SILVER-LEAD MINING

Kootenay Delegation's Representations.

BOUNTY OF $5 PER TON URGED

Reasons Why Canada Should be Freed From Domination of American Smelter Trust--The Government Asked to Create a Dominion Portfolio of Mines.

Ottawa, April 15.—(Special.)—The British Columbia delegation that arrived here a few days ago waited on the government this forenoon. There were about forty delegates in all. The speakers were Geo. Alexander, David Heap, H. E. Croasdaile, G. O. Buchanan, M. L. Grimmett and J. R. Robertson. The ministers present were Hon. Messrs. Laurier, Sutton, Cartwright, Fielding, Scott, Patterson, Sutherland and Borden. Those who accompanied the delegation were Messrs. Galliher, Maxwell, Ralph Smith, Prior, Earle, M. P.'s and Senator Templeman.

What the delegation asked for was a bounty of $5 per ton on refined lead for seven years. They also asked for an equalization of the duties on the lead industry and a liberal policy that is virtually a free trade policy in respect to railways, a portfolio of mines, representation in the cabinet and a mint.

Alexander (Kaslo) said that the lead mining industry of British Columbia, in which a large amount of work and capital had been invested during the past ten years was now practically at a standstill. He illustrated this by referring to the mines in which he was interested. He said that his mines had paid $1,000 in wages per day and last year shipped 1,000 tons per month. However, they were now closed down in consequence of the crises brought about by a smelter trust with $100,000,000 capital formed in the United States.

This trust practically controlled all the smelters and refineries in the United States. The object of the trust was to put up and keep the price of lead and silver and they realized that to do this they must force out British Columbia. There are no refineries and Canadian mines had been shipping their output to the United States refineries. However, at the end of the contracts the trust refused to continue to receive shipments from British Columbia mines. Mining, however, was continued for some time and his mines had 3,000 tons of ore located at various shipping points. There were only two small smelters in Canada and those could not take any of the ore. Under present conditions it could not be expected that they would increase their capacity. The Canadian smelters had been shipping their products to the United States for refinement. The United States trust, carrying out its purpose to shut out British Columbia, refused to refine any more Canadian base bullion except at prohibitive rates. The issue was a matter of life and death to British Columbia mines, and the only solution he could see was for the government to grant a bonus on lead smelted and refined in Canada. Everything the private enterprise an energy could do had been done, but without avail. There was no market for the smelter product and a refinery would be necessary in Canada. This would likely be located in the East, because the refined product would be marketed in foreign countries.

Croasdaile pointed out that refining operations for lead were controlled by the United States. The refining had increased by $4 a ton and therefore the smelting price was increased in Canada. What he wanted was to get away from American control. Until this was done there was little hope of progressing and therefore no benefit would accrue to Canada. A bounty would establish the industry. Fowler, mining engineer, said that the United States was now producing about all that they required, even if they had an adverse duty to contend against in Canada. The United States did not require much of our lead. What was wanted was a bounty to aid Canadians meeting the Americans in the European markets.

Heap said he wished to refer particularly to the depression in the lead industry. Seven-eighths of the capital of his mine were subscribed in the United States. He pointed out in this connection that for the four months ending December 31st the output of lead at his mine was $70,000 and for the three months ending March this was reduced to $35,000 and the present quarter will go down 25 per cent more. The United States also imported lead from Mexico. Americans were therefore able to put this lead with cheap Mexican labor on the European market at a cheap price.

Buchanan, who said that he was a lumberman and not connected with the lead industry, referred to the enormous amount of capital required to carry on the work of refining and if this was in any way stopped other business suffered.

J. R. Robertson said that he was an employer of a large number of men. He bore testimony to the depressed condition of the industry. It was brought about by the coercion of the American trust. What he wanted was to see the industry made a Canadian one.

The premier told the delegation that Mr. Fielding would send them a reply.

PENSIONS FOR SOLDIERS.

Bill Applies to Officers and Men of the Permanent Corps.

