

NELSON IS KICKING

Government's Action in Regard to Squatters Universally Condemned.

EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS

The City Council Protested Against Eviction Proceedings and the Premier Responded by Saying Lots and Improvements Would be Sold.

NELSON, May 19.—[Special.]—Acting Government Agent Goepel is creating a great deal of fury among the squatters on the government lots in this city. Under instructions from the authorities at Victoria he has had served upon those over-sanguine homesteaders no notice to the effect that they are required to forthwith vacate and abandon possession of the public land which they now hold without lawful authority. Failure to comply with this request will leave squatters liable to proceedings under the provisions of the Crown Lands Trespassers Act, 1897.

The service of these notices by the provincial constables has brought the matter more forcibly to the attention of the city administration. The squatters insist they have rights that demand recognition, and in order to avoid serious clashes between the citizens and the government the city council has taken a hand in the matter. At the regular meeting of the board of aldermen the following telegram was drafted and forwarded to Victoria:

Premier Turner, Victoria, B. C.
In the public interest we respectfully ask that legal action be not taken against squatters in Nelson until remonstrance now being prepared by citizens reaches you. Many of the lots in question have been fenced in by government officials here, and if action is taken it should only be taken after a report is made by disinterested parties. Market value can be obtained for every acre on which squatters have built, and if action is delayed no injury can result to either bona fide squatters or the government. How is it that acting Government Agent Goepel has warned the squatters, the landowner, off one piece of ground and suggests that he squat on another piece? Homeowner is establishing an industrial enterprise in Nelson that will give employment to a number of men and is willing to pay the market price for the lots he is building on, while the only available site for a factory is left in the interests of either the province or Nelson to drive such enterprises to Northport?

A telegram was received from Premier Turner in reply to the protest to the effect that the land and improvements would be sold by the government. This means a hardship upon squatters and is at variance with any previous action of the government, and the council at once instructed the mayor to wire a protest against the action. Mayor Houston expressed himself very strongly against the measure, which in this instance means the driving away of an iron foundry which had selected its site on government land and if the action outlined by the premier is to be followed the government will pocket the proceeds of the sale of the improvements.

A mass meeting of citizens has been called for Thursday night to protest against the action of the legislature in regard to squatters. If found expedient a purse will be raised to contest the matter in the courts.

FLETCHER HAS RESIGNED.

Row in the Nelson City Council Over Mayor Houston's Veto.

NELSON, May 19.—[Special.]—At the meeting of the city council tonight Mayor Houston used his veto power for the first time and aroused fierce opposition on the part of some of the aldermen. When the minutes of the previous meeting were read, he announced that he would veto the resolution which permitted the expenditure of money by the public works committee, for public improvements under the direction of the city engineer. He held that all work was under the direction of the mayor, and the resolution usurped his prerogative. A heated discussion occurred in regard to the rights of the mayor and alderman Fletcher said he was not willing to serve as alderman if the mayor was to run everything. The veto of the mayor was sustained, although three negative votes were cast. Alderman Fletcher at once tendered his resignation as chairman of the committee on public works as he did not see "what use the committee was."

At the council meeting Monday night the license bylaw was read for the first time. It provides a license of \$230 every six months for saloons in houses of less than 20 rooms; \$150 every six months in houses of 20 or more rooms; \$100 every six months for wholesale houses where less than twenty-one pint is sold; \$50 for every six months for wholesalers of not less than two gallons, and \$100 every six months for restaurants selling liquors.

Mines and Smelter Gossip.

Development on the Star mine at Ainsworth shows 18 inches of clean galena averaging 461 in silver and lead. As says also show iron pyrites carrying 44 in gold. Stock has been withdrawn from the market and the company will have the mine shipping in a few weeks. They will go down 25 feet more and then commence stopping.

Smelter at Robson.

Some magnificent finds have been made along the line of the Columbia & Kootenay road, between Nelson and Robson, and there is said to be an organized movement to construct a smelter at Robson. C. P. R. officials were in that town Tuesday surveying and straightening out streets and acting suspiciously generally.

