

MINES AND SMELTER

No New Developments Regarding the Local Strike.

Incorrect Rumors of Accidents at Northport.

1901. Rossland. The second was authorized Sunday's point of Trade strike or by misinterpretation of

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The mine

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NORTHPORT SITUATION.

Reports were

given currency

yesterday to

the effect that

No. 5 furnace

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letters passed between the general manager of the Rossland Great Western Mines and the officers of the union:

Rossland, B. C., July 11th, 1901.
Mr. Bernard MacDonald, Manager
Rossland Great Western Properties,
Rossland, B. C.:

Dear Sir:—This Union has found it necessary in view of the determined efforts of the Corporation controlled by you to crush the sister union at Northport, Wash., and your opposition towards this Union, to call out the men at the mines controlled by you in this camp.

We also consider this a favorable time to try to get a living wage for the shovellers and carmen, and adjust other grievances now existing between this Union and your companies.

We would at all times be pleased to meet with you to discuss these questions.

We have waited for years for these companies to get in a position to pay the scale of wages paid in other camps of a lower grade of ore than Rossland, and less favorably situated.

We believe this time has arrived. Hoping for a settlement mutually agreeable to both, also that in case of a long fight, it may be a fair, clean, struggle, we are, yours respectfully,
(Signed) EXECUTIVE BOARD,
Rossland Miners' Union No. 38, W.F.M.

Rossland, B. C., 11th July, 1901.
Messrs. The Executive Committee,
Rossland Miners' Union, No. 38, W. F. M., Rossland, B. C.:

Dear Sirs:—Your favor of this date, stating that your Union found it necessary to call out the men at the mines under my management, etc., has been received.

You mention a number of causes that have led up to this decision on your part, and say that there are other grievances to be adjusted. I wish you would kindly state what these are so that I may be enabled to place the whole matter before the Board of Directors of these companies for their consideration. I am, yours sincerely,
BERNARD MACDONALD,
General Manager.

Rossland, B. C., July 11th, 1901.
Mr. Bernard MacDonald, General Manager
Rossland Great Western Mines;
Dear Sir:—In answer to your communication in regard to further grievances of this Union in its communication to you of this date, the other grievances we have in mind is the violation of Article 15 of the settlement of April 3rd, 1900.

This Union has since its organization enjoyed the privilege of the Secretary entering on the grounds of the mines of non-union employees as long as he did not interfere with them on duty or with the work about the mines.

We consider the revocation of this privilege by your letter of February 14th, 1901, a most serious bar to our securing new members among the non-union employees.

Also we are not prepared to consider any agreement which will allow any discrimination against any employee for any action he has taken or may take during this strike. We are, respectfully yours,
(Signed) EXECUTIVE BOARD,
Rossland Miners' Union No. 38, W.F.M.

Rossland, B. C., 12th July, 1901.
Messrs. The Executive Board, Rossland Miners' Union No. 38, W. F. M., Rossland, B. C.:

Gentlemen:—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your later communication of the 11th inst. I will forward this with the previous one to the Directors of these companies in London.

At the present time I have nothing to reply, except to deny any violation on our part of any article in the settlement agreement drawn up in April, 1900. Yours sincerely,
BERNARD MACDONALD,
General Manager.

THE UNION'S STATEMENT.

Rossland, B.C., July 12, 1901.
To the Citizens and Business Men of Rossland and Vivinity and to the General Public:

The business and social interests of a community are so closely interwoven in a community like Rossland, that any dispute among the industrial elements of this community, which is often a most disastrous to the business or non-combatant class around which the labor and capital elements revolve, than to the actual combatants themselves. Thus both labor and capital are morally obligated to strive to adjust their disputes, to protect the social structure of which they are separate parts. For this reason a careful statement of all the reasons leading us to precipitate this industrial strife at this time.

Since the agreement between the big corporations of Rossland and Rossland Miners' Union in April, 1900, this city has apparently enjoyed industrial peace; yet all who are conversant with the industrial affairs of Rossland for the past fifteen months know that there has been a secret warfare waged against this Miners' Union, which has been nearly as destructive to the business interests of the community as an open struggle between the two industrial forces, and worse in that there is no apparent end to be seen. We have given long and careful consideration to this matter and have reached the conclusion that the foundation of this trouble rests on the fact that the union employees in the mines of this community receive about 20 per cent less wages than the same class of labor in surrounding camps, many of which have a lower grade of ore and are less favorably situated than Rossland. We believe that it is to continue to enforce this unjust scale of wages that so many annoying practices have been introduced to undermine the prestige of this Miners' Union of Rossland.

First—An annoying system of espionage and blackmailing by which many of our ablest members have been compelled to seek employment in other localities, although of unquestioned ability in their trade.