Ottawa, April 15.—In the house today Borden, minister of militia, said he would shortly introduce a bill dealing with pensions for non-commissioned officers and men of the permanent corps. He said it was true that members of the permanent corps occupied the position of instructors to ordinary militia, and that being the case it was all the more important that provisions should be made soon as to guarantee that there would always be a sufficient number of men available for the permanent corps.

He said the proposed bill would provide for a retiring allowance for members of permanent corps after 20 years service. It was intended that with respect to pensions for the Northwest Mounted Police should apply equally to the permanent militia. In this connection the minister remarked that at present it was difficult to get suitable men to do the work of permanent militia. He said it was not intended to ask for any contribution to a superannuation fund from non-commissioned officers and men of the permanent force. It was intended there should be a deduction from the pay of officers, but returns from this would be so large that it was anticipated that officers would cheerfully make the contribution. For many years it has been the practice to give gratuitously to officials upon retirement on the basis of one-tenth of their pay at the time of retirement for each year of service. It was proposed to discontinue this, but to give it in the form of a pension, so that after the passage of the bill the officers will get what they have contributed to the retiring fund in addition to all they are entitled to in the form of a gratuity. Virtually the gratuity was being converted into an annuity.

MR. KIRBY'S REPLY.

He Quotes From the Constitution to Support His Argument.

Mr. Kirby was asked about the reiterated assertions by officials of the Union to the effect that he was in error in supposing that the three-fourths vote for a strike must be of the total membership and not merely of those voting.

In answer, he said that the following extracts from the Constitution will speak for themselves:

Section 3, Article VIII—Constitution and By-Laws of the Rossland Miners' Union No. 38, Western Federation of Miners, reads as follows:

"There is nothing in this Constitution and By-Laws that can in any way conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Western Federation of Miners."

Section 1, Article V of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Western Federation of Miners, is as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any local Union to enter upon a strike unless ordered by three-fourths of its resident members in good standing, which shall be decided by a secret ballot, and on approval of the Executive Board who shall have fifteen days' notice to consider the proposed change in working time or wages made by them to the local union; then it shall be lawful for the members of the local union to strike in order to maintain their rights. In this they shall be assisted by the Executive Board; Provided, That the Executive Board, where they deem it the best interest of a local union, may temporarily annul the fifteen day provision of this section."

This provision is a very wise one, designed for the sole purpose of protecting the sensible majority of a union from its fire brands.

Practical experience has shown that it is not good policy to undertake the risk and loss and suffering of a strike except by the free consent and real desire of an overwhelming majority of the men who are going to do the suffering.

Constitutions are awkward affairs when they stand in the way, and there is no doubt that agitators will (if they are allowed) interpret this one to suit their own purposes.

It is worthy of further notice that even with the necessary three-fourths vote of the Rossland Branch, citizens need have no fear of ruin to their business unless the gentlemen who compose the Executive Board at Butte, Montana, shall so decide.

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No. 1 and No. 2 is sold in Rossland by Goodeve Bros. and Rossland Drug Co.

THE ONLY PROPER METHODS.

Mr. J. A. Smith Tells How Eastern Capital Can Be Interested.

