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WE MUST HAVE A PUBLIC

The Dominion Government, it seems, according to letters from Hewitt Bostock. M. P., and J. B. McArthur, read at the board of trade meeting on Wednesday, is not inclined to erect a federal building in this city, at least not at present. In these communications it was stated that it was thought that the city in petitioning that a structure which would cost \$100,000 be erected was asking for more than the Government thought it could afford to give. It was also stated that, as there were a number of other applications for public buildings in different portions of the country, it was thought Rossland's application should lie over for the present. It was intimated, however, that there might be some consideration paid to an application for a structure that would cost

The Federal Government evidently does not fully recognize the great need that there is for a public building in this city. It is palpable that the location of the custom house and inland revenue office are most inconvenient. It is from the lack of a proper postoffice that the city suffers the most. thrown open, particularly in the evening, there are long rows of people waiting in line to enquire for mail. These interfere with those who have boxes considerably, as they are compelled to individuals who have made their forare far too small for a city of the size of city of this size where mail is not delivered by carrier.

Rossland is a city of frame buildings. and there is consequently considerable danger from fire. The postoffice contains hundreds of valuable letters at all times, to say nothing of the government funds that are kept on hand. A conflagration is liable at any time to come along and sweep the structure away and destroy its contents. It is palpable that there is great necessity for a large, well equipped, fireproof postoffice building in some central portion of the city in which could be housed the postoffice, the customs house and the inland revenue

A public building that would cost at least \$100,000 is no more than this city far more enduring than the one that will be constructed above his body, and last month they were over \$14,000. If a building were put up that would be constructed above his body, and result from the courageous enterprise of benefit of a single community, or where cost \$100,000, the sum expended would which will be made of perishable brick Montana capitalists, it suddenly swooped another district (such as the Okanagan) only amount to considerably less than and stone. the amount that is collected here annually from customs dues alone. It is certain, too, that the revenue derived from this source will increase for a good many years to come. As the third largest city in the Province Rossland is certainly entitled to this consideration. The inland revenue returns and the postoffice receipts, too, amount to a large sum each year.

In addition to Mr. Bostock, the representatives from the other constituencies of British Columbia should be ready to assist Rossland is securing what is so about the desired result.

WANTED-A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In a new and comparatively isolated where there were many comforts, in smaller magnitude. cluding plenty of books. They, in the These transactions are but a reflection other words he would have the Boundary hope of mending their fortunes, are will- of the optimistic spirit that is abroad in Creek district with its growing population ing to suffer many deprivations, but one the land. We all can remember the and progressive development remain for of the hardest of these to bear, in their three or four years that followed the ever tributary for its agricultural supplies of the better class of books. It is true prevailed, and when men seemed to Vernon is the capital. Surely this is a not without dread lest the suspicion, that if they can afford it they can purchase cease all the forms of speculation except stupendous piece of selfishness not inferior the lighter literature of the day here, that of dealing in money. Then for

The rising generation, too, is cut off tions, to float them and from the better class of reading, which them in a position so that they they should have access to. This is to may be made to yield their wealth. be greatly regretted, for much of the The tide of mining investment is now on character is formed by reading the the flood and the opportunities which works of the masters of human thought do not at all times exist are here and when the mind is in the formative should be taken advantage of. It seems upon those who read them during the was to take in the mines of British Coearlier years of life. By this it is not lumbia is a long time in coming. It may intended to be said but what good works be that we will all be considerably as well as those who are yet in their have arrived.

school or hospital.

Steps should at once be taken to provide a library of this sort. It is true In the meanwhile the investments that that the St. George's church and the have been made and that will be made Methodist church have small libraries. which are open to all who wish to enter them, but they are too small and incomplete to deserve the names of public libraries, although all honor is due to the effort of these churches to fill to the best of their ability what is considered to be a need of the public. They are useful as far as their limited facilities will permit, as they furnish pleasant resorts for those who might otherwise go to worse places.

The question of how such a library could best be started and maintained is a confession that the charges made by one that will require considerable consideration. In some cities library funds are started by means of entertainments, and in others libraries are founded and maintained by the city authorities, and a special tax is made for their support. tion expressly to build the Crow's Nest At the outset some leading capitalist, Pass road, while the old rails first laid on When the general delivery windows are who wished to hand down his name to posterity, could give a good round sum taken up and carted over to do service on and in return for this the library could the Crow's Nest. The exchange was made transportation they could demand what opportunity for some one of the many individuals who have made their for stand in the way. The present quarters tunes out of the mining properties of was, of course, accomplished in a secret, this camp to earn a fame that will be stealthy, surreptitious manner. It would that the Corbin railway will, therefore, Rossland, or for a postoffice located in a lasting, and at the same time be of great not bear the light of day. It was done in serve a most useful purpose and most de benefit to his fellow townsmen.

