

THE MINING REVIEW

A weekly newspaper devoted to the mining interests of Trail Creek District.

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YESTERDAY one of the most remarkable contests ever entered into in the history of any civilized people was finally closed and a signal triumph recorded for the Republican party. The apparent issue was between silver and gold, but a deeper and wider cleavage existed between the opposing cohorts in this Homeric struggle. God was the banner under which the power-holding classes fought for a retention of their privileges; silver the ensign under which the disfranchised commonalty of the United States enlisted in a struggle for political emancipation. One of the most thoughtful writers of the present day, Mr. Benjamin Kidd, has traced the same struggle in every political contest of modern times and has made this sweeping generalization, that the power-holding class are always able to protect their principles; that no victory can be won unless sympathy against themselves is stirred in their own ranks. This is a frank denial of democratic government as understood by the believers in universal suffrage and the will of the people as expressed by votes. But it is true. An organized and coherent few can always disintegrate and rule the unorganized majority. Privilege and monopoly are safe against the assaults of the worthy crowd, unless reason and conscience undermine the holders of privileges and monopolies. In the United States power is exercised with a relentless cruelty unequalled in any modern country, not excepting Russia. In the United States power is unhallowed by religion, untempered by moderation; it is not dignified by honor nor chastened by morality; it is brutalized by greed and founded in corruption. And that power is safe in the hands of those who possess it. The Republican president will enter on his term without the vestige of a policy except the negative policy of maintaining the gold standard and the high tariff. He is confronted with conditions that are amazing. The venality of the press has reached the point of the self-confessed mercenary; the cynical abandonment by public men of all honor and decency to secure private advancement is the wonder of the world, and the great silent people stand pathetically beaten and cowed by hard times—times growing apparently harder. Imports are decreasing, land is going out of cultivation, factories are closing and furnaces are cold. Where is there in the Republican programme any guarantee of hope for better times? Does it point to the cause—has it probed to the root of the disease? Unless circumstances bring better times, and bring them soon, the inevitable outcome cannot be long delayed. The next big labor trouble in the United States means serious disorder and may lead to complete social anarchy. The portents are such as to give the most careless pause. That Samsonlike force of unrest and discontent has been shorn of its locks and bound with strong cords. But a bound Samson overthrew the pillars of Gaza. Another remarkable feature about this election is the absolute refusal of organized labor to adopt political means for the attainment of its ends. This is not peculiar to the United States, however. It is the gravest symptom in the whole state of our civilization. In this election many of the new forces now agitating society came prominently into play for the first time. Whoever had been elected the situation would have had elements of great gravity about it. But as it is, things point to a condition of desperate

peril, not because McKinley is elected (that is a matter of infinitesimal importance), but because it has proved the incapacity of representative democratic government to deal with the great problems of modern society.

THE snow has come on the hills and it has come to stay. The prospects of development work, both here and in the Slocan country, are very good. Another season will see more wonderful changes throughout this country than the present year. We have at last aroused the attention of the investing public. Capital has come in in ever increasing waves and has brought with it a crowd of energetic business men. They are welcome, and may they all make millions, but one thing they will never know, one sensation they will never experience, that is the exaltation of the old-timer when he sees his weary years of waiting justified and vindicated by the successful outcome of the district.

A NOBLE group of mines is coming forward in the long despised South Belt. It is proving as rich as any other section of the district in gold and copper. There are mines opening up bodies of pay ore at all points of the compass around Rossland. People are becoming more chary every day of designating anything in the neighborhood as a wildcat. After the discoveries on Deer Park mountain during the last few weeks it is difficult to predict what is coming next and impossible to foresee the limits to the expansion of the district.

THE REVIEW pointed out two weeks ago that Montreal would soon become an active center of investment in Trail Creek. Evidence that this is the case are rapidly accumulating. Large blocks of stock are being sold there and some very big sales have been made there. Eastern Canada is at last thoroughly convinced of the bona fides of Trail Creek mines and the big chances of profit here.

CARLYLE'S REPORT ON THE SLOCAN.

After issuing his bulletin on Trail Creek, Mr. Carlyle repaired to the Slocan; where he has been ever since, except when he was driven out by a few spells of bad weather. Then he went to Nelson and began his examination of Toad Mountain and other neighboring localities. He is now at Ainsworth, and the continuance of splendid weather is enabling him to finish his work in that section. One of the main duties of Mr. Carlyle's office is to collect and publish reliable statistics on the produce of the mines. Of the importance of this can be no question, and in the great mining districts of Australia and Africa the matter receives the first attention. Their mining stocks rise and fall upon the market in accordance with the increase or decrease of the returns. Hitherto this duty has been left entirely to private journalists, the government contenting themselves with publishing once a year a table of mining statistics, which showed apparently little besides the returns of a few placer miners on the Fraser and at Cariboo. Mr. Carlyle, in addition to the returns of the custom house, which are the unquestioned figures of mine owners themselves, has the assistance of the assessment papers returned under the act of the last session. The accuracy of these is based on the actual smelter returns themselves, to which the assessor has access. The report on the Slocan will probably not make its appearance until after the end of the year, when the total shipments for 1896 will be able to be shown. However, he computes the exports for 1896 up to September to be \$2,378,022.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES.

