ROSSLAND WEEKLY MINER

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SOUTH OF THE LINE

Much Work Going On In the Colville Reservation.

SOME FINE ORE SHOWINGS

Great Republic and Double Standard—Grouse Mountain Properties—Rich Mountain View—Good Shipping and Smelting Facilities.

NORTHPORT, Wash., Dec. 29.—[Special.]—The mines on the south side of the international boundary line are steadily pushing forward and attracting more attention every day. That the rich mineral belt, which has built up Rossland and made Trail Creek a famous name throughout the world, extends southward into the United States, there can be little doubt.

A comparatively short distance from the Deer Park and Silver Bell brings one to the boundary line, beside which and adjoining the Columbia & Red Mountain railway, are the Great Republic and Double Standard mines, both of which have ore for shipment. This ore which is of very good grade, resembles that of some of the best mines in the South Belt.

To the east of these is the Helen group which has a vast body of practically free milling ore of fair grade, and across the line from it are a great many claims located after the opening of the reservation last spring, but as yet very little developed. Among these recent locations is a group of seven claims, owned by the Royal Gold Mining company on which are several broad ledges of free milling rock, assaying from $2 to $4 per ton on the surface.

Assessment work on other properties on Grouse mountain has disclosed some very fine looking ore, which though probably more refractory than the surface rock, will give much higher values. Several companies have announced their intention to vigorously prosecute development work in the spring.

To the west and southwest of the Great Republic and Double Standard, are many splendid prospects on Sheep creek and its tributaries; while a little further south is the Coyote, on which a 100 foot is now being sunk, and the Mountain View with its assays from near the surface of over $100, making it the coveted prize of more than one prospector last spring.

Near these two claims is another group of claims owned by the Royal Gold Mining company, on which they are now actively pushing development.

In this locality there is not only the iron cap, with good gold values underneath characteristic of the Trail Creek country, but there are also galena ledges assaying from $50 to $60 on the surface. A ledge of this kind now opened on the Royal Gold shows the most marked features of a true fissure vein. Between the slate hanging wall and the mineral is a regular seam of talc of nearly an inch in thickness; next to that is the pay rock, varying in width from one to two feet, while the whole shaft is in a mineralized quartz, carrying considerable iron in addition to the galena. The outlook for some good mines in this locality is very promising. A little farther west are the Flat Creek properties, one of which was bonded a few days ago for $30,000, and of which splendid reports are given.

The owners of mining property on the reservation are jubilant over the proposed smelter at Northport, as it means for them smelting and transportation at the lowest rates without the expense of duty or sampling. It is predicted that before July, 1897, a score of companies will be producing ore in shipping quantities and of paying values from mines all within five miles of a line adjoining Rossland and Northport.

FIRST CAR LOAD SHIPPED.

Red Mountain Railway Hauled Its First Car of Ore Yesterday.

The Red Mountain railroad took out its first car load of ore yesterday. The ore came from the Red Mountain mine. The identity of names is a coincidence which it is hoped may be a happy augury for the future. The ore was hauled from the mine down to a car which stood on the temporary siding on Nickel Plate flat. The car was billed to the Tacoma smelter. A car load on the Red Mountain road consists of 20 tons. There are several more car loads on the dump ready for shipment, and it is believed a car load can be sent about every ten days for the time being.

THE FLOSSIE L. MINE.

Ten Men Will Be Employed on the Development Force.

Things are being pushed along at a lively rate on the Flossie L., under bond to a London company represented by Ernest W. Grant Govan and Frederick W. North. The wagon road has been completed to the Jumbo road, and it is an uncommonly good one. A blacksmith shop has already been put up, and as soon as the lumber can be got on to the ground a cook-house and bunkhouse will be erected. When these buildings are ready for use the work on the mine proper will begin.

Manager Jones says he will put on 10 men at first and will continue the tunnel already started. In a short time he will add to this force and make other openings on the property. Sufficient funds are on hand for the thorough opening of the property and the work will be done in the best manner possible.

BUTTE LOOKS WELL.

Foot Wall Is Strong and Well Defined—Fine Ore Coming In.

