

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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C. A. GREGG, Managing Editor

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THE MINING ASSOCIATION'S MEMORIAL.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish a memorial which has been presented to His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council by the British Columbia Mining Association. In calling attention to it it is unnecessary that we should indulge in much comment at the present time. No one who reads it can doubt that it is a very important document. It is asserted that the sum total of the artificial burdens due to human enactment which have been placed upon the mining industry is not equalled in any mining region of the world. That is an allegation sufficiently alarming in all conscience; and all who have the true interests of British Columbia at heart should study the memorial in an attempt to ascertain if that allegation is founded on good reasons. We think that it is. That a crisis has arisen in connection with mining development in this province is plain from the concluding paragraphs of the memorial, which are as follows:

"In individual capacity, and as an association, we have repeatedly informed the provincial government of our distress and petitioned for relief. These requests, together with those for a commission to investigate the industry have hitherto persistently and invariably been ignored. So far from having any prospect of relief every session of the legislature sees new additions to the load, and still more severe legislation is being urged.

"Generally speaking, there is little hope for proper security for investors in British Columbia mines until this policy is changed and radical measures for relief adopted."

VERY PERTINENT READING.

At the annual meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in New York in September, 1900, Mr. Abraham S. Hewitt, in taking the chair as the newly elected president of the Institute, delivered an address upon capital and labor. Mr. Hewitt had special reference, of course, to the iron industry, but his philosophy is equally applicable to all lines of business; and they make very pertinent reading just now. Mr. Hewitt submitted the following as axiomatic principles concerning the subject under discussion:

"1. It is the equal right of employers and employees to make combinations among themselves respectively or with each other to advance or reduce wages, or to establish or resist legislation which either or both may regard as essential, desirable or objectionable.

"2. Neither party has the right to coerce the other into submission, except through the action of the court or tribunals duly constituted to hear and decide upon causes of action submitted to them by either or both parties.

"3. The right of workmen to refrain from labor and the right of the employer to cease to employ are correlative rights; but no one has the right to compel any other person to work for him, nor has the employer any right to lock out his workmen in order to compel submission to obnoxious rules.

"4. Strikes and lock-outs are therefore equally indefensible on the ground of justice, and can only be tolerated in the absence of provisions for the submission of grievances to the adjudication of competent tribunals.

"5. No man has the right to compel another man to combine with him in any organization, and when a man declines to combine it is a violation of right to refuse to work with him, and to deny him the means of earning a living. It is equally wrong for employers to blacklist men, so that others will not give them employment.

"6. A boycott cannot be defended under any circumstances whatever. It is in effect a declaration of private war, which is a crime of the Hatfield-McCoy class, to be stamped out by prompt and severe punishment.

"7. The claim of any body of men that under any circumstances they have the right to stop the operations of business by the issue of an order in the name of organized labor or associated capital cannot be tolerated. When such an order is given in regard to any railway or any other means of communication, it is a direct assault upon the common weal; and the failure to arrest and punish the offenders thus usurping the executive functions of the State and the judicial power of the

courts is proof of cowardice on the part of the public officials, and degeneracy in public opinion, which excuses or permits the violation of the principle of the common law, that 'not even the King can obstruct the highway.'

Enlightened sentiment emphatically endorses today these principles as stated by Mr. Hewitt, taking exception only to his one conclusion that "the employer has no right to lock out his workmen in order to compel submission to obnoxious rules." The employer, there being no bargain to the contrary, has a right to lock out his workmen and shut his works, if he chooses, at any time, precisely as his workmen, under like circumstances, have the right to stop work for any reason. Of course, if the rules are "obnoxious" morally, the employer has no right to ask obedience to them, any more than he has a right to propound or enforce any immoral performance; but as a business man and a citizen, he can close his shop when he chooses. We invite renewed attention in this hour to Mr. Hewitt's words.

THE CHARACTER ASSASSIN'S METHOD.

