Rossland Weekly Miner.

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PORT ARTHUR.

Port Arthur is familiar ground to the soldiery and marines of Japan. During the war between Japan and China it was assaulted by the Japanese, was captured and a horrible massacre followed—a massacre which is the one blight to Japan's conduct in that war.

The native name of Port Arthur is Lu-Shun-Kou. It was the largest naval station possessed by the Chinese. It is situated at the extreme southern end of the Liaotong peninsula. Up to a quarter of a century ago it was merely a small village consisting of less than 100 mud houses, an occasional shop and three or four inns. The prosperity of the town began with the determination of the Chinese authorities in 1881 to establish a naval dockyard at that port. A French company took up the contract, completing the work in three years. The port then boasted of a large basin with a depth of 25 feet at low water. Spacious wharves and quays bordered this basin and were connected with the workshops by a railroad. Two dry docks were built ready for repairing ships of all sizes, from ironclads to torpedo vessels. The harbor is always free from ice, even in the coldest winter.

It was on November 20, 1894, that the Japanese army approached Port Arthur during the war with China. The land defences consisted of nine small redoubts connected by mud walls in some cases on the north and northeast, and three redoubts on the southwest. On the north side is a range of hills from 350 to 650 feet high, the tops of the hills being not more than 2,500 yards from the town and dockyard. Three coast batteries surrounded by a mud wall crowned the hill on the right of the entrance to the harbor. The forts were armed with heavy Krupp guns and within the defences were electrical searchlights, torpedo factories, etc.

The opening attack of the Japs was on the northwest triple fort at Table mountain. Nine batteries of field and mountain guns were got into fine positions on lofty ridges nearly on the same level and almost within rifle range of the forts; while behind the artillery lay large bodies of infantry ready for a rush. The first shot was fired at 7 o'clock in the morning. The opening shot struck within five yards of a Krupp gun in the nearest of the three forts. One by one the Chinese guns ceased firing and then the Japanese infantry charged the forts, singing a marching song. The Chinese emptied their guns and small arms as the Japanese swarmed up on three sides, firing every few yards and then rushing forward. The enemy, not numerous enough for hand-to-hand combat, awaited no longer but fled over the edge of the hill, down to the fortified camps before the town, and the table mountain forts displayed the flag of the Rising Sun.

After this first success the rest of the battle was practically little more than a question of time. Neither side had yet lost more than 50 or 60 in killed and wounded. Careful planning, rapidity of attack and individual bravery were all on the Japanese side.

For the possession of the other forts a furious fusilade was maintained by both sides for nearly two hours; but the Chinese shots got wilder and wilder as the Japanese improved, until finally the Shoju magazine blew up and set fire to the sheds inside the forts. Then shortly after 11 o'clock the Japs charged all along the line, and by 1 o'clock had taken all the eight forts.

The Japs then attacked the camps of the Chinese army, creeping forward from cover to cover. Three times the Japanese came out from behind the parade ground to cross the bridge but were driven back by the withering shower of bullets. At last they forced it and rushed across with a cheer, chasing the Chinese up to the town itself. Not a shot was fired in reply. The Chinese who had time to do so took to boats or fled to the hills, most of the Chinese soldiers escaping.

The painful incident of the war is the horrible atrocities committed by the victorious army during the days following the capture of Port Arthur. It is difficult to reconcile such acts with the enlightened civilization claimed by Japan. Practically the whole of the remaining population of Port Arthur, between 2,000 and 3,000 people, was massacred without distinction of age or sex. Wanton murder was kept up until the fifth day after the battle. All resistance on the part of the Chinese ceased at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 21st, when the Japanese army entered the town. The Japs, nevertheless, fired up the streets and into the houses, chasing and killing every live thing that crossed their path. Scores of Chinese were hunted from cover to cover and hacked to pieces. Many in plain clothes went down on their knees, pleading for mercy, and in that attitude were mercilessly butchered. Those who fled were pursued and sooner or later done to death. In the lagoons were swarms of boats loaded with panic-stricken fugitives. A troop of Japanese cavalry fired on them, slaughtering all within range. An old man and two little children were slashed to pieces with the sword.

