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WILL EXAMINE AND REPORT ON MINES

MINING NOTES.

The public accounts for the year ending June 30, 1896, have been placed before the legislature. The receipts for miners' certificates rose from \$31,000 in 1895 to \$54,000, and general mining receipts from \$41,000 to \$76,000. The revenue collected in West Kootenay was \$122,904, an increase of \$60,000 over the previous year. The amount spent in public works in West Kootenay is very insignificant when compared with the revenue received.

The final payment on the Coxe, amounting to \$21,000, was made yesterday, and the Montreal syndicate which purchased the property has now a clear title. There is in the Coxe a crosscut tunnel now in 80 feet, with two drifts, one running 45 feet south on the vein, the other 35 feet to the north, the latter has a fine showing of ore in the breast. The new owners will recommence the work of development at once.

There are now in course of erection in Rossland an opera house, several hotels, a brewery, a bank, and a large number of stores and dwellings.

A strike of ore on the Stemwinder, adjoining the Imperial on Lookout mountain, was reported yesterday.

The White Bear vein is 15 feet wide between walls, and there is plenty of ore in the workings.

It is understood that a colliery company at Union, sixty miles north of Nanaimo, has put in 100 coke ovens with the purpose of supplying coke to the Kootenay smelters. Shipments will be made very shortly. The coke is said to be of a very superior quality.

The English offer for the Le Roi is still under consideration, and a decision will probably be reached before the end of the month. It is said another syndicate seeks an option on the property at \$5,500,000.

The Geological Survey of Canada is scarcely up to date. The annual report on mineral statistics and mines for 1895, has just been issued by this department. It shows that in 1895 Canada produced minerals to the value of \$22,400,000; that the exports of minerals and products of the mine manufactured in Canada totalled in value \$7,905,986, and that the imports of minerals and mineral products amounted to \$22,659,706.

Five hundred shares of the Le Roi were sold on the Spokane Stock Exchange the other day for \$7.15.

Senator George A. Cox, of Toronto, and other eastern capitalists are interested in a syndicate which controls thousands of acres of coal lands along the proposed line through the Crow's Nest Pass.

An addition is made to the list of dividend-paying mines in Kootenay by the declaration of a \$20,000 dividend by the Rambler Consolidated. The directors state there is enough ore in sight to enable them to pay \$20,000 dividends for at least six months.

A PESSIMISTIC THEORIST ANSWERED.

At the recent mining convention in Montreal Dr. Selwyn made the statement that it was not likely the next thirty years would show anything like the same gold production in British Columbia as the past thirty years. This learned gentleman made several other pessimistic statements, for which he was taken to task by Dr. Dawson and others at the convention, and afterwards by the newspapers of the east. Mr. Howard C. Walters, of this city, who is at present in Toronto, made a very effective reply to Dr. Selwyn:

"Happily," he said "the golden truths so lavishly wrung from the bowels of western Canada since 1891 utterly demolish Dr. Selwyn's entire proposition.

"To particularize: In 1891 western Canada did not have a single profit-yielding ore mine, except perhaps the Silver King, from which not enough was carried

out on horseback to help defray development expenses. Between 1891 and 1895, without steam transportation, in some cases, as in the Slocan, debarred by rough natural conditions, from the use of horses, without capital, and in the face of adverse opinions by all of the technical and hyper technical gentlemen who had seen the country or had been consulted about it, western Canada has given birth to the greatest silver lead district (not camp), Slocan, and the greatest gold-copper district (not camp), Trail Creek, in the world.

"Who admit this? The practical, technical men representing the greatest mine owners, and mine operators of the age. No matter where they come from—South African, Australian, Mexican, American (United States), Canadian, English, French and German mining engineers, of world-wide reputation, for their successful operation of mines, are as a unit in support of my statement.

"Even this individual testimony can be dispensed with, because all the men who have spoken or written for or against the mineral resources of Canada sink into utter insignificance when the ample material evidences of wonderful mineral wealth are considered. Take the better than five millions of dollars invested since 1891 in steamboats, railways, smelters, concentrators and other mediums of ore transportation and treatment in West Kootenay alone. Not only invested, but profitably so. Consider the better than twenty thousand prosperous people in the towns and camps of West Kootenay to-day, where at the beginning of 1891 there were less than one-tenth of the number. Happily, no claim that I have made for western Canada rests upon the statement of any individual. The smelter returns, the customs reports, and, better yet, the larger and richer ore bodies developed with depth, now below the five hundred feet level, and the rapidly increasing dividends, affords the indisputable proof.

"Not only do men sink into insignificance when their most flattering opinions are set up alongside the known mineral resources of Canada, but so do descriptives. Who can measure in words or figures the wealth of West Kootenay alone—that magnificent area, in which God, while scarcely permitting the growth upon the surface of food products equal to the wants of beasts of the forest and birds of the air, yet saw fit to create beneath its rugged exterior mineral wealth equal to the support in comfort of many thousands of people for many years? Certainly not Dr. Selwyn and his confederates, for had exploration of the mineral resources of West Kootenay awaited their bidding, not a prospect would be in the district to-day.

"Taking the limited time devoted to development and its erstwhile isolation into account, and West Kootenay alone can safely challenge comparison with the mineral areas of like extent in the world. Just think of it. Between the C. P. R. north, Kootenay Lake east, international boundary south, and the Sheep Creek Divide west, there are in round numbers eight thousand square miles of mineral-bearing territory, in which all of the mines yet developed, dividends yet paid, prosperous towns yet established, and transportation and ore-working facilities yet provided, stand like outposts on a frontier, mere guarantors of that which is to follow.

"Other portions of Canada abounding in minerals will find plenty of defenders. I speak only of the sections of which I have personal knowledge. Western Canada is 'big' with perhaps greater mineral areas than that included in West Kootenay. Of this she has given magnificent hostages. Take the Fort Steele country—see three to five thousand tons of ore piled out on the Kootenay River bank two years ago.

"What was it and what did it signify? It was ore worth \$50 per ton from the North Star mine awaiting transportation by way of the shallow, wickedly swift and treacherous Kootenay river to the Great Northern Railway in the United States. Compared with capacity of the mine for production it was a mere

(Continued on fifth page.)