Extraordinary efforts are being put forth by enemies of Mr. Bernard MacDonald, manager of the Rossland Great Western group of mines, to prove that he is an ass and a scoundrel. The columns of the evening paper have been appropriated for the purpose of knifing that gentleman; and apparently a strenuous effort is to be made by discredited manipulators and stock-jobbers to create the impression that he is a villain of the deepest dye. If Mr. MacDonald's sins and incapacity are as glaring as his envious critics allege, it is a pity that the people who employ him as manager of their great mining properties are not told of his shortcomings at once. But to lay information at headquarters regarding the infamy of Mr. MacDonald would savor too much of fair play to suit the ideas of his despotic critics, so the newspaper interview—the stab in the back—is resorted to instead. This is a favorite line of tactics with those who are engaged at the work of character assassination; and it is not improbable that their efforts at this sort of manipulation will be quite as successful as previous efforts at deceit have been in the past. Perhaps the time is not far distant when it will be considered opportune for a newspaper to tell the truth about the careers of certain of those who just now pose as the living embodiment of all things good and just in connection with mining speculation; and when that is done it is conceivable that the parties referred to may learn what it is to be held up to public scorn and ridicule and very properly and justly ostracized by all who believe in honesty and fair dealing.

FOREIGN CONTROL OF CANADIAN LABOR.

Under the above caption the Victoria Colonist prints an article which will be read with great interest by the people of Rossland at the present time. It is as follows:

The Rev. Vicar-General Routhier, of Ottawa, has been speaking on the labor question, and he has taken a position, which we commend to all Canadians. He says he is a friend of the workingman, but declares his hostility to trades-unions operating in Canada but directed from the United States. Canada is sufficiently large, he says, and sufficiently important to guide its own destiny in labor matters and should be free from interference from Americans. The conditions in the two countries are entirely different, and the Vicar-General thinks that if Canadian labor unions were independent there would be few strikes and few occasions for them. There is very much in this. We saw not long ago in the case of a ship sent over here for repairs that Victoria artisans refused to do work at the request of Seattle union men, although the same ship went back to Seattle and was repaired there. The Victoria men were enjoying exactly the same conditions for which the Seattle men were striking, but they were obliged to refuse to work upon the vessel lest they should be branded as "scabs," and thus be prevented from securing employment in the United States, if ever they had occasion to go there. There is very little doubt that the Rossland strike was worked up from the United States, and it seems to be established that the trackmen's strike on the C. P. R. had the same origin.

Workmen in Canada know, or at least they ought to know, that under British laws the rights of all men are the same, and that the same necessity for extreme measures does not exist here as prevails on the other side of the International Boundary. A great deal of the "labor" literature betrays its origin by the expressions employed in it. They are not such as would suggest themselves to Canadians, for the

conditions which give rise to them do not exist here. Union leaders from the United States import into Canada foreign ideas, and much harm results therefrom. We hope that the time is not far distant when there will be such a legislative recognition of labor organizations as will make the interference of foreign elements and foreign ideas impossible, or else reduce their malignant influence to the least possible minimum. We agree with the Vicar-General when he says that the Canadian workingmen, if left to themselves, would in the very great majority of cases discover peaceful means of settling all questions arising between them and their employers, greatly to the advantage of both.

THE STRIKE SITUATION.

Elsewhere in this issue is given all the correspondence relative to the strike now in progress that has passed between the executive board of the Rossland Miners' Union, the affiliated association of Blacksmiths and Helpers, the local union of Carpenters and Joiners, and the mine managers. It appears that the demands made by the various unions as set forth in the correspondence of their executive boards have been referred to the directors of the companies, and these in turn have instructed the local managers that they cannot comply with the demands made by the union. From the position now taken by both parties it is perfectly clear that the contest is to be prolonged, and the result cannot fail to be serious to all directly or indirectly affected. The situation thus evolved will necessarily cause general regret, but it will be so far satisfactory to the public to know the exact state of the case, and what must be expected.

SOMEWHAT INTERESTING.

Mr. Bernard MacDonald sends us a letter for publication this morning. It is very interesting. What the author has to say will enable those who read the communication to estimate without much trouble the exact amount of reliance which may be placed upon the statements of the Jolly Know-Alls who in a few days—according to their own statements—are to take over the management of the Le Roi company's properties, lock, stock and barrel, settle the strike, kick the present manager out of office and raise Cain generally. The only obstacle in the way of the carrying out of this nice programme seems to be that at present the board of directors in London which is depended upon to give it to Mr. MacDonald "where the chicken got the axe" has not yet learned of the determination of the Jolly Know-Alls. It is plain that there must be more interviews, more rumors circulated. Let each and every member of the Jolly Know-Alls do his duty, or all is lost.

WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE.

A determined effort ought to be made by all lovers of graft to oust Mr. Bernard MacDonald, manager of the Rossland Great Western group of mines, from his present position. He has committed a heinous offense against the Noble Society of Giant Grafters, and Amalgamated Jolly Know-Alls, and must be downed whatever the cost in cablegrams or ink. His offense is quite apparent—he has ignored the Giant Grafters' Society entirely—that is to say, he has devoted too much of his time to the placing of the operating of the large properties which he manages upon a business basis and too little to graft. For that offense he must be censured. Censured! did we say! Ye gods! more! He must be abused, denounced, damned up hill and down dale—any old thing—as long as the Giant Grafters may not be disturbed in the prosecution of their calling.

A great deal can be done if all pull together in the effort to down Mr. MacDonald. First of all he must be repeatedly charged with being a deadly opponent of all unions—that he was, in fact, born with an anti-union flag in his mouth. Such a line of tactics is excellent at this time, as it serves to excite the passions of the men on strike.

Then the newspaper interview can be resorted to. It can be shown that he does not know anything about mining at all; that all the troubles now existing are of his own creation, and that all that is needed to restore peace and harmony and ensure large dividends for ever and ever is to kick Mr. Bernard MacDonald out and place in his stead a member or a nominee of the Noble Society of Giant Grafters.

This is a time when every member of the Amalgamated Jolly Know-Alls should do his duty. See what will happen if the battle be won! Ye gods! contemplation

of it is like a peep into heaven! The Giant Grafters would be in supreme control. Think of that—and all old jobs restored—MacDonald—lots of chances to make something on the side—easy salaries and all that sort of thing. Why, men, it's the Millennium. To arms! then, against Mr. MacDonald. Let him be attacked in every possible quarter! Let the cry be—the Giant Grafters expect every man to do his duty and throw his wad of mud!

THE STEEL STRIKE.

In connection with the present steel workers' strike in the United States, the terms on which the similar issue was settled after the big strike in Great Britain are of interest. That agreement contained the following clauses: "Every workman shall be free to belong to a trade union or not, as he may think fit. Every employer shall be free to employ any man, whether or not he belongs to a trade union. Employers shall be free to employ workmen at rates of wages mutually satisfactory. They do not object to the unions or any other body of workmen in their collective capacity arranging among themselves rates of wages at which they will accept work, but while admitting this position they decline to enforce a rule of any society, or an agreement between any society and its members. Employers are responsible for the work turned out by their machine tools, and shall have full discretion to appoint the men they consider suitable to work them, and to determine the conditions under which such machine tools shall be worked. The employers consider it their duty to encourage ability wherever they find it, and shall have the right to select, train and employ those whom they consider best adapted to the various operations carried on in their workshops, and will pay them according to their ability as workmen."

In commenting upon these terms of settlement, the New York Journal of Commerce says "These are the conditions under which the great engineering business of Great Britain in all of its departments is now being conducted. It should be obvious that the chief departments of the iron and steel industry of the United States cannot be profitably conducted on less favorable terms. But the demands made by the Amalgamated Association would be fatal to such an agreement, expressed or understood, and if any other reason were needed for their rejection that must be held to be sufficient."

AN INCOMPETENT GOVERNMENT.

John Houston, M.P.P., editor and proprietor of the Nelson Tribune, has at last been forced to acknowledge that the present Provincial Government is a most incompetent one. While the Rossland Miner may only have indulged in glittering generalities in denunciation of the Government, Mr. Houston goes further and specifies in what particulars it is a bad one. He says: When James Dunsinuir accepted the premiership he accepted a trust. He should carry out that trust to the best of his ability. If he has called his advisers, and they have been found wanting after having been given a fair trial, they should be dismissed. None of his advisers have a personal following, and their dismissal would not weaken the Government. Neither the attorney-general nor the minister of mines nor the commissioner of lands and works nor the provincial secretary controls a vote outside of his own. The finance minister who is retiring has a personal following, but he is the only cabinet minister who has. Wells has been tried as commissioner of lands and works, and if he has made a success of the trial no one in Kootenay is aware of it. He should be asked to step down and allow a man from Yale to have a trial. Prentice should never have been given a trial, and as he is said to be surfeited with the honors that have been thrust upon him, he should be required to walk the gang plank. Mr. Bride has some of the qualifications for a cabinet position, but he should be transferred to a department where he would have scope to prove that he has undeveloped abilities. Eberts, as political head of the Government, need not be moved. By taking in new men like Green, of the Slokan, Ellison, of East Yale, and Tatlow, of Vancouver, Premier Dunsinuir would strengthen his government with the people, for these three gentlemen are capable, are not lazy, and would take pride in administering their departments. James Dunsinuir, do your duty to yourself, and by doing so you will be doing your duty to the people of British Columbia.

