Rossland Weekly Miner.

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THE PARTY LINES.

With the advent of party lines in provincial politics it is anticipated that the discussions in the legislature will in future be raised above the county council level, and that the best men in both parties will be induced to take part in the affairs of the province. It is generally conceded that the records of the various nondescript governments which have afflicted the province have not been such as to win confidence in the present system. The party system has been proven the best way of securing responsible government in nearly every civilized country, and there can hardly be any valid reason brought forward to show that it will not be a success in British Columbia. It has often been asserted that the bitterness of party strife leads frequently to misgovernment, but surely the exhibitions of bitterness which we have so frequently witnessed in the legislative halls of British Columbia have been such as to convince the electors that a change to federal party lines can not produce anything worse. The province is up against a condition and not a theory, and those who have its welfare at heart will do well to reflect over the present state of affairs.

In declaring for party lines last February the liberals evidently considered it more advantageous for their particular party as well as for the province, and now that the conservatives are about to take a similar step at the Revelstoke convention the question will be placed beyond the problematical. The two great parties will then get down to business and each will endeavor to formulate a policy which it considers for the best interests of the province. That it will be a critical period in the history of both parties there can be no doubt, as each will endeavor to formulate a policy which will win the large independent vote of the province. But this very uncertain element will prove to be the leaven which will raise the policies of both parties from that which will benefit the "inner ring" to that which will prove advantageous to the province as a whole. The newly constructed parties, with no past to drag them down, can afford to let their ideals have full range, and from out the entangle of ideas produce something approaching the perfect government.

SENATOR TEMPLEMAN'S VISIT.

It is a well-known fact that in questions pertaining to the welfare or otherwise of British Columbia in which the Dominion cabinet takes action, the views and opinions of Senator Templeman on the questions in hand are sought by his colleagues in the cabinet. That he is desirous of being able to advise the ministers intelligently on various questions is evidenced by his desire to visit every part of the province of which he is the accredited representative in the cabinet, and to meet and talk with the people. He fully recognizes that to obtain a correct impression upon any desired subject he must meet the men who are fully versed upon that subject, who have made it a life study, and who are therefore competent to give an opinion upon it. During his visit to the Kootenays he will meet many of the brightest mining men of the continent, and will no doubt make an effort to assimilate as many of their ideas as is possible, and compare them one with the other, and in this manner arrive at a fair solution of the difficulties which confront the camp from a legislative standpoint. On the question of the imposition of a higher duty upon lead he will find no difference of opinion among those who are thoroughly versed upon the question. It will be shown to him how at the present time it is impossible to make a reasonable profit out of the industry, and that depression as regards lead reacts upon the mining industry in general. The worthy senator is paying this visit to the Kootenays in order to secure information upon the various matters which affect the district's industry, and we trust that when he has completed his itinerary he will have a fund of information which will so impress his confreres that the next session of the Dominon house will witness legislation beneficial to the entire province.

His mines are full of carbon,
But he holds it from the mart.
His clothes are full of money
And he has a marble heart.
—Washington Star.

MONROE AND HIS DOCTRINE.

It is well understood that President Roosevelt's recent reaffirmation of the Monroe doctrine was intended for the benefit of Germany, which is anxious to lay a heavy hand on Venezuela, says the Toronto Mail and Empire. The presidential declaration has, however, awakened widespread interest in the doctrine which the American republic has from time to time pledged itself to enforce with respect to this hemisphere. Briefly stated, the United States says to Europe: "Hands off America" in so far as the acquisition of new territory is concerned. What the European powers already possess will be respected, but they must not make fresh conquests, nor even acquire by practical means a greater foothold in the new world.

