

ROSSLAND WEEKLY MINER.

Two Dollars a Year

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Seventh Year, Number 10

THE COMPANY IN DISTRESS

Problem Before the Shareholders in Panama Canal.

The Prince of Wales Will Visit Emperor William.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—All the newspapers here today publish an address to the shareholders of the Panama Canal company issued by M. Bunau Varilla, a large shareholder, who called Dec. 21 and made an appeal to the shareholders and others at the beginning of the year to contribute funds to carry on the work of the canal, and who only secured promises of 200,000 francs. In this address, which takes up half a page of space in the papers, M. Bunau Varilla gives the text of a letter which he recently wrote to the new president of the canal company, M. Bo, condemning the decision to attempt the impractical task of re-opening the negotiations with Washington for the sale of the company's property, and urges that the only course open in order to save the situation is for the company to make before January 7th a straightforward offer to sell the property for \$40,000,000, or better still, notify the chairman of the board that it can itself fix the reasonable purchase price at which its report said it would have recommended for the Panama route.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A dispatch to a news agency from Lisbon says that the confidential clerk of the Credito Predial bank has been arrested, charged with the embezzlement of \$25,000. It appears that the clerk had long practiced an ingenious system of forgery. A number of alleged accomplices have also been arrested.

PEKIN, Dec. 31.—The brief diplomatic sensation caused here by the cable announcement that the United States would reduce its Chinese indemnity claim by \$18,000,000, has been ended by a dispatch from Secretary of State Hay to Mr. Conger, the United States minister here, saying the report to this effect was a fabrication. Secretary Hay also said in his message that the American claim is moderate and just, but that the United States is willing to waive its pro rata share if necessary.

LONDON, Jan. 1, 1902.—King Edward has deputed the Prince of Wales to attend Emperor William's birthday celebration on January 27th at Berlin. It is believed this action is probably taken with the intention to emphasize the good relations existing between the two countries. The Prince of Wales will start for Berlin about January 21st, and will remain there one week.

MURDER WHOLESALE.

A Massachusetts Man Charged With Serious Crimes.

TURNER'S FALLS, Mass., Dec. 31. Louis Bitzer, who shot and killed his clerk, Miss Ida Columbe, and his five year old son, and attempted to take the lives of his wife and two other children, was taken to the Franklin county jail in Greenfield this afternoon and will be given a hearing in the district court tomorrow morning. He will be charged with murder and it is likely that he will be held for the grand jury which will convene in March. Friends of Bitzer claim that he was insane when he committed the murders, but the officers after careful investigation say that they have secured no evidence to bear out that claim. There have been few developments during the day, and the tragedy has created a sensation. The autopsy this afternoon shows that Miss Ida Columbe and the boy Louis Bitzer died instantly. In both cases the bullets penetrated their brains.

Mrs. Ditzer, wife of the murderer, and Carrie Bitzer, the twelve year old daughter, are both resting comfortably at the hospital. Their wounds are not dangerous. The condition of Annie, the ten year old daughter, is more critical, but her physicians are hopeful for her recovery. The bullet is buried in her skull, and no attempt has as yet been made to extract it. Bitzer is said to be financially embarrassed in the jewelry business he has carried on here. He failed in 1888, and was discharged by the court two years later. Minor matters are cited by the people of the town which show that Bitzer has acted strangely for several months.

THE CHINESE COURT.

Elaborate Preparations for the Return to Peking.

PEKIN, Dec. 31.—The Chinese court will reach Pao Ting Fu on January 3rd. The railroad thence to Peking during the court's transit will be guarded by Gen. Ma's troops. All the nobles and high officials of Peking have been ordered to assemble on the plaza between the temples of Heaven and Agriculture and prostrate themselves while the Emperor and Dowager Empress pass. Officials and Manchu banner men will line the route from the station to the palace gate.

VENEZUELA AFFAIRS

GERMANY WILL NOT TAKE THE FINAL STEP FOR SOME TIME YET.

THE STEAMER BAN RIGH OFFICIALLY DECLARED A PIRATE SHIP.

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—Until Dr. O. Schmidt-Leda, the German minister to Venezuela, arrives at Caracas, which will be about January 5th, nothing will be done by the German charge d'affaires there, Herr Von Pilgrim-Belzoni, to press President Castro further. Dr. Schmidt-Leda bears instructions from the German government. The carrying out of the successive steps outlined in these instructions will end in coercive measures, which will probably be applied in four or five weeks' time if in the meantime mediating efforts shall have failed. It is possible, however, that even this period may be shortened.

