

Rossland Weekly Miner.

Published Every Thursday by the
ROSSLAND MINER PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.
LIMITED LIABILITY.

LONDON OFFICE:

C. J. WALKER, 24 Coleridge Street London,
TORONTO OFFICE:

CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY, LTD., 33 Yonge St.
SPOKANE OFFICE:

ALEXANDER & Co. Advertising Agents, Room
First National Bank Building,
EASTERN AGENT:

EMANUEL KATZ, 230 Temple Court, New York

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE of the WEEKLY
ROSSLAND MINER for all points in the United
States and Canada is Two and one-half Dollars a
year or One Dollar and fifty cents for six months
or all other countries Three and one-half Dol-
lars a year—invariably in advance.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, per month, by carrier..... 75c
Daily, per month, by mail..... 60c
Daily, per year, by carrier..... \$ 8.25
Daily, per year, by mail..... 6.25
Daily, per year, foreign..... 10.25

WEEKLY MINER.

Weekly, per half year..... \$ 1.50
Weekly, per year..... 2.50
Weekly, per year, foreign..... 3.50
Subscriptions invariably in advance.

THE EAST KOOTENAY LICENSES.

The Prior government can no longer ignore public opinion with regard to the East Kootenay coal and petroleum lands. According to the dispatches this morning the provincial authorities will issue licenses to all those who have valid claims. This report says, will amount to about forty square miles.

It is sincerely to be hoped that every legitimate prospector in the district will be treated fairly. All those who have complied with the requirements of the law are certainly entitled to immediate consideration, but those who have not should be denied licenses. The barefaced attempts to stoke the whole district for speculators and wildcatting must not be recognized; otherwise a large amount of swindling is certain to follow.

The fact that licenses are to be issued for the immediate development of forty square miles of East Kootenay coal lands will be hailed with delight by the mines and smelters of the Kootenays. The area is sufficient to allow development on a very extensive scale. This means that the Crow's Nest Coal company will soon cease to enjoy a fuel monopoly in Southern British Columbia, and that the time is near at hand when there will be a considerable reduction in the cost of coal and coke.

This prophesied action of the government means assured prosperity to the Kootenays. Lack of a cheap and uninterrupted supply of fuel is the only bar to prosperity in the mining districts hereabouts. There is also the additional satisfaction of knowing that the opening up of these lands necessitates the employment of thousands of men.

CANADA'S PROSPERITY.

Canada's prosperity is now the theme of several London papers. The *St. James Gazette* says: "Evidence has lately been forthcoming of the extraordinarily rapid advance of Canada in prosperity during the past year or two which reveals by far the most satisfactory condition of things prevailing in any part of the British Empire at the present time. And its brightest feature is that not only is there no reason to doubt its continuance, but the prospect of a vast, indeed an almost limitless, expansion, is opened up by the reports of the undeveloped possibilities of the country." The *Morning Post* says: "Canada is on the threshold of a new era in her development, and she may ultimately look to the mother country with its large population and accumulated wealth, to assist her in the task of defending her political and economical integrity, and of strengthening her position as an integral portion of the British Empire."

ADVERTISING.

Advertising in Canada and the United States has grown great indeed. There are fortunes in it, both for the man who advertises and the man who prepares and places the advertisement. Advertising is an art—the art of publicity. There is an advertiser's journal published weekly in New York, which, though not illustrated, is one of the most readable periodicals in the United States. It has a keen, honest, witty editor, whose ideas are often brilliant and always interesting. His main contention is that the first requisite of good advertising is to be truthful. This is not the idea the public has of the matter, for to discount the flattering tale that the ordinary advertiser tells is the first instinct of the reader. Yet, as the "Little Schoolmaster" points out, the fortunes are made by the advertisers who come nearest the truth. The ideal advertisement may not tell the whole, cold truth, but what it does set forth must be accurate as far as it goes, or the purchaser, though

persuaded to buy once, will not buy again. Magazine fiction nowadays is almost invariably pessimistic and problematic, for pure, joyous, breezy optimism sets the advertising pages. The only problem ever presented in their pictures and clerical columns is how to get enough money to buy all the things advertised. And even then satiety would be impossible, for there is always a new advertisement coming in, of just the thing one has been waiting for for years.

The illustrations, too, are calculated to scatter sunshine in every soul. There never were prettier girls anywhere than eat candy continually on the American advertisement page, or chubbier babies partaking perseveringly of patent foods, or more life-like animals posing as trade marks, or happier households than those which gather round a new kind of lamp, or more brilliant parties than assemble here to enjoy the latest sort of musical instrument. The advertising world is a place of honest happiness, of perfection even in trifles, of music and light and sport and new books and absolutely safe investments.

REDUCED IMPERIAL POSTAGE.

