

POLITICAL SITUATION

Mr. Macdonald Speaks of Conditions at the Capital.

Injurious Nature of the Government's Taxation Measures.

J. A. Macdonald, M. L. A. for Rossland, and leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia, although the only returned from Victoria late on Monday, was a busy man yesterday attending to his large legal business. He, however, found time to make a brief statement concerning the situation at Victoria.

The leader of the Opposition seems well satisfied with the work done so far by the Liberal members of the legislative assembly. They labored hard from the opening of the session in the cause of sound legislation and undoubtedly did much good in preventing the McBride government from making a number of serious blunders. Mr. Macdonald evinced genuine regret that the government had not been able to introduce legislation that would meet the requirements of the extremely precarious situation. The Premier McBride to calm the present spirit of uneasiness and relieve the country of depression is largely due to his refusal to come out fairly and squarely with a vigorous and adequate policy. All he seems to have done is to leave the province in a worse plight than ever. He has added a million dollars to the indebtedness of the country without benefiting the situation to any material extent, and set all classes by the ears with his preposterous and generally inimical amendments to the assessment act. It is not too much to say that had it not been for the wise counsel of Mr. Macdonald and his followers, the effect of the policy of the government would have been far-reaching, even to the point of general collapse of public confidence in the legislature. The province, therefore, has much to thank the Liberals for, although they only sit in opposition for the present.

In response to a request for an expression of opinion concerning the work done by the legislature, Mr. Macdonald said that the million-dollar loan bill was a clumsy and unnecessary costly piece of legislation. The government had thereby arranged for a ten-year loan at a time when money was admittedly scarce and interest proportionately high, especially in the case with British Columbia, owing to an unfortunate policy extending back for a number of years. The province might have saved a very considerable amount by making the loan for a shorter period at the end of which it could have been paid off with money raised at less than 5 per cent. The province has been placed a million dollars deeper in debt by this act, but a year from now it will be confronted with almost as bad a state of affairs as that which now exists. By that time there will be another appalling deficit in the provincial treasury and funds will be lacking for \$50,000 interest on the new loan as well as for the repayment of one-tenth of the capital. Mr. Macdonald is of the opinion that unless a sounder policy is displayed than has hitherto been the case, the condition of the province cannot fail to go from bad to worse.

Of the new assessment act Rossland's member spoke with much dissatisfaction. It contains some glaring inconsistencies as well as much injustice. All idea of an equitable and reasonable system of assessment has been ignored, in spite of the plea of the Opposition. Merchants are now to be taxed for goods that they have not paid for, and 50 per cent of their book debts, which are an asset, are entirely disregarded.

Mr. Macdonald did introduce a common sense assessment bill based on equitable conditions, but because of the narrowness of a strictly partisan view on the government side the country lost the benefit of it.

Mr. Macdonald's justly indignant attack upon the government for the retention of the infamous 2 per cent tax resulted in some considerable advantages for the mining industry over what was originally intended by Premier McBride. The tax is to be left as it was, but the Opposition has forced a promise from the government that a bill especially dealing with this important question will be introduced when the legislature resumes its sittings next month. It is Mr. Macdonald's idea that the tax should be levied only after a deduction has been made for freight, treatment and miners' wages. The reasonableness of this will be readily seen by all those who understand the circumstances and who wish to see a fair rate of taxation on the mining industry.

Mr. Macdonald was most severe in condemning the government's determination to raise the coal prospector's license from \$50 to \$100. He considers it a rank injustice and a blow at the pioneer element of the population which is certain to work a great hardship upon the very ones who are most needed in the exploitation of our natural resources. He was, however, powerless to prevent the government from playing directly into the hands of the capitalists.

Asked why only twenty-one licenses have been granted in the East Kootenay reserve while more than 400 others have been denied any recognition, Mr. Macdonald said such favoritism was beyond him. He would not attempt to explain the government's conduct in this respect, but it seemed

somewhat typical of the present administration. In the land act, another taxation bill, the government proposed to raise the fee for a special timber license from \$100 to \$160. This created such a furor from the timber men of the upper country, who were championed by the Opposition, that the administration was forced to a more reasonable view, and made the cost of license \$115 east of the Cascades and \$140 west. At the instance of some of the large operators at the coast, the premier refused to make these licenses renewable yearly, but a provision was made by which a license might be taken out for five years by the payment of the five years' fees in advance. This, Mr. Macdonald said, enables the rich speculator to tie up a valuable berth of timber for five years, while the logger or small mill-owner is left out in the cold.