The massacre did not cease with the excitement of victory, but was continued in cold blood during the four succeeding days. There was murder and pillage from dawn to dark, every species of mutilation and every conceivable kind of atrocity. Corpses of women and children strewed the streets. Prisoners were tied together in bunches and riddled with bullets. Then the bodies were hewn to pieces and disemboweled. Every building in the town was ransacked.

All the war correspondents who were at Port Arthur agree that the massacre forms one of the blackest pages in history. The Japs lost, all told, 50 men killed and 250 wounded. Victory and the new lust for dominion seemed to have made the Japs mad and they relapsed into barbarism.

The capture of Port Arthur was the deciding conflict in the war between Japan and China. Not again were the Chinese able to make any decided stand against the advance of the conquering Japanese. The fruits of the war were, however, denied to the Japanese by the European powers. By all the rules of warfare the spoils, in the shape of Korea, should have gone to Japan at that time, and that would have been the case but for the European interference. Japan seeks now to obtain what it finally won in the war with China, but which was denied to her.

CIVIC AFFAIRS.

As was anticipated by all unprejudiced people, the majority of the remodelled city council is disposed to display a just and proper spirit in all its deliberations and transactions. This is a marked contrast to the petty spleen and vindictive spirit evinced by the "Reform" gang prior to the bye-elections and while they held sway on the board of aldermen. Messrs. Hamilton, Rolt and Lockhart are honest and fair-minded men who seem desirous of eliminating friction not only from the council, but from the camp generally. In their efforts to bring about general good will, good government and prosperity they are deserving of praise and every possible encouragement.

The Miner is now confident that the community has been saved from a calamitous state of affairs by the election of Messrs. Hamilton and Rolt. Any attempt now or in the future to promote further dissension in the camp should be promptly frowned down, for no one but a self-seeker and a demagogue would endeavor to stir up more trouble. The people of this town, if left to their natural inclinations, will unite for the common good and thereby quickly create a genuine bond of good fellowship and hearty accord among all classes.

CANADIAN EMIGRATION.

Since the arrival in London of Hon. James A. Smart, deputy minister of the interior, he has been besieged by press representatives at the emigration offices in Trafalgar Square. To the Daily Chronicle he stated he had many times met American settlers who were looking forward to the time when they could become nationalised British subjects, a statement which, we trust, will set our contemporary's fears at rest in regard to the Americanization of Canada.

The representative of the Pall Mall Gazette appears to have been surprised that Mr. Smart made light of tariff matters, as he expressed the opinion that the Dominion, taken generally, was not greatly interested in Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. Expressing his own opinion, he stated that he did not believe the Colonies could be drawn more closely to the Motherland by any stronger means than by sentiment and blood relationship. Without any advantage in the markets of the Mother Country, the minister explained that the superior natural advantages which Canada enjoys enable her to compete with the States or any other country, and that, at the present rate of progress, in ten years time the Canadian Northwest would be able to supply all England with foodstuffs, either in peace or war.

The Westminster Gazette representative referred to the subject of the importation of skilled labor, which the Canadian labor unions have naturally opposed. Mr. Smart explained to this interviewer that while the officials of his department did not seek artisans, and no bonus is paid to the steamship agents and others except on immigrants who actually settle on the land, still, Canada will never legally restrict emigration of any sort. He referred to the excellent opportunities in Canada for British teachers in primary schools, and advised them to watch the advertisement columns of the Winnipeg newspapers. At the conclusion of his interview with this representative, he expressed his conviction that Britain can best think imperially by promoting reasonable schemes whereby her own colonies may be peopled by her own sons and daughters.

