

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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GRAFT IN CHICAGO.

Mayor Harrison of Chicago says the city hall there is full of graft. No reason for surprise is discerned in this. If it is not full of graft it is different from the hall of any other large municipality in the United States. Mr. Harrison proclaims that while the grafters are protected by civil service he will get some of them yet. Let it be hoped that he may get them all.

Civil service is, in theory, and often in practice, an excellent institution. As applied in city government it has resulted in a betterment of conditions. Nevertheless, a rogue cannot be made honest by a law that tells him he must be honest. The secret of honest government is that of honesty in the individual. While rascals are elected or appointed to position they will continue to be rascals just the same. In more than one instance the civil service commission, a body supposed to be above corrupt influence, has been the source of corrupt influence. Only a short time ago in the States there was a scandal growing out of the discovery that a member of a civil service commission had been selling to applicants lists of questions they would be expected to answer. Such conduct reduces the matter to the level of a farce. The civil service that protects a good official protects the community, and that which protects the rascal assails the welfare of the community.

After all, the matter is in the hands of the people. They can elect good representatives or bad to run the municipal governments. So far as the appointive power lies with the representatives so elected, the people are still responsible. If they choose men who will appoint the unfit, they have chosen the unfit.

And, to digress a little, the distress of Mr. Harrison over the corruption of the city with which he has so long been identified strikes the observer as tardy, and perhaps, if of a suspicious nature, he makes bold to question its sincerity. However, it sounds all right and Mr. Harrison ought to mean it all, even if he doesn't.

A NEW DRILL.

A Denver foundry reports that after several years of work and experiment it has perfected an electric drill that will do the work of an air or steam drill. It is called the Box electric rock drill. The foundry in a publication describing the mechanism claims that during the past two years the drill has been under continuous test and observation in the shops of the company and subjected to tests under actual working conditions in the hardest kinds of rocks and those most difficult to drill. It is claimed that it has met all necessary requirements and that its workings are satisfactory. One of the greatest advantages it has over those operated by steam or air is the relatively less power required to operate it. The average steam or air drill requires fourteen horse power; the reciprocating electric, with flexible shaft, 3 1/2 horse power, and the box electric 1 1/2 horse power. Should the claims of the Denver concern be verified in practice and in the general adoption of its drill, and there is no weight of reason to doubt that the machine will do what is claimed for it, the box electric rock drill is certain to be of great advantage to miners as it will lessen the cost of mining and prove more convenient than the ordinary air or steam drill. An electric drill, even equally efficient as the ordinary power drills at present in use, has been a long felt want, and if such a machine has at last been perfected it should soon come into general use.

A WARNING.

The matter of continued labor troubles in the mining camps of the western United States is having a bad effect upon investment in mining. Capital, always timid, cannot be expected to seek

fields where such troubles are so frequent occurrence. The agitation of the lawless element has caused unionism among the miners to be regarded with a distrust not warranted by the character of the majority of the miners. The white skilled laborer in western American mines used to be pointed to as ideal and advantageous for mining interests. A change in sentiment is becoming prevalent, and it is to the interest of the miners that the best element among them assert themselves and cause their unions to be presented in a more favorable light. Capital diverted to other channels hurts the miner as well as others. This phase of the question should receive due consideration by Cripple Creek miners and others before it is too late.

McBRIDE—DEVIL—DEEP SEA.

The McBride government is doomed, regardless of what will result from the recount at Fernie. Even with Ross, of Fernie, successful, Hon. Richard was destined to be swept from office before the elections were held. The clean sweep of the Liberals in Victoria City has occasioned considerable surprise in certain quarters. Victoria is known to be Tory in sentiment and unalterably opposed to Martinism. Why, then, did the Capital City elect four men who were certain to follow Hon. Joseph if he were elected? Col. Prior, in spite of his many political iniquities, is still a power in Victoria. He has a large following and some able lieutenants. The Colonel has no use for McBride and is out to down him. There can be no question but that the Priorites "did things" to the McBride candidates at Victoria last Saturday, and McBride knows it to his sorrow.