When this doctrine was promulgated by President Monroe, in his famous message of 1823, a powerful combination threatened America. Three of the powers of Europe — Russia, Austria and Germany—had formed the Holy Alliance, pledged to govern the world according to their idea of Christian principles, and bound to come to each other's assistance when occasion demanded. Every Christian sovereign in Europe, save the king of England, accepted the invitation to join the alliance. In 1820 the alliance sought to make despots of all its royal members. It declared that legislation would emanate alone from those whom God had rendered responsible for power, and hence all reforms obtained from sovereigns by popular revolts were null and void.. Naples was the first country to feel the iron hand of the alliance. At its bidding an Austrian army restored the obsolete rule of a monarch over the Neapolitan territory. The king of Spain applied for assistance both at home and in South America. With the help of a French army the Spanish constitution was subverted and tyranny enthroned. An appeal had been made by Spain to the alliance for help to reconquer its South American colonies. Both France and Russia had given this movement their support by representing that a federation of republics in America would be dangerous to the monarchies of Europe. At this juncture Great Britain made a sagacious move against the alliance by inviting the United States to join it in protesting against the forcible intervention of Europe in South American affairs. These are the circumstances which led up to the famous declaration with which the name of President Monroe has long been associated. That the important message was actually penned by John Quincy Adams, that the doctrine had already been advanced by Thomas Jefferson and earlier American statesmen, does not prevent the world from regarding President Monroe as the author of it. As originally promulgated the Monroe doctrine was a declaration that the United States did not propose to take any part in foreign wars, save in a defensive way, and that it would consider any attempt to extend the operations of the Holy Alliance to this hemisphere as dangerous to the peace and safety of the republic. With existing colonies of any European power the United States would not interfere, but any attempt to oppress or control independent countries would be regarded as an unfriendly act toward the United States. Thus Great Britain and the American republic thwarted the design of the Holy Alliance for reconquering South America. It was practically an Anglo-Saxon alliance against a widespread European conspiracy, the result of which was that Europe kept its hands off America.

With the declaration that the Monroe doctrine is still the policy of the United States, Canada is not much concerned for itself. We are not expecting any European invasion, if such should come about we are happily a portion of an Empire which is able to defend itself. We certainly should not look to the United States to defend us in the event of any serious complication. The Monroe doctrine is a matter which primarily affects the United States, as it governs its relations to any American question. It pledges the republic to prevent European conquest in this hemisphere. So long as that is the limit of the doctrine no American power need seriously object. But if ever it were made the excuse for an attempt to exercise control or authority in this hemisphere over countries independent of the United States, the Monroe doctrine would be intolerable.

CHRISTIAN UNITY.

An effort is being made by several of the smaller religious denominations of the United States in the direction of unity. The United Brethren are taking the initiative and have issued a document to the Methodist Protestant, Evangelical, United Evangelical and Cumberland Presbyterian churches, requesting those denominations to take action having for its end the framing of some basis of unity. The five churches mentioned have an aggregate membership of 800,000, and united would form a very important denomination. This effort of the United Brethren for a union of Christian denominations whose views and beliefs are in the main similar to their own is an important step. It might with advantage be carried further, however, and include several of the denominations and eventually lead to the union of all Christian denominations, at least those of the Protestant persuasion. To the liberal minded the differences of many of the Protestant denominations are more imaginary than real, for the basis of all is to emulate the Christ-like character. At the present time many sections of Western Canada are in need of the influence of the Christian church, while in other parts there are so many churches of different denominations that they are a real burden to the community, and the money which could to better advantage be placed in hospitals or child-saving institutions is too often spent in what might be termed surplus churches.

THE VISITING CONSERVATIVES.

The educational trip of the conservative M. P.'s is drawing to a close so far as British Columbia is concerned. The declared intention of Mr. Borden and his supporters has been that their trip to British Columbia was solely to study the conditions which could be benefited by Dominion legislation. They stated that they were open for suggestions, and that they had not pre-judged the situation, but rather that on the completion of their trip, with all the facts before them, they would frankly form a policy which would be of direct benefit to the mining industry.

The policy of the party is protection to the industries of the Dominion. The national policy as expounded by Sir John Macdonald did not mean, however, the protection of every little industry which might find a foothold in Canada, but rather the protection of the large industries indigenous to the country. The mining industry is one of those industries which cannot be protected, save that it may be protected from the protection of other subsidiary industries, such as for instance the manufacture of powder. Were it not for the mining industry of Canada the factories which make mining machinery, powder, etc., would, of course, be non-existent from the fact that they would have no market for their wares. If the protection of such industries, then, becomes a burden to the mining industry it effectually kills the market for their wares. That it is doing so, we have it on the authority of the leading mine managers of the province of British Columbia. If it comes to the point where the mines are unable to operate at a profit on account of the heavy tax in the shape of duties, of what use then will be the protection to manufacturers?

If, however, the mines were relieved of the present high duties on their supplies, and they were enabled to purchase in the cheapest market, the industry would expand to such an extent that the number of men employed here would rival the great mining states of the American union. The few men which the abolition of the duties would throw out of employment would be replaced by thousands engaged in mining.

If during Mr. Borden's educational trip he has studied these conditions conscientiously with a view to benefiting the industry, he must undoubtedly see that the Dominion government can, if they will, provide a remedy, and that is to make the duties as light on the raw materials of the mining industry—machinery, etc,—as they endeavor to do on the raw material of other industries.