ROSS DIED OF HIS INJURIES.

Railway Accident at Robson Resulted in Death of Both Italians.

NELSON, May 19.—[Special.]—Raphael Ross, who was injured on the C. P. R. near Robson, Wednesday afternoon, died yesterday from his injuries. The accident occurred at what is known as the Hall Mines road spur. Bruno Marini and Raphael Ross were sitting on the side of one of the flatcars on the construction train, and were crushed between the moving cars and a pile of wood that, through the carelessness of the wood contractor, had been piled too close to the track. Marini was killed outright, but Ross lived until evening.

The dead man and his wounded companion were brought to Nelson, and the latter was conveyed to the hospital,

where he suffered terribly until death came to his relief.
The Italians were not employees of the railway company, but were looking up a job of getting out wood in the vicinity of where the accident occurred.

GRAND FORKS NEWS.

Bank of Montreal Officials Investigating Wagon Road in Bad Shape.

GRAND FORKS, May 19.—[Special.]—For the past two days Grand Forks has had for visitors W. S. Clouston of Montreal, chief inspector of the Bank of Montreal; Inspector Kenton, also of Montreal, and E. Pitt, assistant manager of the bank at Victoria. The object of their visit was to report on the advisability of establishing a bank in this city, and if the drift of their conversation while here is any criterion by which to judge, their report will be entirely favorable to the city. They expressed surprise at finding here so large a town, and were very much pleased with its location and surroundings. They left this morning for the coast via Pentticon.

For several days the freighters have experienced considerable difficulty in crossing a low piece of ground on the opposite side of the North Fork from the city. Sixteen outfits mired down one after the other on Monday, and some of the wagons were gotten out with great difficulty. The citizens here are open in their arrangement of Mr. Cuppige, the road commissioner, who, they claim, has repeatedly promised to put the road in good condition. All the freight, not only for Grand Forks, but for Carson, Nelson, Midway, Anacosta, Greenwood, and the mining camps of the North Fork and Boundary has to pass over this road, and at present the freight being done is simply enormous. The dangerous part of the road is now being repaired by direction of Mayor Manly and will be passable in a day or two. Meanwhile all teams are forced to make a detour of several miles, involving two very heavy grades.

DEFINES HIS POSITION

Governor Rogers of Washington Replies to Attacks of Enemies.

Writes a Letter to the Editor of His Home Paper and Tells About His Book.

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 21.—[Special.]—Governor Rogers today sent the following open letter to the editor of the Puget Sound Citizen, his home paper, defining the position in which he is placed and some of the difficulties which surround him:

My Dear Sir—I have not seen your paper lately, but a friend tells me it contains something like this:

"Although we have a holy horror for the politics of Governor Rogers, yet noting the many attacks made upon him, we feel like answering in his behalf."

Do not be alarmed. The outcry comes from disappointed and disgruntled office-seekers. Men who constantly proclaimed that the office should seek the man and not the man the office, have been most persistent and insistent in their demands. There has been nothing like this seen before in this state. As a sample case: One man, a prominent middle-of-the-road, by the way, importuned me within one hour of the time I was nominated at Ellensburg for one of the most prominent places within the gift of the governor. He had not the slightest qualification for the place. I never gave him any encouragement at all at any time, and yet when some one else is appointed he flies into a passion and into a rage at the same time and belabors the governor with all the deprecatory remarks at his command.

And this is only one instance. There are a great many more of the same sort, but it all amounts to but very little. I have certain duties to perform, and I shall perform them fearlessly and honestly, so far as my judgment can carry me. Men deceive themselves very readily. Populists say that the democrats are getting all the good offices, and the democrats claim that they are getting nothing at all, but that populists have it all, and I suppose both believe what they say, or at least they seem to.

