

ENERGETIC PROTESTS

Civic Assessment Stirs Up a Storm of Protests Locally.

Asserted That Increases Rule Instead of Promised Decreases.

A few days since Major VanBuskirk, city assessor, commenced sending out the assessment notices for the current year. Since then the volume of protests registered against the assessment has swelled up rapidly, and the city fathers have what promises to be a "pretty kettle of fish" on their hands. Citizens were led to believe that the assessments would be reduced, but from the nature of the protests raised it seems that the very reverse has been the case. The assessor reduced the assessments on lands in many instances but raised the assessments on improvements almost universally with the result that the ratepayer is worse off than ever.

As a matter of fact the assessment cuts but little figure in the matter of taxation. A specific sum has to be raised whether the assessment is high or low. If the assessment is low the rate must be higher, and vice versa. This argument is raised by many citizens, but it is difficult to swallow the universal increase in assessment. In this particular instance, and the court of revision for 1903 is certain to have its hands full to deal with the appeals that will be entered.

Major VanBuskirk states that his policy was to reduce the assessment on lands and to raise the valuation of improvements where, in his opinion, the latter were low. This policy destroys in a measure the force of the argument raised in the foregoing paragraph, inasmuch as it increases the burden on the resident ratepayer who has improved his property and relieves the strain from the shoulders of the non-resident ratepayer who bought real estate for speculative purposes and made no attempt at improvements. "The people who benefit by the sewers," says the assessor, "are entitled to pay for them, and the same applies to the streets, waterworks and other public improvements." This argument will not appeal to the average ratepayer, however, and is opposed to the general line of policy in respect to speculative real estate holdings.

The dissatisfaction with the assessment is widespread. Mayor Dean admitted to a representative of the Miner yesterday that an evident mistake had been made, but endeavored to find a silver lining to the cloud. Discussing the subject His Worship said: "I find many taxpayers do not understand the difference between the assessment notices they are receiving now and the tax notice which they will receive after the rate is fixed. The assessment notices just sent out to the ratepayers assessed value of both land and improvements. The tax notice will show the total assessed value of land but only half the value of the improvements, and on these combined amounts the rate is levied. For instance, if in the assessment notice a lot is assessed at \$300 and the improvements at \$100, in the tax notice for the purpose of taxation the lot will appear still at \$300 but the improvement will only appear at \$50, or 50 per cent of its value, hence the taxes on this property instead of being on \$400 are only on \$350."

"Given a certain amount of money necessary to meet the current expenditure, unless a property owner is unequally or disproportionately assessed, it really makes no difference to him whether he is assessed high with a low rate or assessed low with a high rate. For example, if a property owner's fair proportion of taxes should be \$10; if he is assessed for \$1000 at a rate of 10 mills, it is for all practical purposes just the same as if he was assessed for only \$500 at a rate of 20 mills, with this difference, however, that an assessmentably low assessed value would discredit his own and the city's assets."

"The estimated expenditure this year is \$300,000, against an actual expenditure last year of over \$200,000. It takes \$20,000 a year to pay sinking fund and interest on our loans, the schools ask for \$120,000, and then there are all the other departments of the city to be provided for, and the unavoidable cost of upkeep and repairs to streets and city property generally."

"The number of officials has been reduced, as well as the salaries of those remaining, effecting a yearly saving of over \$7000, so that you can see there is a very great retrenchment effected in the expense of administration."

"I may say that it is the council's intention to make the burden of the ratepayers as light as possible, and any inequality or unfairness will be adjusted at the court of revision, and in any event a balancing of the revenue to meet the expenditure by a general reduction of the assessed values or of the rate, if it prove that the aggregate of taxes is in excess of the requirements."

VENEZUELAN CREDITORS.
Great Britain, Germany and Italy Ready for Any Settlement.

LONDON, April 27.—It is officially stated that Great Britain, Germany and Italy attach great importance to the Venezuelan negotiations at Washington, and that they are willing to acquiesce in any decision reached by the majority of the creditors concerning the arrangements for a settlement. As it is agreed that the question of the separate treatment of the three powers will not be submitted before September 1st, there is no urgency regarding the completion of a protocol for that purpose.

