

Rosland Weekly Miner

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MUD-SLINGING.

Under the caption "An Over-zealous Advocate," the Nelson News criticises The Miner for its advocacy of the McBride government. The News is particularly wrathful because The Miner is conscientious enough to give Mr. McBride credit that is justly due him in regard to his favorable attitude towards the wage-earners.

The remarks of the News are what might be expected from an organ of the hide-bound Grits and the big corporations. The News is anxious to decry Mr. McBride because that gentleman has won the confidence of the Lieutenant-Governor and the masses. The Nelson organ, unlike the Lieutenant-Governor, who is a Liberal but everywhere respected and honored, can never see any good in a public man, except he is a Grit. It is safe to say that all fair-minded Liberals will resent the miserable carping of the News. It is to be deplored that the Grit organs should commence their mud-slinging so early in the campaign, but Mr. McBride is to be congratulated rather than consoled for having incurred the enmity of one contemporary, for it is every evident that such palpable unfairness will gain him support that he might not otherwise expect.

THE COAST-KOOTENAY RAILWAY.

Southern British Columbia stands in great need of a direct Coast-Kootenay railway. The road should be built without delay. It would traverse the richest districts in the province and would pay its owners handsomely from the very start.

There are, however, a number of boodlers who would like to raid the provincial treasury and get a fat subsidy as well as the privilege to build the Coast-Kootenay road.

The day for subsidizing railway construction in the Kootenays has passed. If the country is not rich enough to warrant the construction of lines of railway, a cash subsidy of several thousand dollars a mile would be no inducement to build. If, on the other hand, the country is rich enough to permit the profitable operation of additional railways, it would be absolutely unnecessary and the height of folly to waste the public funds in subsidies.

Yet we have Joe Martin and the Grits boosting for a Coast-Kootenay subsidy.

Are Kootenaians willing to support a gang that is making such a bare-faced attempt to rob the province? We think not.

WANTED—A LEADER AND A PLATFORM.

If the electors are to take the Liberal party seriously in the approaching campaign, it is only right that they be informed without delay as to who is to be Liberal leader and what is the Liberal platform.

It is imposing too much upon the credulity of the general public to ask it to accept a party without a leader or a platform.

If Mr. Martin is not to be the leader, as it Mr. Bodwell of the Great Northern, or Mr. Davis of the C. P. R.? The last two are high in the councils of the party and have frequently been discussed as likely leaders. The Victoria Times, the World and Province of Vancouver, the Kaslo Kootenai, or the Nelson News might answer this question.

And while they are about it they might tell us when we may expect a Liberal platform on B. C. issues.

INCOMING SETTLERS.

That British Columbia is not wholly neglected by the flowing tide of im-

migration appears from the report submitted to the government by R. E. Gosnell as secretary of the bureau of Information and Immigration. The report covers the twelve months ending May 1st, 1903.

Mr. Gosnell starts out by saying that owing to the large number of inquiries from prospective settlers and the unusually active demand for land, the work of the department has been considerable during the period in question, more particularly within the past four or five months. The number of letters received was 3696; the number of letters sent out 4166. A very large percentage of enquiries were from bona fide farmers in quest of land. The origin of the enquiries as to countries was as follows:

From the United States..... 45 per cent From Canada..... 43 per cent From Great Britain..... 9 per cent And from other countries..... 3 per cent

That previous governments have not given proper attention to the matter of immigration is shown by the following statements in Mr. Gosnell's report: "Owing to the peculiar conditions of the province in respect to available lands and the character of the country generally, the question of taking advantage of the great western movement, which has set in, is perhaps one of the most serious problems now confronting British Columbia. It is now not a matter of attracting settlers to the province, but of satisfactorily disposing of them upon their arrival. It is impossible at the present time to ascertain, even approximately, the number of persons who may be classed as immigrants; but it is within the knowledge of the department that there has been a considerable inflow of population, and that a number of persons have become actual settlers, in many cases purchasing land from private owners. As a result there has never before been such a demand for farm lands."