In this they would be following the example of Andrew Carnegie, the distinguished Scottish-American, who made an immense fortune out of the iron business. He has given, altogether, \$6,174,ries or institutes in the United States and Scotland, and his conditional offers now outstanding, all of which will be accepted, will take \$2,000,000 more from his purse. The list of gifts shows that \$5,200,000 was expended in founding the institutes and libraries at Pittsburg, Allegheny, Braddock, Homestead, Duquesne and Johnstown, the cities or ployes live.

for mining. Never before in the history of this neighborhood has more interest been taken in the industry, nor badly needed. Messrs. Maxwell, Morrithat money put into mines is as safe as son. McInnis, Prior and Earle should any other form of investment where put their shoulder to our wheel on this reasonable precautions are taken. When touch of humor, as it were, in the temporary gain." soccasion and help this good measure on investors are as careful when putting concluding words of yesterday's inits way. Just because they represent their money into mines as they are their money into mines as their money into mines as they are their money into mines as they are their money into mines as they are the mines and their money into mines as the mines and the mines are the mines and the mines a should be no reason why they should be fewer losses to chronicle. There is a would lay the heavy rails "as soon as we be built, and that the Boundary country not help the leading mining town in the great desire manifested to invest in le- deem it wise to put them down." This Province to secure a public building that gitimate mining. This has been shown is equivalent to saying in vulgar phraseol- to forego that benefit because of national is not a luxury but a crying necessity.

In the several large deals that have been shown in the several large deals that have been good and ready." We suppose they will. Therefore, we call an the representatives put through in Toronto and Montreal, of the people of British Columbia to take which are now the Meccas of those who an active part in this matter, and if they have good properties to place. In most give but a long pull, a strong pull, and a of these deals the properties which pull together they cannot fail to bring changed hands were large ones. The deals for the Republic, the Payne and special pleading for consideration for the the B. C. were of this character. There interests of the Okanagan district and were no chances taken in investing in for exclusive railway transportation privithese properties. They were in a posi- leges for the C. P. R. in the Boundary that this is profoundly selfish? community, like Rossland, there is one tion to ship and had large reserves of Creek country. The territory which would lack that is most keenly felt by a large ore when they were acquired. In the be tapped by the proposed road, the arnumber of residents, and that is a shortage of the better class of books. The had paid dividends before the recent with a large mining population, and by great bulk of the residents came here for change of ownership. Besides these the very nature of things the markets the purpose of bettering their condition. mentioned there have been a number of Many broke off association with homes transactions of a similar character but of long to the agriculturists of this sec-

better circumstances than they are at height is the opportune time for those, who have meritorious proposiare useful to those of more mature years, older than we are now before it will

Toronto and Montreal are giving us There is one way that this demand for the most substantial recognition that good reading matter can be supplied and promises to produce a boom of no small that is by the formation of a public proportions, and we should take full adlibrary. A place of the size of Rossland vantage of the generous and ventureshould have long since been supplied some spirit that is shown by the people with an institution of this kind, but in of the two greatest cities of Canada. the rush for advantages that are purely When our cousins across the water material this most important matter has finally make up their minds that this is been lost sight of. In Eastern Canada, a good place in which to invest, they Mr. Corbin's apparent liberality in not in the United States and in Great Brit- will be compelled to go, in a number of asking for a subsidy will not bear very ain the public library has been consid- instances, to the people of Toronto and close scrutiny, because he "simply asks ered for years as almost essential as Montreal for mines, and the residents of these two places will then have opportunities for selling out at a good profit. during the present year in mines in this neighborhood are certain to result in great and lasting good to our mining by the C. P. R." interests.

SIR WILLIAM'S ADMISSION.

It will be seen from an Associated Press dispatch, which appears in today's news columns, that Sir William Van Horne has admitted that old rails were laid on the Crow's Nest Pass line. To the press correspondent Sir William had very little to say, but what he did say was practically The Miner in regard to the matter, were true. That is, he acknowledged that for the purpose of repairing its mountain division, on which the rails were found to be too light, the C. P. R. used money of the Canadian people, granted to the corporathe main line, very many years ago, were without the knowledge of the people and, the dark, or by the light of the moon.

When it is brought to light, however, and the managers of the C. P. R. know the main line."

When listening to C. P. R. promises When listening to C. P. R. promises a monopoly.