But regardless of all that Col. Prior could do, the Premier expected to succeed and meet the next house with a safe working majority. He did not expect to see Houston of Nelson elected and thereby become a majority of one. It is safe to say that had he foreseen this he would never have declared for party government. Houston, however, is very much there, as McBride will realize to his cost before many days pass. Nelson's "practical" politician wants to be in the cabinet and he will demand nothing short of the portfolio of lands and works, because that is the one that offers the greatest opportunities for graft. McBride will have to yield—which means his political death. The country will then quickly realize that it is to be cursed with a carnival of political corruption unequalled by Martin and "the old gang" in their palmyest days. They will consequently rise in their might and sweep the whole kit of so-called Conservatives from office.

THE MINING OUTLOOK.

All over the Kootenays the mining outlook is fast improving, so as to give good ground for the hope that the present year will be written down in history, when it is ended, as one of the best yet experienced, and the assurance that from now on each year will be an improvement on the one that preceded it.

The bounty of \$15 per ton on lead produced in Canada will exert a most beneficial effect on the industry and the production of the silver-lead mines of the several divisions of the Kootenays should soon show a marked increase over the previous two or three years. By the time the five years, during which the bounty is paid, have elapsed the production of pig lead in Canada and the factories making the manufactured products of lead should be firmly established industries, in which event the lead miners should be able to market their ores for a higher price than ever before. Under such conditions the silver-lead mines should be able to make large profits, and disseminate dividends more generally than ever before.

So far we have no free-gold camps of more than ordinary importance. It is true that Camp McKinney, Ymir and other places have mines whose ores are amenable to the free milling treatment, but none of these are wonderful, as are some of the free gold centres of other countries. It is believed, however, that in Poplar creek a section has been discovered which will in time make a place of considerable importance. Free gold mines are alluring to miners anywhere, and principally for the reason that they can be operated on a much smaller capital than can deposits of low grade sulphides or even silver-lead lodes. It is believed by many, therefore, and with very good reason, too, that the Poplar Creek camp will, like theven, stir the mining industry of the province from centre to circumference.

In the Boundary the output of the larger mines is being increased and several new shippers have recently been added to what is already a good sized and important list. The activity in the Boundary is certain to increase and expand in a marked degree.

In the Rossland camp two of the larger companies are putting in concentrators for the purpose of concentrating the lower grade ores of the

camp. A third company is keeping close watch on these improvements, and if they prove successful will imitate their example. Concentration is a process which is successful elsewhere, and there is no reason to doubt that it can be made commercially profitable here. It is simply a process by which the gangue is separated from the mineral in the ore. That is all that there is in it. There are millions of tons of low grade ore in the mines of this camp which can be mined and made to yield a large profit under this process. Therefore once the concentrating mills are in the full tide of operation there should naturally follow a need of several hundred, perhaps in time a thousand, more men to extract this low grade ore, and naturally in the explorations for this ore high grade seams will also be found, and there is no telling how much this concentration will mean for the Rossland camp.

The outlook, therefore, is much brighter than it has been for several years past, and as many who have recently left Rossland and the Kootenays will find out, there are many places which have not nearly the same resources, or the same promising outlook, that can be found here.

OUR FINANCIAL CONDITION.

One of the Coast dailies, the Vancouver Province, has actually ventured to the realization that the financial condition of British Columbia is a very serious and important question. The Province naively remarks that "the seriousness of the financial situation of this province is for the time lost to view in the excitement of the elections, but after this the people will be face to face with the situation, and will be called upon to calmly consider it." We should rather think so. But just imagine a people that would lose sight of a question like this during an election—the very time it should be a living issue! A total revenue of a little more than \$2,000,000 and an annual deficit of \$500,000 is, in all conscience, a serious enough matter for any country.