That the establishment of Imperial penny postage will be a strengthening of the bonds that bind the Empire in world-wide unity, is recognized on every hand. This recognition will lead to increasing appreciation—at any rate, in this country—of the fact that Imperial penny postage should be followed at the earliest possible moment by another greatly needed advance along the same line, in the reduction of the high rate charged for the carrying of newspapers and periodicals within the Empire. The scarcity of British newspapers and magazines in Canadian homes is due more than anything else to the excessive postage rate, which is eight cents a pound, an exorbitant and unwise tax on publications which foster British sentiment. The *London Times* daily edition, for instance, which comes to Rossland, costs £1.19s. for postage alone.

The Dominion government has made representations again and again with a view to securing reduction of these excessive rates, but has never been able to prevail on the British government to meet its view. In a letter to E. B. Biggar, who read a paper on this subject at the meeting of the Canadian Press Association in 1901, Sir William Mulock wrote: "As to rates of postage on newspapers for transmission between Canada and Great Britain, I beg to state that in the winter of 1897-8 I applied to the Imperial government for a revision for the very purpose of encouraging the freer circulation in Canada of English newspapers, publications, etc., and also to give Canadian publishers better opportunities of sending their publications to England, but the English government was unwilling to meet our views, and that is the position today." That is still the position so far as the British government is affected; but not so far as the Dominion government is concerned.

Sir William Mulock has been urging the British government, if it will do nothing else, at least to consent to Canada making the desired reduction, the Universal Postal Convention requiring the consent of the two countries before such a change could be made. This consent has been given by the British postmaster-general, and now the rate on Canadian newspapers and periodicals posted in Canada for transmission to the United Kingdom is the same as if posted for delivery in Canada. Unquestionably this will lead to a considerable circulation of Canadian newspapers and periodicals throughout the United Kingdom, which cannot fail to prove of great advantage to this country. It will serve to increase throughout the British Isles the knowledge of Canada. It will help immensely in the keeping up of communication between settlers from the United Kingdom and their friends in the old land, which too often is allowed to drop off until it comes to mean little more than the writing of a letter at Christmas. The sending of a newspaper is a thing easily done, and with the new cheap rates, will be made to take the place of many an intended letter that never gets written.

The reasons advanced by the British government against agreeing with Sir William Mulock's often urged proposal are various, the foremost being that, in the words of Lord Londonderry, the British postmaster-general in 1901, "the financial objections to a general scheme of this kind are insuperable;" it not being considered feasible to make an exception in favor of Canada alone of all the component parts of the Empire overseas from the Mother Country. In this connection it is important to note the difference in the postal rates on newspapers and periodicals between Great Britain and Canada on the one hand and between the United States and Canada on the other. Both in Canada and the United States newspapers and periodicals, when mailed direct from the office of publication, are carried at rates which entail a loss to the government. The British rate, as we have seen, is eight cents a pound. In Canada the rate

is one-half cent per pound; in the United States, one cent per pound. These low rates apply whether the paper goes in single copies directly to its subscribers, or in parcels to the newsdealers. The published cost of all United States and Canadian publications thus covers the cost of delivery by mail in the country of publication. By convention between the two countries, each carries free the mail matter of this class coming from the other on which postage has been paid at the domestic rate; so that a United States paper weighing, say, three ounces, is delivered in any part of Canada at a cost to the publisher of about one-fifth of a cent or one-tenth of a British penny. A Canadian paper of equal weight is delivered in any part of the United States at one-tenth of a cent, or one-twentieth of a penny. At this last mentioned rate, Canadian papers and periodicals will now go to the United Kingdom when posted in bulk from the office of publication; or, if posted singly, at one cent per four ounces. Herebefore to deliver the *Daily Rossland Miner* to a subscriber in the United Kingdom has cost 13 cents a week, or \$6.76 a year; and to deliver the *Weekly Rossland Miner* \$1.86 a year.

The advantages which would follow upon the inauguration by the British government of a cheap Imperial postal rate on newspapers and periodicals, following the example set by Canada, are too obvious to require to be dwelt upon. The growth of Imperial unity would be strengthened, and the Mother Country and the Greater Britain overseas would be brought into increased knowledge of each other and closer commercial relations, for trade follows ever in the wake of printer's ink.

Writing of the inauguration of Imperial penny postage in the *Empire Review*, Sir Sandford Fleming says:

"I have the authority of the Duke of Norfolk, late postmaster-general of the home government, for saying that the establishment of Imperial penny postage was largely due to the progressive spirit of Canada. On a public occasion, when he was being congratulated on the successful accomplishment of the movement, he frankly conceded that 'it would be unfair if he did not at once shift the credit from his own shoulders to those of his brother postmaster-general of Canada.'"

Sir William Mulock forced the hand of the British government in the matter of Imperial penny postage. It is to be hoped that London will be led by Ottawa to do a further service to the Empire by cutting away the exorbitant British postal rates on newspapers and periodicals.