Inasmuch as Germany is possessed of the goodwill of the United States in this matter, Baron Von Rithofen, imperial secretary of foreign affairs, desires to give President Castro ample time to recognize this fact and also that Germany is really in earnest in the matter. Germany is not going to act at the moment when a foreign difficulty might strengthen President Castro's hold upon his country by uniting Venezuelan national feeling against Germany. It is understood at the foreign office here that the United States is not only tolerant to Germany's purposes toward Venezuela, but pleased that Germany and not the United States is to undertake to discipline Venezuela into paying her debts and keeping faith with foreigners doing business there.

Germany's action with regard to Venezuela has been likened to France's recent course concerning Turkey, which was considered wholly wise to have effected the controversies between Turkey and other countries.

The German cruiser Gazelle is still at Kehl, although she has been ordered to sail for the Caribbean Sea. Her departure is delayed by necessary outfitting.

The German press prints today with satisfaction copious extracts from American editorials disapproving the dispatch from Washington to a New York newspaper, printed Sunday, to the effect that persons of importance in the American war and navy departments considered war between Germany and the United States to be inevitable.

CARACAS, Dec. 31.—The official gazette publishes today a decree signed by President Castro by which the steamer La Bertador, formerly the Ban Righ, is declared to be a pirate. The government of Venezuela has offered a reward of \$10,000 and the cargo she carries to the Venezuelan or foreigner who shall catch her. The La Bertador is being used in the interests of the revolution against Castro. The Ban Righ was last reported Dec. 20th at Fort de France, Martinique. She came out from Antwerp, and it is alleged she carried 5,000,000 cartridges and 10,000 Mauser rifles.

CHINESE MASSACRES.

An Imperial Edict Dictates Punishment of Murderers.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 31.—The Peikin Gazette publishes an edict counting the massacre at Ningshoo Foo, the Kanshoo province, (where a missionary and a number of Christian converts were reported to have been killed, supposedly by troops under the command of General Tang) and ordering Chinese officials to pursue and punish the guilty outlaws. It is undoubtedly true that Belgian missionaries with Chinese converts occupy fortified villages in the region about Ningshoo Foo, and according to an unconfirmed report which has reached the Belgian legation here, another missionary near Ningshoo Foo has been murdered.

PHILIPPINE COMMERCE.

Foreign Bottoms Likely to be Given the Privileges.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—If congress follows the recommendation of the War Department, commerce between the United States and the Philippines, and among the islands themselves, will be thrown open to foreign bottoms for an indefinite time. Already there is pending in the house legislation looking to the exemption of the traffic between the Philippines and the United States from the operation of the coastwise shipping laws, which requires all trade between United States ports to be carried in American bottoms. At the instance of the war department, this measure will be amended so as to place the inter-island traffic on the same footing. Meanwhile, pending conclusive action by congress, the treasury will continue the order suspending the application of the coastwise shipping laws to Philippine commerce.

IT MEANS OSTRACISM.

Foul Breath and Disgusting Discharges Due to Catarrh Make Thousands of People Objects of Aversion—Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder Relieves in 10 Minutes and Cures.

Hon. George James, of Scranton, Pa., says: "I have been a martyr to Catarrh for twenty years, constant hawking and drooping in the throat and pain in the head, very offensive breath. I tried Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. The first application gave instant relief. After using a few bottles I was cured." 50 cents. H. Sold by Goodbye Bros.

THE HOLIDAY WEEK

PRODUCTOIN OF THE MINES CUT DOWN BY TWO DAYS' SUSPENSION.

OPERATIONS TO BE MUCH EXTENDED EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

The ore shipments for the week ending last night were 4,550 tons, a considerable decrease from the previous and preceding weeks' records, readily accounted for by the fact that on two days of the week the mines did not work, on account of the holiday. On Friday the Le Roi got out 40 cars of ore, double the ordinary day's shipments, thus bringing up the total somewhat. The Le Roi's total was 3,600 tons, the Le Roi No. 22 sent out 950 tons, and the Nickle Plate suspended shipments for the week.

As the end of the year approaches it is most satisfactory to note that the total shipments from the camp are within a few thousands of the 300,000 ton mark, and that, too, in the face of the fact that two of the important producers, the Centre Star and War Eagle, only shipped during six of the twelve months. The record is one that every Rosslander must be proud of and will speak volumes to the outside world of the magnitude of the Golden City's mines.

