

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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LIMITED LIABILITY.

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MR. WILLISON'S RETIREMENT.

The retirement of J. S. Willison from the editorial management of the Toronto Globe is an event of as much comment and importance as the retirement of a cabinet minister. In some respects it is more so. To be the editor of a great paper like the Globe, in the light of our present history, is to fill an important and honorable position. He talks to a constituency each day that can be counted by the hundreds of thousands, and the influence he exerts cannot but be widespread and lasting. To sit in the editorial chair of a great daily newspaper is to sit in the full gaze of the public, and Mr. Willison's name is one among many who have stood the test of work well done and of fame richly deserved. The high standing and influence of most of our great dailies is at once associated with the name of its editor, a man assuredly of pre-eminent ability.

The New York Evening Post about a year ago celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. It was interesting to note the names of the many distinguished men who had filled the editorial chair for that paper, helping to build it up and giving it standing and character. William Cullen Bryant was editor for upwards of 30 years. He seldom missed a day from the office. Carl Schurz and our own Mr. Godkin succeeded him in turn. Neither of them ever filled a more distinguished position. When we speak of the New York Tribune we at once associate the names of Horace Greeley, Whitelaw Reid and John Hay with the paper. And the line can be followed out in speaking of all other great dailies. A master mind in each instance stands in control.

It is pleasant to note that Mr. Willison is not to retire from the journalistic field. If he does vacate the editorial chair of the Globe.

CRATER LAKE, OREGON.

The statement made by J. S. Diller of the United States geological survey that Crater Lake, deeply set in the summit of the Cascade Mountains in Southern Oregon, has only been known to the general public for 20 years, is far from being true. Crater Lake has been known to all well informed residents of the Pacific Coast and the traveling public for upwards of 40 years. It would be as reasonable to say that the Yosemite Valley or the Yellowstone Park had only been known to the general public for 20 years as to say that Crater Lake had only been known for the same period.

It is probably 20 years since the geological survey first took hold of the matter, and the members of that particular branch of the government service imagine too frequently that they are the advance guard in informing the public of many of the wondrous works of nature. From a technical standpoint perhaps they impart much valuable information not known to the general public until given publication by them; but this is a reading age; people inquire and travel, and so notable an object as Crater Lake could not escape attention, surrounded, as it is, by an old settled community, and close by a daily traveled stage road.

Crater Lake is well worth a trip across the ocean to see. There is nothing exactly to match it upon the globe. Its location has been known for upwards of 50 years, and for the past 40 years at least it has been visited yearly by thousands of people.

ONTARIO'S REFERENDUM.

The electors of Ontario will cast their votes on the prohibition referendum today. The contest has been carried on by both sides without the extreme bitterness and narrowness of former prohibition campaigns. The prohibitionists expect to poll the largest vote ever recorded in Ontario against the liquor traffic. A majority of the votes cast will not, however, mean that the measure becomes law. When the bill was introduced into the legislature it was pointed out that in order that the measure, if passed, should be properly enforced it would be necessary to have a large popular sen-

timent in its favor. As is well known prohibitory laws are the most difficult to enforce, from the fact that many people consider an infraction of the liquor law as not criminal and are loth to give evidence. After considering this view of the matter the government decided that in order to carry the measure the prohibitionists would be required to poll a majority of the votes cast at the recent general elections in Ontario. This means that the advocates of prohibition will have to cast 214,000 or more votes. The anti-prohibitionists are therefore not required to vote at all, but nevertheless they have waged an active campaign, and will undoubtedly register their votes.

DEEP MINING DEVELOPMENT.

The celebrated Allison Ranch mine at Grass Valley, California, after lying idle and almost abandoned for 34 years until its purchase six years ago by Mackay and Flood, now, after a continuous siege of development and sinking to a depth of 1900 feet, and systematic drifting in all directions, the mine is being made to pay again and a 20-stamp mill is under construction. It is almost like meeting a long-forgotten friend to read of the Allison Ranch mine. Forty years ago it was one of the famous mines of the noted Grass Valley district, and while the district has always remained the greatest gold-producing region in the Golden State, the mine dropped from sight for a time.

