Rossland Weekly Miner.

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THE PRICE OF MINING PROPERTY.

There can be no doubt about the steady progress that is being made by the mineral industry of British Columbia. Year by year the value of the output of our mines shows a substantial and gratifying increase. It has now reached a point where one camp produces more wealth than did the whole province a decade ago. It is still more gratifying to also realize that the circle of development is extending rapidly. Mining is no longer confined to a few camps. In recent times the industrious prospector has been busy exploring new districts, with results that give promise of the establishment of more than one Rossland in the near future. From all sides come more or less authenticated stories of rich discoveries of gold, silver or copper lodes, as well as of coal and petroleum.

The only disappointing feature about our prospects is the scarcity of money for the development of these new districts. This is a new country in the mining world, and its resources are not so well known and appreciated as they should be. But that, of course, while somewhat disappointing for the present, will be overcome in the course of time. The values are here and they will not go abegging long. The shrewd investor in mining properties cannot afford to ignore British Columbia. It is inevitable that this province should ultimately take its rightful place with other countries in the front rank of mineral wealth. When that time comes British Columbia will be the scene of some stupendous and enormously profitable operations.

Meanwhile it would be well for those who need capital particularly for development purposes to remember that fancy prices are out of the question. There are many meritorious properties in the market, not only in Western Canada, but elsewhere about the world. The fact that this province is not yet a great fashionable centre for mining investments should be taken into consideration by the prospective seller. If capital is to be brought here for the development of our mining industry it must be shown substantial consideration; otherwise it may go to other countries. The ensuing year augurs well for the development of many new mines in this province, but there is certain to be still greater activity if it once becomes known abroad that the price of mining properties here is not held at unreasonably high figures.

INSENSATE RUTHLESSNESS.

The sudden determination of the provincial government to cancel on April 15 all land pre-emptions against which there are charges of delinquency, is one of the most monstrous and senseless acts ever conceived by the lunkheads at Victoria. The Miner is quite ready to admit that it is both undesirable and inexpedient that delinquencies should occur, but as the custom has been to extend to new settlers every possible consideration in their courageous struggle with primeval conditions, it is nothing short of insensate ruthlessness for McBride and his colleagues to suddenly swoop down upon hundreds of unfortunate settlers just as they are emerging from a long winter and without either crops for sale or time or opportunity to go out and earn enough to meet the government's demands.

If McBride and his predecessors had acted with wisdom and discretion there would have been no valid reason why pre-emptors should be delinquent, but they have retarded the growth and development of the country to such an extent that they alone are responsible for the very delinquencies which they now insist shall be paid without a reasonable amount of grace.

Coming at a time when the tide of immigration to the west is just setting in, this inhuman and stupid policy of the government can have only one result. It will undoubtedly cause many who would otherwise come to this province with a view to settling upon and developing new lands to give B. C. a wide berth and locate elsewhere. Thus will the province lose what it wants most—the opportunity to create an agricultural backbone.

Dunsmuir and the big corporations are allowed to carry on in the same old privileged way, but McBride never loses an opportunity to make the humble settler, the miner and the small merchant sweat out their unequal share of taxation.

THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

The most encouraging aspect of international affairs today is presented by France and Great Britain. While the allies of these nations are warring in the east, France and Great Britain are fraternizing in the west. There is today more evidence of a friendly feeling betwen these ancient enemies than there has been since their armies were arrayed against Russia in the Crimea.

It is now intimated that all subjects in dispute between the two nations are about to be removed. Questions involving Egypt, Morocco and Newfoundland have furnished diplomatic friction for many years and have on more than one occasion aroused national feeling to a dangerous degree. It is now declared that these matters have been discussed and the difficulties over them eliminated, so there is nothing in the way of an agreement which is soon to be signed.

If this took place in a time of peace it would be regarded as a guarantee of the continued tranquility of Europe. That guarantee is doubled by the present circumstances. To be orthodox the ally of Russia and the ally of Japan should be scowling at each other across the channel. To conform to traditions they should be muttering threats of war.