Mr. Macdonald states that he is very favorably impressed with the prospects of the Liberals at the coast so far as the next Federal elections are concerned.

THE M.E.'S MAY COME

PROPOSAL TO CONVEY AMERICAN MINING ENGINEERS IN SPOKANE.

PRACTICALLY ALL MEMBERS WOULD VISIT ROSSLAND AND BOUNDARY.

The efforts by Rossland members of the Institute of Mining Engineers to bring the next annual convention to Spokane will have the support and endorsement of Rosslanders generally.

The effect of the move will be to bring practically the total strength of the convention to the Golden City on the conclusion of the business sessions. The Institute usually turns out several hundred strong to its annual conventions, so that the delegation likely to visit Rossland will be easily one of the most important of the similar events scheduled for Rossland next year.

It will be remembered that British Columbia was selected as the convention district for 1903, but the proposal was rendered futile by the inability of the Institute to secure adequate railroad accommodation owing to the unprecedented pressure of tourist business on the main line of the Canadian Pacific.

The American Institute of Mining Engineers numbers 1000 members, of whom about thirty are resident in Rossland. The annual convention has not yet been held in British Columbia, although the importance of the province warrants the hope that the effort to secure the convention for Spokane will be successful. Portland, Ore. is also in the field for convention honors, but Spokane seems to have the advantage in point of accessibility to adjacent mining districts of importance; the principal of these being Rossland and Boundary. The Coeur d'Alene can also be reached readily from Spokane, but this is no special recommendation to the Institute, inasmuch as the convention was held in Idaho several years ago.

The ordinary course of business at Institute conventions is for the business sessions to take place at some central point, after which the members are invited to participate in side trips to points where mining operations are under way on a considerable scale. Should the session be held in Spokane next summer Rossland and Boundary camps offer strong inducements to Institute members, and the Golden City would assuredly be visited by many mining engineers. At this juncture the camp, in addition to the big mines in operation, will boast at least three concentrating plants—the Le Roi Two, Rossland Power company and White Bear. Together with one plant for the utilization of low grade heavy iron ores. The interest attaching to these special operations is such from the viewpoint of the mining engineer and metallurgist that the Institute may reasonably be expected to visit the city en masse.

THE COAL LICENSES

DETAILS IN REGARD TO THOSE ISSUED FOR EAST KOOTENAY LANDS.

LOCATED ON WEST SIDE OF ELK RIVER NEAR FERNIE AND MORRISSEY.

VICTORIA, Dec. 15.—For the 21 applications for coal licenses in the two famous blocks of Southeast Kootenay, which have been granted, the dates and locations are as follows:

On January 10, 1902, licenses for lands on the west side of Elk river, north of Morrissey, were granted to E. J. Johnson, John Janesh, William Sinkbell and D. Mackenzie.

Charles Walde and Thomas Morrison received theirs on December 30, 1902, for lands two miles from Morrissey on the west side of Elk river.

Mrs. Sinkbell and F. German got theirs on January 19, 1903, for lands three miles south of Morrissey on the west side of Elk river.

The remaining ones were all issued on November 6, 1902, and apply to lands on the west side of Elk river near Coal creek on the Lizard range. Roughly, the whole block was taken up just opposite Coal Creek and Fernie on the west side of Elk river.

The applications were made by the parties in whose names the licenses were taken out.

There were about 37 licenses applied for, but the others were filed prior to the famous cancellation of the reserve, and hence were not considered.

MILL SITE

SELECTED

White Bear Company Secures Ground For Its Plant.

It Asks Permission to Build Framway and Siding.

The White Bear Mining company is taking active steps to secure conditions that will permit of the construction of its proposed 100-ton concentrator on the Elmore oil process within the city limits in preference to selecting a mill site outside of the community. In this effort the company is asking the assistance of the corporation on one or more points, and the disposition of the city council, so far as evidenced to date, is unquestionably to render what assistance is possible under the circumstances.

