

Rossland Weekly Miner.

Published Every Thursday by the ROSSLAND MINER PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. LIMITED LIABILITY. C. A. GREGG, Managing Editor. LONDON OFFICE: C. J. WALKER, 24 Coleman Street London. TORONTO OFFICE: CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY, L.D., 85 Yonge St. SPOKANE OFFICE: ALEXANDER & Co., Advertising Agents, Room First National Bank Building. EASTERN AGENT: EMANUEL KATZ, 230 Temple Court, New York.

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE WEEKLY ROSSLAND MINER for all points in the United States and Canada is Two Dollars a year or One Dollar and Twenty-five Cents for six months or all other countries Three Dollars a year—paid suitably in advance.

THE APPROACHING MUNICIPAL CONTEST.

All of the property holders and those whose interests are such that they should see that a stable municipal government should be placed in charge of the civic affairs for the forthcoming year, are naturally very anxious that no time should be lost in placing upon the voters' list the names of all those who desire to see removed all obstacles from Rossland's municipal progress. The Rossland Miner urges quick action to that end. There is no time to be lost. All who have the best interests of the city at heart agree that it would be calamitous in the extreme if the keeping of the affairs of the town should, for lack of effort on the part of those most vitally interested, be handed over to the violent element which has made such an open declaration of intention to strive for supremacy in the forthcoming contest. Forewarned is forearmed. Let no time be lost in seeing that every elector who favors municipal progress is registered.

DUNSMUIR'S DILEMMA.

Unless all signs fail the days of the Dunsmuir government are numbered. It is not surprising that this should be acknowledged on all sides—by friend and foe alike. Mr. Dunsmuir has made a most dismal failure of politics. His warmest friend will admit that; and when the latter notes that all constitutional precedents are outraged by conditions at Victoria at the present time, he must, of course, throw up the sponge and admit that things are in such bad shape as to be beyond further toleration.

Only one thing can happen—there must be an appeal to the country for a decision, either immediately or in the very near future. There is some talk of having the next elections contested on party lines, but there does not seem to be any substantial or clearly defined movement to that end.

British Columbia seems to be fated to be always boiling in the political pot. We will all fervently hope that the next cooks who take charge of the pot will so conduct themselves that it may be taken from the fire of popular discontent for some time and the people given an administration which will restore confidence in our ability to manage our affairs decently and quietly, for a period at all events.

Our Victoria correspondent wires us that there is a possibility of Colonel Prior, M.P.P., being offered the reins of government upon the retirement of Premier Dunsmuir. Colonel Prior is reported to have said that in the event of his consenting to acquiesce in the movement to entrust him with the task of forming a government he would not favor the introduction of party lines. There is little doubt that the Colonel could be elected in Victoria if he aimed at securing a government which would be representative of the whole people.

NEWSPAPERS IN THE SCHOOLS.

In some parts of the United States the newspaper is being used as an educator, and is said by those who have tried it to make one of the most valuable text books ever tried in the schools. Prof. Wm. H. Lynch, principal of an academy in Missouri, who has conducted a newspaper hour in his institution for several years past, is enthusiastic on the subject. I discovered years ago, he says, that no text book was equal to the newspaper as a means for taking a knowledge of the actual practical and up-to-date world into the school room. History, geography, civil government, algebra, chemistry and the entire academic curriculum teach only a theory of the world and its facts. The real drama of life in its varied forms of commercial, political and social relations must be seen and learned through the mirror of the newspaper.

Every Friday he has his pupils supplied with newspapers, no two receiving the same issue of the same paper, thus avoiding confusion by pupils possibly reading the same article. Each pupil reads but one article, so as to be thorough, and this plan gives a greater number of pupils an opportunity to recite what they have read. Each pupil, or as many as possible, tell what they have read, and thus the events of today, which make the history of tomorrow, are impressed on their young minds in an easy and delightful manner. By

this plan not only do they learn the lessons of real life as far as it is necessary for them to learn them, but the careful and thoughtful teacher is enabled to find the trend of the pupil for good or for evil, and hence can know best how to manage him to develop a good and noble character.

The press, Prof. Lynch declares without reservation, is the best instrument known to civilization for enlightening the mind of man and improving him as a rational, moral and social being. This plan should, in the older classes, at least, be an improvement on the present custom, which is prevalent in our schools, of telling or reading stories, many of which neither interest nor have educative value.