The present attitude may not be according to precendent, but it is a very satisfactory one for all concerned.

THREE ABLE MEN.

Although the Balfour government has won considerable kudos because of the surprising changes that have been made in the management of the British army, the credit of the thing really belongs to the three men who did that work. They are Lord Esher, Sir George Clarke and Admiral Sir John Fisher.

Lord Esher made his first appearance in public life when he was the Hon. Reginald Brett, as private secretary to the Duke of Devonshire, then secretary of war. Brett held this position during the Egyptian campaign and the Afghanistan trouble. Reggie Brett was regarded as being a petit maitre, a dilettante in politics, highly epicurean in his tastes. He kept a racing stud, moved in the best society, and was accused by his enemies of not being proof against the temptation of indulging in political intrigue. He did not come into public life again until 1885, when he became secretary to his majesty's office of works under Mr. Akers Douglas. His success was so great that he was offered the best under-secretaryships in the administration, but refused them. In 1903 he was appointed deputy governor of Windsor Castle and had the handling of all the late queen's papers. When the South African war occurred and a man was needed to put things right again, the position of war secretary was pressed upon Lord Esher by the men who had been watching his quiet but solid career through all these years, but he steadily refused the offer. He was prevailed upon to accept the position of head of the advisory board before mentioned, following upon his excellent and fearless work in drawing up the report of the war commission. So much for Lord Esher.

Sir George Clarke, the second member of the commission, is a soldier, and a soldier who has followed his profession as eminent lawyers and doctors and energetic engineers follow theirs. He has lived in it and for it and has regarded it as the serious business of his life. To him it has never been bad form to "talk shop," which, being interpreted, means to discuss the problems of his profession with fellow students of the art and theory of war. He is not a feather-bed soldier, for he has been to the wars. Still less is he the curled darling of the plutocratic drawing rooms, whose pets drive in hansom cabs to the parade ground and absent themselves from military manoeuvres in order to shoot grouse. The army, which to many officers is a mere springboard from which the rich man's son can mount into good society and obtain a handle to his name, has been to Sir George Clarke from his boyhood a serious calling, worthy to be prosecuted with all his might. That is why it is so good and hopeful a thing for the empire that he has been recalled from the governorship and appointed military member of the famous junta.

The third member of the junta is Admiral Sir John Fisher. He was admitted to the navy on board Nelson's flagship, the Victory, and is known through the empire as "the last of Nelson's captains." He commanded the Inflexible at the bombardment of Alexandria and was captain for some time of the battleship Excellent. Since that time he has been in command of the fleet in the Mediterranean. It is said to be due to his efficiency that the peace of Europe was maintained during the South African war. He is today sixty-three years of age and is now commander-in-chief at the Portsmouth dockyard. He enjoys to an almost unprecedented extent the confidence of his king and of his country, while as for the navy, there would probably be a unanimous vote in the service if all sailormen ashore and afloat were asked to vote as to what great sea captain of our time was best qualified to lead the navy of Great Britain to victory in a great naval war.

THE HEARST MOVEMENT.

The movement which threatens to make Hearst of yellow newspaper fame, a possibility for the Democratic nomination for the presidency of the United States, is said to be a good deal more formidable than the politicians of that country imagine. They have been treating Hearst as a joke, but he has been going right on organizing campaign clubs and shoveling out the money, and now his candidature, though essentially ridiculous, is by far the most formidable. H. H. Kohlsaat, the Chicago newspaper owner, who has been studying political conditions in all parts of the country, says "Hearst will surely be nominated." And then he adds, "And he will be beaten worse than any candidate since Horace Greeley." In other words Mr. Kohlsaat thinks that Mr. Hearst will be able to buy the Democratic nomination, but that his money—what is left of it—will not buy the presidency.

WILDCAT OPERATORS.