The financial situation should be the most important question in British Columbia politics today, but it is a noteworthy fact that neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals have evinced any desire to rise to the occasion. Both have "funked" it. Messrs. McBride and Goodeve made the vague and tricky declaration that they would endeavor to keep the expenditures within the revenue, but beyond a possible saving of \$30,000 a year in the remodelling of the civil service, seemed utterly at a loss to cope with the situation. Some Liberals, the Province for instance, talk of a saving of \$28,000 per annum if the members of the next legislature would forego their sessional indemnities and allow the amounts to help out the provincial treasury. But what earthly use is \$28,000 when nothing short of \$500,000 is required?

The only possible way to "keep the expenditure within the revenue" is to raise the revenue. It is next to impossible to lessen the cost of government sufficiently to wipe out the present annual shortage. The talk about "foregoing sessional indemnities" is the veriest piffle. The \$26,000 thereby "saved" would not be a drop in the bucket. And whoever knew a legislature that would forego salaries? The corporation politicians and the railway press persistently refuse to apply the only remedy. But that remedy will be applied in spite of all such opposition, because the failure to do so would mean general collapse.

The sovereign remedy for our financial ills is an equitable system of taxation. There is no need why the masses should pay one cent more in taxes than they do today; but if the railways, the big dividend-paying industrial corporations, men like the Dunsmuirs, the Pooleys, the Douglas Lake cattle people, the Rithets and scores of other opulent individuals who belong to the Turner-Dunsmuir-McBride ring, were made to pay taxes in exactly the same proportion as the working miner, the struggling merchant and the overburdened mining industry, there would be a surplus rather than a deficit in the provincial accounts. Under existing conditions the poor people are bearing five-sixths of the cost of government, while the other class, which is in a much better position to bear the burden, is protected to an extent that leaves it almost immune.

Meanwhile the sleepy Liberals and slothful Conservatives are wondering why Socialism with all its cheap tinsel and rotten fallacies waxes popular with the poorer element of the population.

IS THERE A PUBLIC OPINION?

Some papers are asking in a despairing sort of way if there is a public opinion in Canada to which men in Parliament are amenable. It should not take long consideration of what has transpired since Confederation to convince the questioners. Confederation was an achievement of public opinion, to which some very capable men who doubted their wis-

dom were compelled to bow. Confederation had not been very long established when public opinion had occasion to assert itself in connection with a question that arose as a sequel to the union of the provinces. The first Canadian Pacific railway contract was made the basis of charges, the reiteration of which with the production of certain documents which went to establish them, convinced the public that there was connected with the agreement certain corrupt considerations. The government of the day, which had been attacked, so felt the force of public opinion that it did not wait the result of the vote in the house of commons, the majority of whose members had been elected to support it; but resigned before the close of the argument on the evidence. The subsequent appeal to the people in the general election indicated that those who had been accused had correctly estimated what the country thought. Five years later, in 1878, there was distinct evidence of the effect of public opinion that had been forming on the fiscal issue in the return to power of the men who had in 1873 been so emphatically cast down. The parliamentary election of 1891 was another testimony to the force of public opinion. The unrestricted reciprocity issue had been raised. It seemed to carry many people off their feet. An address by Sir John A. Macdonald, the vote, and the West Durham letter of Mr. Edward Blake killed the thing so dead that it was not even sought to resuscitate it. Quebec has given a remarkable evidence of how public opinion can make itself felt. The Macleod administration in 1891 was fresh from an electoral victory which seemed to give it absolute control of the legislature. Events transpired that convinced the people that there was in and connected with it a ring of corrupt bootlers, who were robbing both the province and those who had business to do with it. In an appeal to the voters the advocates of the ring and its ministerial patrons were all crushed out of existence. The force of public opinion did the work, and deemed the good name of the province. There is a public opinion in Canada. It may seem dormant, and may at times be actually dormant. The poor fashion too many public writers and speakers have of continually imputing evil motives to their opponents tends to make it indifferent to charges of corruption or deeds of extravagance. The party which counts on it being dead, is liable to have a rude awakening. It is liable to arouse itself, at the most inconvenient time for those who would have it always sleep.