A very interesting insight into the methods of the immigration department of the Canadian government was given by the minister of the interior, in a recent speech at Toronto. Mr. Sifton has enormously extended the scope and operations of this important section of his department, with most gratifying results. The total immigration has trebled since 1900, and last year Great Britain alone sent more settlers than Canada received from all sources three years ago. He referred to the difficulty of obtaining a fair proportion of emigrants from the continent of Europe, owing to official hostility. The department is therefore obliged to work through an association of steamship agents, who receive a commission of $1 a head for suitable emigrants. The average cost to the department of settlers from the United States has considerably decreased since the fertility and advantages of the Northwest have become more widely known. Thus, in 1898, each United States settler cost the department $18., which was reduced last year to 13s. That this outlay by the Canadian government is abundantly justified is shown by the fact that in the past five years American settlers alone brought in with them $25,000,000 in cash and effects valued at a further $19,000,000. These settlers, it was calculated, would in a few years' time be adding $50,000,000 yearly to the wealth of the Dominion from the produce of their farms. Perhaps the most satisfactory statement in his speech was that Canada is now obtaining the pick of emigrants from Europe, and that out of 857,000 that went to the United States last year, not 14 per cent were of a class wanted in Canada.

BRINGING UP A CHILD.

The experiment of Ernest Thompson Seton with his little daughter, now three weeks old, will be watched with interest by thousands, possibly millions of people throughout the world. It is the intention of Mr. Seton to have the little girl grow up as a native denizen of forest, field and stream. Her cradle will be swung from a branch of a tree day and night as soon as the weather will permit, and she will run wild in a sort of civilized fashion until she is a woman grown. The airs and graces of schools will be unknown to this happy child of circumstance, and it kind fortune provides that she may not have to earn her living later on instead of roaming the wildwood in maiden meditation, fancy free, hers will have been one of the exceptional lives that the gods sometimes permit upon this sin-cursed earth.

If, however, instead of freedom from care comes the necessity for work, she will be but poorly equipped for the battle of life, although possessing the unspeakable blessing of perfect health.

However much our fancy may lean that way we cannot take to the woods and live in aboriginal freedom in this day of the world. To a large extent the woods are gone; gone too are bird and beast that furnished food and raiment in the olden days, and the barnyards and pastures of civilization will not yield up their richness without a fair equivalent in coin of the realm. Wampum will not pass current in the marts where food, fuel and raiment are bartered. Game and fur-bearing animals have largely disappeared before the march of civilization, so that little if any medium of exchange could be found after the berry season, for the wherewith to sustain life in the forest.

Occasionally soothed by the sweetness of a

"Day most calm, most bright,
The fruit of this, the next world's bud,"

a day when passion and purpose die gently out of the scheme of things, and with soul attuned to the harmonies of nature, the human product of twenty centuries of striving feels that no higher happiness than to lie through long summer days in the coolness and shadow and solitude of the woods can be desired. The kind moods of nature are fleeting, however, and a nipping frost is all that is necessary to awaken the momentary dreamer to the fact that life's highest happiness is only to be attained through the occupations and advantages of civilization. Through the thick and thin of the struggle of this world our pathway lies, and arduous fight or weary novitiate is lightened with glimpses of the radiance beyond.

THE P. M. A.

The meeting of the local branch of the Provincial Mining Association last night was a distinct success, revealing as it did 450 Rosslanders enrolled as members of this eminently useful organization. It is becoming more evident every day that the P. M. A. is destined to do an immense amount of good for this province. In the first place it has brought all classes and elements of the population together on a common ground and without any invidious distinctions. It is absolutely non-political, and its chief principle is honest, common-sense government. It will save the province in spite of the wiles and selfishness of politicians and the greed of the rich. The British Columbian who does not give the Provincial Mining Association his heartiest support is indifferent about the prosperity of himself as well as that of the province.

CROW'S NEST LAWLESSNESS.