The most astonishing portion of this der from Fort William to Victoria, which must strike the people of Kootenay: "If astonishing article, however, is in the following the following article, however, is in the following the following article, however, is in the following the well it were done quickly."

towns in Pennsylvania where his emtowns in Pennsylvania where his emand they pine for performance. The
rest of the Province:
by every species of violence known to a
powerful corporation, their rights from has been ringing in their ears ever since that the more railroads we have the bet- the people, and which, to suit its own that masterly rush of the C. P. R. into ter: but there are exceptions to the rule monuments for himself that will prove the Kootnays, when, after having recon- and such an exception occurs when the down upon and deprived them of the is impoverished in order that a neighbor fruits of their foresight and labor. Having section may reap some advantage. A BANNER YEAR FOR MINING. ing successfully accomplished this singu- This is a principle everywhere recognized It is becoming more and more evident that the year 1899 is a banner year mercy, they generously and benevolently bound to take a broad and comprehensive peated this promise. They never seem to sense of the word. The Boundary Creek recognize that it may finally become stale, country has no reason to fear the future was there ever a more general inclina- flat and even unprofitable—to the people. whatever the outcome of Mr. Corbin's fight tion to make investments in both stocks Sir William is as bad as the rest in this for a charter may be. It is rich in minera and mines. The idle money is being respect, and yet we are given to under- wealth, beyond all present knowledge, and taken from banks, safe deposit vaults stand that he is a man of genius and its development by means of home railand other hiding places and being in- originality. Why does he not say some- ways and home smelters is already asvested where it will yield good returns, thing different from what Mr. Shaugh- sured; it can well afford to take a wider There is a great confidence prevelant nessy, Mr. White, Mr. Marpole and the view of the situation than that dictated

ly uttering?

THE CORBIN CHARTER.

The last issue of the Vernon News contains an article on the Corbin charter which is a beautifully mixed up piece of tion." This is the text on which the editor builds up his entire argument. In

suredly be done at the expense of our own farmers and miners.'

So the people of the Boundary are not P. R., as far as transportation is concerned, but they are to be compelled to purchase the products of the Okanagan farmchoose to demand. It will, no doubt. strike the people of the district, whose inperiod. There can be no doubt to us that the so-called boom that was to terests are most in question, that no matthat good books wield a great influence come through the interest that London ter how rich their mineral properties may be they will not be able to work them at a very great profit to themselves if they are to pay five prices for everything they the Okanagan district are so lacking in ordinary business enterprise that in addition to the tariff barrier already existing against American products they want such a policy of exclusion adopted in their favor as will make the bringing-in of the products of the farmers of the United States absolutely prohibitive? If this is the case now what may they not demand in the future?

But the article in continuing argues that access to the ores of the Boundary Creek country in order that he may haul them out to American smelters and haul in American produce to the consumers on this side of the line:" and farther on it adds, "His road will do nothing towards developing an unopened district, as it toucher no section which is not already traversed

Mr. Corbin's road is certainly being built to obtain as much of the transporta tion business of that country as possible and, no doubt, it will haul material to whatever point on its line its patrons de sire. It will lie with the mine owners to say where their ore is to be smelted, and if the Canadian smelters know their business they will certainly, with all the advantages of short haul and other consid erations, be able to underbid the American companies. Mine owners will not send their ores to smelters in the United States from a mere matter of sentiment. To obtain the traffic there promises to be rivalry between the railway companies, and the people of the district will get the advantage. This is exactly what the Boundary Creek country people want. Were the C. R. R. to have the monopoly of the rates they chose, and those rates would indeed, be at their mercy. It seems to us cidedly assist in the development of the country.

Against its view the News admits "i that they cannot successfully dony it, they pitted the argument that the people of the adopt their usual tactics-i.ier brazen it Boundary Creek country would receive out. They say that it was done with the much benefit from the competition thus best of intentions and, to induce the peo- afforded." This, it says, may or may not 500 for the establishment of 24 free libra- ple to swallow the pill, they coat it with be the case, and it warns its readers that sugared promises, "when completed, it the roads may combine to keep up rates. (namely, the Crow's Nest Pass road) will We would suggest that if high rates are to be just as good as the best sections of be feared through such a combine, they are much more to be feared, where there is

'twere done when 'tis don : then 'twe'e lowing pitiful piece of pleading for the in- communities daring to ask for justerests of the Okanagan, as opposed to tice or refusing to bow in abject submis-Let the people are wear of promises, that of the Boundary country and all the sion to its dictates, which has wrencied

whole host of minor officials are constant- by local interest, and it would be palpably unfair for it to ask other sections to There is however, a new note, a slight sacrifice their permanent industries for its

We are to understand from this that which would be benefitted by the line, is agan farmers. This is peculiar reasoning, but it is the editor of the News who is

responsible for it. Okanagan asks the Boundary to take broad and comprehensive view of the matter and not press for this road, because it would hurt Okanagan's interest, although it would be benefitting the people of Boundary. Does it not strike Okanagan

The remainder of the article is on the same peculiar lines, and will hardly adbenefit it was intended.