A SOCIAL DANGER.

In the Farmers' Sun Professor Goldwin Smith says: "Society at home is threatened on its industrial side with perils which touch us more nearly than anything in another part of the world. We are in danger of being ground between an upper and a lower millstone. The upper millstone is the colossal greed of the capitalist who seeks to sweep all profit into his own coffers by destroying the freedom of production and making himself the sole arbitrator of price. The lower millstone is a unionist monopoly which puts an end to the freedom of labor. It is difficult to say of which side the victory would be the most injurious to the community. Rather than go under the yoke of either the community may some day be driven to create a power strong enough to save it from both."

Prof. Smith apparently has no more confidence in the moderation and justice of the laboring classes than in the moderation and justice of the capitalists. They can win the fight against organized capital only by creating an absolute unionist monopoly, and if they do win and misuse their power then we may look for the fulfillment of Dr. Smith's gloomy prediction that society may be driven to create a power strong enough to save it from both, by which he means, we gather, that the present system of government may be overturned and an absolute monarchy, resting its authority on the military, be created in its place. It is difficult to imagine the occurrence of such a revolution in Anglo-Saxon countries in this time, but it is still more difficult to foresee where some of our social questions may yet lead us.

ARBITRATION IMPOSSIBLE.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer explains that there are but two questions at issue in the great strike of the Amalgamated steel workers against the United States Steel Company. One of these is whether or not the representatives of capital shall have anything whatever to say about the conduct of their industry; the other whether free labor is to continue to exist or to be

crushed out in this country. How can there be any doubt about the answer to either? The average man finds it very hard to understand how any body of men could have been brought to comply with an order to strike on such cause. These men have declared themselves against freedom and in favor of absolute tyranny. They are arrayed not merely against capital, but against their homes, their families, the commonest and most necessary rights of the workman and the cause of human freedom. There could be no greater curse to themselves than to grant their demands. For in that case the individual worker would hereafter become the absolute serf of the leaders of organizations in whose choice he had put the voice of one man among thousands. Outside of them he must starve, within them he must obey orders, no matter what they might be.

The leaders of this strike have asked capital to commit a crime as great as any of which it was ever accused in the days of its unlimited power. They require it to put non-union labor under the ban; to demand of its employees that they join the union as a condition of retaining their places. It is a monstrous suggestion even as a hinted possibility. When it comes to throwing tens of thousands of men out of work for this purpose, and deranging and destroying the industry of a nation, it is an offense so great that history scarcely affords a parallel. The steel company is fighting the battle of labor as well as of capital. Industries would languish and die because capital was withdrawn from them if all its rights were extinguished; if nothing was left to its representatives but to sign the pay rolls, while the employees decided everything else. But how would that affect labor? Does any workman imagine that his cause could flourish under such a system? He has the example of the world to teach him. Nothing is better established than that the capture of the world's markets by the United States, especially as against England, is due to the limitations upon production established by labor unions in most industries among our competitors. When not only the hours of labor but the amount of each man's product is limited to a fixed maximum, when the introduction of labor-saving machinery is discouraged and economic progress prevented, markets must be lost. And when they have gone, what is left for the laborer but idleness or occasional employment at a reduced wage?