There should be no difficulty in directing intending settlers to the lands that are available if the work had been properly attended to in the past. Efficient officers as Mr. Gosnell is—and he is very efficient—he could not be expected to do the whole business for which a staff of surveyors and industrious clerks would be needed. The fact is that practically nothing was done in past years to provide for the handling of any large number of immigrants, if ever the tide should set our way.

A BOOMERANG FOR MARTIN.

Mr. Joseph Martin hoped to score a point for his party by writing to the Victoria Colonist and roasting Hon. Mr. McBride for delaying a dissolution, thereby delaying the preparation of the new voters' lists. As a matter of fact the very thing that Martin asked for has been done. It is really remarkable that the new government should have been so prompt in the matter, considering the enormous amount of neglected business it had to take over from the Prior administration.

Mr. Martin's pettiness has become a boomerang. Not only did he fail to score by his miserable carping, but he revealed the great anxiety that he and his friends entertain with regard to the result of the elections. Martin and his followers realize the desperate straits they are in. They need to work like beavers to make any sort of a showing. They cannot spare a moment. In spite of Martin's gerrymander of the provinces under the new redistribution of seats, he is decidedly "up against it."

The Miner is surprised to see Mr. Martin openly admit such weakness. We had always given him credit for maintaining a "stiff upper lip." It is very evident that nothing but the serious exigencies of the case would force him to appear so anxious.

In this, as in all other instances, Mr. McBride has kept his word. He promised to arrange for a dissolution at the earliest possible moment and acted accordingly.

Mr. McBride, unlike "Fighting Joe," has no need to worry about the result of next October. He is willing to give the Liberals every advantage, and then beat them two to one.

THE COAST-KOOTENAY SUBSIDIES.

McLean Brothers, who were granted a provincial charter last year for the building of the Coast-Kootenay railway, will forfeit their rights in the matter unless construction is started by September 1st next. As the charter carries a goodly subsidy of \$4,000 a mile for one portion and \$4,500 for the other, there may be some truth in the rumor that the McLeans will commence work in the near future.

The probability is, however, that either the Great Northern or the C. P. R. will buy the charter from the McLeans, who are not looked upon as strong enough to build and operate the line themselves. The C. P. R. might consider it a good buy on account of the change that has taken place in the provincial government. Had Col. Prior continued in power, the subsidy might have been renewed. If by some frightful duke Martin and the Grits are re-

turned to power, the McLeans and other dealers in railway charters would be in clover. But with honest Dick McBride at the head of affairs for the next four years, all will be well. The public need have no fear about McBride wasting public funds on rotten railway subsidies.

THE METAL MARKETS.

The metal markets at the present time are in an anomalous position. Consumption continues very large, and manufacturers are very fully employed and turning out a great quantity of finished material. Business for the present is dull. Very few new orders are coming in; buyers are generally holding back and are apparently reluctant to place new orders beyond what material has been already contracted for. For this position many causes might be assigned. The depression in securities on the exchanges has some effect. The unsatisfactory state of the markets abroad must be also taken into account, and above all the existing labor troubles in the East, which make the future of all manufacturing concerns very uncertain.

Like most of the other metals, copper continues dull and transactions are small in amount. Holders of contracts are rather pushing delivery on account of the large current consumption, but are still refraining from purchases for the future. Holders are not pressing in the strength of the position. Prices are for the moment practically lower, but some large sellers are out of the market, declining to accept the present quotations.

In lead there is no change. Consumption continues good, and deliveries are somewhat better than they were a few weeks ago, as railroad transportation presents fewer deliveries.

Spelter, which includes the metal for Slocan zinc, is the exception among the metals, and is very strong. The metal is scarce and producers find great difficulty in meeting current orders. The surplus stocks of this metal disappeared some time ago, and it is believed that production is below the actual requirements. The Joplin ore market shows this, as prices have again risen. The supply of ore is not up to the needs of smelters, and the output has been further restricted by floods and other troubles.