You say you have an utter horror of my politics. That is where you are mistaken. My politics are all right and I hold to precisely the same views that I did some years ago. The only difference is in my position. As an agitator I advocated certain peculiar views. I hold to those same views today. I have changed them in the slightest degree, but as governor of the state I can only undertake to execute the laws as I find them, and the laws are changed only as a result of time and the advance of public opinion, and public opinion is the result of the action of the people in all countries where universal suffrage prevails.

Some eight or nine years ago I wrote a book, which although published in the east had no very large sale. It is now shortly to be brought out and illustrated. In this story I set forth my peculiar views. I hold to these same views today and should be glad to see them adopted, but as governor of the state I should certainly not undertake to enforce in any way ideas to which I have given utterance in the book. When this story is published I hope you will read it. Possibly then my politics may not seem quite so horrible to you.

Yours very truly,
JOHN R. ROGERS.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Western Union Wires May Soon Be Strung—Supt. Levin Coming.

SPOKANE, Wash., May 20.—[Special.]—J. Levin, superintendent of the Western Union company covering the district from Michigan to the Pacific coast, is a visitor in the city today. Mr. Levin, accompanied by A. D. Campbell, local manager of the company, will leave for Rossland and the West Kootenay district in the morning, and after a thorough investigation of that district they will proceed up into the Fort Steele country.

The object of the trip as stated by Mr. Levin is to size up the situation with the view of ascertaining if that section of the country is ripe for the extension of Western Union service into the northern mining camps. If on this trip, the reports that he has heard concerning the development of that country are verified, Mr. Levin is of the opinion that Western Union wires will before long be strung into British Columbia.

THEY MEAN TO FIGHT

Nelson Squatters Have the Sympathy of the Whole Community.

WILL RESIST EVICTION.

City Concludes to Take Over the Consumers' Water Works For \$15,000—Several Important Strikes Reported on Toad Mountain.

NELSON, May 21.—[Special.]—The prospects are excellent for a young war between the provincial government and the Nelson city administration. In answer to the telegram to Premier Turner, requesting that action under the new Squatters' act be deferred until interested parties in this city had an opportunity to enter a remonstrance against such action, a reply was received from the premier which had a tendency to raise the ire of our worthy aldermen. Turner's message reads: "Government will best protect interests of people by clearing title to lots illegally occupied, and steps will be taken accordingly previous to sale of lots by public auction."

This message from the premier was put at a special meeting of the council on Wednesday evening, and is regarded as the ultimatum of the Victoria authorities. However, it did not by any means serve to settle matters or endear the government to the people here, and the immediate action of the board of aldermen in dispatching an answer that practically amounts to a defied commendation and endorsed by every man in the community who understands the position of affairs.

The answer was sent on a motion of Alderman Fletcher, seconded by Alderman Malone, and is as follows: "That the council of the city of Nelson voices the opinion of the people of South Kootenay in saying that in view of the past action of the government in recognizing squatters in every case, that their present action is unjust and unaltered, when it is taken into consideration that market value can be obtained for the property in dispute."

This affair between the government and the squatters is something that affects a great deal of property in the townsite and touches the interests of about one-third of the residents of Nelson. A mass meeting of the citizens, at which about 100 squatters were present, was held at Gray's hall Thursday evening when the injustice the government proposed to visit upon the squatters was loudly protested against, and the premier and his advisers were warmly scored for the unwarranted action in the manner proposed in this matter. W. P. Travers, J. M. Carroll and H. R. Bellamy were appointed a committee to fight the case in conjunction with the city council.

There appears to be a heap of trouble ahead. The government may in the end succeed in enforcing the unnecessarily stringent provisions of the Squatters' act, but they will do so at the expense of the respect of every intelligent citizen of Nelson and vicinity.

Yesterday afternoon all the squatters were served with notice from the government's agent to vacate forthwith. The probabilities are that no one will obey the instructions and further developments are looked for with interest.

Waterworks and Fire Brigade.