Mr. J. A. Smith, who has just returned from an extended trip to the East, in conversation yesterday with a reporter of the Miner, stated that both in Canada and the United States there was a very strong desire, on the part of the moneyed interests, to invest in some remunerative industry, and there was little doubt that they would be more than delighted to send capital to British Columbia if the conditions here were such that they seemed to justify it. "I will not conceal from you," said Mr. Smith, "that Rossland and the entire district have sustained some very serious blows in the eastern money market by the manner in which some of the properties have been handled, by the uncertainty of the mining laws and by the fear of labor troubles which seem ever to be impending. Added to these is the fact that in the early days of this camp, some five or six years ago, a great number of 'wild cats' were unloaded on the people of the East, and the losses which they then sustained still rankle in the breasts of the people. It is true that those 'wild cats' were not in the majority of cases thrown on the hands of the moneyed men. It was as a rule the small investors, the man, and even the woman, who could not afford to lose their little earnings, who were 'roped in,' and lost everything in this way. The sentiment, however, which was then created against mining investments in the West has pervaded society in general. It is a fact, nevertheless, that there is no time like the present to bring British Columbia and its mineral resources before the capitalists of the East. In the larger centres, both in Canada and the United States, money is being withdrawn from real estate investments, and even to a very considerable extent from industrials and the capital thus realized is seeking for a new field of investment. Millions and millions of dollars are at the present time lying in the banks simply for safe keeping and are earning nothing. With any real assurance that, at least, the principal was safe and could be regained a very large portion of this capital would be invested quite willingly in mineral properties with the hope of securing a return. Before, however, the Eastern capitalists will, to any large extent, risk their money they must have an assurance that the mining laws are not only good, but are not likely to be altered at the whim of demogogic legislators or to suit the party purposes of each succeeding administration. People will certainly not invest their money where they see that they are likely to lose it through the existence of bad laws or the continual, unexpected and ruinous changes which are made at the dictation of this class or that, who care nothing for the general interest and prosperity of the country. Then, again, the time has come when properties, placed on the market, in order to obtain any recognition from investing capital, must to a considerable extent, at least, have been proved. The time of 'wild cats' and the time of 'surface prospects' has gone by. The period of business propositions is upon us, and no man, unless he is able to show a reasonable promise, from actual work done, that his property will become a mine can expect that it will, for an instant, engage the attention of capital.

"Another thing which I cannot dwell on with sufficient emphasis is the necessity for a community like this to properly keep themselves and their properties before the world. I mean by this to legitimately advertise themselves; to let the world know what they possess, but not 'boom' themselves unduly. In this age it is impossible to expect the world to turn its attention to us unless we let it know that we possess something which it wants. If we have great mining properties in this district, then we should let the world know it, and once capital is convinced of the truth of our claim, it will be anxious to come here and will pour in without our solicitation. For a community like this then to possess a good newspaper and to give that paper all the backing possible, a thoroughly generous support, is a matter of dollars and cents to themselves."

In referring to personal affairs Mr. Smith said that with regard to the litigation which had occurred between him and the managers of the present townsite at Grand Forks, the Grand Forks Company had withdrawn their action paying their own costs and all matters in difference between them had been adjusted and settled. This, he imagined, was sufficient to satisfy anybody that their case was an utterly groundless one. Mr. Smith said the allegations the company sought to make against him in that suit were absolutely foundationless. As soon as the people who brought the suit against him realized that he was not to be "bluffed" they dropped it. If, Mr. Smith said, he were to go into the full details of the case, and he was at any time ready to do so, the complexion which it would assume would be such that not he but the other side would have reason to feel ashamed.

In regard to the Grand Forks townsite he said the following was a plain statement of the facts: "During August and September ,1896, I was in Toronto and discussed with Hon. J. R. Stratton, president; Mr. T. P. Coffee, vice-president, and Mr. F. M. Holland, general manager, of the Dominion Permanent Loan company, the question of forming a syndicate to speculate in townsites in British Columbia. They said that while they had no money themselves, no money was necessary as they would have the Dominion Permanent Loan company advance all the money that was necessary. None of us accordingly need put up a cent. Under these circumstances an option was obtained on about 400 acres of vacant land in and around Grand Forks for $50,000, and on the security of forty acres of this the Dominion Permanent Loan Company advanced by way of loan the sum of $50,000. There was a balance of 360 acres which could be regarded as an unencumbered possession due to the enterprise of the men who went into the deal. During the time that I was secretary-treasurer of the company I sold land to the value of about $40,000 on which deposits and part payments have been made up to the time I left to the extent of about $8,000, and which I understand went to reduce the mortgage. I expended a great deal of money which ought to have come from the treasury of the company but which I put up myself to assist in building up and attracting settlers to the town. I never got a dollar of return for this, nor did I ever get anything except my absolute share in the original investment.