There seems to be little or no abatement to the extraordinary state of lawlessness that has prevailed in the Crow's Nest region for a considerable time. Never a week passes but some foul crime is perpetrated in or around the town of Fernie. The local jail is seldom empty and is only too frequently over-crowded with thugs, thieves and desperate toughs. This sort of thing is a monstrous disgrace to the authorities. We are well aware of the character of some of the foreigners who work in the East Kootenay coal mines. It is no easy matter to make them understand what is required of them as law-abiding residents of this country. But the fact remains that they MUST be made to understand, and that without the slightest delay. If the local authorities are found incapable of successfully coping with the situation, it is the duty of the government to see that others more competent are sent to replace them. Rossland cannot afford to lose the services of Gold Commissioner Kirkup; but if the government has not his equal handy for the Fernie situation, it might not be amiss to get Mr. Kirkup to straighten things out in the Crow's Nest and permanently establish the majesty of the law in that turbulent region. It would take our unassuming "Jack" about 30 days to do the trick so effectively that thugs and thieves would disappear like mists before the rising sun. It is to be deplored that there are not more like Mr. Kirkup in the government service.

THE KILKENNY CATS.

Read what John Houston, ex-president of the Provincial Conservative association, has to say about the McBride government:

"The legislature adjourned on Wednesday with a promise from Premier McBride that there would be a special session in May or June to consider a railway policy. No one who knows McBride believes for a moment that the promise will be kept. The government handed out the promise as they have been handing out promises ever since taking office and had but one object, that is to keep themselves in office. It is generally conceded that the Joly-McBride government is the weakest the province has ever had; but its leader, though weak mentally, is an artist at blowing hot air into those who expect to make hay through legislation. Members like Clifford, Ellison, Shatford, Fraser, Young and Macgowan know that they have been licked, but being good party line men they say they cannot kick over the traces and put the Grits in office. Of the 30 or 40 bills passed the Assessment Act stands out as a piece of legislation that did not receive due consideration. It was forced through hurriedly because a bank manger was holding a club over the government, and it will put the Liberal-Conservative party out of business at the next election.

"There is now a struggle on between Taylor of Revelstoke, Ross of Fernie, Wright of Ymir and Fulton of Kamloops for the provincial secretaryship. Taylor was promised it last June, and he wants the promise kept. Fulton claims he is entitled to it. Neither made a speech during the session. Wright imagines he is fitted for the office and that it is coming to him for going back on Houston. Ross believes he is the only man in Kootenay who has a political future and that "Hon." would look well before his name. Cotton is also looking for advancement, but McBride knows too much to take him into his government. Cotton during the session stood for legislation that he has always opposed, but by supporting it he believed he would make the Joly-McBride government so disliked and ridiculous that the country would be forced to turn to him for relief. The government has made itself ridiculous and its members are cordially disliked, but Carter-Cotton will never again be a member of a government in British Columbia."

A PLEASANT REVELATION.

The last annual report of the Kamloops board of trade makes interesting reading to those who desire to see satisfactory progress made in the development of our magnificent resources and the advancement of our prosperity.

Around Kamloops is an extensive stretch of the finest agricultural and grazing lands in Canada. All farm products and every fruit of the temperate zone ripens there to perfection and the yield in every instance is steady and prolific. During the last twelve months an encouraging advance has been made in both the increased acreage under cultivation and the volume of produce. Farmers have not only made an effort to supply the constantly increasing demand of the local market, but attention has been paid to supplying other commercial centres. Private holdings throughout the district have increased over 35 per cent. Over 14,000 acres of waste land have been settled by bona fide settlers, and 18,000 additional acres have been put under cultivation. Thousands of tons of wheat and oats vegetable and fruit crops were marketed by the carload. Mixed farming has progressed in a similar manner, were garnered during 1903, and the Stockraising continues a highly profitable industry, 323 carloads of cattle and 15 carloads of horses being shipped last year to Eastern Canada. Irrigation is accomplishing wonders. Mining and lumbering are also conducted with gratifying success and give evidence of great possibilities, but the chief source of wealth is farming.