A MAYBRICK JUROR ODD FELLOWS' DAY

JOHN G. BLANEY OF ROSSLAND SERVED AS JUROR IN THE FAMOUS CASE.

WAS ONE OF EIGHT TO HOLD OUT DECISIVELY FOR CONVICTION.

John G. Blaney, of Rossland, is probably the only surviving member of the jury in the famous Florence Maybrick case now resident on this side of the Atlantic. When the case came to trial in the early eighties at Liverpool, Mr. Blaney was in the wholesale meat trade. He had scarcely ever been inside a court room up to the time he was empanelled for jury service at that particular sitting of the assize, but his experience in connection with the famous case was ample to stamp the incident indelibly on his memory.

Blaney was one of the eight jurymen who concluded from the evidence that Mrs. Maybrick was guilty of her husband's murder. He considered the evidence conclusive, and had no doubt from their verdict should be. In the early phases of the case he was disposed to sympathize with the accused woman, and believed her explanation as to the extraction of arsenic from flypapers for use as a cosmetic. The damaging evidence by the nurse in the case, who swore to reading a letter from Mrs. Maybrick to a man named Brierly, in which the woman said her husband would be dead in twenty-four hours, and then "true hearts would come together," convinced Blaney and seven of his fellow-jurymen that the accused was guilty.

When the jury retired for four hours for deliberation, and eight hours, and reported their inability to agree. The presiding justice, Judge Stephens, sent them back with additional instructions, and this time the four recalcitrants fell into line, and the verdict of guilty was returned. The late Lord Chief Justice Russell had appeared for Mrs. Maybrick, and was a firm believer in her innocence. When the jury's verdict was returned and the judge's sentence passed, Russell was pleading a case in the civil court. On being notified of the outcome of the Maybrick case he was horrified.

Mr. Blaney states that the scene in the court when the verdict was rendered and sentence was pronounced was unparalleled in the history of Liverpool courts. The judge was loudly hissed, the jury had to be escorted from the place by a police cordon, and the nurse whose evidence had turned the scale against Mrs. Maybrick was under police protection for some time lest she should be assassinated.

The Rossland man preserves the remembrance of the case with keen interest as one of the most important passages in his life.

FOR A LEAD BONUS

THE POINT TO WHICH THE MINE OWNERS' ATTENTION IS DIRECTED.

PROPOSED PLAN OF THE OTTAWA GOVERNMENT NOT ACCEPTABLE.

The efforts of those desirous of securing the assistance of the Canadian silver-lead industry are now directed toward obtaining a bounty on Canadian lead in ore, the mine owners having concluded that tariff amendments will not be granted this year at least. In the efforts along this line, the lead men are being nobly encouraged by the evident willingness of the federal administration to extend such assistance in the shape of a bonus.

There is a fly in the lead men's ointment, however. The bounty is intended to cure in large measure the ills that have affected the lead industry, but there seems to be a danger of the remedy being robbed of its curative qualities. A telegram has been received by the lead mine owners from John L. Retailack at Ottawa, stating that the government proposes to grant a bonus to the lead industry conditionally that only lead smelted in Canada is to participate, and that of the total amount paid in any one year two-fifths is to go to the Canadian smelters. As the Hall Mines smelter and the Canadian smelter at Trail are the only two lead plants in the Dominion, the plan proposed, if carried out, would mean that two-fifths of any bonus earned by the mines on ore sent to these two plants would be handed over to them. Lead ore shipped out of the country would receive no aid, and the home smelters would have the market practically in their own hands and could, it is maintained, regulate prices accordingly.

The Provincial Mining association now in session at Victoria has passed a resolution dealing with the present lead situation. After a preamble expressing regret that the government did not grant the request for tariff reforms in respect to lead imports, the resolution concludes as follows: "That this association now urges that if for any reason the government cannot take this action during the present session, assistance be given to the industry pending such readjustment, by means of a bonus of \$4 a ton on lead in ore mined in Canada and exported in the ore—a substitute bonus of \$3 per ton of lead in ore which has been both mined and smelted in Canada and exported as base bullion—a substitute of \$30 per ton of lead in ore mined, smelted and refined in Canada, such bonus in each case to be payable to the miner or mining company producing the ore, supported by such declarations from purchasers, smelters or refiners, or other satisfactory proof as may be considered desirable; it being, however, emphasized that this is recommended as a measure of temporary relief, to be replaced by the protective duties asked for as soon as possible."