Silver remains quiet. The London demand has been fully supplied, while India is taking comparatively little at the present time. The U. S. treasury department on June 1st purchased 350,000 ounces, for Philippine coinage, the average price being 53.964 cents per ounce delivered. The price yesterday was 52.1-2.

RECKLESS LIBERALS.

The Simcoe Reformer denounces the subsidy system in strong terms. In a recent issue it says:

"The railway strike in the Dominion house of commons to gain privileges and subsidies has been in a very acute stage for the past week or two. The way in which the people's heritage is being given away to railroad sharks is enough to deprive the average man of every vestige of patience with the men who are sent to parliament to represent him and to protest his interests. Toronto Saturday Night calls attention to this in such language that should rouse the people to demand that an end be put to the plundering game forthwith."

"The people have a right to demand that the whole business shall be stopped. The reason that it is not done is the curse of party politics, and the general desire of party heeled to get a rake-off on about every public transaction. It is a state of affairs that would justify rebellion."

THE SUBSIDIZED PRESS.

It is interesting, albeit somewhat disgusting, to note the present political attitude of not a few B. C. newspapers. Nearly all the bigger ones have come out squarely for one party or the other, but those of the jack-leg variety are still trimming and waiting to discover the "sack" before "declaring" themselves.

There is no justifiable excuse for the failure of any newspaper in this province to come out squarely for one party or the other. If a newspaper desires to see the country prosper and its affairs administered honestly, intelligently and impartially it cannot do otherwise than espouse the cause of the Conservative party and Hon. Richard McBride. If, on the other hand, it wants Martinism with all its attendant evils, a perpetuation of outrageous and discriminating taxation in favor of the big dividend-paying corporations, the giving away of more lands and cash to charter-mongers, and only empty promises and "hot air" to the wage-earners it cannot do otherwise than support the disorganized and warring Liberals.

We often hear it deplored that there is such a dearth of healthy public spirit in British Columbia. How can it be expected to flourish when so large a proportion of the provincial press is

willing to advocate anything or anybody for money?

It fares the land when the public press is susceptible to corruption. The Miner is of the opinion that so long as this state of affairs obtains in B. C. we shall never see a really honest legislature.

But if the jack-leg newspapers are going to take bribes to advocate dishonesty and political corruption, why don't they stop being "plkers." The corporations and political crooks, if elected, are planning to rob the country of millions. They should be made to disgorge some of this for the benefit of their journalistic brethren. Instead of a beggarly few hundreds, the jack-legs should demand many thousands. The ringsters would rather pay thousands than not have an opportunity to rob the country.

CANADA IN LONDON.

Mr. Preston, chief of the Canadian Emigration Department in England, is another prominent member of the Anglo-Canadian community in London who blushes to find himself labelled by the press as "the busiest man in London." It certainly would not be easy to crowd into the day much more work than Mr. Preston manages to get through. As Canadian commissioner of emigration he is now installed in the handsome Canadian government emigration offices in Trafalgar Square, where Canada smiles out at you through magnificent sheaves of wheat and oats and the sheafest of maple wood furnishings; and it is no small task to which Mr. Preston is committed in these new surroundings in directing aright the thousands of Englishmen, Scotsmen and Welshmen who are now eager to share in Canada's prosperity. "Talk about contributions to the imperial power"—Mr. Preston may well say to British critics who seem to think no colonial contribution worth having unless it be in hard cash—"talk about contributions to imperial power, what conceivable money aid to the British navy could compare in value to the Empire with the work we are now seeking to do in turning the now wasted human material of overcrowded Britain into full-living, prosperous British citizens overseas? We are making new men of them, food producers for you at home, and, if the need ever come again, defenders of British interests wherever assailed."