The Empire mine, another Grass Valley property, has several times been given up as worked out, yet today in its lower levels it is better than ever, and is one of the richest mines in the State. It has produced \$10,000,000.

The great Utica mine in Calaveras County is another property that was abandoned for about 20 years, but deeper workings developed it into another great yielder of gold. It was Charles D. Lane who first conceived the idea that sinking deeper would show great ore reserves. In this undertaking he was backed by two millionaires—Hayward and Hobart—who advanced something like \$200,000 to complete the work, the result being that they have added to their millions, and Lane is now rated also as a millionaire. Noting these few cases, adding to what we know of deep mining in other countries for the case of the precious minerals, we more fully realize that in the mines of British Columbia little more than the surface has been touched, and probably the greatest and most lasting results in mining are yet to be revealed to us. That we have literally mountains of ore is well known, but to what depth they extend we know little. This is an interesting problem in mining history.

FIRST CLASS IMMIGRANTS.

Some of the papers on the other side of the international boundary draw attention to the fact that the United States has been sending its very best class of immigrants to Canada. The past summer some 30,000 new settlers came from the other side. They are said to be the very best, for the reason that they came from the rural settlements and were mostly natives of the country. It is pointed out that to replace this immigration from the ranks of the peoples of the Old World it will take from two to three generations to bring them up to the standard of living and intelligence of those who have sought homes on this side.

Be this as it may Canada only wants the best. The best class of American citizenship will make good Canadian citizenship. If the statement given above be true we are securing the class of immigrants that we have long been seeking, a class of homeseekers that will surely make their influence felt for the well-being of the whole Dominion.

It is safe to say that the 30,000 who came during the early months of this season is but the advance guard. All the signs point to an increased number coming next year.

The wheat lands of Manitoba and the Northwest are becoming known to the world over. The prediction is already made that the Canadian Northwest will in a few years produce one billion bushels of wheat annually. It means the cultivation of many more farms than we now have to do this, but the straw shows which way the wind is blowing.

LAST HOPE FOR SILVER.

The last ray of hope for the silver mine owners that the market for their product might be stimulated by a new and increased demand for silver for coinage purposes in the Philippines seems to have fled, says the Montreal Chronicle. Nor is this all. Even Asia, the world's sink for silver, is abandoning the silver standard. Siam now joins the procession of countries adopting the gold standard. Little wonder need there be that the quotation for bar silver has declined from as high a figure as 55 cents per ounce in New York last July to something like 48 cents at present. The enormous increase in the last few years in gold production has given silver its death blow as a monetary standard. Of course silver will always be employed as money, but gold will be the only standard for our day and generation at least.

BOUNDARY COPPER MINES TO COMBINE.

There is nothing particularly startling in the announcement that negotiations are pending for the consolidation of all the big copper properties of the Boundary district into one big concern. Consolidation seems to be the order of the day. If it operates in the case mentioned to the greater development of the mines of that district, giving employment to more men all along the line, and increasing the business of the communities adjacent, consolidation may be counted a good thing. We presume some people will call this a trust. If so nearly everything that consolidates and operates is a trust, including a labor union. So far in all the talk about trusts the charge has not been made that they have lowered wages; on the contrary, wages have been advanced in many places and more employment given to wage workers in nearly all departments since the inauguration of the trust idea. Unless it develops more harmful results than seen so far the alarm sound about big combinations will not cause serious concern here. As pointed out by President Roosevelt in his recent message, trusts (so-called) should not have the life crushed out of them, but all that is good in them, that which tends to advance the public good, should be treated with a friendly hand, that all may benefit thereby.

If the big mines in the Boundary choose to consolidate it seems to be a matter of their own concern, in no way preventing other mining properties in the district from working to their full capacity, but we will all watch with considerable interest the consolidation process and its workings from a mining standpoint.

TAXATION OF MINES.

British Columbia is not alone in her complaint of taxation of the mines. The subject has been turned over and discussed in so many ways that it would seem useless to refer to it again, or do more than to await the proper time to have the evils complained of remedied. But public reforms are not brought about by simply calling attention to them; it is necessary to force them home to the people, and not infrequently bring pressure to bear on those in authority to inaugurate a change. The taxation of mines is the subject of much discussion in the States to the south of us. We take a few excerpts from an interesting article in the Mining and Scientific Press on the subject that shows the freaks in legislation in many parts of the country when it comes to mining.