The Butte shaft is now down 90 feet. Some fine looking copper ore is coming in at the foot wall side. The foot wall for the past 30 feet has been excellent. Pieces of ore taken from next to the foot wall show plainly the effect of movement and the separation is complete. The ore is silicious, showing masses of copper here and there. It looks much like that found in the Commander. The extent of the body just now being opened will be known in a few days.

Machinery For the Joker.

The Lookout Mountain Mining company at Trail has purchased a hoist which arrived in Trail Saturday. It will be carried to the Joker mine and placed in operation at once. The Joker has one of the strongest surface indications of any property in the district. The ledge is 125 feet wide between diorite and porphyry walls and crops out strongly for 1,500 feet.

MINES OF THE SOUTH BELT

The Silver Bell, Ottawa and the Ibex.

Silver Bell Will Be Equipped With a Hoist and Pump at Once—Ottawa's Long Tunnel.

The Silver Bell shaft is now down 75 feet and water has become so troublesome that a pump and hoist will be ordered at once. In the bottom of the shaft there are 20 inches of galena ore, which has always run high in this mine, and 18 inches of quartz carrying a low gold value. This quartz has the appearance of being free milling. The showing in the bottom of the shaft is very encouraging.

On the Ottawa, a claim adjoining the Silver Bell, a short tunnel has been run which opened a wide ledge showing galena and copper ore. This was intended as a prospecting tunnel. A main working tunnel is now to be started 400 feet down the hill from the short tunnel. It is expected this tunnel will cut the ledge at a dept of 80 feet, then by drifting on the vein 450 feet a depth of 400 feet can be secured. It is believed this plan of development will make the Ottawa a producer.

Development work is in active progress on the Ibex, which adjoins the Ottawa and Silver Bell. Five men are employed and the tunnel recently started is now in 35 feet. At a distance of 135 feet it will cut the ledge at a depth of 90 feet.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Topping Champions Kellie, Too.

EDITOR MINER—Sir: I have seen several articles in THE MINER scoring Mr. Kellie, our representative, quite heavily. Now I have the idea that he had represented us well and that he has accomplished as much as any member of the present house.

He worked for two sessions to get the "Tramway Act" passed, the act under which Mr. Heinze built the narrow gauge railroad, and its wise provisions will cover an electric railroad connecting Trail and Rossland before 1897 becomes a memory.

Mr. Kellie opposed the extension of time on the Red Mountain railroad. Time has justified his action, the road being completed long within the time limit of the original charter.

He was the main factor in adding to the mineral act clause 28, to quiet title. I have urged this amendment or something similar for several years and only succeeded when Mr. Kellie took hold of it.

Mr. Kellie succeeded in getting this district the largest per capita appropriation given for general purposes in the province.

You claim that he neglects and fails to visit our camp. Probably you are aware Mr. Editor, that the salary allowed to a member will barely pay his way through the session. Now Mr. Kellie is a poor man and has to rustle like the rest of us and it is a fair indication that he has not received many "divies" while a member. Give him a salary sufficient for his needs and I will engage that he will visit all of his constituents.

Regarding the new government buildings at Victoria there are many of us that believe them a credit and pride to the province: that the money used in that way is not a waste, it going to laborers, artisans and for material all over the province. We of Kootenay, received probably, none of the money directly, yet I am prepared to wager that many dollars of it have been expended in the camp in lands, mines and mining stock.

Mr. Kellie has and probably always will antagonize the proposal to abolish the free miner's certificate now required by miners, and I heartily agree with him for several reasons: In the first place a large proportion of the miners own claims and must have their free miner's certificate to do so, and the small minority on whom they are forced are men who pay no other taxes and in no other way help to support the authorities that give the thorough protection they now receive. The whole subject can be simmered down to a question of revenue. The government policy is to help the miners in developing new camps by cutting trails and roads. They build our school houses, furnish them and provide teachers. They build our jails and court houses, and as the tax on realty is but three-fifths of one per cent the money must be found. The Free Miner's Certificate Act has worked well with only an occasional local kick and has furnished a nice percentage of the revenue required.

I see in THE MINER as well as other papers a wholesale condemnation of the present provincial government. Now I can not agree with you. I believe it to be conducted honestly and for what they think is for the best interests of the province. I have but one kick, which even a change of administration may not cure, it having been the same for a score of years, that is, inflicting upon many parts of the country fossils from Cariboo to fill important offices where brains and courtesy are required, and where men are needed who can tell a mine from a cow without the latter being billed. Yours truly,

E. S. TOPPING.

KASLO NEWS NOTES

Union Club Opened Monday With a Membership of 91.