WHAT THE NELSON MINER SAID.

The Evening World, in its usual tricky fashion, tries to make it appear that the Nelson Miner is in favor of international labor unions. The contrary is the case, for this is what the Nelson Miner said in a recent editorial article:

"If they," the railway men, "were organized as a purely Canadian institution they could have behind them public sentiment which is of great importance in any controversy they may have in regard to their rights, which they would not have when the organization of affairs was directed by alien grand officers. It might not be a bad plan for the Canadian branches of the Western Federation of Miners to form a similar independent body by divorcing themselves from the parent American organization. As a body they would probably gain greater recognition from the mine owners as well as more sympathy and support from the public if they had the independent organization."

"We firmly believe that the unions of Canada would be better off if they were organized as independent Canadian bodies, and for the reason that a prejudice exists in the minds of the employers and the public against international labor bodies."

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

Under the above caption the Victoria Times of a recent date gave a prominent position in its columns to the following letter, by a correspondent subscribing himself "H.":

"Information of a startling character has reached me from a reliable source today. It is to the effect that the government finances are in a state of almost hopeless confusion. It is asserted that the over-draft at the bank exceeds \$1,000,000; that there is an enormous deficit which can only be corrected by an almost immediate resort to increased taxation; that the appropriations for public works are being largely exceeded in all the districts in the hope of retaining the government in power; that Mr. Prentice's mission to London is for the purpose of floating a loan of \$5,000,000, despite the fact that the province has already in London a tried and capable agent-general, who has the benefit of experience in floating three provincial loans successfully. And, finally, that the estimated income has fallen short some \$200,000 of the amount claimed for it in the budget speech. That Mr. Prentice's mission will result in failure anyone who has read Mr. Robert Ward's interview in the Colonist will almost immediately realize, and if facts bear out the information which has reached me, and which I now give to your readers, the state of affairs of the province is such that a continuance of present conditions will not only imperil our credit abroad, but will necessitate drastic measures at home, the burden of which will fall heavily upon individual taxpayers. As these matters are of vital importance, I consider myself justified in asking that someone authorized to speak for the administration will forthwith give to the public an authoritative statement of facts and figures relating thereto."

The statements contained in the foregoing letter by "H." are sufficiently startling to cause every well-wisher of the province grave concern.

REGARDING THE C. P. R.

A great many of the provincial newspapers, in discussing our public affairs, fall into the error of supposing that the C. P. R. is largely instrumental in dictating, or attempting to dictate, the policies pursued by the various provincial governments. The present situation naturally calls for a great deal of comment, and one can see it stated almost every day in one paper or another that the C. P. R. is responsible for placing Mr. Dunsmuir's government in the dilemma in which it now finds itself. We think it a great mistake for the press of the province to continually harp upon C. P. R. influence. We think it a mistake for two reasons. In the first place, because it is untrue that the C. P. R. attempts to dictate the policy of the provincial government, and, secondly, because the C. P. R. is an institution that certainly strives to advance the interests of the province by all means at its command.

If one will stop to consider the situation for a moment, he will speedily arrive at the conclusion that there is no corporation in Canada more desirous of seeing this province advance in every way than the C. P. R. The success of the C. P. R. in Western Canada means the success of Western Canada. It is simply ridiculous to believe for one moment that the C. P. R. would strive to bring about a condition of affairs which would not mean the success of each and every individual in the province—that is, so far as the success of each and every individual is bound up in the success of the country; and, furthermore, the C. P. R. is such an institution that its business relations, its business dealings with the people, are not a question of temporary benefit to itself. For many years to come it will depend upon the prosperity of the province of British Columbia for the prosperity of itself in this part of Canada. Anything which would militate against the success and development of any section of the province would naturally militate against the success of the C. P. R.