Too much attention cannot be directed to agriculture in this province. Not only do we need the products of the farm for home consumption at excellent prices, but we need in the worst possible way a large agricultural community composed of thrifty and industrious husbandmen. This is an element that forms the backbone of a country—especially a new one like British Columbia. We also need the sober-minded and contented agriculturist to offset the restlessness of the more thriftless and reckless element of the population. It is only by such means that we may easily protect ourselves from the misery and wretchedness that follows the trail of the unreasoning agitator and loathsome demagogue.

It is to be regretted that the provincial government has seen fit to ignore the earnest efforts of the people of Kamloops to have the agricultural areas of the North Thompson valley made available to settlers, for the reason that the valley could accommodate hundreds of waiting settlers.

THE CITIZEN AND THE ADVENTURER.

A good distinction was lately drawn by a public speaker betwen the citizen and the adventurer. The citizen in the true sense is the man who, living in a community, identifies himself with its interests, who never forgets that, if he thrives, it is because the protection of society and of the laws makes it possible for him to do so, and who governs his whole course in such a way that good, and not evil, may result to others from his social and business activity. The adventurer, on the other hand, is the man who keeps his own advancement solely in view, and who, therefore, regards the social medium in which he acts and moves very much as a rat might regard the grain bin to which he has luckily obtained access. Such a man cares little if any action of his injures the community so long as it is profitable to himself. He may at times be led by the pressure of public opinion to contribute to public objects, but no real interest in the welfare of his fellow citizens goes with his formal benefactions. In his dealings with the government and his influence on legislation he does not hesitate to strive for favors, which, if granted, would involve injustice to the community at large, and if these come high, the only question is whether he can pay the price. Being prepared to practice corruption himself, the adventurer does not object to it in others, unless they are working against his interests. So far as he is concerned, every franchise, every public act, every public appointment might be made a simple matter of bargain and sale. In fact men of this type generally like to think that corruption is far more widespread than it really is. It makes them a little uncomfortable to think that there should be strict principle anywhere. They don't want it in this world, and are not hankering very much after it in the next.

The man who has the true citizen spirit, on the other hand, never loses sight for long of the welfare of the community in which he does business or of the country which claims his allegiance. If he grows, he wants them to grow, and, as to his own growth he does not want to promote it by any means that are inimical to the public good. He may be keen in business—as every man ought to be—but he is not overreaching. His own practice is such that he can, without inconsistency, condemn corruption and seek to banish it from national and civic affairs. He gives not on compulsion to public objects, but because he feels that public objects are his objects. In a certain sense he takes all his fellow citizens into partnership. He does not begin by being a bandit, and end by being a malefactor, but through life he takes thought for the public interests and seeks to advance them as he sees opportunity. "Boni cives rari," says a Latin adage. That was long ago, but citizens of the best type are not superabundant, even today. There is room for much more public spirit amongst men of social mark and business influence than we see any evidence of from day to day. It is not necessary, however, for a man to possess either social mark, or business influence—beyond the influence that attaches to an honest character—in order to be a good citizen. He is a good citizen who lives a good life, whose business methods are clean and above board, who supports what he conscientiously believes to be the good cause at all times, and who is not afraid to let his principles be known. Let us trust that the number of these may increase, and that the time may come when to live in a community, and not to be actively and sincerely interested in its welfare, will be a social disgrace.

THE RADIO-ACTIVITY OF MAN.

Said Edward Everett to a graduating class at Williams college some fifty years ago: "Gentlemen, perhaps the man is already born to whom it shall be given to demonstrate the immortality of the human soul."

His hearers thrilled at the words, yet thought them a phrase of the speaker's oratory. Today, science has cast such light upon the borderlands of life that the missing link between the phenomena hitherto classed as physical and those denominated spiritual seems absolutely within reach.

It is only a few months since the discovery was made that the human body emitted rays to such an extent that it was found possible to take its own photograph by its own light. Students of the occult noted at the time that there was an interesting correspondence between this observed fact and the theory of Oriental philosophy about "auras."