ORE SHIPMENTS INCREASE

The Steamer Alberta Will Be Put in Service Again—Ore is Receiving Prompt Dispatch—Brilliant Masonic Ball—Personals and Brevities.

KASLO, Dec. 30.—[Special.]—The Union club of this city completed its organization on Monday, and now occupies permanently its comfortably furnished room. A code of by-laws, carefully drawn, has been adopted, and the following list of officers chosen for the ensuing six months: President, Mayor Robert F. Green; vice-president, William Allison, of the Bank of British Columbia; secretary-treasurer, Charles Trumbull; house committee, George Clark, John H. Thompson, A. L. McClaine, J. L. Pierce, C. W. McCune, O. T. Stone, H. A. Cameron and C. F. Kent. The club starts with a membership of 91, with every prospect of an immediate increase, when its advantages become known.

Edward C. Finch, of Rossland, spent Tuesday in Kaslo, having returned from Nakusp by way of Sandon. He was surprised at the evidence of thrift and prosperity which he saw in the city, which he regards as second only to his own admired Rossland. He met several acquaintances while in the city.

May Jennings, a variety actress attached to the Theatre Comique has had Harry Walters upbefore the police magistrate charged with conversion of property consisting of certain furniture in a building which it is alleged they jointly occupied. The trial was adjourned shortly after being called.

The Masonic ball, under the auspices of Kaslo Lodge A. F. and A. M., on Monday evening was unusually brilliant and successful. Nearly 50 couples took part in the festivities. Dancing was spiritedly maintained until an early hour, interrupted only by the supper served at midnight where the menu was elaborate and choice. The committees were unsparing in their efforts to add to the enjoyment of all, and were entirely successful.

It is said that shipments of ore have so increased that it is found necessary to put into service the steamer Alberta, which has been repaired and refitted while lying idle.

On Tuesday evening the freight train brought down 153 tons of ore from the Slocan, which was loaded on the steamer and forwarded to the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway at Five Mile Point the same evening.

The new plant of the Kaslo & Slocan railway is being brought into use as rapidly as possible. The new passenger coach is much appreciated by the travelling public.

MINING STOCKS AND THE PUBLIC.

Just what the province of a newspaper is where a new mining camp is being developed and where speculation is one of the inevitable consequences of such development it is sometimes difficult to determine. The modern plan of forming joint stock companies and selling treasury shares for development purposes is not in itself an evil. On the contrary, it is a good way of distributing the risk that must necessarily be connected with mining operations. The public takes part in the risk and enjoys a chance at the profits. That these profits do often come and that they are sometimes very great is too well known to need amplification.

What ought to be insisted on is that the public has fair play. If the public is to be invited to take part of the risk of opening a mine it should be admitted on an equitable basis. It is not so invited when the promoters sell enough of their own personal stock to put them on velvet, retaining a large interest, and then ask the public to come in and put up the money to develop the mine. THE MINER is in favor of the passage of a law which will compel mining corporations to plainly mark the shares they offer to the public as treasury shares or promoters' shares, or at least to do something which will inform the public just what kind of stock it is which is being offered. There ought to be a severe penalty for any deception in cases of this kind.

We do not desire to be understood as condemning altogether the sale of promoter's stock, but it should be clearly understood that it is promoter's stock. The point is that the public should not be deceived.

Now as to wildcats, that is, worthless claims which are incorporated and the shares offered to the public. THE MINER has never flinched from exposing a mining rascality when it had the positive proof. Such, for instance, as the sale of the Gold Hill or the floating of the Coolgardie, both of which swindles were exposed by THE MINER.

But how are we to know a wildcat? Some of the so-called wildcats of this camp, and of the Slocan country a year ago, are very promising mines today. It would be a very hazardous undertaking to pass judgment on mining claims before they are at least partially developed.