GET GRUB BY MAIL

The Hard Case of Mines in Thunder Mountain District.

SPOKANE, Wash., April 27.—Late advice from Roosevelt, the postoffice in the heart of the famed Thunder Mountain district in Central Idaho, show that the snow bound miners are hard pressed to get food supplies and are taking advantage of the United States mail service to secure subsistence. Small packages of bacon, beans, tobacco, salt, coffee, etc., arrive on every mail by registered service at 16 cents per pound, postal charges, with the usual additional eight cents charged for registering. Freighters charged packing into the camp two months ago, and food supplies began to run low. Recently word was sent to supply points, and now the mail carriers, who reach the camp on snowshoes, finds his tri-weekly burdens increasing with the weight of salt sides in small packages and plug tobacco. The delivery of paper mail was discontinued some time ago.

D. Banton was ticketed to Everett, Wash., over the Spokane Falls & Northern yesterday.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES OF INTERESTING AND IMPRESSIVE NATURE.

CHURCH CROWDED TO DOORS—INSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL SERMON DELIVERED.

Rossland Odd Fellows turned out right loyally on Sunday night at the Methodist church, where the anniversary services were conducted by Rev. Brother A. M. Sanford. The Golden City has seldom witnessed a more patriotic turnout of a fraternity, and the occasion will go down in the annals of the order here as a red letter event. The church was literally packed and numerous members of the congregation failed to secure admittance. More than 100 Odd Fellows were in line when the lodge marched into the sacred precincts.

The service was most inspiring, not the least attractive feature being the singing of the choir under the leadership of Mrs. Norma Melnick. The texts chosen by Rev. Sanford (who is a past grand of the order) were: 1 Sam. 30:4, "Whosoever thy soul desireth I will even do it for thee." Luke 10:7, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The preacher in opening his address referred to the large membership and the strong financial position of the order. There were over 135,000 initiations in 1901, bringing the total membership up to 1,002,272. Nearly \$4,000,000 was disbursed in benefits to sick and distressed members during that year. The system of benefits, like that of life insurance, solves many anxieties regarding the position of their families should sickness or death come suddenly upon them. It is a relief to know that though sickness may prevent us from earning our usual salaries or wages we shall not be left friendless or destitute.

It is a mistake, however, to place too much stress upon the beneficiary system. "Money is not to be my friend unless he has similar ideas, common purposes. There may be a difference in social standing and financial position, but there must be similarity in character." "Whosoever thy soul desireth I will even do it for thee"—this is the motto of a genuine friendship. The portals of a lodge, therefore, must be carefully guarded and we would retain the true Odd Fellow embodies Love, He believes in human brotherhood, and is interested in the welfare of all. Seeing that the physically and mentally unfit are not eligible for membership, the order cannot claim to illustrate Love unless it inspires in the hearts of the members a desire to love and serve all men, rich and poor, saint and sinner, friend and foe. While Friendship excludes many, Love includes all. The Samaritan helped the wounded Jew, not because of any covenant made between them, not because of any ties of blood or race, but because he was a man in need. We, if true to that example of genuine brotherly love, will endeavor to help all men, and will give our sympathy to all who are in their stations and their characters.

On this anniversary occasion, remembering the services rendered to mankind by the founders of the order, let us renew our obligations and let us endeavor more and more earnestly to exemplify the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.

"Our fathers to their graves have gone; Their state is past, their triumph won; But stern trials wait the race That rises in their honored place; A moral warfare with the crime And folly of an evil time."

So let it be; In God's own might We gird us for the coming fight; And strong in Him whose cause is ours In conflict with unwholy powers, We grasp the weapons He has given The Light, and Truth, and Love of Heaven."

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TRADING IS ACTIVE

BUSINESS CONDITIONS ARE REPORTED GOOD THROUGHOUT CANADA.

PROSPECTS FOR A PROSPEROUS SEASON CONSIDERED BRIGHT.