Mr. Smith will be in town for some ten days and will then visit the Boundary country and probably the Coast.

WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME

HAROLD DALY RETURNS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

He Was Met at the Depot by Hundreds of Friends Who Vied With Each Other in Honoring Him.

Trooper Harold Daly of the Strathcona Horse arrived back from South Africa last evening and was given a most enthusiastic reception by the residents of this city. He came via the Canadian Pacific railway and when the train drew into the depot at 10:40 p. m. a large number had assembled to warmly welcome him. The local company of the Rocky Mountain Rangers, under command of Captain P. McL. Forin was at the depot with the city band. Messrs. Edward Cronyn, W. Hart-McHarg, Jos. Squires and Jack Rea, all returned South African soldiers, were on hand to welcome their comrade's return. When young Daly appeared, accompanied by his father, Hon. T. Mayne Daly, who went as far as Robson to meet his son, the air was rent with cheers, while the band rendered an appropriate air. The cheering was of the most enthusiastic order and continued for several moments. A procession was then formed and at the head of it in a chair carried by the militiamen, was Harold Daly. As the procession moved down Washington street to the inspiring music of the city band cheer after cheer was given. A halt was made at the Allan house where refreshments were served and the guest of the evening was the recipient of many hearty greetings.

Mayor Lalonde delivered a short but eloquent address of welcome, in which he said he was proud of the honor of welcoming back his young townsman, who had so bravely went to the war in South Africa and of whom, while there, only good accounts came. This man, he said, had given an example which other young men would follow when the country was in need of their services.

At the conclusion of Mayor Lalonde's remarks three hearty cheers and a tiger were given for the returned soldier, who made a brief reply in which he stated that he had simply done his duty as became a loyal British subject when he saw that his country was in danger. He had enjoyed the campaigning, but was glad to be once more at home with his parents and friends. In conclusion, he thanked the assemblage for the very cordial reception which had been accorded him. He was again rapturously cheered.

Mr. Daly and his father took their position at the head of the column and marched to the family residence. Here Harold was warmly welcomed by his mother. Mrs. Daly warmly thanked those present for the cordial reception which had been given to her son. The Rangers marched from the Daly residence to the armory, where they dispersed, after singing "God Save the King."

A 21-foot Union Jack was stretched on a rope from the Bank of Montreal to the Allan house by Sheriff Robinson in honor of the return of the trooper. This is the flag which was on the Mount Roberts flagstaff at the time the photographs were taken. It is the largest and handsomest flag in the city. Mr. Daly seemed pleased at this manifestation of welcome and doffed his hat as he passed under its folds.

IT RAN SMOOTHLY.

Test of the Nickel Plate's 40-Drill Compressor Plant.

At 11 o'clock yesterday the 40-drill compressor plant of the Nickel Plate was started up and ran for a short time in a most satisfactory manner. Mr. Charles Sangster, erecting engineer, and Mr. McDonald of the West Kootenay Light and Power company, attended to the motor. Mr. Bernard Macdonald, general manager for the B. A. C., Superintendent Desmond of the Rossland Great Western and Kootenay mine, and a number of citizens were present and watched with great interest the machinery in operation. This is the first time the compressor has been run. The dynamo was started a few days since and worked well. Air will be made as soon as the connections with the piping system is made, and this task will only occupy a short time. The Nickel Plate compressor will be hitched up to the two 40 drill compressors at the Black Bear, giving a total capacity of 120 drills, which require over 1,500 horse power to furnish the power.

The plant at the Nickel Plate is a compound rope driven Corless Rand air compressor. It has a capacity of compressing 4,000 square feet of free air a minute under 70 revolutions a minute. The high pressure air cylinder is 22 inches in diameter and 48-inch stroke. The low pressure cylinder is 36 inches in diameter and has a 48-inch stroke. The compressor is formed with a new style of intercooler 50 inches in diameter by 16 feet in length. This intercooler contains 2,000 square feet of cooling surface. Through the intercooler cold water is forced continuously to keep down the temperature of the air which become heated by compression. The fly wheel is eighteen feet in diameter and weighs 3,500 pounds.

