

FLOTATION A SUCCESS

English Capital Interested in Consolidated Coal and Oil

J. B. Ferguson Will go to Alberta to Manage Company—Toronto Invests Heavily

(Special to The Daily News)
Toronto, Dec. 8.—J. B. Ferguson, of Vancouver, promoter and secretary of the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated, has just completed the flotation of his reorganized company, which is now estimated at \$2,000,000. English investors have taken heavy interests, and development on a scale commensurate with the richness of the Alberta field in which the company is operating is fully assured. Mr. Ferguson has been in Toronto at the King Edward for some time, and has disposed of much stock in this city. He expects to return to the west shortly to take up the active management of the producing plants, making his home in Alberta.

Oil of the highest quality ever discovered, he says, is now flowing from the earth in huge gushes in the southwest portion of the province within five miles of the international boundary and some 45 miles to the southwest of Pincher creek, a station on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway. The valley in which these oil discoveries lie is described by geologists as an enormous crevice caused by volcanic eruption crossing the formation of the Rocky mountains and forming a huge basin, or vacuum, into which the oil has been seeping for centuries from the coal deposits of the north, forming vast lake beds under the rock formation at a depth of a little over a thousand feet. The country is mountainous and in most cases the valleys are narrow and covered with timber; on the mountain sides the formation is exposed, showing a gently folded strata, or anti-clinals, which can be traced for miles. When a break in the formation occurs a seepage can invariably be found. A large number of seepages exist where the oil can be dipped up and all along the creeks oil indications are plentiful.

Several years ago a farmer named William Aldrich used to gather the oil from various surface seepages and sell it to his Mormon neighbors who used the oil for lighting and lubricating purposes. Mr. Aldrich also had some seepages gathered up as much as ten and 12 barrels of oil in a day. So secret was the indication of immense oil fields that even the factors of the Hudson Bay Co. were not aware of the existence of their existence. Several years ago an American oil prospector heard these stories and determined to see what truth there was in them and went out on a journey through that part of the country known as the "tar belt." His discoveries surprised the world and every expert who has seen the oil fields is certain that Alberta oil is destined to become a great factor in the American industrial world when these fields have been properly developed.

When the exploits of Mr. Aldrich became generally known there was much speculation as to the vastness of the oil fields in the southwestern corner of Alberta and many companies were formed for the purpose of developing the oil fields but the majority of them did not make a success of the business owing to lack of capital and the business was absorbed by the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated, which company today owns 26,246 acres of selected oil and coal lands. Before first in the field the company was able to strike up every acre which gave promise of covering mineral value.

When the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated was formed, Canada looked upon its provinces with envy, but during the few months of its existence this envy has been turned to envy and at the present time its shares are being eagerly purchased by those who are not content with the oil fields in the "tar belt" of the province. Today the company owns four out of the five producing wells in Alberta and every day the company is obtaining hundreds of barrels of oil produced in Canada and added to the samples from the wells of the company have been sent to England for analysis and the following report was received: Moisture, 3 per cent.; fixed carbon, 51 per cent.; volatile combustible matter, 37.5 per cent.; sulphur, 2 per cent.; ash, 6.5 per cent. No well, not even those in Pennsylvania, can produce such a high grade of oil.

Another instance of the great wealth of these oil fields is the fact that W. S. Darrow, of Chicago, a representative of the Standard Oil Co., has spent several weeks around Pincher Creek looking over the prospects and he admits that the oil prospects of Alberta could not be better, in fact, to use his own words "they are phenomenal." The effect of this great discovery of oil will revolutionize the industrial world of Canada and will lessen the present price of oil by 50 or 60 per cent. The Canadian government allows a bounty of 1-1/2 cents on each gallon of oil produced in Canada and added to the fact that the Alberta oil is of such a quality that it can be refined for from 40 to 50 cents per barrel cheaper than any other oil produced in the world. The process of refining adopted by the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated does away with the use of chemicals and consists of two distillations instead of three with the result of an increased yield of at least 20 per cent. in all products with the result of a pure quality when obtained by this process than by any other. As is known vital and caustic soda form two

of the costliest items in oil refining and consequently many thousands of dollars will be saved annually by the abolition of these chemicals. The simplicity of distilling the oil by one distillation is another economical invention, added to an increase of one fifth in all products will permit profits to be reached by the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated hitherto undreamed of in the oil trade. The credit of the introduction of this process of refining belongs to Mr. Ferguson, who secured the formula from Dr. McAlpine, a well known consulting chemist of London, England.