Second—By revoking a time-honored privilege of the secretary being allowed to solicit members among the non-union employees of the companies who might be off duty on the premises of the companies, a privilege guaranteed us by the last half of Article 15 of the

agreement of April, 1900; thus preventing us from refilling our ranks depleted by loss of members compelled to seek employment in other fields.

Third—By connection with bogus employment agencies seeking to flood the overcrowded labor market with cheap foreign labor.

Finally—By the largest corporation in this vicinity openly seeking and striving to crush a sister union at Northport, Wash.

We believe all these efforts are mainly to enforce this unjust scale of wages and to prevent all efforts towards an increase. Therefore we have fully resolved that there can be no industrial peace in Rossland and vicinity until this wage question is finally and satisfactorily settled. Then will this fair city enjoy the prosperity for which nature has so evidently intended it. For this result we ask the moral aid and support of the many diverse bodies making the general public of this city. Especially we ask your aid in maintaining order, without which we cannot succeed. There can be no permanent settlement but a just settlement, and to this end we will use all our power as an organization, and all the assistance of the Western Federation of Miners. We have right on our side and must surely win.

EXECUTIVE BOARD,
Rossland Miners' Union No. 38, W.F.M.

HOW TRAIL VIEWS IT.

The Trail Creek News in discussing the strike says:

"It is a trouble which has been hanging over Rossland for the past three years, and is simply a repetition of the agitator evil whose mission is to breed discontent and friction without regard for the business stagnation and financial distress which follows. Thus there are several hundred men in Rossland willing and anxious to work, happy and satisfied with the conditions as they existed, but compelled to join in the general strike.

"But the consequent distress is not confined to Rossland. The Trail smelter has already closed its large copper furnace and will close down the other copper furnaces in the next few days. The lead furnaces will, however, be kept in operation so long as sufficient ore can be obtained to keep the furnaces supplied.

"There was considerable disappointment felt in Trail when it was learned the strikers had prevented the loading of Le Roi ore for the Trail smelter. This ore had already been mined and was lying on the dump, and would have aided in keeping the Trail plant in operation.

"The present circumstances must appeal to the people of Trail very strongly, for here harmony and the best of feeling between employer and employee has not only created favorable business conditions but has brought prosperity to the wage earner and the merchant. There have been no disturbing elements in this community and it is to be hoped there never will be.

"The Evening World of the 11th says: 'Everyone seemed to be relieved at the news announced this morning. Organized labor in Rossland will now have ample opportunity to ascertain who are their friends and who are opposed to it.'

"If the only way the organized labor in Rossland has of finding its friends and enemies is by ordering a strike, it will not be long before its friends become its enemies as the method of assault is too expensive for both the laborer and the business man to whom he looks for support.

"Business men in this city naturally feel a little despondent, and the men who are to be laid off will not have any too good feeling towards the strikers who by their action in refusing to load ore already mined thrust them out of employment."

PERSONALS

A. H. MacNeill left yesterday on a business trip to the Boundary. Homer Jones, of the Rossland Great Western office staff, left yesterday on a visit to Grand Forks.

J. L. G. Abbott and Mrs. Abbott are spending a couple of weeks at Vancouver.

William McMillan left yesterday for Nanaimo.

William Morrow and H. C. Stewart left yesterday for Vancouver.

Tom Burden left yesterday for Greenwood.

Harry Brandt, city ticket agent of the Great Northern at Spokane, is in the city assisting the S. F. & N. staff during the rush of passenger business.

Charles Côté, assistant superintendent of the Spokane Falls & Northern road, was in the city yesterday on a business trip.

Among the passengers ticketed out over the Spokane Falls & Northern road yesterday were: Albert Shakespeare, to Seattle; Gus Parsons to Salt Lake City; Miss May Wilson, to Deer Lodge, Mont.; Miss Lenora Reinhardt, to Anaconda; C. E. McEvoy, to Brandon, Man.; F. B. Costello and wife, to Huntington, Que.; Mrs. J. Ruffner, to Lewiston, S.D.; S. Creelman, to Leadwood, Idaho; Dan Cokley, to San Francisco, and T. W. Bridges, to Spokane.

A BUCKING BIKE.

Percy Wilkinson, barkeep at the Clarendon, is at the general hospital with a badly damaged headpiece. He was riding a bicycle down St. Paul street when the machine struck a stone and threw him headlong. Several painful scalp wounds were inflicted by Doctors Senior and Campbell and Mr. Wilkinson is getting along nicely.

A point of interest has arisen in connection with the land in the railway addition to be utilized for the construction of the new school. When the city government undertook to purchase the entire area of block 2, and fulfilled this undertaking with the exception of one lot, which the government believed was held at an abnormal figure. The council has recommended the government to complete the purchase of the block and to acquire the lot in question by expropriation if the owner asks an unreasonable price.

