

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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THE DOMINION ESTIMATES.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, laid the estimates for the next fiscal year before the house of commons with commendable promptness. The total expenditure provided for is \$67,109,974, of which \$50,680,224 is chargeable to Consolidated Fund and \$6,429,750 to Capital Account. The estimates at first submitted are invariably supplemented by others late in the session, they must, therefore, be regarded as giving only an approximation to the actual expenditure of the next fiscal year.

The total decrease in amount chargeable to Consolidated Fund as compared with current year is \$514,000 and decrease in capital expenditure is \$1,437,950, the total estimate for 1903-4 being \$1,951,960 below the total of 1902-3.

A perusal of the items in estimates submitted in estimates schedule reveals no amount of special importance. The capital expenditures, as usual, are spread over a wide area chiefly for canals, enlargements and improvements, new piers, dredging harbor works. A vote of \$141,000 will be asked to maintain monthly steam communication between Canada and South Africa, which seems a trifling sum for so important a service. Comment on the preliminary estimates, however, is premature, except in the case of B. C., which is treated with customary stinginess.

PROFITABLE MINING INVESTMENTS.

The Lake Superior copper mines produce 24,500 tons of rock per day, which averages 1.3 per cent copper. The richest ore mined in the famous Calumet & Hecla carries only 2.35 per cent. The ore of the Superior district is no richer than that of the copper and gold-copper mines of Southern British Columbia, and the veins here are very much larger and just as well defined. Shares in the Calumet & Hecla company are firmly held at a fancy price that makes the investment earn a very small rate of interest. The day is not far distant when a similar condition will obtain in mining investments in the Kootenays. With thorough development and more stable industrial conditions, the mines of this section will head the world's list in both tonnage and profits, and, owing to the extraordinary size and regularity of the ore bodies, will deservedly rank as gilt edged security. The investor who will exercise some discrimination and can afford to wait a little before he realizes, now has an opportunity in B. C. that seldom occurs. It is safe to say that some of the biggest fortunes ever made in mining will be reaped in this province during the next few years.

THE DEEP LEVELS.

The Miner's report of the rich ore strike in the deep levels of the Le Roi mine will be welcome news to the people of the Golden City. The strike is undoubtedly a matter of great importance, but we would draw attention to what Manager Parrish has to say about it. In so short a period it is altogether impossible to arrive at an idea of the extent of the new strike. There is, however, an immense amount of satisfaction in the unquestionable knowledge that high grade ore does exist in the deep levels of the camp. It means much for Rossland, for the reason that the companies will have greater confidence than ever in the future of the mines. It also will be a greater incentive for them to hasten the development of new and still lower levels. The 2000-foot era is now in sight.

From the earliest stages of its development, the history of Rossland has been identical with that of Butte, the premier mining camp of the American continent. There has been considerable variation in the values mined, but

never has there been an instance when the ore body has disappeared or faulted beyond recovery. On the contrary, the veins have invariably widened and become stronger with depth. If the vein filling has been shown at times to drop in value, it is worth while remembering that when high grade ore shoofs are met in the deep levels, there is the possibility that they will be very much larger than those nearer the surface because of the greater width of the vein. Butte like Rossland has experienced dull times and temporary discouragements, but the geological features of the two camps resemble each other so closely that there is no reason to suppose Rossland will not equal the Montana camp in both output and population. With this last strike it would seem that such a consummation is now assured us, and it looks as though the day is not far distant when we shall experience the satisfaction of realizing it.

THE B. C. AGENCY IN LONDON.

The Canadian immigration department is doing splendid work in England, and Mr. Preston and his staff deserve great praise for the systematic and energetic campaign that they are waging there. But how different it is with the British Columbia agency in London! The management of the office is a scandal and a disgrace. If Mr. Preston can induce thousands of immigrants to settle on the prairies of Manitoba and the Northwest, it should be an easy task for our agent-general, Mr. Turner, to do similar work for this province. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Turner is not the right man for the position he now holds. He should be removed and a more active and competent person appointed to the agency. British Columbia can not afford to lose the great benefits accruing from a large influx of settlers from the Mother Country. If the Victoria government persists in ignoring this important matter, it is to be hoped that the question will be brought up and thoroughly threshed out at the next session of the legislature.

"FIGHTING MAC."