Throughout the province of Alberta along the slope of the Rocky mountains from the international boundary as far north as the town of Cardston, the sole topic of conversation is "oil." The inhabitants of this section of Alberta are "oil crazy" and believe the province will become the greatest oil producing district in the world as soon as it has been properly exploited and developed.

J. S. Williams, an oil expert from Sumnerlands, California, who has inspected the oil fields, states he believes a huge underground oil lake exists along the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains and his theory is borne out by the striking of gushers of oil in various parts of the province. The locality of the company's oil lands has been known to be an oil district for many years but development has been delayed until recently owing to lack of railway facilities. Every geologist and oil expert who has visited the district has pronounced favorably upon it. In a recent interview, Dr. Bell, late director general of the Canadian Geological Survey, stated that south-western Alberta will eventually prove, in his opinion, "the greatest oil field in the world." Dr. Selwyn, formerly occupying the same position, Mr. Ferguson, also stated that the director general of the geological department, were equally pronounced in their opinions of this district, and the drilling done by several companies, and the statement of these gentlemen. There is at the present time in this part of Canada, lying between the Pacific ocean and lake Superior, a population of practically 3,000,000 people, and it is a very small number of whom must use this crude oil for many purposes. With the development of these oil fields will come manufacturing, works and enterprises, as rushing to Alberta to get the benefit of cheap fuel and cheap illuminations.

COM. COOMBS AT FERNIE SALVATION ARMY LEADER GIVEN A GREAT WELCOME.

OPERA HOUSE WAS PACKED TO
THE DOORS.

(Special to The Daily News)
Ferne, Dec. 11.—That the people of Fernie appreciate the good work being done by the Salvation Army was evidenced by the magnificent welcome and reception accorded Commissioner Coombs and his wife on their arrival here. They were met at the station by the local corps and band and many prominent citizens and a torch light procession was formed, the visitors being escorted to the Opera House, the residence of Mr. G. S. Lindsey, where they were entertained at dinner. At 8.30 a meeting was held in the opera house which was packed to the doors, and the presence of the Salvation Army was a great attraction. The speaker of the evening, he spoke of the early struggles of the organization and the difficulties that beset their early efforts and the gradual success of the work. He told his audience of the work they were performing now, the refuge being given to the poor and the world; the prison work, the search after and rescue of fallen humanity; the restoring of inebriates to respectable citizenship, the securing of work for the unemployed, the fostering of the orphaned and the aged, the work bestowed on waifs in the large cities. But the keynote of the latter part of his address were the plans which were maturing for the bringing into Canada and especially to the territories and British Columbia of a vast number of desirable emigrants from the British Isles, a class who would quickly assimilate with their Canadian counterparts and become a source of strength in the future progress of this great dominion.

On resuming his seat a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker was moved by Mr. G. S. Lindsey, in a characteristic, really clever speech, which was seconded by Mayor Bleasdale and carried by a standing vote of the audience. At the conclusion of the meeting, about eighty persons, including the speaker, and personally meeting the commissioner, Mrs. Coombs and staff at Park House, where a reception was held and a dainty supper served. This will be a busy day for the Salvation Army, as the work in connection with army and navy has been mapped out for them. They leave by the evening express for the east tonight. While here they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey.

KAISER TO VISIT KING EDWARD
London, Dec. 12.—It is reported here that the German emperor will visit King Edward in the city of Windsor early in the course of a Mediterranean cruise. It is also reported in official circles that count Metternich, German ambassador to the court of St. James, will be succeeded early in 1909 by the hereditary prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, who was an attaché at Carlton House in 1893. The prince's wife is princess Alexandra of Saxony-Coburg and is a niece of King Edward's.

TO DEPORT THE HINDUS

Immigration Officer Robertson Has Reached Vancouver

Says Their Standing as British Subjects Will Not Interfere if They are Undesirable

(Special to The Daily News)
Vancouver, Dec. 12.—E. Blake Robertson, federal assistant superintendent of immigration arrived here today to make a special study of the Hindu invasion. Interviewed as to the question of the Hindus standing as British subjects interfering with deportation, he said: "The fact that they are British subjects has nothing to do with it, as far as the working of the Immigration Act is concerned, provided it can be proved that they, as a class, are liable to be a charge on the community. That is the chief object in the recent amendment to the act. Members of any class or nationality can be deported in any number if it is conclusively established that they are undesirable emigrants and not self-supporting. Last year, for instance, the immigration department deported over 600 British subjects who came under that category. So, provided the Hindus prove objectionable in these respects, it will be an easy matter to deal with them under the act and the problem will thus adjust itself."