TORONTO, April 24.—Bradstreet's review of trade says: Trade is getting more active in Montreal. The shipping business is showing great activity, and the movement of freight in that connection has helped trade generally and led to new business on a considerable scale, with the old country's improved conditions throughout the country are causing a good increase in the demand, especially for fall goods, and there is also a better inquiry in a good many departments for seasonal goods. Advances from all parts of the Dominion are of the most encouraging nature. The large shipments of produce from the interior are releasing funds, and the money situation shows the first signs of easing in many weeks. At Toronto the coal weather this week has lessened the sorting trade in summer goods, and trade in some departments has been less active, but this is expected to be only temporary, and the bright mild weather which prevailed at the closing of the week causes some renewal of activity. The trade situation, not only here, but throughout the country is very satisfactory. Large shipments of produce are being made from interior points now, and that is stimulating the demand from jobbers. The very strong position of the markets for staple manufactures and the increase in sales so far over previous years are the encouraging features of the situation. The outlook is for still further expansion.

Business during the past week at Quebec shows little improvement over the preceding week. Wholesalers as a rule are busy on sorting orders. Country payments are reported fairly satisfactory. Although navigation opened somewhat earlier than usual, there has been no rush of freight, though many shippers have made their third trip with orders for the lower provinces. Outside labor is well employed, and the outlook is good.

Wholesale trade at the Pacific coast is looking up. The demand since the opening of the spring compares well with previous years, and the outlook is for an expansion in business right up to the summer months. Shipping is busy now with the lumber trade and other provincial products. The demands from the northwest country are good, and mining settlements are buying quite freely.

Reports of Bradstreet's from Winnipeg show that the farmers are busy seeding now, and there is somewhat of a lull in country trade, but the retailers, encouraged by the prospects of a record season ahead, are buying freely and the jobbers are kept busy in their efforts to replenish stocks, which are attended with difficulty owing to the rush of grain to the head of the lake now that navigation is open. Reports so far received indicate that the wheat area previous years, and the outlook is larger than in any previous season. Country payments are very fair for this season.

Business at Hamilton has been fairly active, considering the cool spell experienced the past week. With fine warm weather the movement in seasonal goods will certainly respond with a marked expansion. Shipments to various trade centres of the country are heavy.

In London, as reported to Bradstreet's, there has been a steady demand for spring and fall goods. Reports to the wholesale trade from various parts of the country are very encouraging and indicate a large season turnover.

There has been a steady demand for staple goods in wholesale trade circles at Ottawa the past week. Reports from travelers are of the most encouraging nature.

FRECHVILLE WAS ADVERSE. He figured in Reports on Famous Italian Mining Matter.

LONDON, April 4.—The Etruscan Copper Estates, Limited, continues to occupy a large share of attention in mining circles. It will be remembered that the company in February two years ago to acquire old mines in Italy opposite the island of Elba. They are situated in the mining district between Grosseto and Leghorn, and they have been thoroughly well known to local mining people for many years. Twenty years ago an English company was formed to acquire and work them, and such eminent mining men as Mr. R. W. Richard and Mr. George Henwood reported on them favorably. For some reason the notation was not a success, and the deal fell through.

Subsequently other parties looked over the properties from time to time, but as the reports by the engineers sent out by them were not very favorable, nothing was done in the way of development. Finally, the promoters of the Etruscan Copper Estates took up the property and floated it with a capital of £275,000, to which must be added debentures amounting to £200,000. When the debentures were issued, certain groups in the city, who contemplated taking an interest, variously requested Alexander Hill, Mr. Moring and R. J. Frecheville to examine the mines on their behalf. These three gentlemen agreed in advising their clients not to invest money in them, and Mr. Moring even made fun of the mines and the efforts of the directors and mining engineers in developing them, using such expressions as "opera bouffe" mining. The directors and shareholders, however, took no notice of these adverse reports, and as they had plenty of working capital in hand, have preferred to spend it in development.

The adverse report naturally tended to depress the market value of the shares, and the directors have determined to prosecute Mr. Moring for libel in consequence, claiming £250,000 damages, this being the amount by which they claim the total market value of the shares was depressed by Mr. Moring's report.

THE BRITISH BUDGET. Chancellor Ritchie Finds It Possible to Reduce Taxes.