It is work for the Empire that Canada is doing in the filling up of her vacant places, and amid the hum of the emigration commissioner's offices in Trafalgar Square you can measure something of its greatness.

If J. H. Turner, agent-general of B. C. in London, would endeavor to follow Mr. Preston's example, this province might find him of some use in his present position. But there seems to be small probability of his ever doing so.

THE MURDER OF ALEXANDER.

The death of Alexander, king of Serbia, and Draga, his queen, at the hands of the Serbian troops, is a shocking tragedy, despite the unpopularity of those royal persons.

Though notorious from many points of view, and despised by the courts of Europe, there should have been some method whereby the king could have been removed from the exercise of power without recourse to murder.

In Thursday's crime there was a distinct medieval flavor, and many will be found to apologize for what they believe to be the righteous action of the military representatives of the people.

In this age, however, murder is justifiable under no circumstances; and to give approval to the assassination of Alexander and his queen is to justify recourse to bloodshed—regardless of the restrictions of the law—whenever any considerable number of persons feel aggrieved.

The precedent is a bad one and right-minded persons should give it no encouragement, regardless of the misuse of which Alexander and Draga were guilty.

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

At a banquet given in his honor in Vancouver U. S. Immigration Commissioner Sargent took occasion to make some explanations in regard to the enforcement of the United States immigration laws along the Canadian border. He stated that the intention is not to hamper legitimate trade or travel, but to exclude the undesirable classes who endeavor to evade the United States law by coming first to Canada and then making their way across the boundary. It has been found that the Atlantic steamship companies systematically make a practice of diverting to this Canadian route the "undesirables" who could not make their way into the United States through any ocean port of that country. It is plain that if such people are halted at the boundary they must remain in Canada, and therefore we are likely to be flooded with immigrants of a class deemed unfit to be harbored on the soil of the neighboring states. Eastern Europeans of the depraved or diseased stamp will crowd in upon us in increasing numbers unless some measures of prevention are

taken. A local illustration was furnished but a few days since. Surely we cannot afford to welcome a class of immigrants that the United States feels bound to reject for self-protection. We are now getting many people of a superior kind, healthy, clean and well adapted to life in this country. Our population will evidently grow with satisfactory rapidity without our allowing an influx of the riff-raff that is not good enough for our neighbors. The Dominion government should wake up to its duty in this direction and copy the stringent measures adopted at Washington. No harm would be done if they were made even more stringent. The government will be guilty of a crime if it allows Canada to be made a dumping ground for either Oriental or European "undesirables." Sir Howard Vincent lately urged that Britain should take steps to exclude such people from her own shores, and advocated that for this purpose immigration inspectors should be stationed at London, Hull and Grimsby. It seems likely that his advice will be followed, and in that event an even greater crowd will come our way unless our door is closed in turn.

FACTORS FOR GOOD AND ILL. The mining promoter is an important factor in the welfare of the industry. He interests capital for investment, thus developing our undeveloped resources and building up prosperous communities. He is the medium for the co-operation of small capital which by individual operation would be valueless. The promoter in furthering the interests of his own proposition assists other propositions and interests in the same camps. The more he develops and enhances the value of his own property the more valuable become the others nearby. Capital judiciously invested in the promotions of the legitimate and honest promoter has splendid possibilities for profit. As in other callings so in that of promoting, there are black sheep. The romantic feature of the mining business and the exceptional profits made in mining are a great temptation to the unscrupulous on the credulity of the public. The dishonest promoter is much in evidence and is a factor causing great harm to the industry. Care and discretion should be used by investors entrusting their money with promoters. It requires simply ordinary business judgment in the selection. Do not forget there are promoters who are evil factors as well as promoters who are good factors in the welfare of the mining industry, and be sure you have your dealings with the latter.

NO LEADER; NO PLATFORM.