GROUNDS FOR SPORTS

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSAL TO UTILIZE THE CITY PARK.

THE QUESTION OF PREPARING GROUNDS NOW UP FOR DECISION.

Local athletes are interested in the action being taken by the city council to secure the athletic organizations grounds to replace the Black Bear grounds, which are to be used for other purposes. The city has no control over the Black Bear grounds, and the action of the owners is entirely justifiable. This fact is admitted, although no one can view the passing of the park without regret.

The city fathers have taken in hand the matter of securing other grounds, Mayor Lalonde having taken the initiative and directed the attention of the board of works to the necessity of moving if the city is to have any recreation grounds next year.

Major VanBuskirk, city engineer, has gone over the city park lands east of the corporation, and information has been secured with regard to the ground. With this information in hand the board of works will bring in a report at next council meeting.

It will be quite possible to secure an area of five or six acres on the park grounds south of the cemetery and within half a mile of the court house. The land best available for the purpose is on a bench overlooking the valley and with a slight slope toward the centre of the gulch. Considerable timber is standing, most of it young growth, and the cost of clearing off the timber and brush will be the most expensive feature of the reclamation of the land for park purposes. If the parties most interested in the establishment of ball grounds will take a hand in seeing this work through, the city would undoubtedly feel more inclined to go ahead with the proposition at once. Unless some action along this line is taken by the citizens it is not improbable that the council may be compelled to leave the matter over to another year and devote the available funds to other and more pressing requirements. To ensure reasonably good grounds for next year a start should be made this summer, and it is up to the citizens to indicate that the park is desired.

In addition to the ball grounds it would be possible to make a straightaway quarter-mile race track. Grades at each end could not be well avoided, but for pony races the distance would be excellent and the track might easily become a popular feature of the park. A good road to the proposed grounds can be made via the cemetery and without serious outlay.

This disposition of the council appears to be that something should be done within the next few weeks, if it is at all possible, to finance the scheme without neglecting other matters regarded as of greater importance to the community generally. The proposition comes up at next council meeting and in the meantime the details of the work will be gone into by the board of works.

CHINESE INDEMNITY.

Either Great Britain or Russia Must Back Down.

PEKIN, July 17.—The ministers of the powers now freely admit that the prospect of a conclusion of negotiations is growing darker. The situation is most serious, as the deadlock has continued for more than a month.

The meeting arranged for yesterday was postponed because it was apparent that the proceedings would be fruitless. It was at the meeting of July 11 that the ministers had something to the nature of an agreement as to the indemnity, but almost immediately a radical difference developed between Russia and Great Britain as to the details of the plan of payment. All the ministers were in accord with the scheme early in June, subject to the approval by their governments, but Great Britain disapproved the arrangement on the ground that it did not adequately protect her commercial interests.

The neutral ministers assert that either Great Britain or Russia must make material concessions before a conclusion of the agreement is possible. Meanwhile the committees of the ministers are working upon comparatively unimportant details, such as improvements in navigation, but if the financial question was settled negotiations could be closed in a day.

Li Hung Chang keeps sending strenuous requests to the ministers of the powers to present a complete plan. He represents that China is willing to accept any reasonable terms and is chiefly anxious to know definitely what the powers require, so that she may begin compliance with the terms.

The ministers regard newspaper accusations of procrastination on their part as exceedingly unjust. The government and not the ministers is responsible, the ministers say, for the deadlock.

PEKIN, July 17.—Disorder and lawlessness have greatly increased in Pekin since the policing of the city was restored to the Chinese authorities. There are nightly burglaries by the large bands of depredators, while white men in the employ of Europeans are stopped and robbed.

The German military authorities here have arranged for the withdrawal of all German troops except the permanent establishment early in August.

The transportation people had a lively day's business yesterday. A large number of men left the city. Some of these were bound for Buffalo and eastern points on pleasure trips, and the majority went to Spokane and purpose branching out from there to the various mining camps. The boundary train had a liberal quota of passengers.

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BROKERS

MONEY TO LOAN ON REAL ESTATE

CITY NEWS

AT THE BARRACKS—

A special meeting will be held in the Salvation Army barracks tonight in the shape of a "Sailors' Song Service." At the close ice cream and cake will be served. A special open air service will precede the programme at the barracks.

PAY DAY TODAY—

Rossland will have another pay day today. The Centre Star and War Eagle pay rolls for July have been completed and the men will be paid off during the day. This is communicated to the Miner for publication by the management of the properties.

BREWERS ON HAND—

In yesterday's report of the procession, which was the morning feature of the Miners' picnic programme, mention was omitted of the Brewers' union. The organization was represented by the staff of the Lion Brewery and made an excellent showing.