SMOKE, ENDLESS SMOKE.

The Puget Sound country is enveloped in dense smoke. To the person who has never been in the Sound country and experienced a "smoker," little idea can be formed of its density and extent. The Pacific Coast line, including Northern California, all of Oregon and Washington, British Columbia and Southern Alaska, is covered with a growth of timber of almost tropical density, and when a fire once gets a good start the smoke is carried for hundreds of miles. This year it seems to be worse than usual, and we read of the street lamps in Seattle being lighted all day, and the street cars carrying headlights during the running hours to insure perfect protection to pedestrians and passengers. In 1883 Seattle was bottled up, so to speak, for six weeks, it being impossible to distinguish a person across any of the streets. These forest fires occur every year and destroy a vast amount of valuable timber. The smoky season comes as regular as the rains of winter. In fact, nothing will extinguish these big fires but the rain. The brush fires burning in the Kootenays during the last few weeks, doing considerable damage, are puny affairs compared to those burning on the coast. We are told that in addition to the great destruction of property several lives have been lost. The old saying that every rose has a thorn would seem to apply to the coast region, for notwithstanding the usually delightful climate and the prosperous conditions everywhere manifest there the smoky season must be counted on and contended with every summer.

WOMAN'S ADVANCE.

Peterborough Examiner: The general conference of the Methodist church, according to a dispatch from Winnipeg, has decided in favor of women voting in all church courts. This may be regarded as a distinct advance step and a righteous recognition of one of the most useful practical elements in church work and progress. The story of the women being first at the sepulchre of their crucified Lord is an old one, but the force of their example persists. Women in all ages of the world, and in none more so than in this twentieth century of grace, have ever been foremost in Christian as well as church work. Take any week-day service in any of the churches and it is safe to say that the vast majority of the congregation present will consist of women. Why, there have been special week-day church services in Peterborough, like say a harvest festival service, when in a full church there would hardly be, besides the sexton, enough men to take the offertory. We all know that women are more faithful to their religious duties in the public services of the church than men, as they are more faithful, self-sacrificing and energetic in certain forms of church work. Cynics may say that women are more devoted because they require more repentance. Such an idea is to be repelled. Is it not more probable that with their greater heroism in smaller things, with their higher sense of duty they may feel it incumbent upon them to be religious both for themselves and for their lords? It may be something like the man addicted hopelessly to drink who was persuaded to sign the pledge, and on being reproached next day for being drunk and breaking his pledge had the answer ready—"I know I took the pledge and—the old woman is keeping it." So it seems that men, as a rule, take upon themselves religious vows and the obligations of church membership and allow their wives to keep and fulfil them. When women are, aside from the clergy and other paid servants of the church, the foremost in church work, when they practically do most of the work both by devotion and secular service, why should they not have some voice in church courts, where the affairs of the church are dealt with? In primitive conditions of society women were regarded as almost without souls, but as civilization developed, as Christianity exercized its influence, the status of women became elevated, and the recognition of women's rights to vote in a church court is another advanced step. It would perhaps be ungallant not to hope that the ladies will be satisfied with this recognition—that they will not go further and invade the pulpit. One cannot think they will; they might be satisfied with their acknowledged supremacy upon the domestic platform.

The Hon. J. I. Tarte, the minister of public works, seems to be in trouble with his political friends on account of his recent utterances on the question of protection. The Winnipeg Free Press, which is the political mouthpiece of Hon. Clifford Sifton, reads Mr. Tarte a lesson in liberal principles, and intimates to the honorable gentleman that his resignation as a member of the liberal party would be acceptable. The trouble between these two members of the cabinet has now reached an acute stage, and it is quite probable Mr. Tarte will resent the attack of the Free Press in much stronger language than he has hitherto used. If he should adopt this course he will of necessity be required to resign his seat in the cabinet.

While all Canada is rejoicing over the splendid crops produced on the great Western plains, Ontario farmers have cause to congratulate themselves on the result of their labor, says the Colonist. Their wheat this year is valued at $16,000,000, oats over $13,000,000 and hay $40,000,000. The department of agriculture estimates that the value of dairy products and live stock added to the above figures will swell the grand total of Ontario's agricultural products for 1902 to $200,000,000.

Winter is coming on apace and the people in the east are getting alarmed over the coal situation, as the settlement of the anthracite strike seems as remote as ever. We read the other day that two vessels loaded with Welch coal had set sail for New York, but if a fleet of vessels were engaged in the trade they could not supply the demand. The demand for all purposes is simply enormous. The worst feature is that the poor in the large cities will suffer during the cold of winter, and for their sake, if for no other, all right-minded people would like to see the strike settled.