THE OUTPUT

The output for the week ending December 29th and for the year to date is as follows:

	Week	Year
Le Roi	4,550	161,888
Le Roi No. 22	950	38,790
Centre Star	5,648	54,648
War Eagle	20,100	20,100
Rossland G. W.	10,881	10,881
Iron Maak	3,738	3,738
Homestake	20	20
I. X. L.	20	20
Spitzee	20	20
Velvet	20	20
Montie Christie	20	20
Evening Star	74	74
Giant	52	52
Portland	24	24
Totals	4,550	201,008

The Le Roi—Nothing of special interest has transpired during the week in connection with Rossland's greatest mine. The usual mining and development has been followed up with excellent results, as is seen at a glance from the shipping list. The cessation of work for two days for the Christmas holiday naturally reduced the production, but the holiday comes once a year only, and there is a decision in the camp that the men to make it an occasion of general rejoicing. Shortly after the advent of the new year the work of sinking the main shaft on contract will be resumed.

Le Roi No. 2.—The Christmas holiday cut into the mine's production for the past week, in common with all the other properties in the camp, but the present week's output is a matter of no great importance. No incident of special interest is reported for the past week.

Centre Star.—The principal feature of the operations at the Centre Star is the sinking of the main shaft, on which the contractors are doing unusually rapid work. It is expected that the copper levels in the Trail smelter will be blown in within the next fortnight, and that the Centre Star will then resume operations in the direction of stopping.

War Eagle.—Active underground operations are now well under way, and matters at the mine are running along in the usual groove. The nature of the work in the immediate future has not been announced by the management, but the mine is to resume shipments when the Trail smelter is prepared to accept ore on the installation of the new rock crusher at the plant.

Kootenay.—Work has again been got under way with the usual crew, and active development has been commenced. The program for the mine calls for the opening up of the workings at the lower levels, along the lines that have been pursued for the last twelve months.

Velvet.—The snow of the last few days has placed the Velvet wagon road in fairly good condition for running, although the bottom is none too good to make the "rough-looking" that has to be done at various points on account of the grades. It is expected that ore will be moving from the mine within a fortnight.

Spitzee.—Mining operations were interrupted during the week by a mishap to the hoisting apparatus, but this has been remedied, and development is now proceeding along the usual lines, the continuation of the west drift. Development that will lead to the prosecution of the work at the Spitzee on a more comprehensive scale are expected at an early date.

O. K.—The work at the mine has been suspended for a week but it is the intention of John V. Cole, who controls the O. K., to resume the prospect work in the lower levels at the first of the year.

White Bear.—Sinking in the main shaft has been under way during the week with the exception of the shutdown for the holiday. The work has made good progress, but nothing of special interest is reported from the mine.

Abe Lincoln.—The experiments with the Gardner electric drill are still under way, but will be concluded within the next few days, when an announcement as to the result of the test will possibly be made. It is the intention of the company to commence drifting at an early date.

New St. Elmo.—The small crew employed on the New St. Elmo has been engaged during the past week in cross-cutting on the west end of the property as usual.

THE SMELTERS COME TO THE RELIEF OF SILVER-LEAD MINE OWNERS.

WORK ON SILVER HILL PROPERTY—PROMISE ON THE BIRTSCH GROUP.

THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK WILL SEE A RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITY AT THE SILVER HILL MINE.

The middle of next week will see a resumption of activity at the Silver Hill mine. For some months the construction of the tramway for the mine to the Crawford Bay wagon road has been under way and its completion is now within sight. The first day of the new year being fixed as the date on which the tramway will be started.

The Silver Hill tram is something over 10,000 feet in length and is complete in every respect, having been built by E. C. Riblet of Nelson, who put in the Le Roi aerial tram. Its specified capacity is 100 tons daily, but, as is the case with the Le Roi tram, probably double the stated capacity can be handled without difficulty. At either terminal substantial ore bins have been erected, and the arrangements are such that the ore is handled automatically. From the foot of the tram to the lake front is an eight or ten mile haul over a three per cent grade sloping easily to the water. On the lake front another ore bin has been constructed that materially simplifies the handling of the ore at that point. On the land side of the structure is an automatic contrivance for unloading the sleighs as they arrive, while on the water side of the building the ore is loaded on the barges by means of chutes working automatically, such as are used in filling ore cars. By these means the cost of handling ore is reduced to the lowest possible point, the only further reduction possible being after a railroad runs down the Crawford creek gulch, as is predicted for some future date.

The mine has contracted to ship 15,000 tons of ore to the Canadian smelting works at a number of teams are being purchased by the company for teaming, and the experience of last year's shipping operations is that a two-horse team can handle seven tons of ore without difficulty on the road between the mine and the lake.

REDUCTION IN RATES.