The Kaslo Kootenai, a leading Liberal newspaper of the Kootenays, admits that Joseph Martin resigned from the leadership of the Liberals of B. C. "to avoid friction and promote harmony in the party," and that "Martin's action avoided the calling of a convention, which had been proposed especially for the selection of a new Liberal leader." Again, "his resignation is regarded as a tactical move eminently successful from Martin's point of view as staving off a convention at least between now and the forthcoming provincial elections."

This will be very comforting to all Liberals who entertain the foolish idea that the Liberal party should not be a Tammany Hall with Joe Martin in the role of Richard Croker!

Because the Liberals were controlled by Joe Martin and reduced to the disgraceful level of machine politicians, the patriotic wing of the party was ready to oust him and formulate a platform in the interests of good government. But Martin has anticipated their motives, and left them without a leader and minus a platform.

There have been many freak conditions in B. C. politics, but never until now did a political party in this province enter upon a campaign leaderless and without a platform.

It is impossible for the Liberals to carry the country under the circumstances.

FOR SOUND PRINCIPLES. Hon. Richard McBride has promised a practical and workable policy for the amelioration of adverse conditions that now afflict all classes of the Kootenays. He will improve and advance the cause of the wage-earner and lessen the burden of taxation on the mining industry. He may also be relied on to generally promote the prosperity of the whole province. He is a man of his word. He has the courage of his convictions and his convictions are very sound.

For this he is entitled to the hearty support of the district, and there is every indication that he will get it. Of one thing he may be certain: The Miner will spare no effort to assist him in every way. This journal is devoted religiously to the advancement of prosperity in the Kootenays, and gladly embraces the opportunity to advocate the cause of a government that is willing and able to assist in the good work. But, like Mr. McBride, it will not countenance for a moment any attempt to foist on the Conservative party inimical or obsolete issues; neither will it support any aspirant to the legislative as-

sembly who evinces or has evinced antagonism towards the wage-earner or partiality for the railway lobby. The country stands in too great a need of legislators who have sound ideas and high ideals to allow shallow partisanship to dominate.

A PITIABLE WRECK.

The provincial general elections are going to be devoid of public interest if the Liberals are unable to produce a leader and a platform, for without these two essential features there can be no great contest.

A keenly fought campaign is a good thing for the country because it brings out clearly defined issues and affords the electorate a thorough opportunity to decide upon the relative merits of the respective candidates.

The Conservatives are entering the fight in the cause of good government. "He is thrice armed who hath his quarrel just," and that is exactly the condition of B. C. Conservatives at the present time.

When a political party is so lax and pernicious as not to produce either a leader or a platform, it cannot expect to receive much support from the general public, and that is where the B. C. Liberals stand today.

Joseph Martin has wrecked the Liberal party in this province, but he still struts the dismantled deck of the derelict hulk that drifts aimlessly to and fro.

The Miner had hoped that the wreck might be salvable by the better element of the Liberals, but that hope is now too forlorn for serious consideration.

WHAT PREFERENCE MIGHT DO.

Discussing the subject of preferential trade with Britain, the Hamilton Times Times made some rather remarkable remarks recently. For example:

We will have to persuade our Canadian manufacturers that it will be good for them to have more British cottons, woollens, hardware, iron and steel (those are the commodities Mr. Chamberlain specially mentions) imported into Canada. Let us hear from the Manufacturers' Association. If that is what you want, say so. If you object to increased competition of British goods in this market, say no more about preferential trade with Great Britain. You cannot bunco a man like Chamberlain with a preference that does not prefer a minimum tariff high enough to keep British goods out of Canada.

Now, any change in our present preferential tariff, caused by concessions granted to Canada by Britain, would certainly be in the direction of an increased preference—that is, British goods would be admitted into Canada on better terms than are now granted. But the Times, addressing the manufacturers, warns them that if Canada is to get a preference in the British market, she must grant to British manufactured goods a preference which really prefers, because Chamberlain cannot be buncoed by a preference which doesn't prefer.