In an editorial on "Methods of Wildcat Operators," the San Francisco Chronicle makes reference to a case on trial before the United States commissioner in Chicago on the methods adopted by promoters of wildcat properties to use the United States mails and publications for the propagation of their dishonest schemes, and then says:

"Some wildcat promoters on this coast have succeeded in getting victims by thousands by these methods. Letson Balliet, who has been in the toils of the law several times, employed them successfully. He never would have succeeded, however, if reputable publications had exercised a proper censorship on their advertising columns and the government had been more vigilant in the scrutiny of the mails."

The Chronicle then draws attention to the necessity for measures that will hold these dishonest operators in check and make them responsible for their acts. It says:

"There is a crying need in all of the mining states for some effective system of exposing all wildcat properties professing to be located in them. The mining bureaus and miners' asociations would do effective work if they listed every fraudulent enterprise, so that in the event of an inquiry being received from intending investors the true nature of these properties could be communicated to them. The California Miners' Association has not, however, given the matter any attention thus far, although it is a field of usefulness in which that organization sould do valuable service and help legitimate mining through the exposure of fraudulent schemes."

These things are more within the province of the state authorities than of miners' associations. The latter can do much, as can also mining journals, but neither one nor the other is clothed with authority to bring these wildcat operators to justice. The law alone can do that.

KUROPATKIN'S MOUTH.

Great generals, whether in the contingencies of war or in the arts of peace, do not advertise their plans of procedure or announce the ends they have in view.

Although much has been said in praise of the military qualities of Kuropatkin, and all Russia is looking to that general for results, the extreme flexibility of the gentleman's organs of speech greatly discount his title to esteem.

Before he has accomplished anything looking toward that end, he announces with all the vocal vigor of a prize-fighter, that when peace is signed it will be in the Japanese stronghold of Tokio; and then he proceeds to the declaration that: "We will never permit Great Britain to interfere for the purpose of depriving us of the fruits of a dearly bought victory—Korea shall be Russian."

As the powers, including Russia itself, interfered to prevent Japan from seizing Manchuria at the conclusion of its war with China, the boast of General Kuropatkin possesses all the elements of braggadocio, without any redeeming qualities.

The voluble champion of the czar is also accredited with the statement that France, Germany and Austria "have agreed" to assist Russia in preventing another Balkan treaty.

If the well developed lungs of General Kuropatkin hold out he may reveal a great many other interesting phases of the situation, popularly supposed to be carefully guarded secrets in the boudoir of international diplomacy.

Unless the gentleman can hit harder with his military tactics than with his linguistic ones, he will give Russia cause to regret that he was sent to the front, for his intemperate language may compel his government to explain the meaning of his statements—or find another foe at its flank.

THE LE ROI.

The Miner's announcement this morning of another successful month for the Le Roi during February is very gratifying. It proves that the value of the ore has improved considerably. There was no particular addition to the tonnage last month, but the net profit in that period was $8,000 more than in January—something in the neighborhood of 15 per cent. It also bears out our repeated contention that the deep levels contain permanent bodies of first class ore in considerable quantities. The future of the property is bright enough to justify the belief that it is now on a dividend-paying basis. While there is not much probability of the monthly profits exceeding $60,000 for some time, it is reasonable to expect that they can be easily maintained on a $50,000 basis for the balance of the year. A mine that can show a profit of more than $600,000 a year, after deducting all charges, including depreciation on plant, etc., is certainly a great property.

The price of Le Roi shares on the London stock exchange yesterday shows a substantial increase over the quotations of last December—about 7½ per cent, but we would not venture an opinion as to future movements. The price may not reach the 30-shilling mark for some months. The management may decide to make large expenditures on dead work, the erection of large concentration works, or extensive additions to the Northport smelter. Any one of these undertakings would necessitate a large outlay and so make a big hole in the profits. But as to ultimate conditions there can be no question. The mine is able to pay dividends as it stands. Any large expenditure for improvements would only mean an addition to the earning capacity of the company. Whatever happens in this respect, the profits are there, and they will be large. We therefore see no reason why Le Roi is not a first class gamble at the present price.

LOCAL SYNDICATES.