Of course it is a question not understood by all. The farming communities, which are all-powerful in the land, frequently do not understand the importance of mining in its relation to other industries, and probably think sometimes that it does not bear its full share of the burdens of taxation. A little reflection, however, will convince the farmer, the manufacturer and the tradesman that the mining industry is the handmaid to all other business ventures, helping to uphold and advance their interests. As put by the Press: "A man has a \$50,000 farm, eternally reproductive; another has a \$50,000 mine, ephemeral; so, the equities are dissimilar. Any system of taxation that tends to limit the number of workable mines is against public policy."

Again we quote: "There is or should be recognition of basic difference between the taxation of mining property and almost any other kind of real or personal property—not to favor the miner, for the miner wants no favor—but justly recognizing existing facts. A man has \$100,000 worth of goods in his store; another has a \$100,000 machinery plant on his mine. It is manifest that the same general rule should not apply in both cases. It would be just as fair to tax a merchant or manufacturer on every dollar that passed through his hands in a year as to tax a mine owner on the mine's gross production." Still we are told that "Idaho seems to have the idea that the gross output of the mines of that State should be taxed." The same idea prevails in certain quarters of British Columbia.

The great mining State of "Colorado already has the system of output taxation, but seems to favor raising the rate and levying extensively on all mining machinery and improvements. Colorado has just set down, hard, on the single axle idea, voting the Australian land tax proposition down on the 4th inst., but pro-poses putting increased burden on the improvements."

The Press is an old established and reliable mining journal. Its field covers the entire continent. In discussing the subject of mining taxation it has referred several times to the two per cent tax in force in this province, pointing out where it acted injuriously and why the law should be changed. The Press well says that "the prospector should not be discouraged, the miner should not be frozen out, and the investor should not be unduly deterred from aiding development. The working miner is a good customer for everybody and a competitor of no one. He deserves a fair show and that's all he asks."

YUKON GOLD.

The output of gold in the Yukon, on which royalties were paid, amounted to the following sums:

1902	\$12,000,000
1901	15,000,000
1900	20,000,000
1899	10,000,000
1898	2,000,000

The addition of \$59,000,000 to the output of gold in Canada since 1898 has been a considerable factor amongst the causes of the country's increase in prosperity since 1897.

PLATINUM IN BURNT BASIN.

The presence of platinum in the ores of the Burnt Basin district was announced last summer, but to what extent was not known at that time. As will be seen by referring to our local columns tests were recently made at Newark, New Jersey, and platinum was found in all the samples treated. So far as is at present known it will not pay to treat this ore simply for the platinum it contains, but in connection with the gold values platinum as a by-product will certainly greatly add to its value. Further development and experiment may yet show wonders for the Burnt Basin district. Platinum is one of the rare and valuable minerals.

OUR LUMBER EXPORTS.

British Columbia's foreign lumber trade has netted this province something like a million dollars during the year beginning January last, says the Victoria Times. All this business has been done at practically two mills in the province—the one at Chemainus belonging to the Victoria Lumber Company, and the one at Hastings. But one vessel loaded elsewhere in the province, she having taken cargo at Hornby Island. The whole fleet numbered seventy vessels, which in consideration of the limited number of mills employed in the export trade, is looked on as a large one. It has loaded in all probably more than fifty million feet, and it has carried it to many remote points in the world, no one place having received a disproportionate supply. South Africa has taken eight cargoes, six have been dispatched for Great Britain, nine for Valparaiso, Iquique and other ports on the west coast of South America, eighteen to Australia, fourteen to China and Japan, one to Wilmington, Delaware, one to Ostend, Belgium, and one to Hamburg, Germany.

Twenty-four of the fleet loaded at Chemainus, where the mill has been undergoing some improvements, and has in late years been constantly adding to its capacity. Of course the mills at Chemainus and Hastings have not been catering exclusively to foreign business. There has been a very extensive domestic trade, which has developed in the last year, and in the Canadian Northwest there is to be found one of the biggest markets at present receiving lumber. Almost every important mill in the province has been helping to supply this demand, but the two mentioned have probably shipped the bulk of that which has been sent east.