The smelters handling silver-lead ores announce a cut in the rates of freight and cartage for the Centre Star. This rate will be a reduction of about 20 per cent. An average rate at present is \$19, that is a basing rate. From this time forward there will be a reduction of from \$3 to \$4. No one will receive more than \$4 nor less than \$3 reduction. These rates include freight and treatment.

The importance of this reduction at the present time can hardly be overestimated from the way in which it will affect business. When the cost of mining and transportation of the ore from the mine to the railway was added to the smelter rates the deduction from the assay value of the ore to obtain the net value was enormous. The number of ounces operating at very little above the pay limit was large. When the price of silver and lead began to fall a few weeks ago it seemed that if some relief did not come several properties would be compelled to suspend operations and those which could afford to pursue the policy began selling the ore instead of sending it to the market. This reduction in the rates, on an average, offsets the diminished price of the product. The mines are, therefore, now in the same position as they were immediately before the drop—Nelson Miner.

THE BIRTSCH GROUP.

Reports from Salmu are to the effect that development work is proceeding steadily on the free gold properties located by Godfrey Birtsch, the Nelson prospector. The London & B. C. Goldfields, of Nelson, have the claims under bond, and have a force of men prospecting with a view to determining their merit. The ledge is strong and the values excellent, ranging from \$4 to \$60, these results being obtained from careful sampling. The actual average values have not been disclosed, the work on the claims up to date not being sufficient to warrant a statement as to the magnitude of the proposition. The London & B. C. Goldfields people have six men at work. Operations have been confined to the surface for some time, and the ledge was stripped for a distance of 600 feet. Now the crew has started drifting and this will undoubtedly be the crucial test.

The outcome of the English company's investigations is awaited with keen interest. It goes without saying that if the property proves satisfactory to them they will proceed to open up the claims in the most thorough manner. The corporation is looking for a free gold property that will pay it to operate on a large scale, the installation of 90 to 100 tons provided they are satisfied with the outlook. If the company goes ahead with the Birtsch claims it will mean much for the Salmu camp.

WAR VESSELS ORDERED.

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 31.—The Desaro today announced that the Argentine government had entered into contracts with the Ansaldo Sestri and San Pier d'Arena yards (Italy) for the immediate construction of two armoured vessels of 8,500 tons at a cost of 17,000,000 francs each. The government has already sent to the Italian constructors 15,000,000 francs on account.

A MONTHLY DIVIDEND

THE RAMBLER-CARIBOO TO PAY ONE CENT PER SHARE PER MONTH.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MINE PLACE IT IN A GOOD POSITION.

The Rambler-Cariboo mine has announced a dividend of one cent per month in place of the present dividend of one cent bi-monthly. The new dividend takes effect on January 30, when the first monthly dividend of one cent per share is payable. The intimation is given that there is a possibility of a further increase in the dividend during the approaching year. It is known that the mine is earning more than sufficient profit to pay the new dividend, so that the increase will not come as a surprise.

Within the last few months the Rambler-Cariboo has, in addition to maintaining the dividend of one cent every other month, expended \$35,000 to \$40,000 in improvements to the working plant, all of which have been paid for, and established a substantial surplus. The improvements include 2500 feet of flume and pipe line, a 400 light electric plant, a 60 ton concentrating plant, a belt-driven air compressor and a four-ton hoist. The condition of the mine is described by the management as "both satisfactory and gratifying."

HIGH GRADE ORE IN CENTRE STAR

A well authenticated report has it that a most important strike has been made in the Centre Star mine. The statement is that in the east drift on the 600-foot level the face broke into a fine body of ore, large in size and of unusual high grade. Further, that the same ore body has been encountered in the shaft, and that it promises to come in there also. The Miner has no authority from the management to give the report publicity, but reproduces what is talked of on the streets.

The foregoing, provided it is accurate, means much for the Centre Star. As indicating that the lower levels of the mine possess high grade ore bodies the importance of the strike can hardly be overestimated, and Rosslanders will appreciate its significance fully. The statement has been made that after passing through the ore bodies of better grade in the upper levels, the workings passed through for some distance a zone of ore wherein the values were low. It was believed that by continuing the workings to a deeper level further bodies of high grade ore would be encountered, and, apparently, this belief has been justified.

LARDEAU MINES.

Good Reports from the Wide West and the Primrose.

Mr. Alick Pitt has just returned from the Fish Creek camp, Lardeau, where he has a contract for the Wide West company of Lima, Ohio. J. C. Murray, the B. C. representative, reports that the tunnel, which is in over 350 feet, has opened up three very nice leads from 14 inches to two feet wide, carrying good value in silver and lead. Mr. Pitt will return in a short time to complete his contract, the object of which is to tap the main lead, which has immense surface showings. It is expected this will be uncovered within the next 40 feet. The Ohio men have apparently good cause to feel jubilant over the way their investment is turning out. The superintendent states in his letter that the lead is widening out and the indications are that a large body will be encountered soon. The men will return after the first of the year and work will be pushed vigorously all winter.