The motive power is furnished by a 150-horse power S. K. C. electric motor. The power is communicated to the compressor from the motor by 16-inch and three-quarter ropes, which run from a pulley on the motor to the fly wheel of the compressor.

Waterloo Company's Appeal.

A circular has been issued by the board of trustees of the Waterloo Mining & Milling company, (Camp McKinney) to shareholders, in which it is stated that while the mine is in a satisfactory condition, and that there are at present available over 300 tons of "good ore" to run through the mill, the company's funds, after the March pay-roll has been met, will be exhausted. There is, moreover, an indebtedness of about $2,000 which matures next October. The shareholders are consequently asked to come to the rescue, and the appeal is made as follows:

"We ask each shareholder to voluntarily agree to pay to the company an assessment of one cent per share, to be paid in four payments, one payment on or before April 1st, 1901, and the others the first of May, June and July, 1901. And if a shareholder sells stock thus voluntarily subjected to the assessment, he should see that the purchaser assumes the remaining payments. The company will issue to each person agreeing to this, when he makes his payments, a paper agreeing to repay the amounts so advanced from the first net profits of the mine, with six per cent interest, after the indebtedness of the company is paid off. We thus consider it no more than a loan to tide the company over its present difficulties. This is better and cheaper than any attempt to reorganize the company upon as assessable basis. Unless this plan is adopted, and at once, the mine will be shut down, as the board will incur no new indebtedness. With $10,000 the property can be made a dividend payer. This is our confident belief."

Mr. H. P. Brown, local agent of the Red Mountain railway, is in Spokane. He went thither with the Mystic Shriners. He is expected home today.

Mr. W. H. Thomas, expert for the British Columbia Copper company, is in the city from Greenwood. He makes his headquarters at the Allan.

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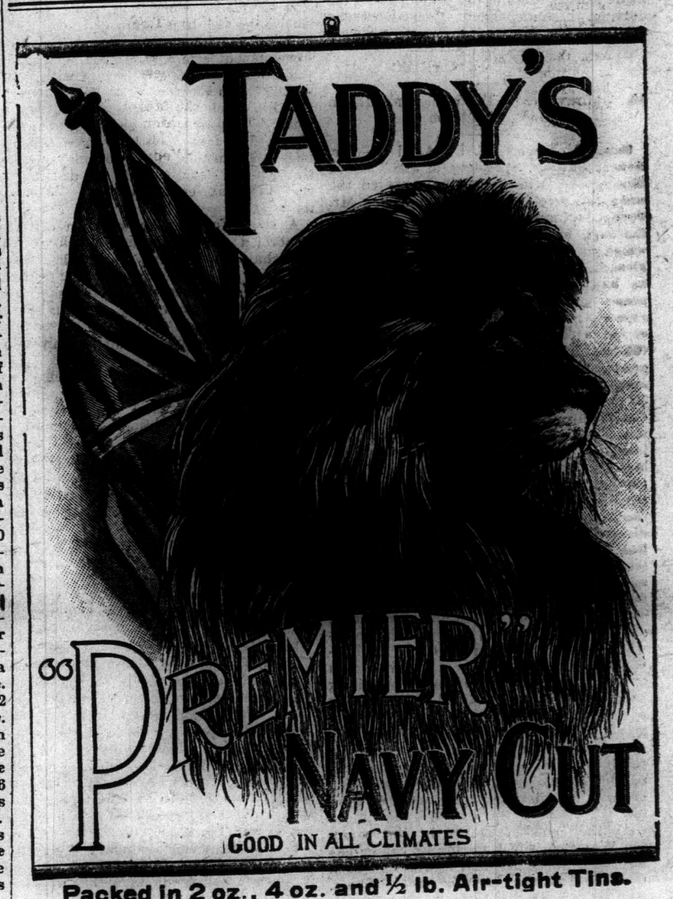

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