We are told that there will be an abundance of fruit raised this year in the Kettle River Valley to supply the home market. This is encouraging. Six years ago a box of fresh fruit was looked upon as a curiosity at Grand Forks, worth almost its weight in gold. Now the Forks is a beautiful inland city, filled with many pleasant homes, and surrounded by fruit orchards in addition to near-by mines. Truly the lives of its people are cast in pleasant places.

The killing of Mrs. Stewart, wife of Senator Stewart of Nevada, in an automobile accident in Alameda county (on the opposite side of the bay from San Francisco), last Friday, will recall an interesting personage. Mrs. Stewart was the daughter of Henry Foote, a former governor and United States senator from Mississippi before the great rebellion, and who aspired in 1856 to represent California in the senate. She was a woman of strong intellect and possessed of many lovable qualities. Credit was undoubtedly due her for the rise of her husband in the realm of politics in the early days. They went to Nevada in 1860, where the senator gained both fame and fortune. Her sudden passing away will be learned with sorrow by all old-time residents of the Golden State.

Death claims a well known mining man in the person of W. S. Stratton, locator of the Independence and Washington mines at Cripple Creek. The life of Stratton reads like a romance. Starting in life a poor boy he dies leaving an estimated wealth of from $15,000,000 to $50,000,000. And his great riches never caused him to leave the even tenor of his way, for he remained the same unpretentious man when rich that he was when poor.

The English editors, the conservative leaders and Senator Templeman and party should know considerable about the Kootenay country and the mines therein by this time. Every effort was made to give them information, and as knowledge was what they were seeking they should be full to the brim. Their tour of education we trust will benefit them and be of profit to us.

The threatened rain yesterday was a welcome sight even if it did not materialize into a reality. There are many brush fires still burning, destroying much valuable timber, and nothing but the rains will completely put them out. From all parts of the Pacific Coast comes the news of great forest fires, and the welcome rain cannot come any too soon.

The political pot is beginning to simmer in the United States as well as in Canada. The congressional elections take place this fall, but everything points to the conclusion that the political boiling process will evolve another republican congress. And as for Mr. Roosevelt, he seems to have no serious opposition.

The miners' outing to Nelson tomorrow promises to be the event of the season. The C. P. R. will be taxed to its limit to carry the great number who will go, and the program of sports is equal to the best ever gotten up in this part of the Kootenays. Rossland sends greeting to the lake city, where no doubt everyone will be made welcome.

If the present government of British Columbia wishes to do one meritorious act before dissolution it might steal the plank of the new conservative platform regarding the mineral tax. But if it wishes to do something to be remembered by posterity the total abolition of the two per cent tax would be the most effectual means.

METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

WINNIPEG, Man., Sept. 16.—Interest at the Methodist general conference today centered chiefly in the election of officers. The contest for the editorship of the Christian Guardian was a warm one. The leading candidates on the first ballot were Rev. J. G. Bond, Halifax; Rev. A. C. Crews, Rev. A. C. Courtice, the present editor; Rev. H. P. Bowles, Rev. Dr. Ross, Rev. Dr. Rose, Rev. Dr. McLean. The candidates narrowed down to Crews, Courtice and Bond, the latter being elected on fourth ballot. Rev. Dr. Bond, who is the editor of the Wesleyan and brother of Newfoundland's premier, received 121 votes on the final ballot against 112 cast for Mr. Crews.

Rev. Dr. Carman was re-elected president on the first ballot, receiving 144 votes out of 238 cast.

Other conference officers elected are: Book room steward, western section, Rev. Dr. Briggs; eastern section, Rev. Dr. Huestis; editor Methodist Magazine and Sunday school publication, Rev. Dr. Withrow; general secretary of missions and clerical treasurer, Rev. Dr. Sutherland; assistant secretary of missions, Rev. A. E. Ames, superintendent of missions for the Northwest, Rev. Dr. Woodsworth; general secretary of education, Rev. Dr. Potts; general secretary of Sunday school work and Epworth leagues, Rev. A. C. Crews;; clerical treasurer of superannuation fund, Rev. Dr. W. S. Griffin; lay treasurer, E. Gurney.

COLORS DEPOSITED.

COBOURG, Ont., Sept. 16.—The colors of the Fortieth Regiment, presented in 1862 to the Old Volunteer Company of Cobourg and in 1866 to the present owners, were deposited in St. Peter's church yesterday afternoon.