THE PULPITEER IN PETTICOATS.

Rev. Anna Ford Eastman, of Elmira, New York, recently attracted considerable attention to herself by the statement that the ministerial term of service ought to be restricted to twenty years, and that at the end of the time the minister should be taken out and shot. Friends of the Rev. Anna explain that she was only joking, but there can be no excuse for a jest so ponderously stupid. The world gives freely respect and reverence to a good woman, but she impairs her right to these tributes when she goes into the pulpit. She is there an incongruous figure. Moreover, the spirit of the scriptures from which she is supposed to draw inspiration does not give her a shadow of warrant. Nature makes up on her certain demands, and in fulfilling these she cannot engage in the calling of the ministry. There is no tendency in these modern times to deny a woman any "right." Nevertheless, nobody would desire to see her digging a ditch, bearing arms, twisting brakes on the overland freight or driving a garbage wagon. The restrictions barring her from these and from other occupations are born of regard for her, and of certain conventions that have come into existence from the very nature of things. For the most part, opposition to the granting of suffrage to women springs out of motives exactly analogous, although the experiment where tried has not resulted in benefit. Respect and admiration are not withheld from the grand women who have made a fight for what they conceive to be the "rights" of their sex. When Elizabeth Cady Stanton went to rest a great personality vanished from affairs. She was an individual of brilliant and forceful character, a student always, and a model in all domestic relations. Intellectually she was as fit to exercise the franchise as any person who holds the privilege. Susan B. Anthony, although never assuming the role of wife, has devoted many years to the service of womankind, and while she has not brought about the perfect equality of which she still dreams, she has accomplished much. Mary A. Livermore, in her serene old age, is a woman of beautiful character and mentality undimmed. She fought for abolition with all the fervor of her splendid eloquence. She has been an able advocate of temperance and high morals, and a woman of courage and action. These are noble women, and yet it is no reflection upon womankind to say that they are not typical; they are different. Women just as devoted to the good of the race, just as capable, take a view wholly in opposi-

tion. And this class largely outnumber the class of which the persons named have been the representatives and champions. If the women of this country wanted the franchise, they would have it. When the wives and daughters ask the chance of going to the polls, to do so will be theirs for the asking. But the change would be made with regret, because it would drag womanhood from the high estate where it abides. The Rev. Anna is a mistake. She jars on the nerves, and she makes the man who loves womanhood thank God that she is a rare specimen.

FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

Harmony between the townspeople and the mine operators, and courage and enterprise on the part of both will, if persisted in, make Rossland one of the greatest mining camps of the world.

Dissension between the various elements, working at cross purposes, the failure of one to assist the other for the common good, and "knocking" would kill prosperity here even if the mines were ten times richer than they are.

There is too much "knocking" and not enough harmony.

No effort should be spared to induce mining companies now inactive to resume operations; but little or nothing is being done in this respect. The best way to encourage greater development of our great mineral resources is to make the mines now working as successful as possible. There are, however, a few narrow-minded, shortsighted individuals who lose no opportunity to fight every move that is made to add to the production of the mines. If they are not barking about the inconsequentiality of the 2 per cent tax, they protest against the mines being allowed the little surplus of water that is owned by the municipality. The greater the success of the mines, the better it will be for the townspeople.

To those who are guilty of this miserable pettiness *The Miner* would say: Stop "knocking" and help the mining companies to prosper, for in their prosperity lies your prosperity.

PING-PONG.

Ping-pong is as great as its name. It is a man's size game. It takes a full length table to play it. Ping-pong is a fast. So is Civic Reform at times. On with the fads! If golf didn't kill us we stand a splendid fighting chance with ping-pong. The latter requires less clothes, less area, and no less brains. It is quite the thing to settle down to a battle to a finish at ping-pong in one's pebbled dress clothes after dinner; no one has said that it isn't good form to play in one's full length trousers; any real lady may enter the lists with never a bit of red on her gown or jealousy on her conscience. Ping-pong is no 700-acre lot diversion; the humble citizen may frivo away at it to his heart's content in his own cozy flat; this is easy if he has spirit enough to rip down the partition between the boudoir and the library. Ping-pong is allowable before retiring and on arising; indeed, what is dinner sans ping-pong? It usurps the last forty minutes of that grossly materialistic hour in a fashion to bring joy to the butler and riotous happiness to the aged, the infant, and the dyspeptic. Eating will presently be all but obsolete in Rossland, so strenuous are become the demands upon the dining table for a nobler purpose. Sandwiches may be served from the mantels for the backbiters and the spectators. Bleachers ought to be built in the reception hall for the latter. Usually but two persons play it. That feature never made matrimony unpopular. As a game ping-pong is nearly as exhilarating and far less dangerous. It is also safer than poker. It leaves none of the hearthburnings of bridge; it beats politics to death. It is a winner whether you lose or not.