The best safeguard the public has is the character of the men who are at the head of a mining company whose shares are offered for sale. When the public puts its money in a bank for safe keeping it looks to the men at the head of the bank. Character rises higher even than law itself in such matters. There will be, of course, some money lost in the excitement and indiscretion which must follow the opening of a great mining country, but it is a matter of fact that the inflation of Kootenay stocks is not one-tenth so great as that which followed upon the discovery of gold in the Transvaal, West Australia or Cripple Creek. Such inflation may come in the future. There may be no way to prevent it. One thing is certain however, it has not come yet.

We believe a large majority of the stocks listed in THE MINER's stock column offer a good opportunity for the investor and that enormous wealth will come to British Columbia, Canada and the world in general from the capital now being put into development here.

SHIPS 100 TONS PER DAY

War Eagle's New Shaft is Turning Out $80 Ore.

Work in the West Chute—Good Grade Arsenical Ore Discovered on the Fault.

Attention has already been called to the great record as an ore producer being made by the War Eagle just now. The mine is now shipping to the Trail smelter 100 tons of ore per day. More men are employed in the mine than ever before, and the mine never looked so well. The ore in the shaft being sunk from the No. 2 tunnel is of surprising richness in both gold and copper. Its value in both gold and copper is about $80 per ton. The appearance of the ore certainly indicates that it is of uncommon quality. It is specked all over with pyrites of copper and carries no waste.

The average value of all the ore being shipped by the War Eagle now is perhaps not far from $35 per ton, so that the product of each day being 100 tons is worth $3,500. A month's business, such as is now being done by the mine, will yield over $100,000.

The eight foot ore body opened by the No. 2 tunnel in the west end of the War Eagle has been followed east until a fault or break was encountered. The same fault was found on the level above. A great mass of ore seems to be jammed up against the break, and a chute seems to be running off to the northeast. A drill is now driving ahead on this chute. The ore is an arseno-pyrite, a little of which is found in the War Eagle now and then. It is of fairly good value.

MINING NOTES.

The machinery for the Le Roi compressor has begun to arrive and it will be put in place immediately.

The Kootenay tunnel is now believed to be approaching a rich ore chute opened in the Columbia tunnel above.

A winze has been started in the Mascot's tunnel. It was started in an ore body several feet wide and has continued in ore ever since.

Another sale of Imperial shares has been made in England. The company is now in excellent financial condition. Seven men are at work on the property.

On the completion of the new hoist for the Nickel Plate work was resumed in the shaft, which was at that time 100 feet deep. It is now down 125 feet and good progress is being made.

The Lily May company has purchased the old seven-drill compressor of the Le Roi mine and will transfer it to its own property as soon as the new Le Roi compressor is started.

The Le Roi tramway from the mine down to the Red Mountain track is rapidly approaching completion and shipments from the Le Roi over the Red Mountain will begin in a few days.

Jefferson Lewis came in yesterday from the Victory and Triumph on Sophie mountain. He reports the tunnel in the Victory in 75 feet in a full breast of ore and the shaft 20 feet deep on the Triumph.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Red Eagle Gold Mining company it was resolved to advance the treasury shares to 10 cents after January 2. This is caused by the favorable development of the mine.

The shaft of the Young America is now down 80 feet with from four to five feet of ore in the bottom. The ore is pyrrhotite with an intermixture of quartz like that found in the Sunset No. 2. Now and then some fine copper ore is found. The total average value of the ore is not high—probably not over $10—but it is growing better with depth.

Superintendent Liljegran, of the Alf, has started a tunnel to crosscut three leads on the property. It will be 760 feet long and would connect with a shaft at a depth of 70 feet. It is expected the principal lead from the Red Eagle will be cut by this tunnel.

Many people are asking why work was suspended on the West Le Roi and Josie when the property was looking so well. Those in control probably know their own business, but those who were induced to buy the stock some time ago would like to have light on the subject.

T. S. Patterson has secured a three months bond on the Gold Bar, a second extension of the Sheep Creek Star on Gold Bar mountain. Over $600 worth of development work has been done in a tunnel on this property. It has a ledge 18 ft. wide. A company is being formed to be known as the Gold Bar Gold Mining company. Work will be commenced on the property at once under the supervision of Robt. Helm, late of Wallace, Idaho.

IN LONDON'S MARKET

More Attention Than Usual Attracted to British Columbia.

HORNE-PAYNE'S REPORT.

Shareholders In Lillooet & Fraser River Company Well Pleased—The Galena Farm Incorporated—Interest In the Crow's Nest Pass Railway.