The rays emitted by the body, the so-called "n-rays" of Blondlot, have been subjected to further investigation, and M. Charpentier, lecturing recently before the Paris Academy of Sciences, has reported further interesting discoveries. Every nerve-centre that functions adds new n-rays to those normally emitted during repose, and this to such an extent that the location of the centre in action can be determined by the increase in rays at that point. For instance, during speech there is a pronounced increase of rays from the region of the skull above Broca's centre, the brain centre for articulate speech. Even the act of attention or mental effort is attended by additional rays.

It is this latter statement that is of the greatest value to the student of things psychical. If concentrated thought is attended—as it evidently is—by increased radiation in proportion to the intensity or concentration, then we have here the heretofore lacking proof of a basis for thought-transference or telepathy.

Readers of the life-work of the late F. W. H. Myers, "Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death," will recall the steps of the argument by which he passes from telepathy (which he considered proved) to apparitions of the living; from apparitions of the living to apparitions of the dead, and from apparitions of the dead to the immortality of what, for lack of a better name, man knows as Soul.

Science has now taken the first step along the pathway of that argument whose demonstration means so much to man. It by no means follows that all the other steps will be taken. In our haste to lay hold of the knowledge for which all creation has groaned and travailed since the beginning, we must not go too fast nor take too much for granted, but for our comfort the invincible fact remains: the proofs of science have bridged the gulf so long thought to exist between the physical and the psychic. What the next step may not be, who can say?

THE DAYS OF DIVIDENDS.

The payment of another dividend by the Le Roi No. 2 company marks the turning point in the local mining industry which The Miner prophesied repeatedly last summer. But it is not the mere payment of a dividend that is responsible for the new epoch. This dividend is but the sharp dividing line between the period of depression that was the logical result of the boom and the strike and the prosperity that must inevitably follow the large amount of development that has been going on steadily for the last two years. The camp is about to reap the benefit of the far-sighted preparations of those who control the destinies of the big properties on Red mountain. There can be no doubt of it. Not only is the Le Roi No. 2 an established fact as a dividend payer, but there are at least two other properties, both probably richer and bigger than the Le Roi No. 2, that will soon be distributing profits regularly. In the course of the next twelve or eighteen months several more will also be added to the list. And so the march of progress will continue until there is a long and imposing list of Rossland dividend payers. The bare possibility of a prolonged war in the Orient or a temporary shrinkage in the price of copper cannot alter this certain destiny of Rossland. The worst that could happen would be a scarcity of money for the further development of properties now idle. There are, however, enough mines now in operation to ensure lasting prosperity for a town of 8,000 to 10,000 people. Whatever else happens to come our way may be considered as so much additional good fortune. It is only natural that the people of Rossland should be anxious to reap the benefits of the good times that are assured us, and this can best be done by all elements of the population working together industriously, intelligently and harmoniously for the common good of the camp.

WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN ROSSLAND.

There can be no doubt but that the highly gratifying success that is being achieved in local mining circles is having a marked effect on the outside world. Rossland today is the most talked of town in Western Canada. The enormous tonnage of pay ore now in sight and the elaborate plans that are being rapidly carried out for treatment of the same, is opening the eyes of the general public to the exceptional opportunities that exist here for profitable mining with practically no risk. The Miner's special cable dispatch concerning the exceedingly favorable report of the Le Roi mine for the last twelve months is being discussed by the public press from one end of Canada to the other. The following, from the Vancouver News-Advertiser, is a fair example of current newspaper comment on this subject.

"The report presented by the directors to the shareholders in the Le Roi Mining company at the annual meeting, held in London on Thursday last, must have been a gratifying one. The profit for the year ending June 30th last was stated to amount to $400,000, while as an indication of the satisfactory results that the mine is likely to give under good management, it was stated that the profits for January were $50,000. The property, in the hands of a business management, is now beginning to show its intrinsic value. While the mine is earning substantial profits, the management is not neglecting the development of the property. The managing director, in the course of his statement to the shareholders, said that splendid results had attended the vigorous development work in the lower levels. Large bodies of payable ore have been blocked out, especially on the 1350-foot level. While the management pursues the policy of keeping development work well ahead, the mine will be put on a sound basis and regular dividends should be tolerably well assured.