More than passing regret must follow on the pitiful end that has come to the career of Hector Macdonald. "Fighting Mac," the familiar name bestowed upon him by his more immediate associates, and generally adopted with enthusiasm by the public, gives something like adequate expression to the esteem and admiration in which he was held throughout the empire. A man must needs be possessed of great qualities who could lift himself from the ranks to the high position which he at last occupied in the British army. Theoretically such a career is open to every enlisted soldier, but it is very well known that the theory and the practice in this regard are far from harmonizing. Probably only those who have had practical experience could describe with accuracy the obstacles that must be encountered by the soldier who must climb as Hector Macdonald did. The highest courage, unremitting industry, well-nigh indomitable energy and perseverance, must be his in order to succeed. Two incidents of the early days of his career serve to show what his character was. His leadership of a fierce bayonet charge against an Afghan ambuscade force, which first brought him to the notice of General Roberts, evidenced at once his courage and his readiness to grasp an opportunity. Then it is related that at the battle of Majuba Hill after he had been disarmed he strove to fight the attacking Boers with his fists. It is not surprising that such a man should have inspired the Soudanese brigade which he led on the plains of Omdurman with something like his own courage, so that they met the fierce onslaught of the Khalifa's hordes with no thought of flinching. That the life of this hero should have been blotted out as it was is pitiful beyond expression. Whatever the charges against him may have been they are sure to be dropped out of memory by the public, now that the melancholy end has come. He will long be kept in remembrance as one who played the part of "a soldier and a man."

DEEP-LEVEL MINING.

The inauguration of deep-level mining in the Rossland camp, made probable by the recent rich ore strike in the Le Roi and the elaborate preparations for extensive development by the War Eagle, Centre Star and other local companies, invites comparison of conditions in other Pacific Coast deep-level camps, notably the famous Comstock lode, Nevada.

Operations on the lower workings of the Comstock were suspended in March, 1882, because of the inability of the companies owning mines along the lode to make a satisfactory combination to pump the water out of the lower levels. At that time the deepest workings were in the Union Consolidated, 3350 feet, and the Yellow Jacket, the Combination and other mines, had attained in their workings within a few feet of a similar depth.

The mines were connected with each other by tunnels and upraises, and as a result, when the pumping ceased, the lower levels filled with water up to the level of the Suto tunnel, 1600 feet from the surface, and the water has remained to this day. The work that has been carried on since has been in the levels above 1600 feet.

It was supposed at that time that the maximum depth at which mines could be operated successfully had been reached, as the only other working in the world that had attained a similar depth was the Adalbert shaft, Bohemia, which was only 2280 feet deep. Since then the Calumet & Hecla shaft at Lake Superior has been sunk to over 6000 feet and there are several other mines in the world that have attained a depth in about the same neighborhood. It is certain that with modern machinery mines can be worked successfully to a depth of 6000 feet or more than a mile. The success that has crowned the efforts of the deep level mining in other parts of the world has encouraged the companies having holdings in the Comstock lode to the idea that the operations there could be extended till a depth of at least 6000 feet will have been reached. It is known to a certainty that the lode had not been worked out when the water drove the miners from the lower levels in 1882.

In point of fact, the mines there were only down about 1600 feet for the reason that the completion of the Suto tunnel had created a new level from which mining operations could be conducted, as that long bore which extended from the Carson valley, a distance of four miles to the Comstock lode, kept the mines free from water down to its level. The initial cost of the enterprise would be the greatest expense as after clearing the miles of workings of water it would be a comparatively easy task to keep the workings clear after this was done. This would be particularly the case if water power was utilized and turned into electric energy, which in its turn could be utilized to operate pumping machinery. The Comstock lode has since its discovery, some 40 years ago, produced nearly \$400,000,000. It is safe to say if the mines are pumped out and work resumed in a careful and scientific manner that it could be made to yield at least \$100,000,000 more. This is a prize that is certainly worth striving for and is easily within the range of probabilities of that famous lode.

Everything points to the fact that deep-level mining is to become more and more the mining of the future. Who can say how deep men will delve 50 years from now for the precious metals?

AN UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT.

Mr. A. C. Galt of this city, to whom is due a very large amount of credit for the successful organization of the Provincial Mining Association, has written a letter to the Victoria Colonist which bears upon such an important subject that it is worthy of reproduction in these columns. The letter is self explanatory and requires no comment, as it hits the nail squarely on the head. The letter follows:

Sir,—In the latest issue of the Mining Record, Mr. Clive Phillips-Wolley contributes an interesting article on the recent convention of the Provincial Mining association of British Columbia, and he points out, truly enough, that "the creature"—meaning the association—has already far outgrown its creators, or promoters.