The following is a dispatch to the London Times: "The excitement over gold discoveries in Southern British Columbia is growing in intensity. The rush to the mines continues to increase in volume. Representatives of British capital are finding their way to the Kootenay country with the view of reporting upon the prospects for the investment of capital. The success of one mine, the War Eagle, has given a great impetus to mining development. The mine has just divided £6,000 among the shareholders, making £40,000 in 18 months.

The residents of Rossland, the leading mining town in the new district, lament that so few women are settling there. A leading prospector says that 1,500 marriageable girls could all find good husbands there within a week."

The first paragraph is all right but the second is

absolute arrant and utter bosh. It has made its way into the Times from some characteristic remarks made in Toronto by that artist in fiction the "Gunner from Galway." Rossland is noted among mining towns for the number of the fair sex residing here. They range in all varieties of age, beauty and respectability, from members of Presbyterian Ladies Aid Societies, to members of what Kipling calls "the oldest profession in the world." Rossland is close to big centres of population and has afforded a home to many a family glad to get away from a bank credit gold to a bullion gold basis.

A NEW DESCRIPTION.

The following are the concluding paragraphs of a long article on Trail Creek, which appeared in the New York Evening Post. It is well written and instructive, but there seems to be a slight halo of romance about the incidents mentioned towards the close:

From the prospect stage, when the poor man has the opportunity of his life, Trail camp has come to the period of development, when the opportunities are for the capitalist. That capitalists realize this is evident from the number of experts and financial agents sent from London, New York and Chicago. Enough work has been prosecuted on many properties to show whether or not they are mines, to reveal whether the ore be high or low grade, and to permit an approximately accurate blocking out of the ore body; but in more than a few cases the capital is inadequate. Operations are crippled and hampered. The mine-owner has not sufficient money to protect his vein by purchasing adjacent claims towards which the lead may dip. He has not enough of a surplus to protect himself from the pinching out of one vein by opening up consolidated groups. It is at this stage that the capitalist has his opportunity. Without awaiting for a conjunction of circumstances to place the mining operator at a disadvantage, much English capital is already flowing to Trail Creek, and some of the best mines are passing into the hands of British, New York and Chicago syndicates.

With treasures of gold and silver hidden in the depths of the earth, locked far down in the solid rock, and concealed in the walls of tunnels that look like caverns, the mining camps of the mountains are not unlike the secret vaults of fabled Arabian cities. Nowhere in modern life are there more facts that are like fiction, more every day incidents that resemble the romances of fairy lore, than in the new mining camp. A mine that could not be bought for a million dollars today was the exchange the prospectors discovering it and adjacent claims made to a townsman happening to be in the recorder's office for the payment of recording fees. In the same mine there is a director, owning a block of shares worth half a million dollars, who obtained his interest by trading a worn-out racehorse for the block which was a drug on the market at a few cents a share. One man, a crippled invalid, by a lucky chance got possession of shares which he thought dear at 4 cents each. After penetrating through barren depths, the shafts and drifts of this mine ran into wonderfully rich ore. The value of the shares bounded far above par. With prosperity came health; and the former invalid is now a strong man, with a big income. Cases are on record of claims staked out on the snow, which, by blind chance, turned out to be among the best mines. It is only a few years ago since the daughter of an English rector came to the wilderness of mountains for her health. How she purchased her claim she did not explain to the public, but a few months ago, though she came to the district with little money, she left for England with \$10,000, the price paid for her claim. Quite as extraordinary is the case of the young typewriter, whose services were paid in 1892 or 1893 by a block of 10,000 shares, considered comparatively worthless, but now valued at their par value of \$1 each."

Little wonder, when fact is so much like fiction, that truth and falsehood, the accurate report and exaggerated distortion, become strangely confused, and make up such an amazing record that the poor man is led to believe he can chop off chunks of gold and silver—diamonds, too, if his necessity be great and imagination active—that all he need do to reap a golden harvest is to rush pell-mell to West Kootenay. Such a belief is a fatal mistake, and the harvest of many peniless people going in a stampede to Kootenay will be one of disappointment, and perhaps destitution. The mining camps have passed that stage when dazzling opportunities may be had for the picking up.

BUILDING TENDERS WANTED.

Bids will be received until 6 p. m., November 7, for construction of Bunk and Boarding Houses at Nest Egg mine.

Plans may be seen at office of JOHN M. BURKE.

NEST EGG MINING CO.