

VISIT OF LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN TO ROSSLAND.

No recent event in the history of Rossland, excepting perhaps one or two of the most important "strikes" in the leading mines of the camp, has done so much to attract the attention of the world to this city as the recent visit of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, on the occasion of His Excellency's farewell tour of the Dominion. It was in fact this visit which suggested to the Rossland Board of Trade the advisability of publishing the present volume.

Their Excellencies arrived at a late hour on the evening of Tuesday, July 19th, and left to continue their tour the following evening. Their stay in Rossland was, therefore, limited to about twenty hours, but the arrangements for their reception were so excellent that they were enabled to see and learn much more of the city and its surroundings than most other visitors have accomplished in a week.

They were greeted at the C. P. R. depot on their arrival, despite the lateness of the hour, by a vast concourse of people, and were at once escorted to their hotel by a reception committee composed of the Mayor, city council and a number of leading citizens, including the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, preceded by a brass band and 100 miners carrying torches. They were then conducted to the opera house where between 500 and 600 people had assembled, to receive loyal addresses from the citizens of Rossland and the Board of Trade. These addresses, which were presented by Mayor Wallace and President McArthur of the Board of Trade, and read by W. J. Nelson, acting city clerk, and John McKane, secretary of the Board of Trade, are too lengthy to be quoted here in full, but a short resume of each will be of interest. The city's address extended to Their Excellencies a hearty welcome to Rossland and expressed appreciation of the manner in which His Excellency had discharged his responsible and arduous duties as Governor-General, and of Lady Aberdeen's kindly interest in the social life of Canada. Regret was also expressed that His Excellency's official connection with Canada was so soon to terminate. After drawing His Excellency's attention to the fact that the great development of the mines of this district had been wholly accomplished since he assumed the office of Governor-General, the address went on to say:

"It may be of interest to Your Excellency to know that there are already fourteen shipping mines in the Rossland district, and further to learn that there has been expended in mining machinery and plants not less than the sum of \$1,000,000, and that as a result over 170,000 tons of ore have been mined, amounting in value to over \$5,000,000—the gold production alone being more than 275,000 fine ounces."

The address concluded by extending to Their Excellencies the freedom of the city as its guests and a wish for their health, wealth and prosperity.

From the address presented by the Board of Trade we extract the following paragraphs:

"Four years ago the mineral output of the district was not begun; the site on which the city of Rossland now stands was to a large extent uncleared land, and the district had contributed nothing either to the Dominion or to the province.

"Now the output of ore from the Rossland mines has amounted to 170,000 tons; the value of reality within the city has already exceeded \$2,000,000, the value of the permanent improvements in connection with the mines, exclusive of roads and trails, is estimated at not less than \$1,000,000, while the present capital value of the mines is at least \$25,000,000.

"The revenue derived from the Rossland postoffice has been \$35,000, and the customs receipts total \$350,000, without reference to inland revenue."

His Excellency spoke briefly in reply.

THE MINES VISITED.

On Wednesday His Excellency and Lady Aberdeen and the other members of their party were early astir. Before they had finished breakfast several hundred school children in holiday attire had gathered in front of the hotel to greet them. On their appearance in the carriages in which they were to make a tour of the mines the children sang the "Maple Leaf" and other patriotic songs, while three of their number presented Lady Aberdeen with bouquets. Lord Aberdeen then addressed them briefly, promising that he would ask for a special holiday for them when school resumed.

The tour of the mines was at once begun. The programme included a visit to the Columbia and Kootenay group, owned by the British American corporation, of which the Marquis of Dufferin is chairman and the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh managing director; the Virginia, Monte Christo and Coloma mines, owned by a Montreal syndicate, of which Mr. C. R. Hosmer, of the C. P. R. Telegraph Company, is the head; the Centre Star, of which Mr. Oliver Durant is manager and one of the principal owners; the Iron Mask, owned by a Spokane company with Austin Corbin, Jr., as president; War Eagle group, in which George Gooderham and T. G. Blackstock of Toronto are the largest shareholders; the famous Le Roi, now under the control of the British American corporation, and the Josie mine, also owned by the same company. In the limited time at their disposal it was only possible to inspect the underground workings of two of these properties, the Columbia and Kootenay and Centre Star. The latter great mine had been lighted with some 2,000 candles, so that every nook and cranny was open to view. It was such a trip as few persons have ever made underground, and the manager of the mine, Mr. Oliver Durant, was warmly thanked for his courtesy. At the conclusion of the trip Lady Aberdeen was presented by the miners with a magnificent hand made miner's candlestick, which she assured the givers should be one of the most treasured souvenirs of her trip.

SPEECHES AT THE BANQUET.

The next event on the programme was the luncheon to His Excellency. This was one of the most impressive public functions ever held in Rossland. The attendance numbered one hundred citizens and the speeches were of far reaching importance. The menu was excellent, and the decorations were unusually elaborate. Mayor Wallace presided and at his right hand sat the guest of honor, His Excellency the Governor-General.

The opening toast, "The Queen," was given in rousing fashion, and the singing of the national anthem followed enthusiastically.

"The mineral resources of British Columbia" was responded to by Mr. W. A. Carlyle, ex-provincial mineralogist now chief engineer of the B. A. C., who said: "For the second time it is my very pleasant duty to rise to respond to a toast in which most of us are very deeply interested—the Mineral Resources of British Columbia. It is my purpose to say but a very few words and to detain you but two or three minutes, and it is a pleasure for me to speak upon the mines and resources of Kootenay—a noble part of a noble province, the land of mountains, exquisite lakes, magnificent rivers and, moreover, a land of mines of wealth yet untold.

"It is almost needless this afternoon to remind our guests that this country but a short decade ago was a terra incognita, but we may be more able to appreciate its advance if we remember that the history of this district has been written during the regime of His Excellency. [Applause.] During the past five years that he has governed this country so wisely and so well, it must be, I am sure, a source of gratification and of interest to His Excellency as he makes this brief visit through this district, to see the wonderful development that has taken place, to remember that six or seven years ago nothing was here but a wilderness, where now are large and flourishing towns and cities, with connecting railroads and

1. New Bank of Montreal.
2. New Rossland Club.
3. Residence of Ald. Ross Thompson, the founder of the City of Rossland.
4. Baptist Church.
5. British America Corporation, General Offices.
6. British America Corporation, Assay Office.
7. British America Corporation, General Superintendent's Residence.
8. New C. P. R. Depot.
9. Public School.
10. Presbyterian Church.
11. Sisters' Hospital.
12. Lion Brewery.