We make these few remarks from an inspection of the political aspect of the situation in so far as the C. P. R. may be possibly identified with any political movement; but, looking at the matter from another standpoint—should we not as loyal Canadians always be prepared to utter a word of praise in behalf of an institution that so thoroughly reflects Canadian enterprise, and is such a splendid exemplification of the ability which Canadian brains can bring to the management of one of the most marvellous commercial enterprises in the world? We think any man who is proud of his country, who would point to the most glorious commercial achievement which has been undertaken by his fellow countrymen, must perforce look to the C. P. R. and evince a pride which is justified. It sometimes seems that it requires foreigners to come here and tell us what a magnificent institution the C. P. R. is. We Canadians who are in touch with it day after day seem to fail to appreciate the magnitude of the enterprise which is known by the name of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

No man of intelligence will dispute for one moment that the success of the Canadian Pacific Railway is wrapped up in the success of Canada; and when we admit that, we must further admit that the success of any part or portion of the C. P. R. system is wrapped up in the success of any part or portion of the territory which it traverses. That latter assertion applies to British Columbia. Here we see many carrying critics day after day continually throwing mud at the big railway corporation, claiming that it is a bloodsucking octopus which strives continually for the success of itself at the expense of the whole people. What an utter piece of folly it is to put forward such confessions! The C. P. R., as we have said before in this article, can only hope to secure ultimate and permanent success by the opening up of the country, the development of our resources and the prosperity of our inhabitants. Once that is understood, it will be admitted that a great deal of the adverse criticism of C. P. R. methods is unjustified. The present political situation is certainly a most serious one—in the sense that we see in charge of affairs at Victoria a government which has outraged all principles of decency, and does not reflect the opinion of the country. But while that is so, it is most unjust to attribute to the Canadian Pacific Railway any responsibility for the creation of such a condition. The C. P. R. is a large business institution, a mammoth affair. It strives continually for the carrying on of its affairs upon strictly business principles; and it is only natural that those responsible for its successful management should endeavor to see that politicians and those who are likely to have a voice in the affairs of the country will adopt a policy which will be in the interest of the whole country.

It is timely to make a few remarks of this sort. We are on the verge of another political upheaval. The Dunsmuir government has utterly failed to meet the requirements of the people in respect to the carrying on of the affairs of the country properly, and before many weeks we will be plunged into the throes of another fierce political contest. When that occurs, the C. P. R. will be attacked most viciously by opponents of the present administration, and charged with having dictated Mr. Dunsmuir's policy, charged with having brought about this crisis. The Rossland Miner cannot be charged with having been too friendly in the past to Canada's greatest corporation, but if one is prepared to look upon the matter with an eye free from any bias, he will speedily discover that a great deal of unwise and unnecessary adverse criticism has been aimed at the Canadian Pacific Railway company.

For the information of the members of the Rossland Miners' Union it ought to be stated that Mr. W. L. MacKenzie King, of the department of labor at Ottawa, has been in Rossland for some days past and left yesterday evening en route home.

IMMIGRATION.

The department of the interior in the Federal government is making strenuous efforts to attract settlers in to the Canadian Northwest. Judging from the latest returns obtained from the immigration department the work in this direction has been highly successful. Some years ago it was with difficulty that the people who came into the Northwest were induced to remain and indeed many of them sought a home in the Western States of the neighboring republic. Not only have many of them who left returned, but others have accompanied them. They are coming to Canada because there is an area of excellent farm land available for settlement in districts which are not burdened with excessive taxation. The arrival from the United States during the past year has exceeded that of any other year in the history of the country. The total arrivals also are very much greater than has been the case in any previous year. Altogether there were for the year ending June 30th last about 50,000 settlers located in Canada.

The returns from the United Kingdom were not so great as the department would like, but a variety of reasons, principally the war in South Africa and the inducements offered by other colonies of the empire, contributed to this. A large number continue to go to the United States from Great Britain and it is just possible that some arrangements may be reached between the governments of British colonies and the Imperial government to attract immigration from the old land towards British possessions. If this were done then Canada is sure to be the principal dependency to gain from such action, because of the large number who still continue to go to the United States. Many of the latter would come to Canada instead.

A SIGN OF PROSPERITY.

A circumstance which indicates that "good times" prevail all over the continent of America is the fact that all the great railroads find it difficult to obtain sufficient cars to handle the goods which require transportation. According to the Railroad Gazette the "car famine" is well nigh universal throughout the United States as well as this country. Business has overtaken the capacity of the railroads, and further expansion is said to be impossible until additional carrying facilities are provided by the railroads. The Gazette thus refers to the situation: "From all sections of the country and many lines of industry complaints are heard regarding the inability to move goods. Probably the delay has been most aggravating in the case of coal. Not only are the steel mills many months behind orders and prompt deliveries commanding premiums, but even where goods are ready for customers it is often impossible to ship because of lack of cars. Iron ore would move freely by water if it could be transported from docks to furnaces; pig iron is wanted much faster than it can be handled and fuel is in a similar predicament."