The mill site selected by the White Bear company is east and slightly south of the new shafthouse, south of Kootenay avenue and just east of the eastern limit of the White Bear addition to the townsite. Everyone familiar with the situation knows that the nature of the ground at this point permits of the construction of a mill on the "step-down" plan similar to that followed at the Le Roi Two works, and almost universally in concentrating works. Below the mill the valley of Trail creek extends, and the creek will carry away the tailings. Should there be any difficulty in the future respecting the disposal of tailings, the company has provided against stoppage of activity by arranging with the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railroad, which owns the ground, for sufficient space to construct a dam in which to impound tailings. The site seems to be excellent from every viewpoint.

To transport ore to the mill site requires the construction of an aerial tramway, which the company desires to erect on Kootenay avenue, running east to the terminal of Kootenay avenue on White Bear addition ground, thence south on the railroad company's territory to the millsite, 500 by 300 feet. Already under lease from the railroad, further for the purpose of transporting the immense quantity of building material and machinery required for such a large structure as a 100-ton plant will be, the company desires to continue its railway siding from the millsite, this extra siding following the same line as the proposed aerial tramway.

It is unsettled whether the proposed extension would be permanent, because the method of delivering the product of the mill to the city is a subject of some discussion. The line running from the lower end of the mill building up a draw well known to all who have been on the ground.

Inasmuch as Kootenay avenue is a surveyed street, the consent of the city is required before the White Bear company proceeds with the tramway and siding, both of which are essential to the construction of the proposed works within the city limits. As an argument in favor of the granting of the concession it is pointed out that the section of Kootenay avenue in question is a street by court only, that to all appearances it is a wide road on a hillside which to one would ever by any stretch of imagination conceive to be a street at all. The nature of the country is such, moreover, that if the White Bear addition is ever built up it will be in the vicinity of the city, and the construction of a tramway or spur, while the likelihood of the addition ever being built up to any large extent is problematical, even in the event of the White Bear company proceeding with its mill building.

Members of the city council will inspect the ground and recommend a course of action to the council as a whole. Their decision will undoubtedly be favorable to the suggestion of the mining company. The council should certainly adopt a new policy in the matter of conceding water location on all reduction works within the city limits, where the community can profit to the fullest extent by the promised expansion in the mining industry.

The city council will also be asked to deal with the water question as it affects the location of concentrating works. The company will secure water for the works from three sources: 1—water raised from the mine in pumping; 2—the overflow from the Le Roi Two concentrator; 3—overflow from the Black Bear pond owned by the Le Roi Mining company. It is fully expected that these sources will supply ample water at all times, but the contingency of an unusually heavy drain on all the supplies specified is to be guarded against, and the White Bear company would like to have an assurance that in such emergency the city would allow the company such overflow from the city water system as may exist. At the present time the corporation cannot dispose of water to mining companies, but legislation is being sought to enable them to do so.

The company's suggestion could be complied with, and in the interim the White Bear company seeks a resolution of good will from the council which would enable it to claim some measure of priority in event of the question arising in connection with a later date. The Le Roi and Le Roi Two companies are in the habit of consenting parties to such an arrangement. This matter will also be disposed of by the council at an early date, and the company's plans in respect to ordering material and machinery depend in some measure upon the attitude of the city fathers. James J. Warren, managing director of the White Bear, returns to Toronto on Friday.

Sunlight Soap will not burn the nap off woollens nor the surface off linens.

SUNLIGHT SOAP REDUCES EXPENSE

Ask for the Sunlight Bar.

AROUND THE CITY

Mrs. Walters and two children left yesterday morning for Michigan, where they will make their home. The infant in arms still bore the marks of the assault by the father, who is now doing a week's imprisonment in the city cells.

The communication in yesterday's Miner as to the desirability of a bounty on Canadian zinc was written by Henry Roy, manager of the London-Richelleu Mining & Smelting company. A typographical error presented the signature as "Ray" instead of "Roy."

The Spokane Falls & Northern has a crew of men in the city for the purpose of laying ties and steel on the White Bear siding. The work will be pushed ahead as rapidly as possible, and the indications point to the fulfillment of the management's expectations as to commencing shipments soon after the first of the year.

W. J. Forster has been appointed to the fire department, vice Frank Boyd, resigned. Boyd severs his connection with the department today, and Forster assumes his duties. The new member of the brigade has resided in Rossland for a year and was employed by the Rossland Transfer company as a driver.