London Office of THE MINER,
108 Bishopsgate St., Within, E. C.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The stock exchange is already feeling the influence of Christmas, and it is not very probable that any fresh movements of importance will be noted this side of the new year. Happily one disturbing influence has for the present been removed, namely, the tussle between the English railway companies and their employes. The whole crisis, if crisis it can be called, lasted only a few days, the intervention of Mr. Ritchie, president of the board of trade, having resulted in an honorable arrangement being arrived at between the London & North-Western railway and its servants, the latter certainly coming out of the struggle most creditably.

Fears of dearer money have had an adverse influence upon the funds and high class stocks generally, but broadly speaking the markets are fairly firm with little business doing. It is felt by long-headed people in the London stock exchange that 1896 has been characterized by so many disturbing factors that there will be little left to assist the "bears" in 1897, and it is argued from this that as we have had to face this year practically an abnormal quantity of depressing influences, it is only fair to assume that the coming year will be more kind, and that we may expect a revival of interest, not only in the general markets, but also in the mining department.

The Mining Market.

Turning to the mining market itself we have to chronicle a decided improvement in tone. Prices, it is true, have not materially improved, but there is a decidedly better tendency and "shorts" are not quite so confident in their bearing as they were at the beginning of the year. When we come to contrast prices obtaining at midsummer, 1895, with those now current it must be admitted that there is ample room for a recovery, and in market parlance there is far more margin for a rise than for a further fall. This remark applies primarily to South African securities, and that there is a disposition to come to the rescue of "Kaffirs" was shown this week in the revival of activity in Chartereds, due to a rumor that gold reefs have been discovered in the neighborhood of Buluwayo.

President Kruger's remarks in closing the Volksraad were favorably interpreted by the market, and it is hoped that with the new year we shall witness a very welcome recovery in this market. So far as West Australians are concerned the tone is less certain, but here again events seem making for a renewal of activity. Week by week new recruits are being included in the list of producing companies, and as these all help to swell the total output it is not unreasonable to suppose that the public will appreciate the efforts that are being made to extend the list of crushing properties.

Lillooet-Goldfields Meeting.

In so far as British Columbia mines are concerned there is quite a budget of news to tell you this week. First of all there is a meeting of the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Goldfields Limited to be noted. This was held yesterday in this city under the presidency of Mr. Horne-Payne. Everything was "couleur de rose," and the shareholders were evidently impressed with the lucid statement placed before them, an official copy of which I have forwarded you under separate cover. Mr. Horne-Payne dealt with the operations already conducted in an exhaustive fashion, and I must confess that from an extensive experience of meetings of this kind, I have seldom heard a more complete description of a company's initial effort. We were told that there is plenty of cash in hand; that the company has secured a large number of valuable claims and that it is conducting a very vigorous policy. The shareholders listened most attentively to all that was laid before them, and although they were not able to hear the joyful tidings that the company had succeeded in entering the charmed circle of dividend-paying propositions, they were sufficiently grateful to tender the directors in London, and the management and the staff in British Columbia a very hearty vote of thanks for their exertions to date.

I discussed the report last week, and need only add that the company is certainly backed by an influential coterie of English financiers. Among those present were several men who recently returned from British Columbia, and one testified to his personal knowledge of the active way in which the company is being locally managed.

Railroads in Kootenay.

Of the necessity for increasing railway facilities in British Columbia, I have repeatedly written in previous letters, and you will be glad to hear that the cause has been espoused heartily by the Financial News, which as I might remind you, was the first financial daily paper of importance published in the country. Our contemporary points out that the only question is whether the additional railway facilities should be supplied by the Canadian government, or by the Canadian Pacific railway, and in giving its own opinion it says that it would be far better for the interests of the government that the proposed line should be built by the Canadian Pacific and worked as part of its system. It suggests that the federal government should provide a reasonable guarantee, and points out the advantages of such a proposition as compared with a government managed railway. Probably we shall hear more about this question before long.