All of which goes to show that the industrial revival which has been with us for the past three or four years shows no signs of abating. On the contrary, it would seem that it has not yet reached its climax. The Pennsylvania Railway has just ordered 12,000 cars of various descriptions, including 11,000 of 100,000 pounds capacity. The good times will continue with us for quite a while longer at any rate.

MR. CUSACK'S VIEWS.

A gentleman named Cusack, who until recently had been connected with the grocery firm of O. M. Fox & Co., doing business in Rossland, has been interviewed by the Spokesman-Review of Spokane. Mr. Cusack, if he has been reported correctly, spoke most disparagingly of the outlook for this city. Mr. Cusack is certainly entitled to his opinions and the right to give expression to them, but the Miner, which always aims at the advancement of the city and district in which it is published, begs to take exception to some of them. He says for instance that the "non-union element is anything but an advantage to Rossland." We would like to have Mr. Cusack amplify that contention a little. Will he say that they are not peaceable, law-abiding people? Can he point to any disturbances which have occurred since the advent of the non-union men? Will he dispute that the output at the mines is increasing daily, that the number of men employed is increasingly daily, and that numerous families of the men employed are constantly arriving to take up residence here? We do not think he can do so, with any show of reason.

Mr. Cusack is reported also to have said that business conditions in the camp are "far from satisfactory." Perhaps so, Mr. Cusack, but how much less satisfactory would they be if not one man was employed in the mines, instead of somewhere near 700, and the streets filled with a host of idle men who claim allegiance to the Western

FEDERATION OF MINERS WITH HEADQUARTERS AT DENVER, COLO.

We do not care to pursue the topic further at this time. We believe that the majority of the business men of the city are very glad at the knowledge that work on the large mines has been resumed, and are satisfied with the prospects for the future.

It is only fair to Mr. Cusack to say that a gentleman employed by O. M. Fox & Co. in this city called at the Miner office yesterday and said he had had a telephone conversation with Mr. Cusack at Spokane during which the latter had explained that he had been grossly misrepresented.

The Rossland Miner will give Mr. Cusack every opportunity to explain just what it was that he intended to say.

A SILLY YARN.

About the silliest thing which has been printed by the silly press of America for the last twenty years is the story of the discovery of the "gigantic plot" to overthrow the government of the Yukon territory, haul down the British flag and establish a republic. It is hard to understand why intelligent newspaper editors would give space in the columns of their publications to such utter rot. Had they given the report a moment's consideration they must have speedily seen how utterly foundationless was the story. No one but an imbecile would seriously put forward the contention that a plot was on foot to expropriate a portion of Canada's dominions by a gang of adventurers. In the first place, the latter—the adventurers—would be nothing short of madmen to suppose for an instant that their "scheme" could have any other result than to land the whole lot in jail; in the second place—supposing they met with temporary success and hoisted the American flag—the United States government would be immediately called upon to repudiate their actions or engage in a war with Great Britain.

The whole story is preposterous and ought never to have been given publicity by intelligent newspaper men. It was evidently the production of some "yellow" space-writer's imagination.

REGISTER YOUR VOTE.

All who have the true interests of Rossland at heart are naturally extremely anxious that every person in the city who is properly qualified and desirous of seeing the city thoroughly purged of the tyranny of rampant unionism, should register, so as to be enabled to vote at the forthcoming municipal contest.

There is no disguising the fact that a determined attempt is going to be made to capture the city in the interests of the labor organizations. Those prominent in the movement are men who have little or no stake in the community. We print some facts this morning which will bear out that assertion. They are mere demagogues, who feast upon turmoil and discord; and it would be very much of a calamity if by any failure of duty upon the part of the great body of electors the affairs of the city were to be handed over to their mismanagement for the next year.

If you have a vote go and register; if your neighbor has a vote interest yourself in the matter and see that his vote is registered. There is no time to lose!

A SENSIBLE SUGGESTION.