LONDON, April 24.—The budget, which was introduced in the house of commons yesterday, showed an estimated expenditure for 1903-04 of £719,770,000. The chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Ritchie, fixed the national debt charge at £138,000,000, of which £31,500,000 is available for the sinking fund. The estimated revenue on the existing basis of taxation is £738,350,000, giving an available surplus of \$4,080,000. Mr. Ritchie's proposals included abolition of duty on grain. The taxes on sugar are unchanged. Fourpence is taken off the income tax. The duty on tea, which the trade expected would be reduced, is not changed. Mr. Ritchie opened with the statement that whereas his predecessors had to impose fresh taxation it was his task to remit burdens. He thought there was nothing in the monetary situation to create alarm. Money had been necessarily very scarce and dear, as in addition to the government demands, there had been many other calls on the money market. Any further demands on account of the Transvaal, however, would be wholly for reproductive works and would have the full guarantee of the British government.

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Enumerating the increases and decreases of the past year's trade, the chancellor expressed the opinion that the chief lesson to be learned therefrom was that capital and labor should endeavor to come more closely together, so as to strengthen their power of competition with foreign countries.

Proceeding, Mr. Ritchie said the total expenditure of the state for the past year from every source was £1,005,685,000. He estimated the cost of the wars in South Africa and China of the last four years at £1,055,000,000, of which \$40,000,000 had been defrayed by the revenue. The sum of \$745,000,000 was charged to the capital account. The latter would be reduced to \$550,000,000 by the Transvaal repayment and the Chinese indemnity. Including the war debt the national indebtedness now reached the enormous total of \$3,911,745,000. The chancellor, however, saw no reason for apprehension in the fall in consols.

Turning to the expenditure for 1903-04, the chancellor estimated that it would amount to £719,770,000 and said he proposed to fix the annual national debt charge at £138,000,000, of which £31,500,000 is available for the sinking fund. This amount would be rapidly increased as repayments were received from the Transvaal until four or five years hence it would reach \$45,000,000, the largest amount, both absolutely and proportionately, ever granted.

The chancellor viewed with great concern the increase in the army expenditure and hoped great reductions would be possible soon. On the other hand, the possession of a strong navy was not a matter of national pride, but of life or death, and to preserve a strong navy he would grudge no cost. There was an indication that some of Great Britain's neighbors wished to call a halt in their expenditure for armaments. If this was the case, Great Britain was fully in accord and would follow suit.

After a reference to the talks made on all sides on the exchequer, including the demands for the payment of members of the house of commons and for old age pensions, the chancellor estimated the revenue for 1903-04, on the existing basis of taxation, at £738,350,000, giving an available surplus of £80,000,000, and proceeded, saying that if on the income tax payer, who therefore had the first claim for consideration. He was not satisfied with the present method of levying the tax and thought a committee of the house of commons ought to be appointed to revise it.

Meanwhile, he proposed a reduction of 4d. in the pound sterling. The balance of the surplus would be given to the relief of indirect taxation of the necessities of life. He could not afford to reduce the duties on sugar or tea, which could not be regarded as necessary for life, so he proposed to remit the grain duty from July 1.

Mr. Ritchie pointed out that the reduction of the income tax involved a reduction of revenue of about \$45,000,000. The remission of the grain duty meant a reduction of about \$10,000,000, leaving him a small working surplus of about \$1,800,000.

The chancellor, who spoke for an hour and fifty minutes, received approving cheers, especially when he announced a reduction of the grain duties. Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the former chancellor, followed.

CANADA'S TARIFF. More Press Comments on the Retaliation Against Germany.

MONTREAL, April 27.—The Star's London cable says: The Berlin correspondence of the Times and Chronicle say the federal council of Germany, so it is reported, has decided to impose on imports from Canada a surtax equal to that levied by Canada on German exports.

The Cologne Gazette says fortune has willed it that Germany be made the first victim of the experiments to weld the British colonies into a customs union of the empire.

The Pall Mall Gazette expresses Englishmen's sympathy in the tariff war, and says: "Canadians may feel a little hurt that this moment has been selected for the disappearance of the corn duty, in connection with which they entertained certain quiet hopes, but Canada need not fear that the mother country will remain unconverted."