I desire, however, to correct an error into which Mr. Phillips-Wolley has fallen in regard to a resolution moved by myself, and which he stigmatizes as a "fool resolution." But, strange to say, our versatile critic shows, in more than one passage in his article, that he is entirely in accord with my proposition. The resolution I proposed was:

"That having regard to the laxity which has heretofore prevailed in the legislature of British Columbia in the enactment of laws and amendments of laws affecting the mining industry, and the serious difficulties occasioned thereby, and having regard to the widely representative character of this association, and the fact that it includes within its membership many of the most competent authorities in this province in mining industry, this association do respectfully urge upon the government and legislature of British Columbia, the advisability of enacting that no legislation whatever affecting the mining industry or any branch thereof, shall be passed or introduced unless the association has been given a reasonable period, not less than three weeks, within which to consider and advise upon such intended legislation."

Mr. Phillips-Wolley comments on this as follows: "This would make of the association an upper chamber, or substitute an irresponsible unelected body representing one interest only, for the duly elected representatives of the whole people. Of course the creature told its parents to mind their own business; to remember that they were an advisory and not a ruling body; that they had not even as many votes as the farmers, and that they had better lay this fool resolution on the table."

The critic must have forgotten what he told us on the previous page, that "when the associates met to organize they were nearly 300 strong, and not many votes as the farmers, and that it would almost seem as if the brains of the country were also represented." Let us see what Mr. Phillips-Wolley declares to be the proper functions of the new association. He has admitted that the association

was most thoroughly representative. He goes on to say, "It has been avowedly created to give advice, founded upon experience and special knowledge, to legislators alleged to be insufficiently informed on mining matters." Then towards the end of his article he says:

"The world has been taught that life is strong in the mining industry of British Columbia; that it is quite brave enough to look its limitations and failures in the face and admit them; quite hopeful enough to believe that the remedy for them is simple and in its own hands, and quite sufficiently experienced and intelligent to form an adequate advisory board for the country's good."

Now, all that my resolution proposed was that the government and legislature should, for the reasons set forth in it, treat the association as an advisory body as regards legislation affecting the mining industry.

This could only be accomplished by giving the association a two-fold right; firstly, to suggest improvements in the existing laws; and secondly, a right to be consulted before passing any more unwieldy legislation.

With the first of these rights Mr. Phillips-Wolley manifestly agrees, for he joined with the rest of us in recommending several important amendments.

The second portion of my resolution was based upon the wholesale doctrine that prevention is better than cure.

According to Mr. Phillips-Wolley the mining industry possesses an organization quite sufficiently experienced and intelligent to form an adequate advisory board for "legislators who want to legislate for the country's good." Will he tell us how the board is to exercise its functions unless its advice be accepted? Does he prefer that we should forever be engaged in helping to cure blunders, and never have an opportunity of preventing a recurrence of these blunders? I cannot believe that he holds any such nonsensical views.

No harm can come of allowing my resolution to lie on the table for the next year. I have no doubt that the government and the legislature will appreciate its value, not only to the mining industry, but to themselves; and I am not without hope that Mr. Phillips-Wolley, who rendered yeoman service, so to speak, at the convention, will himself see the reasonableness of my resolution, and give it his support on the next occasion.

A. C. GALT.

Rossland, March 20, 1903.

THE GOOD TIMES.

The coal strike in East Kootenay is at last settled for at least two years. There need not, therefore, be any further anxiety about the fuel supply for West Kootenay smelters. Before the end of the two years numerous other coal mines will be opened in the district and there will be ample coal and coke for the mining and smelting industry.

There is nothing to prevent the advancement of the great prosperity that is in store for the Kootenays. The mines on all sides are developed to a condition that admits of an enormous tonnage. The cost of smelting is being gradually reduced. The price of copper, silver and lead is getting better every day. With the first named at 15 cents, as it is today, the Rossland and Boundary camps cannot but prosper to an extraordinary degree. The argentiferous sections are also on the high road to good times. With lead at any figure above \$13 per ton, the silver-lead industry of Southern British Columbia will certainly flourish, and although silver is only 50 cents per ounce the high grade ores of the Slocan, the Lardeau and East Kootenay can be made to pay. And signs are not wanting to prove that the price of the white metal will soon experience a sharp advance.

For Rossland the outlook is particularly favorable. Concentration is now an assured fact, and recent rich strikes in the lower workings of the active properties practically insure the speedy inauguration of deep-level mining. The time is not far distant when the big skips will be hauling ore from the 2000-foot workings, and when that auspicious day occurs it simply means that mining will be continued to an almost unrestricted depth. This all means the employment of miners—thousands of them, and it will be only his own fault if any Rosslander does not get rich from the opportunities that now surround him.