We think there will be but one opinion throughout the entire province of the wisdom of the suggestion that Colonel Edward Gawlor Prior, M.P.P., should be entrusted with the task of forming a government in succession to James Dunsmuir—and that will be one of unanimous approval. Colonel Prior is a strong party man—a staunch Conservative; but he is reported to have said that were he to undertake the task of bringing order out of chaos, he would be in favor of establishing a non-party government. If Colonel Prior sticks to that declaration of intention and is given the opportunity which he mentions, there is not the slightest doubt that he would be elected hands down in Victoria and get together a government composed of men who would receive the hearty endorsement of the whole people.

Colonel Prior is just the sort of a man we want at the head of affairs in this province. He is a successful business man, of unblemished reputation, possesses a thorough knowledge of the needs and requirements of the country and has brains and ability. If he were able to subdue his strong party predilections he would undoubtedly be able to lift the province from the mire in which it has been cast by various incompetent administrations.

"STRIKE SUSTAINED"

Through the enterprise of the Evening World the citizens of Rossland have been informed that the strike which has been in progress in Rossland for some months has been "sustained" by the gentlemen who manage the affairs of the Western Federation of Miners, with headquarters at Denver, Colorado, United States of America. The vice-president of the Western Federation of Miners made a trip all the way from Rossland to Denver in order to arrange for the "sustaining."

The announcement will cause great joy to the people of Rossland generally. The various union men who find themselves out of employment will be afforded an opportunity of walking the streets at libitum and wearing out a further quantity of shoe leather; the various merchants who have been "carrying" certain accounts which they hoped would some day be "good" on the resumption of work by the union men will be afforded every opportunity to compute their ultimate loss through the street-walking process of the union miners, and the mine managers will be enabled to offer more good positions to new-comers who want work at good wages.

That, apparently, is about what the declaration of the Western Federation of Miners with headquarters at Denver, Colo., to "sustain" the strike means to the Rossland union miners and the business people of the city.

But in this connection we ought to state that there is a remarkable unanimity of opinion among all classes of citizens that it is quite apparent that the mine managers have determined to "sustain" the decision to work their properties free from any union interference or any union dictation.

And we may be pardoned for saying that they seem fairly successful in carrying out their determination.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Somewhat of a sensation was created in local circles yesterday by the publication by the Miner of facts, gleaned from the civic official records, which show that the gentlemen representing the "Labor League," who are desirous of controlling Rossland's municipal affairs for the next year, pay taxes amounting to the huge sum of \$27.45. Very many people took occasion to remark to the Miner that the printing of such information was very valuable to the ratepayers and property owners at the present time; so, in order to push a good thing along, we intend to keep standing in a prominent position in our columns the little table which shows what tremendous intrinsic interests the demagogues have in the city whose policy they would like to dictate for the ensuing year.

But, seriously—has not the time arrived for a few plain words to be indulged in respecting the situation with which the people of Rossland are confronted today? We think so; and we purpose calling a spade a spade in the future in dealing with themes similar to the one we are now discussing. The plain truth of the matter is that the business men of Rossland and all residents of sane tendencies have for some years past been terrorized by the element of demagogues which professed to hold in the hollow of its hand the destinies of all who were engaged in business enterprises in this community. The sword of Damocles—in the shape of the boycott—was hung over the heads of all who had the temerity to oppose the will of certain loud-mouthed socialists who had in harness the rank and file of the wage-earners. If one did not acquiesce in the views enunciated by the demagogues, he was immediately placed upon the "unfair" list and his business interests placed in jeopardy.

But, happily, a change has come over the spirit of our dreams. Thanks to the action of a few courageous men, the iron heel of Reason has been placed upon the neck of Union Tyranny, and the latter is now writhing with the death-rattle in its throat; and in a few weeks Rossland will be freed forever from the attempted domination of a set of rascals whose interests in the city amount to the huge sum of \$27.45 in taxes paid on real estate.

Rossland is awakening none too soon to a realization of the duty which it owes itself. Too long has it allowed itself to be dominated by a few loud-mouthed agitators at the expense of the whole community. The day of tyrannical demagogism has passed away—let us hope forever. It will be buried deep under an avalanche of popular opinion on the day when the municipal elections are held in January next.

Some facts and figures which will be interesting in view of the recent big railway deal are as follows: The roads that will be brought together through the "nipper" settlement are:

Table with 2 columns: Roads, Miles. Union Pacific 5,596; Southern Pacific 9,440; Northern Pacific 5,415; Great Northern 6,596; Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, 7,840; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, 7,840; Chicago and North-Western, 7,031.

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