The Daily Mail, in a leader entitled "Fie!—minded ministers," again deplores the removal of the cereal duty, and especially reminds Chamberlain of his appeal to colonial governments and to Canada in particular to join England in fighting the hostile tariffs of Europe. Nevertheless the abolition is certain to pass parliament.

Fraternal News

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Rossland lodge, No. 36, I. O. O. F., at the last meeting held in Odd Fellows' hall was presented, by Brother Drew, of Kootenay lodge No. 16, I. O. O. F., with an elegant lodge chart which will be of great value to the lodge. The members of No. 36 showed their appreciation of Bro. Drew's most generous offer by a standing vote of thanks to be spread on the minutes of the lodge. The lodge is in a very flourishing condition, and on Monday evening it will confer the initiatory degree on two candidates, also the second degree on two other candidates. This evening at 8:45 p. m. all the members of Rossland lodge, No. 36, and Deborah Rebekah Lodge No. 13, will assemble at their hall on Queen street and march to the hall of the Methodist church, where divine services will be held in commemorating the 48th anniversary of Odd Fellowship in America.

It is interesting to note that the total number of members as shown by the last report published in the Independent Odd Fellow were 1,390,931, and the number of lodges in the United States and Canada amounted to 15,722.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS. Rossland lodge, No. 21, Knights of Pythias, met Friday evening at its hall on Queen street. The meeting was a noteworthy one, as the office of chancellor commander was declared vacant, the present chancellor commander not having filled the chair the required number of meeting nights. Owing to the change the following officers were elected to serve for the balance of the present term: Chancellor commander, Joseph Morris; vice-chancellor commander, George Miller; keeper of record and seals, L. J. Kiltredge; inner guard, William Nicholson; outer guard, Theodore Kettleton; trustee, Ira Beverly. Most of the above officers were duly installed Friday evening. During the course of the evening Brother Proctor Joiner, who leaves today to assume an important post at Fernie, B. C., was presented with a solid gold K. of P. locket by the members of Rossland lodge in appreciation of his valuable services rendered the lodge during the past seven years. Though it is not Brother Joiner's intention to withdraw from the lodge, yet the local lodge will lose a valuable as well as important member.

DEBORAH REBEKAH. Rossland lodge, No. 13, Deborah Rebekah, at its meeting last Wednesday tendered a farewell party and supper in honor of Noble Grand Mrs. Lizzie McKay and Treasurer Mrs. Annie Peyer, both of whom are leaving Rossland at an early date. After the supper and games and dancing made the evening enjoyable. One candidate was also initiated into the mysteries of No. 13.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES. Rossland Aerie, No. 10, Fraternal Order of Eagles, at its regular meeting Monday evening elected several officers to fill vacancies in the lodge. Charles Thresher was elected chaplain, Joe Martin, treasurer, and Joe Murphy, trustee. All of the above officers will be installed at some future date, yet unannounced. The lodge also held a social session among the members after initiating one candidate. Tomorrow evening being the regular meeting night, the Eagles have another initiation and desire a large attendance.

BOUNDARY SHIP. PHOENIX, April 27.—The week's ore shipments that have sent out over 10 years to the company's smelter. The Emma mine camp, rejoined the ship week and next week the B. C. mine and the Sunnyside mine are sending out ore. For the past week the different mines of the have been as follows: to Granby smelter, 802 tons; Emma mine to T. Lode mine to Greenw. Emma mine to T. total for the week, 152 tons. The same condition will hold this year.

DROWNED NEAR PHOENIX. Charles Krigbaum Lost his Life in a Canoe.

REVELSTOCK. A sad drowning accident occurred near Revelstoke. It appears that a number of the Revelstoke pany, including Charles Krigbaum, were engaged in a party near shore, and the undertook to shove it overbalanced and fell into the water and was soon drowned. His companion, him without avail. The body has not yet been recovered.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD. At the next meeting of the Rossland Camp, No. 47, Woodmen of the World, it is to be decided whether the lodge will celebrate its first anniversary in this city, which falls on May 1st, by giving a banquet among the members or by a public function. It is also the intention of the lodge to put on the uniform rank degree work. Arrangements are about to be made for the uniforms. A full attendance is looked for at the next meeting, Wednesday evening, May 6th, 1903.

