

IS CURSED BY INJURIOUS LAWS

Mining Industry of British Columbia Sick Unto Death Because of the Operation of Whimsical Legislation Placed Upon Statute Books by Demagogic Legislators.

So Declare Mining Men in all Parts of the Country---Useless to Look for Outside Capital Until Drastic Reforms Shall Have Been Inaugurated.

Mr. W. Brewer, the well-known mining engineer, has just returned to Vancouver from New York.

During the ten days of Mr. Brewer's stay in New York had occurred the week's flurry in Northern Pacific stock and it seemed to him as if the whole city had gone mad with excitement.

It was no doubt partly because of this that there was little said about British Columbia. Papers of this province were hard to obtain and there was little general news published in the New York papers unless such news directly concerned the Americans.

There was a good deal of idle capital around awaiting an opportunity for favorable investment, and British Columbia stood as good a chance as any other mining place of getting a share except for that part of the floating capital which would be presently locked up in the harvest which was already beginning in Southern California and which would continue to make fresh calls upon the money market till its end in October next.

FOREIGN CAPITAL. British capital, as far as Mr. Brewer could see, had been frightened away by recent events in British Columbia. There had been too much interference with the mineral act, too much indifference displayed in developing properties and too great a price demanded and paid for mines which were yet to prove remunerative investments and many of which were hardly ever likely to be included in such a category.

It has been urged in the province, Mr. Brewer said, there had been little or no complaint as to the taxation from any portion of the States. This was true but merely from the reason that the general newspaper did not touch upon British Columbia, and it was only when individuals became interested that they informed themselves as to the conditions. If they found these to be discouraging, there would be no attempt made to get the legislature to alter this or that, but rather the capitalist brought into momentary touch would turn his attention to some other of the multitudinous schemes submitted to him.

CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION. The general hearing of this was already known to the government of British Columbia and to many of its leading citizens and a campaign of education had been advocated. Mr. Brewer said that this was all very well, but what should be recognized was that this campaign should begin at home.

The eight-hour law was unwise since it was uncalculated for, but any interference with it would be still more foolish than the original interference. Compulsory arbitration was an interference with the freedom of contract and an attempt to set aside the working of the natural laws of supply and demand.

MINERAL TAXATION. There was one matter which before all others it behooved the province to take up if it wished the incoming of capital, be it British or foreign. That was the development of the mineral properties of the country. The ordinary prospectors instead of endeavoring to interest local capital and opening up and improving the location that he has made would endeavor to procure a large sum for it.

Then the crown granting itself was an evil. A property could be granted for a nominal expenditure of \$500, and if the owner did not desire to work it, the whole district would be kept back merely because the owner was a hog.

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GROSS OUTPUT TAX. The two per cent tax on the gross output was an iniquity as it pressed unfairly on all properties and mostly so on those which were low grade and which in consequence had to employ more men to make a greater output in order to get the same profit as a high grade mine.

There were so many in this latter class than an ample revenue would be afforded. The present proposition was to tax all capital coming into the country and let any who would tie up a whole district to nobody's benefit but his own.

On its being suggested that the proposed scheme amounted somewhat of the socialism of Henry George, Mr. Brewer declared that such might be the case, but it was not socialism, it was straight "common sense."

CRIPPLING CIRCUMSTANCES. Mining Review Points Out Conditions the Average Observer Cannot See. The Mining Review (Sandon) in its last issue says:

"Mining in this province is surrounded by many crippling circumstances and conditions the average observer cannot see. Operations show there are large stores of mineral in our mountains that might be mined with profit to all concerned--the whole country at large--if conditions, many of them the manufacture of our legislature, were only made satisfactory."

EXCESSIVE CHARGES. The cost the average owner of mines operated in the Slooan from \$20,000 to \$50,000 a year more than they cost the owners of the British Columbia mines must then be either that much richer than the American mine, or the B. C. owner must do with that much less profit than the American gets, before a comparison can properly be commenced.

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must be some cause for this dissatisfaction that 'should be looked into.' Suppose, for instance, Houston would for a moment look into the fact that he was instrumental in passing a law, to be tried, as he used to say at the time, that reduced the services of the men to the employers 20 per cent while it reduced the wages but seven per cent.