In order that the city employees may have funds with which to purchase Christmas gifts and enjoy the festive event unhampered through lack of turkey and cranberry sauce, an effort will be made at next meeting of the city council to have all civic salaries paid before the end of the month instead of next month.

More November payrolls have been disbursed by Rossland mines. Yesterday the Centre Star and the Eagle companies paid out \$23,000 to the employees of the two mines, while the Rossland Power company paid its employees at the concentrator \$6000 for November wages. The Jumbo's wage roll totaled \$2300, the Spitsee \$1700 and the White Bear \$3500.

Argument was concluded yesterday in Centre Star vs. Rossland-Kootenay, and judgment was reserved. The issue of Dumas Mining company vs. Bouthies and Pelland was then commenced and occupied the court for the balance of the day. The question in issue is the ownership of a considerable interest in claims comprising the Dumas group, and the matter of the bona fides of various documents and transactions is called into question by the pleadings.

Judge Forin of Nelson was in the city yesterday for the purpose of holding supreme and county court chambers. Two matters were brought before him and disposed of. In the supreme court list application was made for a change of venue from Victoria to Nelson in Centre Star vs. Rossland Miners' Union, which was granted, together with a jury. In the county court application was made for a new trial in Day vs. Reed, in which an order was made giving permission for defendants to be heard at next court. C. R. Hamilton for defendant applicants, J. A. Macdonald, contra.

M. R. Galusha, manager of the Jumbo mine, has returned from a trip to Grand Forks, whither he went to attend to the details of a consignment of 125 tons of ore to the Grand Forks smelter. Mr. Galusha states that the Granby people have commenced surveys for six additional copper furnaces. These, when completed, will give the Granby company one of the largest smelting plants on the continent. It is probable that the Granby smelter will become a more extensive purchaser of outside ores next year.

Maple Leaf Temple No. 4, Rathbone Sisters were the hostesses at a pleasant social last evening in Odd Fellows hall. Progressive whist was the principal feature in the early part of the evening, the prizes being awarded as follows: Ladies, box of fine stationery, to Mrs. William Robertson; comic match "ray to Miss Selma Demuth; gentleman, handsome tobacco jar to George Webster, comic ash tray to Paul D. Wilcox. Following cards, refreshments were served in the banquetting room of the hall, the committee in charge being Mesdames Dan Thomas, William Roberts, A. Rich, Ed. Schoot, Paul Wilcox and W. J. Richmond. The evening closed with a delightful dance, the music for which was furnished by Mrs. A. Humphries.

A small house on Seventh avenue between Queen and St. Paul street and owned by Edward Sweetman, was totally destroyed by fire between 10 and 11 o'clock last night. Sweetman started a small fire in the stove at his bath and went down town. It is presumed that the fire obtained such proportions as to spread to the building in some way. Louis Elmer observed the fire from his residence and telephoned to the department, and an alarm was sounded. When the brigade reached the scene the situation was hopeless, and the building was practically destroyed. The structure was valued at \$150 to \$200 and the contents at \$100.

THE BEST INVESTMENT IN ROSSLAND—AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE ROSSLAND MINER.

PERSONAL

Walter P. Dockerill and Mrs. Dockerill have returned from their honeymoon.

B. C. Murray, postmaster at Trout Lake, is in the city.

A. W. Strickland, acting manager of the Bank of Montreal during the absence of J. S. C. Fraser, leaves this morning with Mrs. Strickland and family for New Denver to resume his managerial duties in connection with the Slocan branch of the institution.

His departure is regretted by many Rossland friends, all of whom will be pleased to welcome Mr. Strickland in the Golden City whether on business or pleasure bent.

J. E. Cram, of the Centre Star-War Eagle engineering staff, leaves today for Smith's Falls, Ont., on a six weeks' vacation.

D. B. Stevens, customs collector at Trail, was in the city yesterday accompanied by Miss Stevens.

L. P. Wilcox, in advance for the "Sandy Bottom" theatrical company, is registered at the Hoffman House.

TURNED THE MAYOR DOWN.

Aldermen Refused to Uphold Chair's Ruling on Point of Order.