ON LONDON EXCHANGE. Improvement Followed the Delivery of the Budget.

LONDON, April 27.—The effect of the budget on the stock exchange was immediate and invigorating. The week, which opened with but a slight show of improvement, continued indifferent, every one waiting for Chancellor Ritchie's announcement. This was received with cheering and activity unknown for a long time immediately commenced, the whole list showing fair advances at yesterday's close. Without exception writers on financial subjects, many of whom have been despondent since the beginning of the year, predict continued improvement and increasing confidence. The American section last week responded to the improved tone of Wall street. Altogether the market is more cheerful than it has been for some time past. Little attention is paid to political troubles in the far east.

Miss Zena Manhart returned to Nelson on Sunday after having spent a week in Rossland, the guest of Miss Nellie Murphy.

PREPARING TO

Preliminary Work

Phoenix Branch the V. V. C.

Securing Right and Making Survey.

PHOENIX, B. C., April 27.—Most of the snow is gone from the vicinity, it is expected work of construction on the branch of the Great Northern from Grand Forks to Phoenix of about 24 miles, under way. Chief Engineer Kennedy has secured 20 or 30 miles from here, and the able snow in the timbering fast, however, and will probably be completed or two, when work is done with the construction proper. Co. are understood to contract from Stems, Slatkowsky, Paul, and Mr. W. C. Smith, but a subplot large portion of the contract.

Right of Way Agent I. been visiting the city for a few weeks, securing deeds and paying over the railway company for right is understood that the from Grand Forks to Phoenix. This is a substantial improvement. This 20 or 30 lots in Summit City, the line passes on the west. The Granby smelter spur has been secured also. The cost of the Phoenix line will probably be in the neighborhood of three-quarters of a million dollars, and there is a strong feeling that the city is being built up in a grand way. The cost of the Phoenix line will probably be in the neighborhood of three-quarters of a million dollars, and there is a strong feeling that the city is being built up in a grand way.

City Assessor D. J. made up the municipal roll for the year 1903, and the same to the council by set June 1st at the date of the council meeting. Sections or complaints assessed valuation of lands amounts to \$310 the valuation on land is \$138,705, and on improvements \$271,400. The assessment of the city is as follows: Berger subdivision, \$116,000; Copper company's subdivision, \$100,000; City property, \$100,000; same condition will hold this year.

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DROWNED NEAR PHOENIX. Charles Krigbaum Lost his Life in a Canoe.

REVELSTOCK. A sad drowning accident occurred near Revelstoke. It appears that a number of the Revelstoke pany, including Charles Krigbaum, were engaged in a party near shore, and the undertook to shove it overbalanced and fell into the water and was soon drowned. His companion, him without avail. The body has not yet been recovered.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD. At the next meeting of the Rossland Camp, No. 47, Woodmen of the World, it is to be decided whether the lodge will celebrate its first anniversary in this city, which falls on May 1st, by giving a banquet among the members or by a public function. It is also the intention of the lodge to put on the uniform rank degree work. Arrangements are about to be made for the uniforms. A full attendance is looked for at the next meeting, Wednesday evening, May 6th, 1903.

ON LONDON EXCHANGE. Improvement Followed the Delivery of the Budget.

LONDON, April 27.—The effect of the budget on the stock exchange was immediate and invigorating. The week, which opened with but a slight show of improvement, continued indifferent, every one waiting for Chancellor Ritchie's announcement. This was received with cheering and activity unknown for a long time immediately commenced, the whole list showing fair advances at yesterday's close. Without exception writers on financial subjects, many of whom have been despondent since the beginning of the year, predict continued improvement and increasing confidence. The American section last week responded to the improved tone of Wall street. Altogether the market is more cheerful than it has been for some time past. Little attention is paid to political troubles in the far east.

Miss Zena Manhart returned to Nelson on Sunday after having spent a week in Rossland, the guest of Miss Nellie Murphy.

A Successful Dance—With Accidents. Y.M.C.A. Y.M.C.A., April 24.—The night in the Miners' Y.M.C.A. was a decided success and was well patronized. The proceeds of the dance, \$425, will go to the Y.M.C.A. Employees in aid of their strike against the Paul Kruger, a mine the Y.M.C.A. mine, while