MR. HIRSHELL-COHEN'S VIEWS. He Declares Our Mining Laws to Be the Very Worst Possible. A few days ago the Rossland Miner reproduced in its columns a letter from Mr. H. Hirschell-Cohen which appeared in the Victoria Colonist.

"I am sorry that I am unable to accept Mr. Bogle's diagnosis of the case. It is useless to traverse the extended field of debate opened up by him, and as I made no comparisons between this country and Colorado, and West and South Africa, I fail to see why Mr. Bogle has tried to refute some imaginary conclusions.

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tal invested here from Great Britain is nearly as infinitesimal as your mining progress. You have never even made a beginning to interest British capital. Here and there some small sums have been invested and perhaps one or two large amounts, but you have never succeeded in inducing anything like a general demand for B. C. mines, simply because though you have the ground work to warrant the demand, your laws render it an impossibility.

H. HIRSHELL-COHEN. MR. GALT'S CRITICISM.

The Nelson Miner Deals With It Editorially--The Industry in Peril. The following is from the Nelson Miner:

"It is not our purpose to meddle with the dispute that is going on in the British Columbia Mining Record between the editor and Mr. A. C. Galt, of Rossland. If asked for an opinion we should feel obliged to agree with the Mining Record that Mr. Galt is entirely too sweeping in his conclusions when he says that legislative impediments and restrictions are making progress in the mining industry impossible."

CRASS STUPIDITY. of our rulers at Victoria. Mr. Galt enumerates some of the examples of unwise legislation affecting the mining industry. Down to 1896 the mining laws were satisfactory. It was in 1897 that tinkering began which worked so much evil. In that year was passed the Companies Act, imposing excessive fees that had the effect of wiping out a number of companies that were engaged in the development of the country.

"The only excuse for this systematic harassing of our chief industry that has so far been advanced is that the mine owners can afford the exactions, and that it is better to bleed them of the taxes required for the public service than to take them out of the poor laboring man. It is the reasoning of the demagogues' intelligence. There will be no mine owners to tax if their industry is burdened with exactions beyond its capacity to bear."

DOUBLED THE TAX. on the mineral output and more than doubled the fee payable for Crown grants of mineral claims. And in view of all this comes the natural inquiry, "Is it any wonder that people, both here and abroad, are holding aloof from investment when our statutes disclose such an injurious policy?"

HEADACHE RELIEVED INSTANTLY. Got a constant headache? Ten chances to one the secret of your suffering is that you have a brain's burden, catarrh. Here's a sentence from one man's evidence for a Dr. Anew's Catarrhal Powder: One application gave me instant relief, cleared the nasal passages and stopped the pain in my head."

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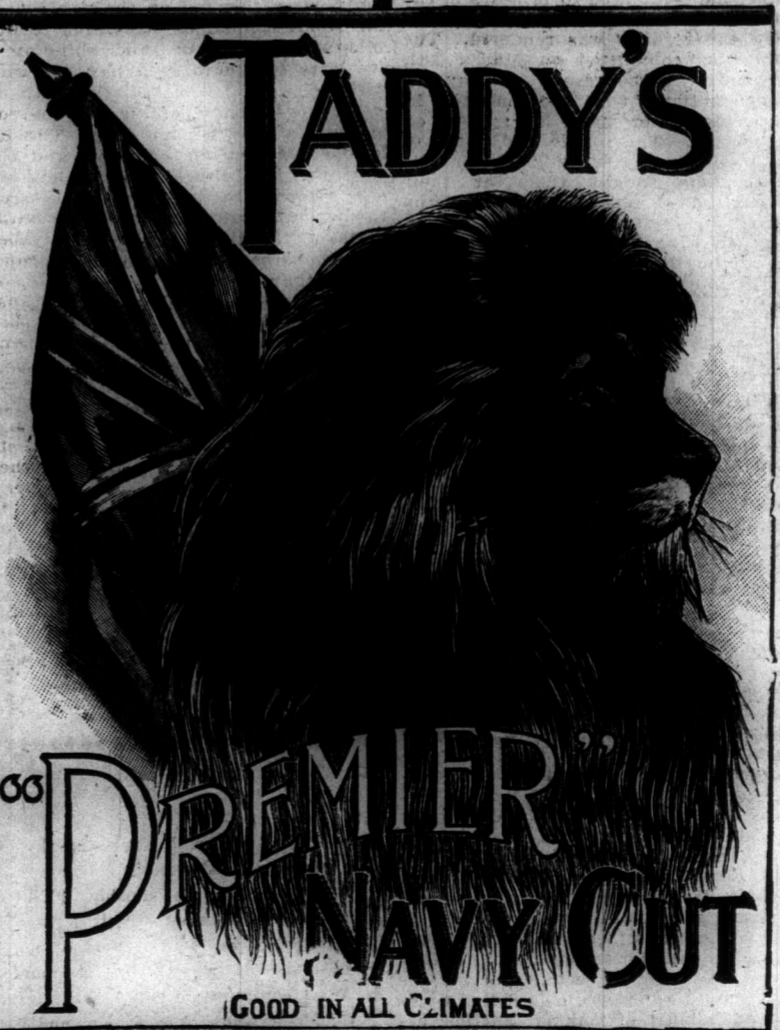
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AT THE RIFLE RANGE.