HIGH-PRICED APPLE.

OTTAWA, Sept. 16.—Parties returning from the excursion to the new town of Verner, New Ontario, say that while there the first apple grown in the district was put up for auction and sold for $1.05.

MOOT QUESTION OF MINE TAXES

Why is it that British Columbia, with unrivalled mineral resources, is not enjoying the prosperity to which its resources should be the "open sesame?"

This is an inquiry that is recurring daily and various are the solutions propounded. It is probable that any answer claiming accuracy would necessarily go into several aspects of the case, but one feature that would take prominent place in the solution would be the question of taxation. This matter was taken up in the last day or two at Nelson by William Thompson, M. E., in the course of the discussions at the sessions of the Canadian Mining Institute and at the banquet tendered the English editors. In both instances Mr. Thompson took up the same line of thought. His remarks at the institute were as follows, and are well worth the perusal of all interested in the progress of the Kootenay's first industry:

"I must say that I am surprised to see Mr. Croasdaile stand up and make the assertion that the only thing to be taken into consideration is the direct taxation. I agree fully with Mr. Kirby that the mines are taxed from 20 to 30 per cent. We can only draw comparisons with an adjoining country. In British Columbia the mining section is situated in the Rocky mountain belt, and the only other mining country with which we come into competition is the continuation of that Rocky mountain belt lying within the United States to the south of us. We hear golden stories about the wealth of ore the mountains in British Columbia contain, and many of these stories are perfectly correct. But, unless those ores can be taken out and treated at a profit, they might just as well never be there as far as the country is concerned.

"Now, for example. The Le Roi mine needed a hoisting engine. It could not be purchased in Canada, and when it arrived in Rossland there was just $6000 duty to pay on it. Surely there could hardly be a more direct tax on the mine. What it meant was that to work that mine, machinery that in Northport would cost $14,000, in Rossland cost $20,000. Even on powder there is a tax of three cents per pound. A tax of 20 per cent on fuse and caps. Steel rails, candles and every mortal thing we use except two-inch pipe and some of the fittings used with diamond drills are taxed rom 5 to 30 per cent. Even blacksmith's coal must pay duty. The taxes of the merchants must come out of the mines. In Nelson you have here a most enterprising merchant, W. F. Teetzel, who carries an enormous stock of assayers' supplies. Until lately we were compelled to buy everything in this line outside. But ask Mr. Teetzel how much he has to pay in duties to get them in, as to how much difference it makes in the price, as to what, if he was carrying on business in Northport, he could buy for as compared with what he pays here?

"That is certainly a tax paid by the mines if I know anything about it. The assay value of ore is not everything. There are mines where the assayer's returns on the ore would show $100 per ton, which would not pay to work. There are others where $2 ore could be mined at a profit. It is not because the ore is not in the mines of the country. Look through the Slocan mines and you will hardly find a mine which can pay a profit. There are enormous ore bodies blocked out everywhere, but it does not pay to take it out. Those poor fellows in England and other places are getting tired handing out money for development. At one time it was the easiest thing in the world to get $100,000 or so for the development of a promising mine. Now it is very different. The other fellow is looking for the $100,000 from the mine.

"No manager of a good mine would, I imagine, object to paying 2 per cent alone, but it is the little here and the little there, which added together makes it impossible for the mine to be a paying proposition. Last year there was $200,000,000 of foreign capital, largely from London, sent into Old Mexico for investment in mining properties. The mines are no richer there. But that money went there because inducements were offered to invest."

FORTS ON CANADIAN FRONTIER

LONDON, Sept. 16.—The Daily Express says this morning that Colonel Ferrers Townsend has returned to England after having inspected, on behalf of the war office, the forces on the Canadian-American frontier. Colonel Townsend says, according to the Express, that the British fortifications all along the frontier are absolutely inefficient, while the American forts are well equipped. Referring to Colonel Townsend's statement the Express says:

"In the event of war between Great Britain and the United States the Yankees would easily march over the frontier and seize Canada before anything could be done to resist them."

The statement is made that there is only one cartridge and shell factory in Canada and but little ammunition in the Dominion.

BURGLARS ARE SURROUNDED.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Sept. 16.—The burglars who robbed the Bank of New Brunswick at East Florenceville, now in the woods at Littleton, Maine, are surrounded by detectives.

LATER DISPATCH.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Sept. 16.—The men who burglarized the Bank of New Brunswick at East Florenceville Sunday night rounded up by the sheriff's offices at Lyttleton, Maine, Sunday night, escaped into a clump of woods, but it is expected they will be captured.