The proposition of the Consumer's Waterworks company for the purchase of their plant and franchise for \$5,000 has been accepted by the council. As soon as the legal transfer can be effected the city will take possession, the franchise to date from May 1, from which time the city will receive the revenue from the system.

A Special Committee, consisting of Aldermen Malone, Hillyer and Fletcher, has been appointed by the city council to report upon the condition of the present fire apparatus and recommend what new apparatus is absolutely needed to make the department effective until such time as the new water-system is in operation.

Around Forty-Nine Creek.

There is considerable movement among the properties on Forty-Nine, Rover and Bird creeks, and considerable work is being done. Development in nearly every case results in fine showings. There are a number of people looking for properties in this district but few are on the market. The success of every mine upon which money has been spent in development work makes owners loath to part with their properties. A petition is to be sent to the government asking that a trail be built up Forty-nine creek from the Poorn in trail.

Athabasca to Ship Soon.

The Athabasca has a number of men at work building cabins, sorting ore, etc., and in a week or ten days shipments to the smelter will be commenced.

Mining On Toad Mountain.

The snow is nearly off from Toad mountain and a vast amount of work is being done. Every moment the echo of a shot may be heard, although the work has yet hardly commenced. All the claims are showing up well, and the outlook is that a number will be added to the shipping list.

The Pilot Knob group has a quantity of fine looking ore on the dump ready for shipment, and while it is free milling and concentrating it is considered best, for the present, to send it to the smelter. A wagon road will be built at once to connect the mine with the Silver King road, a distance of one and one-half miles.

The Primrose Mining company has let a contract for 100 feet. Development work is being pushed and a vast amount of ore being placed on the dump. Recent assays show \$37 in gold and copper, \$26 of which is in copper.

The Morning & Evening Mining & Development company is to start work

soon on its properties on Morning mountain.

Prospectors Everywhere.

Locations are pouring in from all directions at the rate of about 100 or more a week. The majority of them, however, appear to be from the Wild Horse and along the Kootenay river from Robson and northward to Deer Park. Some good locations have been made on the mountain about one and a half miles northeast of town and also on Anderson creek, where the famous Sunset is located. A large number of prospectors are forcing their way eastward, but as yet nothing has been heard from them. A well-equipped outfit endeavored to get over the mountain eastward from Pilot Bay, but returned today with the statement that there are still seven feet of snow on the hills. Another start will be made in about two months.

Personals and Brevities.

It is impossible to get either a confirmation or denial of the rumor that G. F. Kellogg, of Butte, is to succeed M. S. Davis as superintendent of the Silver King. The Hill Mines company is a close corporation and will never give out anything for publication.

Isaac Holden and James Kidd, of the Central hotel, have bought the White Rose claim from Elsie S. Davis. The property is on the west side of Hill, near the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway line. It is regarded as a very promising prospect and the new owners intend to develop it at once.

SLOCAN CITY NEWS.

Slocan City Pioneer: It is reasonably certain at this time that the people of Slocan City can calculate upon entertaining between 500 and 1,000 strangers on the 24th.

There is still a strong demand for lumber in the market and the scarcity is causing considerable inconvenience to business men who have stocks of goods on the road and have no immediate prospect of being able to provide shelter for them when they arrive. There is relief in sight, however, in the fact that the new boat will make its first trip on the 18th, which will more than double the facilities for transportation.

The Bank of British North America opened a branch in this city on Monday in Mr. Wichman's building on Main street. The bank is temporarily under the management of Mr. George Kidd, manager of the Sandon branch of the same institution. Mr. J. M. Miller, of the Kootenay branch, will assist Mr. Kidd in the management of the branch. The bank is expected to arrive here in a few days. Mr. Kidd states that the bank will not purchase property at present, but he is prepared to entertain propositions for a building suitably arranged and located

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This property is being worked by a crosscut tunnel, the mouth of which is 119 feet from the track of Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railroad. Test pits on the surface show solid ore at a depth of eight feet carrying gold, silver and copper.
Treasury stock now on sale at 17 cents.

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