For the first time in the annals of the present city council the city fathers turned the mayor down last night. This action was taken on a point of order, in which His Worship's ruling was repudiated by the majority of the members present. It is probable, however, that the point in issue is not settled, in view of His Worship's significant observation that the power of veto was still at his command. Last night's session of council was one of the stormiest of the year.

Trouble commenced in committee. The school trustees had recommended the payment of teachers' salaries be due Friday next, when the salaries are due and payable under the regulations of the education department, which enforces its regulations through the per capita grant string. Most of the members of the finance committee apparently desired to comply with the recommendation of the trustees, but Mayor Dean objected on various grounds, among which was that the teachers in many instances would take the money out of the city and it would be lost to the business men of the community. Other members thought this argument childish and finally passed the item as part of the finance report. Alderman Daniel, chairman of the committee, took the vote on the point twice, and declared it adopted.

Despite the mayor's vigorous protests that some of the aldermen had abstained from voting. In the council chamber Mayor Dean started in to chide the finance chairman for alleged discourtesy, but the curtain lecture was robbed of its sting when the alderman for whom it was intended quietly left the chamber while His Worship was looking into abstracts rules of order.

Under "notice of motion" it was moved that the request to allow the Empey block to stand till spring be conceded. Mayor Dean declined to put the motion, declaring it out of order on several grounds. The ruling of the chair was challenged, and on years and years being taken the appeal was sustained. Aldermen Talbot, McKichen and Daniel voted against the ruling, Alderman Dunlop voted yea, and Alderman Embleton was excused from voting.

While conceding the point, Mayor Dean was careful to point out to council that he still had the right of veto. The further question as to suspending action for the present on the appeal in the fire limits bylaw case will be brought up next week, when it will be moved that no further action be taken at this juncture and that the city solicitor be instructed to return to the city treasurer the \$50 deposited in court as security for costs.

EVENTS AT PHOENIX.

The Brooklyn Spur—Heavy Shipments of Ore—The Payroll.

PHOENIX, Dec. 15.—For the last two weeks cars of ties and rails have been delivered here for the extension to the Brooklyn spur in this camp, for the purpose of getting to the Brooklyn and Glenview dumps, so that the many thousands of tons of ore on those dumps could be shipped to the smelters. The C. P. R. extra gang is now here trimming up and preparing the grade for the iron, laying of which is to be started at once, before the snow gets too deep. No announcement is made as to the proposed destination of the ore. The only shipment heretofore made from the camp was half a dozen cars in 1900 for test purposes.

Today is the regular payday at the Snowshoe mine in this camp, and the entire force is being settled with pay. The Grubby monthly payday, which occurred last week, something like \$5,000 is being distributed in wages all here this month.

Tomorrow is the announced date for the payment of the first dividend by the Granby company, being at the rate of one per cent on the issued capital, or \$13,333. It is expected that the dividend checks will be mailed to shareholders from the head office in Montreal.

All three steam shovels are now busy loading ore at the Granby mines in this camp, and several more are being hauled by locomotive arrived at the smelter, the shipments have been made somewhat larger, so that the six blast furnaces could be operated at fullest capacity.

Shipments of ore from the Atholstan mine are now going to the Mother Lode smelter at Greenwood, instead of to the Montreal and Boston Copper company's smelter at Boundary Falls, as formerly.

While the snowstorm this week has somewhat hampered outside operations in the mines of this section, the shipments are being kept up in a generally satisfactory manner, greater efforts being made by the division management of the C. P. R. to accomplish this.

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NEWS OF GREENWOOD.

Liberal Delegates—A Midway Sawmill Burned.

GREENWOOD, Dec. 15.—At a largely attended meeting of the Greenwood Liberal association held on Friday evening it was unanimously decided to present the name of Duncan Ross, editor of the Boundary Creek Times, as a candidate for nomination at the convention at Kamloops on January 18th. The following were elected as delegates or alternates to the convention: W. S. Keith, J. R. Brown, M. P. P., George R. Naden, Robert Wood, Dr. Simmons, Duncan Ross, C. J. McArthur, Kenneth McKenzie, Dr. Mathison and A. K. Stuart.

Last Friday Powers' sawmill at Midway was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. Powers, the proprietor, was in Grand Forks at the time. His loss is a heavy one. In addition to the mill a large quantity of lumber in the yard was destroyed. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

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Shipments from the

THE OUT

Shipments from the

Shipments from the