Advertising Our Mines.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad company with characteristic energy has been exhibiting a large quantity of British Columbia produce at its offices in the city. A large number of invitations were issued at the end of last week, and the display of mineral specimens from the province attracted a great deal of attention. Among the exhibits were some samples of gold ore reputed to be exceedingly rich, that were lent by the Golden Cache mines, Lillooet district, B. C. There were also shown several mineral specimens from Cariboo and Kootenay, said to average 16 ounces of gold per ton. Other mines whose resources the Canadian Pacific company had drawn upon to make their exhibition representative, included the Seine River, Horsefly Hydraulic and Regina. The company is also attracting attention to the mineral resources of the province by exhibiting a cube or fac simile of the original result of 28 days' washing by the Cariboo Hydraulic mine. This gilded specimen is supposed to weigh 355 pounds, 5½ ounces, the exact weight of the gold produced during the period in question, of a total value of $81,632. Enterprise such as this cannot but help to bring forcibly before the British public the great mineral wealth of your province, and the Canadian Pacific company is to be congratulated upon its willingness to supply every information in its power regarding the gold fields of British Columbia, orally and in its guide books.

The London Times publishes a cable from its St. John's correspondent to the effect that a large deposit of coal has been discovered at Cadroy, near Cape Ray. We are told that the find is the best in the island, and it is added that a well-known railway contractor will work the deposit next year.

The Galena Farm.

The prospectus of one of the most important new companies recently formed to carry on operations in British Columbia was issued yesterday. It is called the Galena Mines, ltd., and its capital is 550,000 shares of £1 each. This company has been formed under the auspices of the Vancouver and British Columbia General Exploration company, limited, and proposes to acquire one of the properties belonging to this company, comprising six silver-lead mining claims, locally known as the Galena farm or Currie group, containing about 193 acres, situated on the east side of Slocan lake. The prospectus has this week been advertised in the public press, and has attracted considerable attention, owing to the influential names which are to be found on its front page. Mr. C. W. Callahan, M. E., is scheduled as consulting engineer, and a report by this gentleman, dated Rossland, September 20, accompanies the prospectus and deals very fully with the potentialities of the property. Mr. James D. Sword, M. E., has also furnished the directors with a lengthy report, dealing with the claims to be taken over, and from what I can hear those responsible for the formation of the company consider that it has excellent prospects of becoming a valuable representative of British Columbia's mineral resources. I might mention that 475,000 shares are taken by the vendor company in part payment for the properties to be acquired. This leaves 75,000 shares, 50,000 of which are now offered for subscription at par, £25,000 of which is to provide working capital, leaving 25,000 shares held in reserve for future needs. The names of the directors are: Colonel Robert Baring, Captain H. French, Andrew Haas, Esq., 1 Draper's Garden, E. C.; Pred Burdett, Esq., Warnford-court, E. C.; Patrick Comiskey, Esq., 20 Threadneedle street, E. C., and the commercial agents in British Columbia are Messrs. Evans, Coleman & Evans, merchants, Vancover, B. C.

Economist and Bullionist.

The Economist in drawing attention to the Canadian Pacific exhibit was careful to explain that assays which showed 63½, 71 and 73½ oz. of gold to the ton could only be taken for what they are worth, but acknowledged that "the specimens of quartz exhibited indicate the existence of very high grade mineral deposits in the colony."

The Bullionist has been devoting some of its space to British Columbia, regularly and this week contains a long article giving the opinion of M. du Marais on the Kootenay district.

Mr. Blair's Visit.

The Times publishes a despatch from Ottawa which shows that the railway question is being taken seriously. Mr. Blair is said to be now in Kootenay investigating the needs for increased railway facilities. In any case the question over here is not who builds the road, but how soon it can be built.

New Companies.

The only company registered this week which is likely to be of interest to you is the British Columbia Prospecting company, £30,000 capital; object to acquire mines and mining rights.

The War Eagle Sale.

As regards the War Eagle sale in which I was thought to be a trifle previous, events will show within the next few weeks that the information was correct, and all doubts will then be set at rest.

I enclose you cuttings from several papers, including the World and the Enquirer, and taking it all round there has probably been more attention paid to British Columbia in the London press this week than any time this year.

London Prices.

Prices of British Columbia stocks on December 17 were as follows: Hall mines, £1 7-16 to £1 9-16; Invicta, £3-16 to £5-16; Lillooet-Fraser River, £1⅜ to £1½; British Columbia 3 per cent. inscribed loan, £102.