CEREAL MILLING IN MANITOBA.

The people of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are beginning to turn their attention to the extension of the cereal milling industry there with a view to securing a larger share of the British flour trade to which, from the immense resources of their country and its rapid development, they are certainly entitled, says the Province. That Canadian wheat should be taken to the United States in bond for milling purposes is certainly coming to be regarded as a reflection on Canadian enterprise, and now that the prairie province is filling up with settlers so rapidly and is attracting to such an extent the attention of capital, there is every reason why that reproach should be removed.

In a recent issue the Winnipeg Commercial discussing this matter says: "It is obvious that if United States mills can import our grain and grind it for exportation, under the hampering restrictions imposed by the customs regulations, it could be more profitably ground here, at the source of supply, and where there is freedom from any such restrictions. While the duty is rebated in the case of grain ground in the bonded mills, the bonding restrictions must add something to the cost of milling of the miller in the purchase of the raw material and the sale of the product. Another thought occurs in connection with this business. Our raw material is being taken to the United States to be manufactured, and is then shipped to British markets, where it comes into competition with our own manufacturers in the same class.

"That there is room for a large expansion of the cereal milling industry here is further indicated from British trade statistics. Great Britain imports approximately about \$50,000,000 worth of flour, of which less than \$3,000,000 worth came from Canada for the year 1900. The great bulk of this flour is purchased from the United States. The rapid development of our agricultural districts in the west now ensures a permanent supply of the raw material for flour milling. It is the one

industry above all others which would seem best adapted to this country. "The United States has probably almost reached its limit in the production of wheat, in proportion to population. Hereafter the home consumption of wheat in that country will probably increase faster than the increase of the wheat crop, thus reducing the exportable surplus. On the other hand, it is certain that the production of wheat in Western Canada will continue to expand rapidly for many years. There will be no lack of the raw material here for flour milling, while in the United States millers are beginning to talk of the necessity of having access to Canadian supplies, in the interest of their industry. Canada should certainly have a much larger share of the British flour trade, and conditions would now seem favorable for a large expansion of our cereal milling industry."

THE BRITISH EDUCATION BILL.

The Education Bill, which has engrossed the attention of the British house of commons during the present session to the exclusion of almost all other public business, has at last received its third reading and has been sent to the house of lords, says the Winnipeg Telegram. Its final passage will still, in all probability, be a matter of time. It will require to be read three times in the upper house and if the peers see fit to incorporate in it any amendments the bill must be referred to the commons for consideration of the amendments before it can be assented to by the crown. But the most stormy and tedious stages in the history of the bill have been passed, and it may be assumed that in the course of time it will become a valid act of parliament.

The fundamental intention of the bill is to improve and co-ordinate the systems of education in force in Great Britain. Its main principle is to create one authority for elementary, secondary and technical education. So far there can be little objection to the measure. That there is a need for more efficient education is acknowledged generally in the United Kingdom and the impression that the need exists is also held in the colonies and abroad. More thorough and efficient education would have a beneficial effect upon the social, industrial and commercial aspects of British life and would tend to equip the Motherland to compete with greater success with her foreign rivals in all branches of industry and commerce.

But while there appears to be a universal desire to foster education the bill has aroused intense opposition on religious grounds. The bill adopts the principle that existing denominational schools are to be supported from public funds, receiving rate aid as board schools have hitherto received it, and to preserve their denominational character. The bill creates for each denominational school a board of managers, to whom two-thirds are to represent the denomination and one-third the local public authority. But while the denominations are determined to control the religious teachings in their schools, the opposition maintains that there should be no taxation uncompensated by representation on the administering bodies and holds that the bill leaves the control of the denominational schools in the hands of the denomination. This is strongly objected to by non-conformists, and, on the other hand, the government has failed to satisfy the clergy. The Kenyon-Slaney amendment removes the superintendence of religious instruction to some extent from the clergy, who protest that in the denominational schools it is their duty to give and superintend religious instruction. Thus that portion of the bill which deals with elementary schools has antagonized the extreme wings of both parties.