ARE THEY PURCHASABLE?

Is the railway committee of the house of commons a purchasable body? Are the parliamentary representatives of the people of Canada in the market at so much per head? This is the question which the people of the boundary Creek brief moments of leisure, is the absence panic of 1893 when a pessimistic spirit to that portion of the province of which country are at present asking themselves, which has lately been excited in their sion which it creates and from which they

should come to that, they will have a ing towards depriving it of any of its

manner which would be effectual. committee of the house of commons.

know that some years ago there was no which affected the western portion of the Dominion, it controlled the government. It must be remembered, however, in partial excuse of those who were then at the head of the affairs of the Dominion that this western country was not, until a very recent period, well known to the great body of legislators in the east, and that the members of the cabinet even did not possess that acquaintance with the districts which the C. P. R. company was attempting to corner up, which qualified them to make a very good bargain for the country. The C. P. R. was able, partly through the cupidity and partly through the ignorance of the members of the house to obtain, what common decency should have prevented the granting of, had a complete realization, of what was being given away, been possessed by our representatives. To what actual extent this excuse can be made for the government of the past must, however, remain

matter of opinion. But this excuse can never be urged for the members of any succeeding parlia- which is only better than walking. ment. The immense value of the gold and silver territory of British Columbia has been proved beyond doubt, and today the that it affords a service which can make most ignorant and obscure person within the proud boast of being a better service something of the mineral richness of this self as a competitor of the splendidly province, and wants to know more. The constructed and equipped American lines. members of the Dominion parliament can- The Canadian people will not consider formation for anything they do.

When they are called upon to decide money if this is all they have received. whether the C. P. R. shall possess a monopoly of the railway privileges of the Boundary district they will be expected to decome, the monopoly of the transportaion, with all that that involves to a company which has conducted a campaign of plunby every species of violence known to a ends, has retarded or completely tied up the development of rich and fertile terri-

the dictation of the C. P. R., understand- authorities any relief in the matter 1 ing the demands of the people for simple should do promptly. It is surely bad fair play. The settlers in the Boundary enough to have a large section of the best Creek country have gone in there in good building lots in the city so tied up in litifaith, expecting that they would enjoy the gation that no title to them can be given, fruits of their labor and skill. Surely the but Rossland should at least be in a posigovernment would not make it possible tion to grant a decent permanent resting for any corporation to take these people place to her dead. by the throat and demand their money or their commercial life.

made immense sums out of the sale of again got down to business and is sending townsites, large portions of which were large consignments to the smelter. Should granted to it for bringing its road to these it keep up the record made in the past places. It is no secret either that, in two days there will result a banner week dit-like manner of insisting on its portion. looked for a gradual increase till the ship-This has been one of the crying scandals ments will be much greater than they connected with the construction of the ever have been before. This will increase

nection in the Boundary Creek district? chants. There has been some complaint In Grand Forks, in Cascade, in Green- amongst them lately on account of wood, in Eholt? It would be well for the government to make enquiries of citizens hoped, will not be the case in the future, of these places and in doing so to learn, in as when the mines are sending over 3,500 particular, what inducements for com- tons of ore per week to the smelters it is pliance, what threats in the event of refusal, were held out.

Dominion government will not abandon of commerce in motion in a mining camp. the people of this district to the designs of the C. P. R., and we also cherish the belief that the reflections on the probity of Canadian legislators which the corporation's present attitude and confidence imply will receive the repudiation and contempt they deserve.

It would appear from the tenor of the dispatch of our special correspondent at Ottawa, that there is little hope of obtaining, for some time to come, an additional member for this constituency, now repre-Kotenays are pressingly in need of adthat the interests of the city of Victoria might quite well be left to one member, there is not enough public spirit in the Island members to concede the claims of the great mining district, and they may the lighter literature of the day here, but the stocks as yet carried by book very few are cover a very wide range. Very few are cover a very wide be expected to fight against any measure cover a very wide range. Very lew are in a position as yet to accumulate private libraries of any size, but say that they hope to do this when they are in