CONCENTRATION AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

In another column of this issue will be found correspondence that has passed between the City and the War Eagle and Centre Star management and the local water supply. The Miner gives it publicity in the sincere hope that the ratepayers and the public generally will then be in a position to thoroughly understand this vexed question and so arouse a healthy public sentiment that shall speedily terminate the intolerable and stupid policy that is being pursued by the city council. Once fully conversant with the situation, no sane person can come to any other conclusion than that the city fathers are and have been delaying the inauguration of an era of great prosperity by persistently blocking the only bona fide attempt that has been made to establish large concentration works within the city limits. It is a positive fact that this sort of thing has been going on for upwards of two years, and it is nothing short of astonishing that the people of Rossland have not taken a hand in the question before now. It really should have been made the issue of the municipal elections. An attempt certainly would have been made to have it so had The Miner then been under its present control. This journal is unalterably opposed

to any attempt to establish a water monopoly for industrial purposes in Rossland. We claim to have studied the situation with more than ordinary care and to know whereof we speak. We are now confident that there is no intention on the part of any person or company to create a water monopoly, and, what is more, it would be difficult—in fact, almost impossible—for anybody to do so under existing conditions.

The rambling communication from the city is as unbusinesslike as it is stupid. It suggests something that any sensible person at a glance would say is beyond justification or reason.

The mines, any more than a private citizen, cannot be expected under existing conditions to enter into a partnership with the city. There is no need of it and no benefit to accrue for either. We are disposed to give credit where credit is due, and certain it is that the War Eagle and Centre Star people have evinced an earnest desire to do the right thing by the city. As Mr. Kirby points out in his letter, he originally made an offer to get other mining companies to join him in creating a water supply, but was afterwards discouraged by the opposition presented and the prospective cost of litigation. Notwithstanding his solicitations that the others should remain with him and share in the difficulties and benefits, this public-spirited idea had to be abandoned. He has since then played the game alone. Nothing—not even the shame and annoying policy of the city council—has caused him to falter in his determination to stay by the camp and build his large reduction mills near the mines. When it comes to a question of public spirit and honest desire to help the community in this matter, Mr. Kirby stands head and shoulders above the two-by-four outfit who have so mismanaged the affairs of the municipality.

In his letter Mr. Kirby states: "Since then we have at much labor and expense thoroughly studied the entire water problem and are disappointed to find that there is not only not enough for all but barely enough for our own needs. As we have repeatedly explained officially and unofficially to members of the city council, we are always ready to consider or to join in anything which will benefit our companies and the City of Rossland. From our thorough knowledge of the water problem, however, we know that it is impossible to solve it by the plan proposed. Earnest desires and commissions cannot alter the conditions of Nature or make water for all where none exists." What, we ask, could be straighter, fairer, manlier, or more public-spirited?

There is another side to this question which neither the city council nor Mr. Kirby has discussed, and that is the important fact that there is in other near-by localities sufficient water for all the concentration that will ever be done in Rossland. The councilors seem to have forgotten this in their constant nagging at the War Eagle and Centre Star. Mr. Kirby has probably ignored it because it does not particularly concern the interests of his companies. There are at the least calculation 500 inches easily available at Violin lake, and it can be had when required by any company or companies. The town cannot afford to wait longer for the establishment of local concentrators. They are absolutely essential for the prosperity of the camp. The public is tired of this obstruction policy of the city council and demands an immediate change that will admit of the building of concentrators at the earliest possible moment.

IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

Civilized people are supposed to rule the Congo Free State. They are also supposed to be Christians and to possess qualities that will make for the spread of Christianity. It is very much to be feared, however, that the natives in that country will feel some doubt as to the character of the religion which inspires these men and as to the process which their "civilization" involves. It is related that a book has been written by an eyewitness of some of the Free State barbarisms, which book is well calculated to shock the world at large and cast some awkward shadows on certain people in high places. Herculean efforts are said to be making in London to prevent its publication. The story of the Congo Free State reveals the most revolting outrages against the natives, and would not be credited were it not that civilization has already similar records to its discredit. The negroes are not held in slavery, but are made to wear metal badges which bear the record of their contributions of rubber to the company. A native who has not brought a sufficient amount to satisfy the officers is flogged or otherwise tortured. Where it is necessary to maintain effective terror on the part of the natives whole villages are killed off. Some of the tortures include death through slow disembowelment. The metal badge for systematizing enforced labor corresponds to the hut tax adopted by the Chartered Company in Rhodesia. Just now in the Transvaal the problem of forcing the natives to labor

in the mines and avoid by pretence the forms of slavery is engaging much attention. In the Australian plantations the Polynesian laborers have a right to be released at the end of seven years. The bargain made for their seven years' labor is generally some trifling gift, and the law regarding their release and return is often honored in the breach. The missionary need not hope for much success while the natives contemplate the practices as well as the professions of Christian nations.