"While this report of the year's operations in the most widely known mine in the Rossland district cannot fail to be most satisfactory to the shareholders, especially to those who have been interested in the property through long years of disappointment, it is scarcely less so to the people of British Columbia who realize what a prosperous mining industry means to this Province. What the Le Roi mine can be made to show under honest and capable management, other properties can also do under similar conditions. We have expressed the opinion on more than one occasion that one good dividend paying mine would do more to attract capital to British Columbia than all the efforts of the government in the way of advertising our resources could accomplish. This report of the Le Roi company will undoubtedly have an important influence. Within a comparatively short time we have had the reports of the companies operating the War Eagle and Centre Star and the Le Roi mines in the Rossland district, and of the Granby company working mines at Phoenix. All of these reports showed that profits had been made in the year to which they referred. While there is every reason to believe that these satisfactory results will be maintained, the list of paying mines will almost certainly be increased during the present year. The province is now embarking on the second stage of mining development, that of actual mining succeeding the stock jobbing."

The Vancouver World also says:

"Readers of the mining news in The World will have noticed the cheerful reports coming from Rossland of late. One finds that the new ore body in the Le Roi has been uncovered at all three of the lower levels of the great mine, an event which those who know their Rossland well says means many more years of life to the Red Mountain camp. In addition the success which has attended the new concentration process has been of such a nature as to inspire all friends of the well known mining town with a feeling that the good old times are to be restored at no distant date. Studying the ore shipments so far this year we see that Rossland mines have already sent out 53,000 tons though the year is but six weeks old. Last week, despite the interference with mining that the carnival so pleasantly made, over 6000 tons were sent out."

There can be but one result to all this widespread yet very pertinent comment, and that is that Rossland is destined to become a very fashionable money making centre in the near future.

THE WAR AND STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Some of the comments upon the way the stock markets have acted in the face of the actual beginning of hostilities between Russia and Japan relate to the manner in which political sentiments affect price movements. British sympathies with Japan are claimed to render the successes of that power in the opening naval operations a bullish influence in the London market. In the same way the Paris Bourse, it is inferred, has been adversely affected by these circumstances in view of the Franco-Russian alliance. It might be more correct to say, perhaps, that French investors hold such large amounts of Russian government securities, that any adverse news concerning the czar's forces in the Far East would naturally chill financial sentiment at the French capital. The New York securities market has naturally been affected, indirectly at least, by conditions abroad, and the eastern war was also somewhat overshadowed by the great domestic calamity at Baltimore and its possible financial effects. In the main, however, an impartial survey of the situation would suggest that the long-drawn suspense while negotiations continued, and the outcome being balanced between war and peace, led to the adverse possibilities being discounted by the recession in values at the European financial centres, and that, apart from the possibility of further complications, the influence of the collision between the two belligerent powers on speculation and investment has been exhausted.

W. E. Curtis, the American newspaper correspondent, who in his travels recently reached India, is finding that a wonderful land, and also is finding that Great Britain has a genius for governing peoples of all climes and races, of which India is a striking instance.

WILL BE 500 STRONG

LOCAL MINING ASSOCIATION NOW HAS 450 MEMBERS.

SENDS FULL DELEGATION TO VICTORIA CONVENTION NEXT WEEK.

From Thursday's Daily.

The Rossland branch of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia started the new year last night under most propitious circumstances. The paid membership for the new year is already 450, with indications that this will be readily increased over the 500 mark. As reported last night the membership has been recruited to date as follows:

From Le Roi mine	105
War Eagle-Centre Star mines	185
Rossland Power Company	73
City	70

In addition to the foregoing a number of members have been secured among the employes of the Le Roi Two company, and a considerable number of citizens are yet to be added to the list. It seems likely that 500 members will be secured for the local branch before the week closes.