plain road before them. Their duty then privileges, but the time is past when it it will be to take such steps as they may to be considered at the expense of the only to be placed at the mercy of the C. legally do, to safeguard the interests Province. It has been outstripped in popwhich their representatives in parliament ulation by Vancouver, and as a distributhave knocked down to a bidder against ing center it must soon give place to the whom they are just now unable to con- younger and more advantageously situers at whatever prices those farmers may tend, if, indeed, their sense of principle ated city on the mainland. In the future, would allow them to do so in the only when it will have been outclassed in size and commercial activity by many of the towns now springing up in the interior. The suspicion, in which we may say we it will continue to be of importance as do not share, that there is danger of jobbery to defeat the granting of this chartention by its beautiful location and adter, is becoming universal in this district, mirable climate. But there is no promise and there is a rumor current in Grand at present that it will be able to hold the buy. Are we to be told that the people of Forks that an influential citizen there was position it now occupies in rela warned by the agents of the C. P. R. that tion to the province. It is, too, an old he and his fellow townsmen need expect established place, and its needs, from a no relief against the big corporation from standpoint of parliamentary representathe advent in the district of the Kettle tion, are well known and easily under-River Valley railway, because a charter stood. On the mainland every thing is would never be granted to the Corbin different, and especially is this so in the company. The boast is said to have been mineral region which is progressmade quite openly that money enough ing with such rapidity. It is of could be obtained to control the railway supreme importance that these districts should have members in the house who Now we are quite well aware that in the thoroughly understand the new conditions past the C. P. R. has manipulated that which are constantly being created and committee to suit its own purposes. We should intelligently watch legislation which may affect their interests. The fuconcealment of the fact that in all railway ture prosperity of Victoria itself is involvmatters, and especially in regard to those ed with the proper development of the interior, and her citizens should be willing to

EDITORIAL NOTES

forgo the luxury of a superfluous represen-

tative that the necessities of the rest of

the province might be served.

It is not for Canadians that the managers of the C. P. R. desire Canada to be reserved. They want it reserved for the Canadian Pacific railway.

Money spent in corrupting the railway committee of the House of Commons would be more usefully employed in the work of construction. It would render innecessary the laying of old rails on the company's lines.

The Trail Creek News thinks that the people of British Columbia should not omplain about the old rails on the Crow's Nest Pass road, because they say these rails afford a service which is better than walking. But the country did not give a subsidy of \$11,000 per mile for a service

A railway, the only merit of which is the wide limits of the Dominion knows than walking, will hardly recommend itnot fairly plead the excuse of lack of in- that they have obtained much value for the outlay of an immense amount di

At the present time there is no provision in Rossland for the registration here termine from absolute knowledge what is of births, deaths and marriages. It has best for the country and its inhabitants. generally been found difficult to collect They will have to say whether, against these statistics satisfactorily under favorthe united protests of the whole Kootenay able conditions, and it is most unreasondistrict, they will hand over, for years to able that the returns should be made to Nelson. It must be charitably supposed that the government has been so occupied with its internal affairs that matters of this sort have been overlooked. It should only be necessary to call the attention of the authorities to the matter to have it remedied. The city clerk should be anpointed registrar forthwith.

The mayor, in a letter addressed to the Provincial Premier, points out the present highly unsatisfactory cemetery arrangements in this city. It is simply scandalous that the condition of affairs referred to by his worship, should long continue. Will the railway committeee do this at If the attorney-general can grant the city

The War Eagle after a long period, dur-It is no secret that the C. P. R. has ing which it shipped but little ore, has many instances, sore complaints were for shipments. Now that this property made against the corporation for its ban- has increased its output there may be the number of men employed in the mines What have been the facts in this con- and make business better for the merbusiness being a shade dull. This, it is certain that it has a beneficial effect on the entire community. The payroll is, We are convinced, however, that the after all, the thing that keeps the wheels

The publication in this paper of the

lectures delivered in the School of Mines by experts in the several departments of mining and in the reduction of ores, has caused an increased demand for the issues containing them. There is a REPRESENTATION FOR KOOTENAY growing demand for this class of knowledge throughout the Kootenays and elsewhere, and therefore the desire of the management of The Miner is to secure more of a like nature. Mining men are, therefore, cordially invited to contribute sented in the House of Commons by Mr. articles of interest to the columns of this Hewitt Bostock. Despite the fact that the paper. The columns may also be considered as open for the discussion of ditional parliamentary representation, and subjects which in any manner affect the mining industry. There should be more interchanging of ideas among mining men, as it will result beneficially to the mining interests, as well as keep those engaged in the industry in better touch with all that is up-to-date in their call-

One company alone ordered 4,000 copies of the Rossland Miner's map of the camp. There are only a few left. The price has been reduced to 50 cents.

ALL SOR

C. P. R. Employ

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To Thomas Peaco
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To James Chambe mineral claim, to a from April 13th, 18

Only a few left. map of Rossland ca 50 cents.