One important feature of the bill is the increase in the sums to be devoted from taxation to elementary education. At an early stage in the discussion of the bill Mr. Balfour announced a considerable increase of the resources to be devoted to primary schools from the taxes as distinguished from the rates. A portion of this new government grant was to be distributed to districts on the principle that where a penny rate produced less than ten shillings per scholar in the area the local authority was to receive a grant of one penny per scholar for every two pence by which the rate fell short of ten shillings. This penny per scholar is now to be three half-pence per scholar, equivalent to an increase of the total grant over the whole country of some £10,000 a year. There is, however, a new qualification for the distribution of this supplementary grant. It is in no district to reach an amount which would reduce the rate for elementary education below three pence in the pound. The change thus made will be a welcome concession to the many advocates of the principle that elementary education should be rather a national than a local burden. The fact that there is to be an improvement in schools and more money is to be spent on education is a satisfactory feature of the bill.

The trade on the Fraser River continues heavy. The steamers are carrying heavy loads of farm produce and general merchandise.

In the Canadian Mining Review of November 30 appear the detailed figures by Edmund B. Kirby as part of the discussion of his paper on "The Influence of Government Upon Mining." The article is quite lengthy, but if facts can be proven by figures we would commend this paper to the attention of those who were talking about Mr. Kirby's "pessimistic utterances." The figures noted are supplementary to his article on the above subject read at Nelson at the meeting of the Mining Institute. He was called on to give the figures to substantiate what he said, and the figures are at hand.

The postoffice department is making the grand stand play of having brought about a surplus instead of a deficit in the postal revenues of the Dominion for the past year. Postmaster-General Mulock is being congratulated in certain quarters. While it is desirable, in fact, commendable, that the expenses of the postal department should be met as nearly as possible from the revenues of the same, still the service given the people should in no way be impaired nor those who handle the mails in any capacity should not be paid wages that would make a Mongolian hesitate to accept.

The late Thomas B. Reed was a man of great ability. He never resorted to the low tricks of the cheap politician. His high moral standing and force of character made him a leader among men. There is much in this man's life work for the young men of the land to study and emulate. It shows that life is worth living, that effort in any calling we may choose is almost sure to give its reward, and that honesty, steadfastness to truth and principle are cardinal virtues which, if adhered to, will bring a lasting reward.

W. H. Covert of Grand Forks has revised his estimate of his prune crop. From a tract of about eight acres he realized about 35 tons, which were evaporated with the exception of 500 boxes. This means eleven tons of evaporated fruit. He figures that it takes 40 or 50 prunes to make a pound of fruit. He had 15 hands on his payroll last season. It is well known that Mr. Covert grows the finest apples in the valley. This fall he shipped samples to Vancouver, Rossland, Nelson, Spokane and London, England.

The big tree recently described by the Scientific American as the largest in the world is outdone by another which has just been reported from Fresno, California. This newly found tree, measured six feet from the ground, is 154 feet and 3 inches in circumference, from which it follows that it is about 50 feet in diameter. Fortunately the tree stands on the government reserve, and will therefore be spared the attack of the insatiable axe.

According to Statistician Charles G. Yale, the source of gold production in California for the year 1901 were as follows: Quartz mines, \$14,264,369; placer mines, \$1,191,800; drift mines, \$1,062,400; hydraulic mines, \$1,699,781. Copper mining and smelting produced \$421,385 in gold. The output of the gold dredging industry amounted to \$471,762 for the year, which was an increase of \$271,000 as compared with 1900.

The opportunity for a fruit cannery in the Okanagan is said to be good.

THE RAZOR STEEL, SECRET TEMPER, CROSS-CUT SAW.



We take pleasure in offering to the public a Saw manufactured of the finest quality of steel, and a temper which toughens and refines the steel, gives a keener cutting edge and holds it longer than any process known. A saw to cut fast "must hold a keen cutting edge." This secret process and temper is known and used only by ourselves. These saws are elliptic ground thin back, requiring less set than any saws now made, perfect taper from tooth to back.

Now, we ask you, when you go to buy a Saw, to ask for the Maple Leaf Razor Steel, Secret Temper Saw, and if you are told that some other saw is just as good ask your merchant to let you take them both home, and try them and keep the one you like best. Silver Steel is no longer a guarantee of quality, as some of the poorest steel made is now branded silver steel. We have the sole right for the "Razor Steel Brand."