The enormous mineral wealth of Southern B. C. needs a proportionate amount of money for development purposes. Many properties of good merit have been discovered and are lying idle for want of development money; but so long as they remain idle they will be a source of additional outlay rather than of profit to their owners. If owners are to benefit and the country proper there must be more development. To interest outside capital for such properties is not always an easy matter. There is, however, no reason why properly directed efforts to interest local capital in the more promising properties should not work out successfully.

Kootenaians are nothing if not enterprising. They are always open to a gamble of one kind or another; but the trouble is that there is too great a tendency towards individual speculation in listed shares rather than in "ground-floor" investments on a co-operative basis. If, instead of this individual speculation, the co-operative idea were in vogue, the local investor would find himself on a much surer and more profitable footing.

It was local capital that brought the California, Montana, Nevada and Colorado and many other western bonanzas to the front. It was local capital that brought the big mining centres of Australia and New Zealand world-wide fame. It has been the history of nearly all the great mines of the world that local money developed them to a point where they became worth millions. A little syndicate of Spokane men developed the Le Roi and sold it for nearly $4,000,000. A small syndicate of Butte men developed the Centre Star to a point where they sold it for $2,000,000. Syndicates, in each instance composed of a few men of very moderate means, developed the Payne, the Slocan Star, the Nettie L., the Silver Cup and other Kootenay bonanzas to a dividend-paying basis. There have been more fortunes made in this method of Kootenay mining than in any other way.

It is a waste of both time and opportunity for the owner of a rich undeveloped mine to sit down and wait for the outside capitalist. It is often a waste of money for the local speculator of small means to play a tricky stock market. If the local mine owner will get together his local syndicate he will soon have his property either paying dividends or sold for a big figure to eager buyers, while those who joined the syndicate will reap a big reward from their "ground-floor" investment. Our suggestions in this instance do not possess the merit of originality, but they would, if adopted, add materially to the profitable development of the country, and we venture the assertion that considerable local money is available for "ground-floor" syndicates, if it can be shown that the property offered has the genuine ear marks of a good mine.

THE COLLAPSE OF CODY.

The determination of "Buffalo Bill" to divorce his old and faithful helpmate and wife, after a wedded life of perhaps more than thirty years, goes to show that our historic ideals may be shattered and the dime novel heroes of our youth bespattered by the hand of fate.

Fra Albertus, who went up like a skyrocket and came down like a chunk of lead, has scarcely gotten comfortably located in obscurity, before the announcement is made that the hero of the western plains—the man who chaperoned the Grand Duke Alexis and killed thousands of buffalo in wanton sport—has shrivelled into a moral coward.

Mr. Cody, the "Buffalo Bill" of the Wild West menagerie, seeks a legal separation from the mother of his daughter, because she will not entertain his friends at home; but Mrs. Cody says there is a younger and a handsomer woman in the case—a statement that will no doubt find its way into court in due season.

She also declares that the entertainments forbidden at her home were drunken orgies which no self-respecting housewife could tolerate—making out a case against the long-haired rifle shot of the raging Platte that will trim his laurels of fame to the roots.

If "Buffalo Bill" had the courage to win the credit marks imputed to him as a scout he ought to be brave enough to live the balance of his life with the wife of his younger days.

The fact is, Cody never was the man that romance has pictured him; he was and is a spectacular frowsy-headed, bombastic pretender, with neither physical nor moral courage to entitle him to a prominent place even in the purlieus of showdom.

VERSIONS AND PERVERSIONS.

The statement lately put forth by M. de Witte, president of the Russian council of ministry, to the effect that, at the time of the Fashoda incident, Russia offered to assist France if the later would enter on a struggle with England, seems to afford an illustration of that finer talent for prevarication which all the world acknowledges that Russian statesmen possess. If Russia made any such proposition to France, M. de Witte himself, less than two years ago, gave a very different version of the facts. This is what he said in an interview in the Echo de Paris, of May 17, 1902, and reproduced two days later in the London Times:

"At that time it is true that France received from Russia, whose opinion she asked, the advice to settle the question pacifically while safeguarding her honor. As regards Fashoda it appeared that what was at stake for France was above all a question of amour propre. Was it worth while, on this account, for France to undertake a war with the English, and for Russia to support by arms the claims of her ally? If France had had real interests at stake our attitude would have been marked out in advance. But in the case of Fashoda, whither would a war with England have led us? Neither France nor Russia, nor yet England, would have got anything out of it, you may be sure."