McBRIDE AND THE CONSERVATIVES.

It is a rank injustice to genuine Conservatism to call the McBride administration Conservative. Mr. McBride's policy, or rather lack of policy, is absolutely foreign to Conservative traditions and principles. Mr. McBride's rise to prominence in the political arena is nothing more than an unfortunate accident. When he was first called upon to form a government he had the support of nearly every disciple of good government. But it was naturally supposed that, given a little time, he would rise to the occasion and produce a policy to meet the urgent requirements of the country. To the utter astonishment and undisguised disgust of thousands of his would-be supporters he did nothing of the kind. The question therefore naturally arises: Is McBride a fool or a rogue? Evidence is not wanting to show that the premier possesses a considerable amount of cunning, for it must be conceded that he has tricked the Conservative party into making him their leader, regardless of the appointment of Charles Wilson to that position at the Revelstoke convention. As for his political probity and straightforwardness we know of nothing that can be said in his favor. He has evaded every important issue. The East Kootenay land question, equitable taxation, a definite railway policy, the maintenance of public schools, the abrogation of "reserves" on crown lands and other equally important issues of the day have been artfully ignored or evaded, although he is said to have a secret understanding with a certain railway company for the further spoliation of the province.

A LUDICROUS ROORBACK.

The Winnipeg Tribune is amused at the story that the Socialists tried to kill Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper in the Slo-can the other day. Says the Tribune: "One of the funniest little political jokes of recent days is the story of the attempt by the 'Socialists' on the life of Sir Hibbert Tupper. That grave and sententious blockhead, the Vancouver correspondent of the Free Press, in reporting the matter refers incidentally to 'the tendency of Socialism to merge

with anarchy.' He is apparently almost as ignorant as his editor-in-chief of the meaning of the words. Sir Hibbert Tupper is a very decent fellow personally or in his social capacity, and he is a reasonably good lawyer, but even his best friends would never chalk him out as a man to be drawn by the 'Socialists' for an assassination in order to rid their cause of so powerful an enemy. The 'Socialist' who would attempt to end the career, or stifle the eloquence, of Sir Hibbert when that gallant knight wants to break a lance with Socialism, is either insane or is one of Socialism's worst enemies. No, we think Sir Hibbert may consider himself secure against Socialistic violence."

For the first time in its history British Columbia this year is exporting gold, silver and copper pure and separate from any other substances. This is because the mining and smelting industry has made such rapid strides of progress. The industry has reached the stage when it is virtually independent of the American refiners. Until quite recently the product of the silver-lead furnaces went to the U. S. Atlantic seaboard to be separated and refined. Now it is refined at Trail at a great saving in the cost. The same practice obtains with the matte of the copper smelters. A matte containing seldom more than 50 per cent of value—the balance being iron and other waste—is used to be shipped across the continent at heavy cost. Now, by the use of converters, blister copper is produced at Grand Forks and 50 per cent of the freight and the New Jersey refining charges are saved. Next year it is probable that this province will commence to ship pig iron and refined zinc, and before long we shall not have to go abroad to have our coinage minted.

The recount at Fernie confirms the election of the Conservative candidate and thus insures the McBride ministry twenty-two of the forty-two seats. This is sufficient to carry on government, provided none of the crowd absent themselves or kick over the traces. But Mr. McBride's position is not a bed of roses. There is a portfolio to be filled owing to the vacancy caused by the defeat of Hon. A. S. Goodeve. About 40 per cent of those who are not already members of the executive are wildly clamoring to be taken into the cabinet. Each aspirant wants it distinctly understood that he is the majority of one upon which the unfortunate premier must depend if he wishes to retain office. Those who are not already aspirants had better get into the game without delay if they have the slightest regard for their political future. Every constituency that elected a McBrideite is on the qui vive. The member who returns to his district without the portfolio, which could unquestionably have been his had he been obdurate, must be prepared for a warm reception. His justly irate supporters will hold him in utter contempt for his failure to honor himself and indirectly them by insisting upon a place in the cabinet. The riding will not indulge in fine reasoning concerning Mr. McBride's political welfare. It will be infinitely more interested in its own material advancement. There is nothing like a representative in the cabinet when it comes to getting fat appropriations. It is a foregone conclusion that the constituencies that are jugged out of this unique opportunity to get representation in the McBride ministry will have ample revenge at the next elections. It will thus be seen that no matter who is appointed the other members will have a just grievance and they are not to be blamed if they make "a rough house."