Mr. Robertson will hurry his work so as to get his report before the house after the Christmas vacation.

OF INTEREST TO MINERS

DIAMONDS (Continued)
The original system of mining in Griqualand West (around Kimberley) was by open panning. This was found to be the best way of treating the deposit of "blue" ground until a depth of 200 feet was obtained. At this depth the mining companies started to dig. In their opinions as to the means of treating the rock. The majority being in favor of taking out the over lying shale, which would have meant the removal of 4,000,000 cubic feet of waste rock.

The minority being in favor of sinking shafts in the barren ground and from thence stooping up. Both plans were very expensive, but after due consideration the latter plan was adopted as it was considered that removing the enormous pile of "barren" country rock they would only be in a position to treat a certain amount of "pay" rock after this was done with, and the owners wanted to advance further, they would still have to counteract the same difficulties that they were now facing. A general analysis of this ore would cost you \$10. Should you require this done for you, write us with the name of the mine, and we will send you a sample; your sample will be kept until then.

C. B. Lardo, B. C.—It is a criminal offence in the states to "salt" a mining claim and then sell it. An instance occurred not long ago in Nevada, where the offender was given ten years in the penitentiary. You will probably find that there is a similar law in British Columbia.

Zinc, Nelson, B. C.—It is certainly correct that zinc can be smelted by electricity. In Sweden there are several plants that smelt the zinc ore electrolytically. It requires a force of from 1800 to 3000 horse power, to treat the ore by this process.

W. C. Sandon, B. C.—Your assay certificate was forwarded on Thursday last.

McD., Sandon, B. C.—Your ore is chiefly zinc blende with spathic iron on the outside edges. There are indications of grey copper present, as well as some silver. It is useless to take a handful of ore out of the top of each sack and send that to an assayer and expect to get similar results when you ship your rock. Your ore should have been very carefully sampled and then you might expect to check fairly close. Of course no hand sampling can be as true and as fair as sampling done by a good automatic sampler. When you come to consider the matter you will probably find your self in the wrong.

F. L. Cranbrook, B. C.—The Prospector's field book and guide by Osborn, and upon being asked in the house in relation to this report it was stated by one of the ministers that the government had a definite assurance that the road would be constructed by the C.P.R., and that, in consequence, they withdrew their subsidy undertaking to the promoters. The C.P.R. point blank refused to build, and the K.C.R. cannot procure the necessary capital without a guaranty for its bonds.

In the connection Mr. Pollen asks that the government make public the assurances which it says it has for the construction of the railroad and undertakes, on the production of these assurances, to withdraw all demand for a subsidy. This is an un-

Minard's Liniment Cures Dis-eases

LICENCE TRANSFERS

Board Grant One and Lay Over Other Inspector's Report.

The board of licence commissioners met in the city hall last night, the mayor in the chair, and present Ald. Rose and commissioner Lamon. The first matter for consideration was the application of Mary E. Cyran for the transfer of her licence to J. Sturgeon. The application was granted. An application from Mrs. E. J. Brown for the transfer of her licence to Messrs. Ivens and Philbert was laid over for consideration at the next meeting. The licence inspector had nothing further to report, and the transfer of the licence had been repudiated was doing better. An adjournment was made to January 12th at 4 p.m. at which time the present board will conclude its official year.

CRANBROOK LEADS AID

Will Help the Kootenay Central to Get Bonus

Board of Trade Passes Resolution Urging
Provincial Government's
Assistance

(Special to The Daily News)
Cranbrook, Dec. 11.—At the last meeting of the Cranbrook Board of Trade, specially convened for the purpose, Mr. C. Hungerford Pollen presented the facts affecting the present status of the Kootenay Central railway, an enterprise with which he has been largely identified. "The proposed line would open up the splendid valley of the Kootenay from Golden to Cranbrook, a distance of about 180 miles. The area that would be beneficially affected by the construction is rich in fruit, mixed-farming, ranch and range land; to say nothing of its most abundant resource in timber and mineral wealth. The area that would be beneficially affected by the construction is rich in fruit, mixed-farming, ranch and range land; to say nothing of its most abundant resource in timber and mineral wealth. The area that would be beneficially affected by the construction is rich in fruit, mixed-farming, ranch and range land; to say nothing of its most abundant resource in timber and mineral wealth."