As things turned out, M. de Witte went on to say, France had great reason to congratulate herself on not having pressed so small a matter; for England shortly afterwards got involved in the South African war to the serious weakening of her finances not to mention the loss of men. "English prestige," he sagely observed, "is demolished"—this on the very eve of the successful termination of the Boer war and a remarkable revulsion of feeling in regard to England all over Europe. "Thus," continued the astute exponent of Russian policy, "the pacific settlement of Fashoda rendered Europe the greatest service." Such was the version in 1902. Now, when Russia, having needlessly disturbed the Japanese beehive, would gladly have the assistance of France in beating off the little stingers, the other story is put on the market. Will the Bear ever discover that the old motto, which, in one form or another, exists in most languages, that honesty is the best policy, is not wholly barred even in diplomacy?

TWO GOOD FELLOWS.

Today the camp loses a valuable and highly respected citizen—and the local banking and business fraternity a sound and particularly considerate business man in the person of A. B. Barker, manager of the Rossland branch of the Bank of Toronto. During his six years' residence in Rossland Mr. Barker has displayed admirable qualities of heart and mind. He is a man of conservative tendencies and has evinced from time to time a shrewd knowledge of men and circumstances that has not only brought him the esteem of this community, but a well-earned promotion. With his bride he goes to Port Hope, one of the important banking centres of Ontario, to occupy a similar position to that which he held during his residence in the Golden City, and the best wishes of the entire community go with him.

Both the Bank of Toronto and Rossland have good reason to be well satisfied with the gentleman who has been appointed to succeed Mr. Barker in this city. J. H. Watson, the new manager, enters upon his well-deserved promotion to the management of the local branch of the Bank of Toronto with the best wishes of the whole camp. He is popular and is generally recognized as a public-spirited and very capable business man, and, it is safe to say, will make a distinct and highly satisfactory success of his new undertaking.

THE CASH DEPOSIT.

The putting up of the Grand Trunk Pacific deposit of five millions in cash will deprive the Conservative objectors to the transcontinental road of some of their thunder. The original agreement called for cash or Dominion securities, while the amended contract stipulates that the deposit shall consist of cash or approved securities. When the change was announced the critics, no doubt, jumped to the conclusion that a deposit of "approved securities" would be made. Had this been done, it would have given them a pretext for lengthy harangues. But by putting up cash the railway has stopped their mouths on this count.

SOME FEATURES OF BRITISH POLITICS.

A curious parallelism and contrast exists at present between the Conservative and Liberal parties in Great Britain. Both are substantially divided into two sections—one occupying a somewhat vague, nebulous and indecisive position: the other with its aims and objects clearly and sharply defined. Setting aside the small group of extreme Conservative free traders, who are out of touch with the great majority of their party, the ministerialists rank themselves, or, if that expression be too strong, may be ranked under the respective banners of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain—retaliation the motto of one, protection and preference the slogan of the other. The premier's attitude seems to his own subtle and transcendental mind to be eminently clear, satisfactory and complete. To others, whose only possession is the ordinary allowance of common sense, it is clear enough, but hardly satisfactory and certainly incomplete. It passes the wit of the ordinary citizen to see how the premier manages to reconcile his Sheffield pronouncement with his professed adherence to accepted free trade principles, for his policy of retaliation as explained by himself means much more than the exercise of a gentle compulsitor on highly protected nations in the direction of a lower tariff. This inconsistency not only confuses the judgment and jumbles the sense of his own special followers, but acts disastrously on the electorate. For if there is one thing more than another the average free and independent admires it is a public man who knows what he means and says it.