The realization of the very system for which the steel workers are contending has reacted with fearful force upon the interests of labor wherever it has been accepted. It has put those countries out of the race, and given to us their business and their profits. We have won them because our labor is free; because it can organize or refuse to organize as it sees fit; because our manufacturers are at liberty to adopt the most improved processes and institute those economies that always tell in the long run in favor of labor as well as capital; because incentives may be offered to each man to do his best, and so to secure the largest product at the lowest expense for capital and the largest remuneration for labor. Were it not so, were the system for which these men are contending as economically profitable as it is wasteful and destructive, it would still be wrong. The great moral question, the right of a man to dispose of his labor on his own terms, cannot be dodged, and admits of no equivocal answer. It is a fact, that in the strike of the steel workers, arbitration is impossible. American citizens cannot submit to arbitration the question of human liberty.

Preparations are being made to resume active development work at the White Bear mine, but operations will not be commenced until the present labor difficulty is over.

The organization of the new company has been completed, and ample funds, \$90,000, the management says, have been assured for the development of the White Bear property. The stock is assessable to the extent of three cents per share and a first assessment of a half-cent per share has been levied payable August 1st. Already over a quarter of the assessment has been paid in.

NEARING COMPLETION.

Engineer Stoenes of Grand Forks has completed the survey of the first location for the St. Thomas mountain wagon road from the Rossland Bonanza and Cascade mines to Gladstone. The distance covered by this line is seven miles, and the grade is level from the starting point at the highest workings of the Cascade to the summit of St. Thomas mountain, from where there is a grade of 10 per cent to Gladstone. It is claimed that this road would be very expensive to construct and would never be particularly convenient to any of the mines on St. Thomas, Greenville or Norway mountains. Mr. Stoenes is within two days of completing the alternate route, commencing at the Rossland Bonanza dump and tapping the Columbia & Western railroad about four miles north of Gladstone. This line is down hill all the way and passes below the workings of all the minor properties in the section. Mr. Stoenes report will be in the hands of the department within two weeks, when one of the routes will be decided upon and tenders probably called for the construction of the road.

LOST HIS SAMPLES.

When H. W. C. Jackson was returning from the Cascade mine yesterday he lost a small sack of valuable samples. The sack was enclosed for convenience with a number of other small bags in a gunny sack, and worked a hole through the big sack sufficiently large to admit of its going through. Mr. Jackson would be glad to receive word of the whereabouts of the missing bag should any person have chanced to see it on the trail.

IT MEANS OSTRACISM.

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

Hon. George James of Scranton, Pa., says: "I have been a martyr to Catarrh for twenty years, constant hawking and dropping in the throat and pale in the head, very offensive breath. I tried Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. The first application gave instant relief. After using a few bottles I was cured." 50 cents. 14. Sold by Goodeve Bros.

LABOR'S RIGHTS AND WRONGS.

The following expression of opinion on the industrial troubles is given by the Stockton, Cal., Independent: It would be next to impossible to find anyone who denies the right, the justice and the expediency of laboring men to organize for the betterment of their condition, to advance their wages and to shorten the hours of work. But there are few who will contend that the labor unions in the majority of instances act for the best permanent interests of their members and the wage-employing industries on which they must depend. The labor unions always have the sympathy of the public when their cause is just, and the differences with employers result from exactions, oppressions and unreasonable demands on the part of the latter. But public sentiment never has and never will sustain the unions in paralyzing the trade or industry of a city for trifling grievances. Many of the demands of labor that have caused strikes this year have been so trivial and unreasonable that to comply with them virtually places the employers' business in their hands. The tendency to exert power is always dangerous and just as dangerous in a labor trust as in a trust of capital or the authorities entrenched in office. The tendency has been so marked in the past few months that it would be useful to revive a study of the history of the noted "guilds" of Europe and the consequences of their abnormal development on the trade and industry of the period.

The Victoria Times remarks: The advantages which accrue to union men through the system of affiliation may more than offset the disadvantages to which attention has been called. That is a matter which primarily concerns the workmen themselves. The more serious phase is something which affects the whole of the people. It is quite apparent, however, that there is a feeling abroad that there is an element of danger in the present preponderant influence of foreign counsels in organizations which have it in their view of our industrial machinery to a standstill. It will be said, of course, that our unions are self-governing and that the workmen composing them alone have the power

WHITE BEAR MINE

PREPARATIONS GOING ON FOR THE RESUMPTION OF AC- TIVE WORK.

PROGRESS OF THE SURVEYS FOR THE ST. THOMAS MOUN- TAIN ROAD.

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