Of course if Mr. McBride were really disposed to place the welfare of his party before his own selfish interests he would resign from the well paid chief commissionership of lands and works and accept the presidency of the council, which is a cabinet position without salary. But as there is not the remotest probability of him doing so, the idea is not worth discussing. However, Mr. McBride's selfishness in this respect should not be lost sight of by the rank and file of his party while the process of cabinet making is in progress. He will always be open to the charge that he thought more of his own interests than those of his followers.

The Miner fails to see how Mr. McBride can expect to carry on government under existing conditions. It is, however, necessary that a session of the legislature be held before another election. It may be that the Liberals will consent to this from purely patriotic motives. But after a short session, it seems inevitable that McBride should be kicked out of office once and forever.

McBRIDE AND HOUSTON.

The appointment of John Houston to a place in the McBride cabinet is the only thing now necessary to insure the defeat of the ministry. The people will

simply refuse to tolerate Houston as a minister of the crown. The same reasons that prompted the electors to become anti-Martin will make them anti-Houston. Houston unblushingly boasts that he is a "practical" politician, and that is more than Martin ever dared to do. It is because we are tired of "practical" politicians that Martin, Prior, Eberts and some others have been so effectively turned down. The only thing that kept McBride and Houston from being killed off at the last elections was the fact that the province was too busy giving Martin his quietus. If Martin had retired from active politics when the last legislature was disbanded, McBride never would have sat again on the treasury benches and Houston would have no choice but to remain in opposition with empty pockets.

LOCAL REFINERIES.

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NO BED OF ROSES.

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AN OBJECT LESSON TO B. C.

All of the states of the new commonwealth of Australia are complaining of a serious loss of population. The loss in Victoria alone has become so serious that it is now one of the chief topics of discussion in the newspapers there. There are many lamentations over the falling off in population, but few practical suggestions as to how the drain from the colonies can be checked.

During the first six months of the current year the emigration from Victoria colony amounted to 1,747, all people of the class of most value to the community—young, energetic men in the prime of life, well educated and well prepared for the struggle for existence. They all departed for South Africa, believing that there are better opportunities there than in the land of their nativity; not because the natural resources of South Africa are the better, but because that country has thus far escaped the radical socialistic experiments which Australia has been trying. They are disgusted with their own country, and are seeking a new one wherein individualism has a chance.

This, at least, is the explanation which the Australian newspapers are giving of a hegra which threatens to deprive the new commonwealth of some of the best of its young blood, for the benefit of another British colony.

The same condition will eventually obtain in British Columbia if Martinism, Socialism and Houstonism is not relegated to the background where it would be harmless to the public.

MATRIMONIAL BARGAINS.

In one of the New York dailies there is running a series of articles on the subject of international marriages. The writers are Mrs. John A. Logan, Margaret Sangster, Margaret van Eton and other prominent newspaper writers. The headlines are large and scarseome. The matter is to an unbiased mind rank nonsense. In the centre of each article of the series is run a picture of some prominent American girl while underneath he who runs may read "Miss So and So, a beautiful American bride who preferred an honorable American to a foreign titled husband."

The articles themselves are lengthy tales of the woes which pursue and finally submerge the unfortunate American girls who marry into foreign titled families; how they become expatriated, lose their independence, are browbeaten and in many instances brutally treated.