Some very fine samples from the Old Gold camp are on exhibition at the company's office, Cosmos block. J. C. Murray, representative of the Primrose Gold Mining company, whose properties are situated in the famous Lardeau-Duncan district, has just received a letter from the superintendent of the property at Trout Lake stating that the men had come out for their Christmas cheer. A considerable amount of high grade ore has been sacked up and a large amount stacked on the dump. This ore is of a high grade, test assays running as follows: No. 1—Gold values \$124.80, copper 18 per cent; No. 2—gold values \$92.40, copper 8.4 per cent, silver \$12.42; No. 3—silver values \$48.50 ounces, 29.7 per cent lead.

CREW PICKED UP.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Dec. 31.—A German bark arrived at Ponce yesterday having on board Captain Parker and the crew of the oil laden American four-masted schooner James W. Fitch of Boston, bound from New York to the River Plate. The captain and crew of the Fitch were picked up in the western West Indies. The Fitch was burned to the water's edge.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

The Question of Trade Relations Likely to Come Up.

A Substantial Increase in Year's Customs Receipts.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—The Star's London correspondent cables: Lord Strathcona is about again. He is spending a few days at Knebworth, and hopes when he returns to his office this week to further arrangements already afoot to banquet Sir Wilfrid Laurier during his visit here next summer. The Imperial Coronation conference excites curiosity. Chamberlain will preside. In home quarters it is asserted that the Canadian and Australian governments are preparing to submit to the conference a plan for inter-Imperial trade relations not far removed from Chamberlain's proposal, namely, free trade within the Empire, with slight duties against competitive foreign imports. Against any such proposal stand Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and the orthodox free traders. Satisfaction is expressed at today's Washington news that President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay are preparing a new basis of agreement on the Alaskan and other outstanding Anglo-American disputes. Reciprocity, however, will be put to one side, specific individual tariff treatment being recognized as the only means of enlarging Canadian and United States trade relations consistent with Canada's present tariff.

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—Sir William Macdonald, of Montreal, whose gifts to education, and particularly to McGill University, are well known, has given \$125,000 to the Ontario government to be used in the erection of buildings at the Guelph Agricultural college for the purpose of giving instruction to school teachers on the elements of nature study and domestic science.

A carload of exceptionally fine Ayrshire and Shorthorn cattle have been purchased in Ontario for the Hon. Dr. Borden's farm in Nova Scotia. They are the finest lot ever sent east.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—The old wholesale dry goods firm of J. G. MacKenzie & Co., established in 1829, it is announced, is about to withdraw from business. The heirs of the late Hector MacKenzie, head of the firm, are anxious to realize their holdings.

The customs receipts for the port of Montreal for the year show an increase for the calendar year of over \$64,000.

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—The customs receipts for the year here show an increase of about \$100,000.

OTTAWA, Dec. 31.—Fred Cook, a well known newspaper correspondent here, was unanimously elected mayor of Ottawa, his last opponent having resigned this morning.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 31.—Mrs. McKeown, wife of Hon. H. A. McKeown, who was married only two months ago, died today of smallpox.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—Graham Fenelon was today sentenced to five years in the penitentiary for stealing \$8,000 cash from Thomas Hall, of Outremont.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of a man charged with stealing an overcoat from W. Young, collecting agent for W. B. Tapley & Co., money lenders. In a pocket was a leather wallet containing \$9,700 in notes, which the alleged thief destroyed. Tapley & Co. are now wondering how much they can collect and borrowers are wondering how much they can escape paying.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

A Strong Probability That the Deal Will go through.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 31.—It has been learned upon the best of authority that the treaty between the United States and Denmark for the sale of the Danish West Indies will be signed in spite of the agitation here against such an action inasmuch as the Danish government has given its promise to this end. The question of a plebiscite will not be allowed to interfere in the matter.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—In the absence of any fresh diplomatic exchanges between this country and Denmark on the subject, the officials of the state department say there is no news to be made public regarding the proposed sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. There are no differences between the two countries as to the terms of the proposed transfer. The United States is ready to close the deal, which appears to be blocked only by the timidity of the Danish ministry owing to the agitation against the sale of the islands by some of the people of Denmark.

Every housekeeper must often act as a family physician. Pain-Killer for all the little ills, cuts and sprains, as well as for all bowel complaints, is indispensable. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.