What does this mean? Why, what can it mean but that the present preferential tariff is a tariff that doesn't prefer, and Mr. Fielding's bluff at a preference is nothing more than an attempt to bunco Chamberlain. No more cruel words than these have been said about the preferential tariff, which is usually pointed to by Liberals as one of the best achievements of the Laurier government.

But is it true that an increase in our preference to Britain necessarily means a surrender of our home market to British manufacturers and irreparable injury to Canadian industries? By no means. It is quite feasible to grant better terms to Britain, and bring about a much greater importation of British goods into Canada, without damage to our own manufacturing industries. Let the goods to be displaced by the importation of more British goods be the products of American, not Canadian, factories.

Last year we imported dutiable merchandise to the value of \$118,657,496. Of this merchandise \$60,131,080 came from the United States and only \$35,062,564 from Britain, \$28,413,124 coming from other countries. It should not be a difficult matter to so arrange our tariff that the volume of the dutiable imports from Britain would be doubled, and the volume of dutiable imports from foreign countries correspondingly decreased. It could be done by making a considerable increase in the general tariff whilst granting a much more generous preference to Britain than the present 37 1-2 per cent.

A New England husband was recently accused of cruel and abusive treatment because he "jumped on" a squash pie made by his wife. But what self-respecting New Englander would not have done the same? To offer squash pie instead of pumpkin to the man of Puritan lineage is a deadly insult and requires to be resented as such. If he had "jumped on" the baked beans or the biscuit, it would have been a totally different affair.

The bibliophile craze has greatly increased the value of Shakespeare folios. In 1846 7715, which was the price then asked for them, was set down as most extravagant. Last year the second folio was purchased at \$3460 and recently a copy of the same folio brought \$4260 in London.

The April statement of the Canadian Pacific is a document both in the content and the operations that month. The comparison with the months of the present year keeps up. As compared with last year just about this time in 1902 was attracted to results that the road comparison with the year are the more gratifying and net show an increase of 16 per cent, which is 16 in gross for the ten months. The average net per cent is 9 per cent.

The gross earnings of the road were \$1,000,000 over those of 1902, or those of 1901 were \$700,000 greater, or \$200,000 greater than \$500,000 less than. Figures do not represent the policy of the road greater cheapness in operation in a month free from the winter months. Canadian Pacific claim that actual traffic are less per ton mile owing to the strenuous made during the past bringing the rolling stock movements that have road itself. It will be Canadian Pacific was making a great part of 1902 making road improve strike of its laborers. left undone has since by with the necessary re-extravagances of operations eliminated. In the matter of equipment 2000 freight cars

AWAKENING THE CONSCIENCE

The New York Outlook profound satisfaction of several religious United States in conduct of corruption. The country have been different in the past to known to be both immoral, and this lack of grace on the part of the has fostered all kinds of recent revelations as a result of voters in Delaware of municipal government of Minneapolis and the postoffice department the overthrow of the government with its system of police protection for city, have served to the churches to a sensibility as moral teachers under which crimes are possible. certainly capable of doing in the line of teaching. The standards of politics the United States, as have been far too low. press and the pulpit have perform in presenting citizenship to the mind. Moral sentiment must against such abuses as allied with impunity all parts of the country.

It is apparent, however, people who entertain ideals as to political miss in efforts to execute. They do not participate they take no interest in nations and often neglect and vote. It is incumbent on citizens to be active in and sound reforms are elected to office because and win out against for somebody else. The reform in the exercise and the administration must take an active part. Their wishes will be theirs. Sluggishness produces inaction and on the part of the politicians are correct crooks their opportunist needs both better people more willing to enforce the privileges. There is a call for the senate as important political theories.

The Ontario and B scandals, the rottenness of railway subsidy, political corruption in vicious conditions rapidly wiped out. By to be done by patriotic and Liberals. The that bribery and corruption, damaging to the station of the people, the very existence of. There is abundant evidence these things which must action. Eternal vigilance that must be paid for.

THE CANADIAN PRACTICE

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