificent mining and smeltately make itself obnoxious, greater success could scarcely have crowned When Premier Prior stated in the its efforts than has been secured by the

Charges have not been wanting that east Kootenay only needs justice under was guilty of a deliberate breach of the frightful disaster at the coal mines faith. He had promised the Provincial last summer was occasioned by neglect from the letter in question. Mr. Galt of exceptional industrial activity and Mining association to abolish this inprepared and signed. It was afterwards cancelled because of the storm that was evidently gathering.

At no time has there been a reserve on the coal and petroleum rights on provincial government land in East Kootenay. The chief commissioner of lands and moderated his case. The revenue decrease of the storm that was end of the system of bleeding the industry and the man who, representing the first of the man who, representing attempt to hide it, the premier's every paralyzed. The company having given the country another setback, followed to justify the action.

In the face of all this how utterly despicable is the man who, representing attempt to hide it, the premier's every paralyzed. The company having given action, while in the public eye, is that of a man whose sincerity is only a thin its precedent of increasing the price of sensitive a conscience.

in making himself a "good fellow" in sequence, that each time the coke dustry.

The implied contract with the public

There is no guarantee against furquarter of an hour in the House. If monopoly has been demonstrated so government must be worse than blind

KOOTENAY'S MISREPRESENTA-

The Kootenays are represented in the provincial legislature by W. C. Wells of Northeast Kootenay, E. C. Smith of Southeast Kootenay, John Houston of Nelson, Robert Green of Slocan, Tom Taylor of Northwest Kootenay, and

Of this number, W. C. Wells, E. C. Smith and John Houston are supporting the Prior government, although at time and money endeavoring to secure the last elections they posed as "friends

Wells did not have to dissemble so much as the other two because of the C. P. R. influence in his district. To have the C. P. R. behind you in Northeast Kootenay means election; without it a candidate has never been successful in the district. It is, therefore, not so surprising to find the member for that district doing what he does for the railway and the other big corporations; nor is it surprising that he should force his way into the Dunsmuir and Prior cabinets and remain there.

E. C. Smith was elected as an Oppositionist and remained so until the opening of the present session, when, by some mysterious influence, he "flopped" to the Government. From the way the Nelson News tries to excuse this act of treachery to Southeast Kootenay, it looks as though the Crow's Nest coal monopoly had a lot to do with it. However, there will soon be a day of reckoning for Mr. Smith, if we may believe reports as to the feeling over his change of front.

Wells may be an out and out corporationist, and Smith may sell out his constituency and his principles, but what is their position when compared with that of John Houston? The member for Nelson has sunk to the level of a professional politician. He was elected to represent a town that is practically dependent upon the prosperity of the mines of all the surrounding districts; yet he has deliberately joined standing by while the country is throttled by the coal monopoly, and he does nothing to induce the government to issue licenses to those of his constituents who are endeavoring to break the monopoly and so greatly advance the prosperity of every district in Southern British Columbia.

Messrs. Green, Taylor and Curtis seem disposed to do the right thing in this connection, but they are largely handicapped by the influence of the coast members who are too busy with their peanut politics to give much consideration to the welfare of the Kootenays. There is, however, a mass of evidence in the East Kootenay scandal sufficient to sweep the Prior government out of existence. It is easily available. There should be no difficulty in preparing the case against the Government. It should be done without further delay. Messrs. Green, Taylor and Curtis owe it to themselves and the Kootenays to see that the whole question is thoroughly threshed out

and justice done to all.

The solon from East Kootenay would like to see all the coal and petroleum lands leased to one company! Heaven help the metalliferous mining industry ing industry of the Kootenays and if such a calamity were to happen. Boundary, had set a course to deliber- Fortunately, however, it is impossible because there is no law against the acquirement of coal and petroleum licenses in that district

William Hayes Fisher, M. P., has resigned his post as financial secretary of the British treasury because he had accepted a bonus of shares in a financial in Western Canada. Yet in the last newspaper hearty congratulations and industries of the country received doing. It was not suggested that Mr. etc. What he did say was that "A few years it has made little or no pro- no little commendation for the wisdom through the temporary cessation of Fisher had any responsibility for the insuspicious course of the syndicate, and These favorable comments have been vance of 25 cents in the per ton price he explained in his statement to the tural lands are practically untouched, simply because a corrupt and conscience-less government controls the destinies and the smug and bumptious colonel had an embroglio with its employes, had an embroglio with its employes, money by his connection with it, but

********* Gene

THE LAI

There is now down Trout Lake about Cup and Nettie L ore. tons short of what the to have down before up, but the road co that it is impossible further than Ferguson that there is in the n tens lying at Ferguson It is reported at I deal is now pending of very promising minir Great Northern mou represented by George er of the Ethel and Trout Lake, are said wishing to invest. The construction

crew of men are now and repairing the La a view to having it shortly. The railway have Trout lake ope from five to six day gets through to Gerra There is now not that a mail service bet enay points and the La will be inaugurated de

Negotiations are no for the establishmen bank in Trout Lake. fights and a big saw be three of the sub Trout Lake's progres ing summer.
The plans are now

Criterion stamp mill, will be started as soot W. B. Pool has be stake, Idaho and D The proper Oyster-Criterion and are owned by McKay Beaton.

THE SLO

The provincial gov \$35,252 on improver district last year. Ruby silver has b first time in the Pay tunnel can be seen a wall a streak of this The road leading o

towards Sandon is miners from the Moni-The governm sters. pay later on. P. J. Hickey, manag

mine, has gone to Ne teturn about the end o The Paystreak prin shipped to Vancouve T. Lowery. Indications are b

Indications are or summer for Silverton will return there in a syme work at the Wal aoon be started on the Fisher Maiden will shortly, and there is the Galena Farm be the Galena Farm be Wakefield will be ope scale than last year. dam to the mill is once, the intention concentrator. The impression the

that the Bosun stop zinc ore to the Lan winc ore to the Lau
owing to unsatisfacto
solutely without four
people settled on ter
factory to the mining
zinc ore is now going
are quicker.

H. B. Alexander so

The Idaho-Conso ted, with a capital of registered in Scotland
About a foot of cl
exposed on the Mete
Connections were m
tween the shaft and to
on the Ottawa. The Payne was against week, sending of

centrates.

The machinery for a is being installed at i boo this week.

The lesses of the four tons of ore on the trail to get in she

The ledge on the crosscut by the lessee now be undertaken shoot.

EAST KOO

There have been se the Northwest, lookin enay horses during the a number purchased. enay Indians sold two for shipment and will more when their ho condition.

The Crow's Nest corregidly opened. In about 70 per cent owerk, but at Coal C condition of No. 3 a of No. 2 only about employed. No. 3 is 1 rapidly than was pump having been se The future of Cra brighter than it is no

past it has enjoyed it has always been p never was a time wireason to feel so go of the town. Ever Ferity in the districting in a manner that bute to the business

Foss & McDonald rock work for the Morrissey and have to Michel, where the similar contract. be built at the latte worth and F. D. A construct 125, and Pittsburg has receive the whole number brick for the ovens are now overdue.

The Kootenay Ce
which has been ope
ity of Steele for th