It does not pay to buy a saw for one dollar less, and lose 25 cents per day in labor. Your saw must hold a keen edge to do a large day's work, cutting thousands of these saws are shipped to the United States, and sold at a higher price than the best American saws. Manufactured only by SHURLY & DITTRICH, Galt, Ontario.

ECONOMICAL MINING AT THE GRANBY

(Special to The Miner.)

PHOENIX, B. C., Dec. 6.—Work was begun this week on what will eventually prove to be an important feature in economical mining at the Granby mines in this camp. One of the heaviest expenses in low grade mining in the Boundary is that of hoisting the ore from the lower levels. At all the properties where surface mining or quarrying of ore is carried on, the ore is broken down in open workings and then run through chutes, whence it is taken by cars to the ore bins. This is the method employed in the Granby mines, the Mother Lode and the Snowshoe.

Formerly all the surface ore from the Granby properties was taken out through the main tunnel of the Knob Hill with small expense as compared to the hoisting necessary on the Old Ironsides. For a long time this was the only tunnel on the Granby properties. A short time ago, however, No. 2 tunnel was completed, which comes out considerably farther down the hill, and strikes the Knob Hill workings at the 100-foot level, thereby making available an immense additional tonnage of ore that will be taken out without hoisting.

This week No. 3 tunnel was started, below the railway spur to the Old Ironsides ore bins, and to the rear of the Old Ironsides hotel. In this tunnel, when connections are completed by driving about 300 feet, will meet the workings on the 100 level of the Old Ironsides mine and the 200 foot level of the Knob Hill. It will thus bring another large quantity of ore within the plan of breaking down and getting out without being hoisted.

EXPLOSION IN A POWDER MILL

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 8.—An explosion in the press mill of the Shaghticoke Powder Company just outside of Shaghticoke resulted in the demolition of the mill, the death of one man and the injury of three others.

The man killed was Renna Speenburgh of Shaghticoke. The injured are Henry Simmons, Wm. Speenburgh, the father of the man killed, and George B. Parsons. They were cut and bruised but will recover. The cause of the accident is unknown. The shock was felt for a mile, windows of houses being blown out. One house about 150 feet from the mill was wrecked.

REV. DR. MAGGS RESIGNS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 9.—Rev. Dr. Maggs, principal of the Wesleyan Theological College, today handed his resignation to the board of governors. Dr. Maggs is an Englishman, and came out here a couple of years ago to take charge of the institution. The reason given for his resignation is that the climate disagrees with his wife, but it is reported on good authority that there has been considerable friction, as well as a lack of whole-hearted support, which the principal should have received.

STRIKE SITUATION AT MARSEILLES

PARIS, Dec. 9.—At a cabinet council today it was decided to direct Admiral Bouvier to request the resignation of the government, that the parties to the Marseilles strike accept arbitration. This step was taken after Premier Combes had explained the difficulty of the situation, and the injury it was causing French commerce and the port of Marseilles. The decision of the ministers followed the action of the shipowners in refusing to accept the terms proposed by the strikers.

THE ULTIMATUMS.

No Time Limit Fixed For an Answer From Venezuela.

BERLIN, Dec. 9.—It was learned this evening that the ultimatums did not fix a time limit for an answer, but that the officials of the German and British legations were instructed to leave Caracas at the end of 24 hours after their delivery if there was no prospect of a favorable reply. This, however, was left to their discretion.

BOXER SCARE IS OVER.

TORONTO, Dec. 9.—W. E. Smith, missionary in China, under date of October 7th, advises the Methodist mission rooms here that the Boxer scare is completely over and mission work is advancing.

CHARGED WITH POISONING.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 9.—John Williams and his wife, charged with poisoning two of their children in order to collect the insurance, were today committed for trial by the coroner to await the action of the grand jury.

JUSTICE MCRAE STANDS PAT.

FORSYTH, Mont., Dec. 8.—As a result of further defiance to the orders of Justice of the Peace Roderick McRae the entire board of county commissioners, together with the clerk, for the second time have been thrown into jail for 24 hours and fined \$50 each owing to election disputes.