Mr. Chamberlain's henchmen are troubled with no difficulties of this kind. Even his bitterest Radical enemies—erstwhile friends—admit that however sophistical his arguments appear in them his aims and objects are only too distinct and determinate. This gives the Chamberlainites an indubitable advantage, and adds much to their powers of persuasion, and, to their opponents, mischief. This was conspicuous the other day in connection with the scheme the premier had so ingeniously concocted to coacilitate the free trade malcontents. The implied condemnation of Mr. Chamberlain was more than the protection men could stand, and a notification that 112 good men and true and the same number of invaluable votes would not be at the government's disposal on that question brought Mr. Balfour to heel. Mr. Wharton's temporising amendment was incontinently dropped and the faithful 26 Conservative free traders pursued their devious way through the opposition lobby.

Meanwhile, on the Liberal side of the house, a similar phenomenon is observable. There is a nominally official opposition, which does not know clearly where it stands, but wants to "hold the party together' as Premier Balfour does. There are others whose views are quite sharply defined. Some swear by free trade. Others would make he main issue the education act, the evil of intemperance, and other moral questions, which appeal to what is commonly called "the nonconformist conscience." These questions are now playing an important part in British politics.

Occupying a somewhat similar relation to the Liberal party that the Chamberlainites do to the Conservative, stand the Liberal Leaguers and their nominal ally, but real leader, Lord Rosebery. The Leaguers are just as aggressive and self-confident on their side as the protection advocates are on the ministerial. Not only so, but in all probability the parallel holds in that both are stronger relatively in the country than they are in the house, and will really hold the balance of power in their respective parties. But the Leaguers with their declared abandonment of Home Rule in its Gladstonian form and their imperial leanings will draw to themselves not only the moderate men of their own party but the Liberal-Unionists who cannot abide any touching of the sacred ark that holds the tables of the economic decalog. Events, therefore, are still shaping themselves for the formal emergence of the old Liberal party as it existed twenty years ago, but with the left wing chastened and subdued by their sojourn in the desert and the recollection of the quarrels and wranglings with which they have lightened the burden of their wanderings.

THE GUYSBORO ELECTION.

The Guysboro election, held the other day, was the last of the Dominion bye-elections. There were thirteen in all, and of these the Liberals won ten and the Conservatives three, being a net loss of one for the government. The loss of St. John was due unquestionably to local resentment at the refusal of the government to make that city the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific; but the inference drawn from it by some that it bespoke a general hostility in the Maritime province to the government's railway policy was not warranted. Westmoreland elected Mr. Emmerson by acclamation, the railway question being the main issue before the constituency; in West Queen's Mr. Hazzard, the Liberal candidate, had a very satisfactory majority; and Guysboro gave the largest Liberal majority in its history, the G. T. P. being, of course, the all-important question before the electors. Reports from the constituency have represented the Conservatives as putting up an exceptionally vigorous fight. As a Nova Scotia seat, long Liberal, though by narrow majorities prior to 1900, a Conservative victory would have been a decided feather in Mr. Borden's cap. Mr. Duncan C. Fraser, the former representative, was an exceptionally strong candidate. He had a Dominion-wide reputation as a platform speaker of uncommon attractiveness, while his personality was a most engaging one, as hundreds in the West can testify. With him retired the Conservatives doubtless expected to do well in Guysboro; and Mr. Sinclair's election by a majority outranking any ever obtained by Mr. Fraser will be a severe disappointment to them. The Liberals of Nova Scotia have for some time been declaring that the Conservative contingent from that province in the next house will be even smaller than in the present one, and the result in Guysboro lends color to their predictions.

THE KAISER AS A MEDIATOR.

It may be accepted as true that the the Russian government has not asked Kaiser William to "stop the war," or even to serve in that benevolent capacity. The story that such a request has been made is natural, because Germany is the one first class European power which could possibly be considered as offering to mediate. European antagonisms are so strong, however, and suspicions of international bad faith are so general—and possibly so well founded—that should the time for mediation ever arrive, either the United States or some second class or minor European power would be most likely to be charged with the grateful duty. When two belligerents have accepted the offices of a third power as mediator, it has usually been after one or the other has suffered serious reverses. In that case a neutral power may frankly address the victor as the friend of the vanquished and ascertain on what terms peace is possible. In that way France interposed her good offices, having been duly authorized by Spain, at the close of the Spanish war.