Public feeling is distinctly opposed to the granting of railway subsidies either in the form of cash or land bonus; and one of the strongest cards in the hands of the present government is the practical operation it has afforded to working out the road. Mr. Pollen's statement, was convinced that common justice and fair play demanded that some pressure be brought to bear on the authorities in regard to the case of the K. C. R., and passed the following resolution which was proposed by alderman James Ryan and seconded by mayor Rogers:

"Resolved, that the board of trade of Cranbrook co-operate with the boards of trade of Fort Steele, Windermere and Golden in asking the provincial government to consider the case of the Kootenay Central railway, and if possible, to assist the company by a guaranty of its bonds or else give the public such other assurances as they may have, without delay."

The facts of the matter deserve to be widely known since they affect the entire central valley of the Kootenay. The board of trade of Cranbrook, which has been described by professor Adams, of McGill university, as "not alone the noblest in Canada, but one destined to be in the near future, a fruitful source of wealth and progress to the greater than the Okanagan." The people of Cranbrook, Fort Steele, Windermere and Golden are not to be censured for causing the matter to be ventilated a hundred times over, but it is regrettable that the provincial government should warrant. The facts are as follows:

In 1901 an Act of the legislature at Victoria granted subsidies of \$4500 a mile for the construction of the Midway & Vernon, the Vancouver & Victoria, Eastern, the Esquimalt and Nanaimo, the Kitimat and Hazelton, and the Kootenay Central railways. The subsidies thereby granted have been duly paid by the provincial government, but the Kootenay Central has been neglected though there is no pretence that its equities, if not its strict legal rights, are less strong than the others. In view of the fact that the provincial government is agent general of the province in London, and the high commissioner, Lord Strathcona, interested themselves in the affair, with the result that the provincial government, though he could make a definite promise he felt satisfied if his staid people took up the matter, the legislature would renew the subsidy increasing it to \$5000 a mile for 180 miles of cash, the province would give 3 per cent debentures in inscribed stock of the province payable to the company on the completion of each 20 miles of road. It is stated that the provincial government would confer with the dominion government towards securing additional assistance from that quarter.

The dominion government granted a subsidy of \$3000 a mile for 180 miles of cash, the province would give 3 per cent debentures in inscribed stock of the province payable to the company on the completion of each 20 miles of road. It is stated that the provincial government would confer with the dominion government towards securing additional assistance from that quarter.

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usually sound and common sense position in the circumstances.

To still further aggravate the anomaly, the government at the last session granted the subsidy to the Midway-Vernon under the act of 1901, already referred to, whereas under the Kootenay Central was entitled to the assistance from the act of 1901, the dominion subsidy from the act of 1901, has been compelled to expend \$100,000 in the construction of the first ten miles south from Golden.

The position assumed by the government needs to be cleared up. The extent of the country and the number of industries affected are too important to be dealt with in a policy of silence. It is true that the northern part of the Kootenay valley is, like the southern part, represented by a liberal member; a fact that suggests that possibly the business and progress of the country are being made to suffer for what the ministers are pleased to consider the political sins of the people. It might be well for those at the head of affairs to consider the political advantage, that the pressure of this argument would exert in and approaching elections and avoid the consequences by a wise and timely consideration of the requests of the board of trade of Cranbrook, Fort Steele, Windermere and Golden.

MURDER IN THE ARCTIC

WHALING CAPTAIN KILLED FOUR
OF HIS SEAMEN.

SHOT DOWN OTHER ENGINEER IN
COLD BLOOD.

(Special to The Daily News)
Edmonton, Alberta, Dec. 12.—William McDonald, an old trapper who has spent several years on the frozen shores of the Arctic sea, tells a horrible story of cruelty which he learned while in the very far north. According to news he heard from Indians and trappers captain Charles Klinkenberg, of Seattle, murdered four of the crew of the whaling schooner Olga, and made desperate attempts to add several others to their number. He shot down Paul D. Jackson, his chief engineer, in cold blood because the man refused to be the captain's butt for all abuse and filthy language, so the story goes. Walters, the assistant engineer and a deckhand named Herman were sent to their deaths by this human fiend by being cast adrift on a piece of floating ice and Mitchell, another deckhand, was poisoned after being chained in a small cabin for 22 days. These latter three, it is alleged, were murdered for no other reason than the fact they had witnessed the murder of a handsome girl of 22, was shot dead in her home at South Wellington, three revolver bullet wounds being inflicted, any one of which would have been fatal. The girl died apparently defending her virtue, the murderer's weapon being at most a few inches from her head when the fatal shots were fired. Featherstone, who was heading a party of the mill, and who had excited attention by his unwelcome overtures to the women of the village—his attentions being so general that the women of the village were called "Mrs. Featherstone"—had remarked to her neighbor only the day before the tragedy as Featherstone passed, "it was too bad they didn't run that fellow out of town; he was harassing the women around." "Was promptly arrested by constable Stephenson, and link by link a chain of circumstantial evidence was forged which justified a jury at the subsequent session of assizes in finding him guilty of murder. Hon. Justice Morrison concurring in the verdict and imposing sentence of death.