MANY RAILWAYS.

It looks as though 1903 will be a remarkable railway year, says the World. Some of the projected lines are likely to stay "on paper," but several of the important ones talked of are sure to be built. And three or four of these are in Canada. British Columbia is particularly interested in four plans. The first is the Grand Trunk Pacific, the bill for which has just been introduced in the Dominion house of commons at Ottawa. The intention is to give Canada another "transcontinental" line, a great part of which will pass through the rich north of Manitoba and the Territories, towards which many settlers are looking for homes, and also through the northern part of British Columbia, which has valuable minerals and lumber locked up for lack of communication. The capital stock of this new company is placed at \$75,000,000, and the line is to run from Quebec to either Port Simpson or Bute Inlet, several hundred miles north of Vancouver. There is a belief in this city that the former will be the actual terminus, but the company, of course, does not wish to give out its plans for speculators to take advantage of.

The second railway in which British Columbia is greatly concerned is the Canadian Northern, which has already built many miles in Ontario and Manitoba, which will form part of its transcontinental line. There have been many reports that the Canadian Northern will be brought out by the Grand Trunk Pacific, but these statements have been industriously denied. This road also mentions Port Simpson and Bute Inlet as the Pacific coast end, but the British Columbia government is putting forth all its influence to get the road continued down to Victoria so that that Vancouver island city may at last get its long-cherished wish to be a railway terminus. A huge bonus has been offered the road if it will consent.

Next there is the Trans-Canada railway, in whose behalf Mr. Talbot, M. P., was out here a short time ago on a special pleading tour. This company also projects a transcontinental line from Quebec to one of the British Columbia ports above mentioned. In Quebec and the Maritime provinces the plans of this concern are much approved.

The fourth line is the Vancouver to Boundary extension of the Great Northern, which Mr. Hill has promised shall go ahead this season and on which a start has already been made. By means of this line the Great Northern will enter a territory which used to be classed as exclusively Canadian Pacific. It will give the Great Northern direct entry into Vancouver, will open up the rich Similkameen country in which so much Canadian and American capital is being placed and will give the Boundary mineral country an outlet both to the coast and the south. The McLean Bros. of this city, who also have a charter for a Coast to Kootenay line, report good progress in negotiations for construction so that Southern British Columbia should be the scene of much railway activity this and next year.

The Canadian Pacific is not inactive while the Great Northern is thus preparing to come on its ground. It is going to invade the Hill territory. It has two parties in the field surveying for a line from East Kootenay to Spokane. The British Columbia terminus of that line will be some point on the Crow's Nest railway, probably near Moyle. By this line Spokane will be placed directly on the Canadian transcontinental railway, and there is much satisfaction there at the fact. It is also understood that the Canadian Pacific is behind another projected railway in Western Washington. It is not too much to say that the most important of all these concerns is the Grand Trunk Pacific. British Columbia is prepared to warmly welcome that proposal and the assembly, which meets on April 2nd, will no doubt be called upon to consider matters dealing with the construction.

A canard means in French a duck; in English it has come to mean a hoax or fabricated newspaper story. Its origin is amusing. About fifty years ago a French journalist contributed to the French press an experiment of which he declared himself to have been the author. Twenty ducks were placed together, and one of them, having been cut up into very small pieces, was glutinously gobbled up by the other nineteen. Another bird was then sacrificed for the remainder, and so on until one duck was left, which thus contained in its inside the other nineteen. The story caught on and was copied into all the newspapers in Europe. And thus the "canard" became immortalized.

Tomorrow the legislature meets—then look out for the clashing of political arms.

Gen

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J. A. Taylor ex-

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W. Cowan starts

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Boy and Horseshoe claim

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THE SLOCAN

The present soft weather

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Good strikes are reported

mountain.

Reports from the Fisher

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was struck in an entirely

expected vein during the

development work.

The citizens of Slocan

areured that the Crown

branch in that town.

The newly elected com-

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