But while a contest is still undecided, the mediator must come as an impartial friend, endeavoring to secure from each some concession which the other can accept. It is not believed that at this stage of the war either Japan or Russia would make any such concession. It seems certain that Japan would not now end the war except at the price of virtual control of Corea and equal privileges with Russia in Manchurian trade, firmly established by treaty under such guarantees as would remove the fear of having to fight the present battle all over again in the future. As it is morally certain that Russia will not now make that concession, no more reliance can be placed on this peace news than we can place on the "war news."

It by no means follows, however, that the story was started without "authority" from "high quarters." Authorities in high quarters have a way of intimating to some subordinate of sufficient standing to command respect that it may be well to start a certain story to see how the idea will take. The German kaiser is just now making friendly calls on some of his royal neighbors, and the story, at any rate, would serve to introduce an interesting subject of conversation. There is no doubt that all Europe is sincerely anxious to have the war stop before any other nation becomes involved in it.

THE SENTIMENTAL JAPANESE.

Engineer Minamisawa, the heroic officer of the Japanese torpedo boat destroyer, Kasumi, has been decorated with the Order of the Kyte and the Order of the Rising Sun.

The Order of the Kyte corresponds to that of the Victoria cross and the American medal of honor, but Minamisawa is dying of his wounds.

Far away in the flowery kingdom, kneeling on a bamboo carpet before a dimly lighted shrine, a gentle, fragile, soft-eyed little Japanese woman is praying to the god of war to spare the life of her hero.

After all, it seems that underneath all wars and convulsions the sentimental relations between man and woman are the foundations upon which the whole world rests; and the courage that would immolate an object of passionate affection on the altar of patriotism is far above the measurement expressed in the decorations of any order.

In the orient as in the occident men have a thousand objects to live for and Minamisawa, who was stricken down in a field of limitless possibilities, in the midst of exalted excitement, may not be unqualifiedly happy in the possession of the tokens of appreciation bestowed upon him by the government, but it can scarcely be supposed that he is unhappy.

Possibly, he is not thinking of dying at all, but is living over the incidents of the fatal day that brought him glory. But the woman who bravely bade him farewell, against every inclination of her nature; who kneels on the bamboo carpet before the unresponsive shrine in the terrible sameness of empty days that pass into lonely nights, is possessed of a heroism of which her lord's is but a faint reflection.

Where the citron blooms, where snow white lilies shadow singing waters, many a kimona-clad figure will wander disconsolate in the days to come.

A great teacher has said that Paradise is in the shadow of crossing scimitars, and that may have been the idea of the Japanese mother who killed herself that her son might be free to devote himself to his country; but women who pray for the safe return of soldiers anywhere, the wide world over, though loyal to the death, do not believe it.

CONTROL OF A NEWSPAPER.

NEW YORK, March 22.—Control of the Morning Telegraph has been purchased from the estate of the late Wm. C. Whitney by E. R. Thomas. This announcement was authorized last night by Wm. B. Lewis, the editor of the paper.

THE LUMBER RATES

MR. PETERS TELLS OF ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN RAILWAY AND MILLS.

IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING THE PROVINCE'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

From Friday's Daily.

That the complaint rightly or wrongly based on charges of excessive cost of lumber in the Northwest Territories will be removed at a comparatively early date is the opinion of Frank W. Peters, assistant freight traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific railroad. Combined action by the Canadian Pacific railroad, which hauls the lumber, and the manufacturers' and retailers' associations, which mill and sell the product, will bring about the result expected by Mr. Peters.