The crime for which Robert Styles Featherstone atoned to society upon the gallows, was committed on the 21st of July last, when Mary J. Dalton, a handsome girl of 22, was shot dead in her home at South Wellington, three revolver bullet wounds being inflicted, any one of which would have been fatal. The girl died apparently defending her virtue, the murderer's weapon being at most a few inches from her head when the fatal shots were fired. Featherstone, who was heading a party of the mill, and who had excited attention by his unwelcome overtures to the women of the village—his attentions being so general that the women of the village were called "Mrs. Featherstone"—had remarked to her neighbor only the day before the tragedy as Featherstone passed, "it was too bad they didn't run that fellow out of town; he was harassing the women around." "Was promptly arrested by constable Stephenson, and link by link a chain of circumstantial evidence was forged which justified a jury at the subsequent session of assizes in finding him guilty of murder. Hon. Justice Morrison concurring in the verdict and imposing sentence of death.

There was remarkable in that the evidence was wholly circumstantial. It is an axiom of police and legal practitioners that direct evidence is not naturally secure in a case of murder. There are usually, however, some scraps of direct testimony supplementing and strengthening the array of damning circumstances. In the Featherstone case there were none. It was circumstantial evidence in toto.

Featherstone had been introduced to Mary Dalton by the girl's father but a week before the tragedy. A day or so after, as she happened to pass as he chatted with a friend, he made a slight remark as to her character, and she was referred to Randolph Kalberg that was "a pretty swell piece" and he "was going to get after her." The day before the murder, Featherstone was one of a party of several men and one woman, Annie Meredith, a demi-monde, on a heavy spree, in the course of which he frequently flashed a revolver which was found in his room, the day after he was charged, shortly after the murder. In calibrating the weapon fitted the bullets removed from the victim's remains. Conclusive testimony was offered, however, that of the Meredith woman, that Featherstone was a degenerate of the basest sort.

Other testimony offered showed that shortly before the murder Miss Dalton called at the Nicol home at which Featherstone boarded, leaving mail and papers for Mrs. Nicol. When she left Featherstone followed. He was seen by three witnesses going in the direction of the Dalton home just prior to the sound of three shots fired. When arrested there were scratches upon his face and a blood-stained handkerchief in his pocket. He had boasted in flourishing his revolver that it had taken human life before—in the case. When arrested he was frequently asked even having heard the name of Dalton; then his old police training asserted itself—he was an ex-N.W.M.P. trooper—and he became strictly non-committal. He protested his innocence, but if he had any doubts as to the proper official and the matter came to an end. Mr. Walters was not present during the proceedings.

ASSAULT CASE.
Accused Pleaded Guilty to Common Assault.—Filed Maximilian Perry. What promised to be an interesting case before the police magistrate yesterday practically collapsed and ended very quietly.

In the charge of assault preferred by Bruce White against J. G. Devlin, the hearing was fixed the day previous at 2 o'clock, but by consent of all parties the case was taken up at 10 a.m. There were only a few persons present when R. S. Lennie on behalf of Mr. White, said that he would consent to the charge being reduced to that of a common assault in view of certain statements made in the matter. W. A. Macdonald, K.C., who appeared for the accused, said he was prepared to plead guilty to the minor charge, adding some few words as to his client's good standing in the community and expressing regret at the whole occurrence.

Police magistrate Crease while agreeing to the original charge being amended said that it would not do to let it go abroad that brawling on the streets of the city was an offence lightly treated by the authorities. Breaches of the peace whether upon the streets or elsewhere would not be tolerated, and he would in this instance inflict the maximum penalty of \$20 and costs.

Mr. Macdonald promptly paid \$22.50 to the proper official and the matter came to an end. Mr. Walters was not present during the proceedings.

TOTAL LOSS
Fort William, Dec. 12.—The insurance policies on most of the lake boats terminated yesterday and steamers leaving port do so at their own risk, or under special blocks, owing to the 800 channel being blocked up.

The steamer Monarch, wrecked on Isle Royale, will be a total loss. The vessel has broken in two and no effort will be made to salvage her, and according to manager Glenfield of the Northern Navigation company.

PROTESTED INNOCENCE