Table with columns for names and scores: Pte. Ewing 26 25 24 73, Sergt. Townsend 28 26 20 74, Pte. Irwin 25 28 21 74, Pte. Spring 21 26 22 70, Lieut. McHardy 26 28 18 70, Pte. Anthony 20 26 21 67, Pte. Tomlinson 21 25 17 63, Pte. Dockertill 22 17 30 60, Pte. Lawe, F. C. 21 17 15 53, Pte. Richardson 17 24 10 51

THE YUKON CENSUS.

Henry J. Woodside is Appointed Commissioner. Ottawa, June 6--(Special).--Henry J. Woodside, of Dawson City, has been appointed census commissioner for Yukon. He will have charge of the whole census taking.

UNWISE LEGISLATION. WHAT IT HAS DONE TO THE MINING INDUSTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. AN EXPLANATION OF THE TANCY OF CAPITAL.

The following letter from the Mining Record, just published in your May number to criticize a letter in the Rossland Miner which I endeavored to publish in the mining industry was so oppressive burdened with consequence, the industry.

In my letter I set forth four different propositions. You agree with the British Columbia country, and that depends on foreign capital. The third proposition was that foreign capital should be invited into British Columbia, is only partially correct. My statement was that I have almost ceased to be a British Columbia practically agreed to also. I am glad to agree with me that joint stock companies are not a thing to be desired and should be retrograded.

This, of course, is a conclusion I had come to the only statistical facts which are, and which I believe require any proof. But you emphasize proposition that the direction of retrograde of the mining industry with the same industry because, you say, the was distinguished by boom. Will you allow other, and I believe, namely, unwise legislation.

In 1896 our mining industry worked hard. In 1897 the Legislative Companies Act, imposed development of the country. In the same year the formation of the Rossland Miner's certificate was passed, which was increased. In 1898 the Trustees imposed a number of mine owners and severe penalties arising and lodging employment. In 1899 the Big game law was passed, which was always been customary. In 1900 the tax on the more than doubled crown grants of mines. It is any wonder here and abroad, an investment when our such an injurious policy.

The above list of the acts of this province in an eight-hour day of minute monthly returns, introducing a new system of code sign hampering the industry to hand.

But you say: "The method of estimating industry, and that wealth produced in support of your theory the value of our product from lone mines increased \$1,751,604 to \$10,062,000."

Be it so, and support argument that you, sole owner of the mine that in producing failed to realize an amount doubtless better, but would you this kind of "progress" or advise you similar enterprises?

Now this is precisely which the mine owners are being forced by upon them, and if they are not to be that is, a profit to be required for development to be utilized at all.

"Oh, we all know that that is the capitalists' all about unfavorable circumstances. The answer to that all about our condition better than that. Our local press, I am sure to make things later upon all the situation, and mentioning on unfavorable. But do you suppose thinking of investment are satisfied with as the local press usually take the partial facts which investment, including try, which they