"As already announced," said Mr. Peters, "the manufacturers' association has made a cut in the price of milled lumber, and we will follow this with a tariff of reduced freight rates on the material in transit from the mills to the distributing points in the Territories. I am now working on this new tariff, but it will probably not be completed for publication until my return to Winnipeg. En route east I go over the Crow's Nest road, and will confer with the lumbermen along the road. More important still, the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' association has joined hands with us in the effort to maintain lumber prices at a reasonable figure. This will be accomplished in part by posting at every depot on the Canadian Pacific in the Territories a full price list of lumber, so that settlers will be thoroughly informed and can protect themselves. In the past the manufacturers have held lumber at a figure which we deemed to be excessive, while the retailers or middlemen have in some instances attached excessive profits. By thus making public the complete retail tariff the settlers will have the protection which they did not secure in the past.

"The difficulty we encounter in making the new tariff is to adjust rates to be fair to all parties and satisfy all the mill men. We are hauling lumber from 35 different points, and it will be seen at a glance that the task of reconciling rates to cover these points, some of them hundreds of miles further from the market than others, is not small. In many instances milling companies have taken their plants long distances from the markets because their works would thus be nearer the logs, and production thereby cheapened, but this means that we have to haul the product just that much further, and therein lies one of the difficulties to be overcome in adjusting the tariff fairly to all producers.

"However, I am satisfied that reduced rates at the mills and lower freight rates will together enable the lumber to be marketed in the territories at a figure that will remove any complaint that may have existed in the past, and this will be an important factor in connection with the development of the Territories."

Mr. Peters is on one of his periodical visits to British Columbia, and with his wonderfully clear discernment and marvelous grasp of the transportation problem in the vast west, he is rendering splendid service to both the big railway company and the general public. It is questionable if there is another man in Canada who is the equal of Mr. Peters in his consummate ability to grapple with the dozens of conflicting interests that are bound up in the transportation business of Western Canada. From Winnipeg to the Pacific and up and down the coast for hundreds of miles, his restless energy and shrewdness are wholly directed towards the promotion of business and the advancement of everybody's prosperity. With a loyalty to his company that amounts almost to a religion, he is, nevertheless, the friend of the western business man. It is safe to say that he has done more than any other C. P. R. official in the west to create a better and hapier understanding between the general public and the railway company.

It would seem that the lumber situation is only one of many things demanding his attention during the present trip. Mr. Peters is bent upon stirring the people of British Columbia to greater industrial activity. Although he remained in Rossland but a few hours, he has perfected arrangements by which the importation of mining timbers, stulls and similar mine supplies will practically cease. Heretofore much of the timber used in Rossland mines was brought in from points in Washington, along the Spokane Falls & Northern railway, but under the new arrangement Canadian timbers will be used exclusively and much money retained in the country that would otherwise go abroad never to return. In discussing the matter with a representative of The Miner yesterday Mr. Peters remarked:

"Those who are not fully informed on the subject would be surprised at the amount of money that annually goes out of the country for supplies that might just as well be purchased at home, and this is not a good thing for Canada. You may believe me when I say that the Canadian Pacific railway is particularly desirous of doing everything it can to foster and encourage home industry and home production. This question of local supply of mine timbers is a comparatively small one, but it illustrates what our ideas are in this respect, and I can assure you that what we are doing in this instance we stand ready and willing to do elsewhere as fast as the opportunity presents itself. The fact of the matter is that British Columbia is so enormously rich in natural resources that nothing but local industry and enterprise is necessary to make it as prosperous and productive as any country on earth. There are thousands of acres of uplands along every valley in southern British Columbia that are ideal for the cultivation of fruits of all kinds. Fruit and vegetable farming will always pay in this province. The local market will always be good, and should there be a surplus of crops there is just as much profit and a certain market in the eastern prairies. The same thing applies to the fisheries and the lumber industry. But these things cannot be done without a considerably larger inflow of immigration than has been the case for several years past. It is good to see The Miner constantly referring to these questions. Keep it up. Keep right on telling about your resources out here, and there can be no doubt about the great benefits that will follow."

Mr. Peters can, when he chooses,