The second annual convention of the association assembles in Victoria next week, and will be in session there most of the week. Empowered to send a delegate for every twenty members in the association, the Rossland branch will send a full delegation of twenty to the convention. A score is the maximum allowed for any association, so that Rossland's excess membership over 400 will not secure greater representation.

At last night's meeting the following list of delegates and alternates was approved: Dr. Sinclair, E. B. Kirby, Paul S. Couldrey, Alfred McMillan, Smith Curtis, Francis A. Hewer, A. S. Goodeve, W. B. Townsend Richard Marsh, Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, Fred Demuth, Patrick J Bonner, Antoine Sorenson, Andrew G. Larson, R. A. Laird, M. R. Galusha, Rupert Bulmer Dan Thomas, Britton Duke, Arthur Pendray, Philip James, Lorne A. Campbell, Harry G. Seaman, H. H. Johnstone, A. B. Mackenzie, S. F. Parrish, George Tippet, Thomas H. Reed, Robert H. Anderson, William L. McDonald and F. R. Blochberger.

Some of the foregoing gentlemen will be unable to leave the city for the convention, and a committee was appointed as follows to ascertain exactly who can go and supply the necessary credentials: Harry G. Seaman, Britton Duke, A. B. Mackenzie, A. McMillan and A. C. Galt.

To reach Victoria in time for the opening session of the convention the delegates will require to leave Rossland on Friday evening, if going by Canadian Pacific, or on Saturday morning if travelling by Spokane Falls & Northern. Both lines give a single fare return for convention week. It is understood that delegates will be recouped to some extent for the travelling expenses incurred.

The meeting was largely attended and animated. A. C. Galt occupied the chair, and debates on various subjects of interest lasted for two hours and a half.

In opening the chairman took a quarter of an hour to review the work of the association and to emphasize the good results attained, even though the large majority of the association's representations had not been acted upon by the administration. He also directed attention to the fact that the central organization's finances had been somewhat mismanaged and that the president of the association, Mr. Keen, with Mr. Hobson, had personally undertaken a considerable deficit, which was now being distributed among the branch organizations. Rossland's share of this burden was $173, and in fairness and justice to Messrs. Keen and Hobson, neither of whom was responsible for the mismanagement, the Rossland branch would have to do its best to pay the share allotted. In future this would be carefully guarded against. Mr. Galt then reviewed the situation in respect to the two per cent mineral tax.

Smith Curtis paid a warm tribute to the work of the association. Personally on the floor of the house he had threshed out the two per cent tax question for four sessions, and the most encouragement he ever secured was at the last session, when the present minister of finance agreed that the operation of the mineral tax should be amended. Since the association had gone into the subject he knew of several members of the legislature who took a new view of it, and he was perfectly satisfied that ere long the operation of the tax would be altered to distribute the burden equitably. Mr. Curtis was especially felicitous in his remarks as to the utility of the association in the Fernie strike settlement last summer, remarking that if nothing else had been accomplished the organization had entirely justified its existence.

A. S. Goodeve urged the association to come to some definite understanding as to the proper method of taxing the output of mines before asking the government to abolish or amend the present legislation. Mr. Kirby took the stand in reply that the legislature was elected for this express purpose, and that the association should confine itself to insisting upon the iniquity of the taxation and leave the government to find the remedy. In the past various suggestions had been made to the government along this line, but the politicians came back with the old cry "give us a substitute," which was intended only to cast dissension into the mining industry and stave off the day when the government felt compelled to deal with the subject in the house.

The session throughout was lively, and a variety of interesting points were elicited.

The Rossland delegation is certain to embrace a large representation of working miners.

MEETS TODAY.

The special committee in connection with the organization of the delegation meets this afternoon at 4 o'clock in the board of trade rooms.

A MOTHER'S PRAISE.

"From the time my baby was born," says Mrs. Robt. Price, of Comber-mere, Ont., "he was always sickly and costive until I began giving him Baby's Own Tablets. He is now well, strong and growing nicely, and I can hardly say how thankful I am for my baby's cure." In every home where there are young children this medicine should always be kept on hand. The troubles