Englishmen and foreign noblemen are pictured as flocking to the United States in droves and Margaret Sangster—a woman, by the way, who is usually noted for her common sense—rises to the following flights of oratory: "When we find our working girls, our children of poverty, our daughters of the factory and the backwoods sought out and married for themselves alone, we can but pity their sisters who toil not neither do they spin, and who out of their affluence are captured and made the bond-slaves of marriages of convenience in effete Europe" and "A title paid for in hard cash earned by the American father or grandfather by the sweat of his brow has given little comfort to the homesick bride in the makeshift and mortifications of the life to which marriage has introduced her."

This is quite an arraignment, is it not? And to the impartial observer a singularly lopsided one. In all fairness it must be acknowledged that the usual mode of procedure which is the forerunner of the international marriage is not that in which the titled Englishman, or Frenchman, or Austrian or whatever he may be, goes to America and—to use the words of Mrs. Sangster—captures and makes bond-slaves of the American girls.

On the contrary, the American heiress, plus her mamma, betakes her to Europe, to London, to Paris, to Vienna. What for? To look at the Tower of London or the Gallery of the Louvre or to hear the music of the Austrian capital?

Certainly not; the question is absurd. She goes abroad to get into "Society." She is either welcomed at these places on her arrival or manages to gain entrance in some way, but she is frankly there to meet those monsters who are pictured as going to the States to purchase her. In the first place, she puts herself

only herself to blame. If for, she probably returned disappointed. If a title society in Europe is what has a right to take it, offers and she has an disappointed should the lacking.

As for preferring "an heiress" to a foreign husband that is rather amusing. There are relatively a poor young American woman there are titled foreigners. A man may be a rake at the same time or a man and a hobo. Ethics are a question of position or lack thereof.

Last but not least, if change any way you look American girl of today is educated; she knows what she goes abroad, she sees of social life there and she her eyes open.

MODEST MR. DUNSMUIR.

"Mr. James Dunsmuir will not extend the E. from Wellington to Co amount of the subsidy ion government has gr consumption of that pr nounced in dispatches the government is willing 600 for the extension of railway from Wellington distance of sixty miles. mair states that he will less the Dominion grant doubled. He says he, w mile. If he gets that am ready to proceed with tion at once." This is th conveyed in a Victoria set forth cannot fall to tion. He might have d whole Dominion surplus millions for the emmen extending his road to moderation is all the n when the fact is borne the extension of the r wholly within the land the province obliged his accept for the building from Victoria to Well Dunsmuir's request for a cent of \$6000 a mile for will add much to the val property ought surely itself for its extreme mo that other public Dunsmuir interests are few millions.

THE JUDGESHIP M

Kootenay's request for a r ber of the supreme court knowledgeable to be reason Vancouver Province, which patently absurd that that trict should be without a greme court judge. It shou one long ago." But the ceeds: "Under the p stances, however, it s di how the request can be g cover, at which there is tion than at any other poi vince, is still without a r ard is very little better Nelson or Rossland. The city, therefore, are paramo to be satisfied before those district are considered." This contention is not appa who understand the geog country. Vancouver is wit tance of Victoria, and is v uly intervals, or often, court judges. The big di Kootenays and Yale enjoy vantages. The disabilities ances alleged in Vancouver multiplied by the distanc of the interior. To any server who knows all the claims of this region out of comparison stronge of the Terminal City.

ASYLUM WAG

The news comes from y the McBride government steps to reduce the exp Provincial service. By specified the saving of \$30 to be effected. Any redi pense will be welcomed h no impairment of effice \$20,000 saving will go a ve in filling up the awful province's finances. In th tion has cropped up a e a little levelling up wou required in the matter of also some additional exp general way. This conce vncial hospital for the in Westminster. The facts forth in the following po grand jury's presentment Westminster.

We next visited the pro hum for the insane, and f thing neat and clean in bo female ward "B," to which has not been appointed sir he was transferred to th police department. We fou in a cleanly state by any would advise the appoint