GOOD DRILL—

The Rossland militia company had an excellent drill last night, the members turning out in good force and going through some useful work under the direction of Captain Forin. The recruit class is being formed and there is every prospect of a successful season among the militiamen.

MR. WILSON'S STATEMENT.

The Boundary Falls Smelter May Have a Chance to Blow In.

"If the strike recently made on the Sunset, in Deadwood camp, fills expectations it is likely that the Standard Pyritic Smelting company will start its plant at Boundary Falls, B.C.," said E. J. Wilson, manager of the company, to the Spokesman-Review. Mr. Wilson was on his way to Salt Lake, to be gone for two weeks.

"A big body of low grade magnetite, carried in a lime gangue, has been opened on the surface of the Sunset," he continued. "It has been partly opened on the 300-foot level and work is under way to exploit it on the 300-foot level. If it holds out the mine will be in a position to give us regular tonnage. We shall need fully 300 tons a day to justify us in operating our smelter, and 400 tons, which is its maximum capacity, would be better still. With such low grade ore as these, running about \$5 to the ton, it is necessary to work the plant to its limit in order to get economy of operation.

"The smelter as it stands represents an investment of over \$100,000 by Montreal and Quebec people, who form the Standard Pyritic Smelting company. It needs a few labor saving devices, but otherwise it is ready to be blown in at any time. Up to date, however, it has not even been started. The trouble has been to get custom ore. The Boundary ore generally are so low grade that they will not pay two profits. A tonnage sufficient to work a smelter has not been opened by any of the mines outside of those that have close smelter connections. The development of the Sunset, however, promises to put us in position to start our plants.

"Why did we cancel our contract with the Morrison people to handle their ore? Well, the Morrison ore is a heavy sulphide, carrying about 20 per cent sulphur. It must be roasted, and it is otherwise hard to smelt. When I took over the management of the concern I decided that the terms proposed for handling Morrison ore were not favorable for us, and we dropped the project. The Morrison, however, has some good ore.

"What rate can be offered by smelters in the Boundary on ore ore? I see the Snowflake people in their prospectus say they have assurance of a \$3 rate. It was first proposed to make them a \$2.50 rate by one of the Boundary smelters in operation, but the rate was raised. I should say that the cost of running most of the ores of the district into a 50 per cent matte is about \$2 a ton. The slag losses are very light. I understand that the Greenwood smelter is making a copper loss of only .2 or .3 per cent in the slag. For that matter, at the Great Falls smelter we ran along steadily with slag losses of 25 per cent. I understand that the Montana Ore Purchasing company at Butte, under the management of H. C. Bellinger, is making about the same losses."

Mr. Wilson, who was formally with the Omaha-Crest smelter at Durango, Colo., and also in New Mexico, was recently retained by the Kalso smelting corporation to look over the field at Kalso to see whether a smelter there should be profitable. The city of Kalso has offered a bonus of \$50,000 in bonds for a company that will erect and operate a 200-ton lead smelter there.

"I found that there was much lead ore in the neighborhood, and there should be no difficulty in supplying ore for a 75-ton smelter at Kalso," said Mr. Wilson. "With proper management a plant of that size should be made to pay."

THURSDAY'S SALES.

Rambler-Cariboo, 1000 at 34c., 2000 at 34 1/2c.; Homestake, 1000 at 13c.; Morning Glory, 1000 at 3 3/4c. Total, 5000.

FRIDAY'S SALES.

Homestake, 2000, 1000, 12 1/2c.; Centre Star, 1000, 30c.; Black Tail, 2000, 11 1/2c.; Wonderful, 3000, 4c. Total 9000.

SATURDAY'S SALES.

Wonderful, 2000 at 4 1/4c., 2500 at 4 3/4c.; Centre Star, 1500 at 31c.; Rambler-Cariboo, 1000 at 35c., 2000 at 35 1/4c.; Homestake, 1000 at 13c.; Black Tail, 5000 at 11 1/2c. Total, 15,000.

MONDAY'S SALES.

Rambler-Cariboo, 2000, 30c.; Centre Star, 1000, 12 1/2c.; Black Tail, 1000, 11c.; Morning Glory, 3000 at 4c. Total, 16,000.

WEDNESDAY'S SALES.

Rambler-Cariboo, 5000, 37 3/4c.; 2000, 37 1/2c.; Wonderful, 2500, 4 1/2c.; Centre Star, 1000, 29 1/2c.; Morning Glory, 2000, 3 3/4c.; Homestake, 2000, 1000, 12 3/4c.; 500, 13c. Total 26,500.

THE STOCK MARKET

SALES KEPT DOWN DURING THE WEEK BY THE STRIKE TROUBLE.

RAMBLER-CARIBOO STILL MAINTAINS ITS STRENGTH AND ACTIVITY.