A NEW FORM OF FUEL.

The proposed establishment of a factory for the manufacture of briquettes from the lignite coal so abundant in the central northwest district of the United States promises to solve the problem of cheap fuel for a large section of that country. If successful, the same process will undoubtedly be employed to utilize the vast amounts of lignite in the Strickland and on the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains in the Northwest Territories. The *Miner* has no information at hand to show that coal briquettes can be successfully used for smelting of ores, but if they can, the new process will be an important factor in the economical treatment of the product of the mines of Southern British Columbia. Almost as important is the fact that the use of this form of fuel will settle the smoke problem, since fired from this material are practically smokeless. Most important of all, though commonly least considered, is the problem that this process may be employed to save waste by getting out of the ordinary coal supply its full value for heating purposes. There is no waste in the world com-

parable to that which accompanies the burning of fuel for either heat or power. The major portion of the energy actually contained is worse than wasted; being dissipated in the atmosphere as gas or deposited upon surrounding objects as a filthy coating of soot. In this stage, when capital and ingenuity are both devoted as they never were before to the securing of economies in the world's work, it is amazing that this crowning prodigality of wastefulness should continue unchecked. Any process or device that would save even a portion of the fuel energy now wasted would fairly revolutionize the industry of the world and enhance its comforts beyond all estimate. Here is the greatest field now open to ingenuity and investigation, and here the greatest fortunes are waiting for the successful inventor.

THE A. I. M. E.

The American Institute of Mining Engineers, to the number of 160, will arrive in Rossland on or about July 15th next. They will, of course, be afforded every opportunity to inspect the mines here. But that in itself is not sufficient. The visit of these eminent gentlemen will be a good thing for the town in more respects than one. It is therefore very important that their sojourn be of as long duration as circumstances will permit. The magnificent mineral resources of this camp must be thoroughly understood to be appreciated, and it is next to impossible for even a well informed engineer to understand them from a hurried survey. The geological and mineralogical conditions here have proved intensely interesting to all those who have taken the trouble to study them. The visiting engineers should be given every opportunity and encouragement to do so.

It should be remembered that aside from the fact that Rossland is the premier mining camp of the Dominion, it is admittedly the headquarters of the mining industry of Southern British Columbia. By coming to Rossland and remaining here for several days, the Institute will have a good opportunity to study local conditions and at the same time to be in the best place in the Kootenays to learn all about the outlying districts. This they can do just as well as though they suffered the trouble and inconvenience of personal inspection. In saying this *The Miner* is prompted by no selfish motives so far as Rossland is concerned. To have a comprehensive idea of the great Kootenay country, the members of the Institute would find it necessary to spend half the year travelling from camp to camp. But as their time will be limited, this is out of the question. It would therefore be best for all concerned that they come straight to Rossland from the East and remain here until the Golden City has filled them up with authentic information and genuine hospitality.

The itinerary of the excursion might, if taken up now, be changed so as to allow the members of the Institute to remain several days in Rossland. If this is left to a later date it will, in all probability, be too late to make the necessary change without conflict with other dates. This is a matter worthy of the immediate attention of the board of trade and the city council.

THE COMMISSIONER CORNERED.

The following is from the *Victoria Colonist* of March 14th:

"The provincial Gazette discloses that as many as 220 applications were filed in one week with the government for coal and petroleum lands discovered in Southeast Kootenay, situated about 30 miles from Morrissey. The lands being in the mountains and within 25 miles of the C. P. R. Two hundred and twenty miles of territory has been staked off, the stakes being driven in the deep snow. The country is well wooded. The matter has been kept quiet by the applicants with the object of preventing a stampede. Despite the number of applications filed with the government, the extensive territory staked off has been taken up by a few people.

"The number of applications appearing in the Gazette has caused some stir and excitement among those realizing the prospective value of such extensive coal fields. Upon inquiry yesterday, it appears that for the past ten years it has been no secret that there was every indication that the territory just staked contained valuable coal measures. Applications for licenses have been filed with the government for many years back. It is authoritatively affirmed, though, that no licenses or grants have been issued. These lands are all under reservation, and a three-months' notice in the Gazette is necessary before the lands could be opened to applicants. The government has not considered the matter of lifting the reservation, and it is not known what policy will be adopted. In any case, the lands will not be permitted to be gobbled up by a few people. It is intended to preserve the rights of the public in order that these coal and petroleum lands may not fall into the hands of monopolists to the prejudice and detriment of the public interest. The reservation on these lands has been expressly established with a view of having them developed under such conditions as will prove most beneficial to the province. People cannot be prevented from staking, but this will avail them little, for the present at least, as there is no indication that there will be any immediate cancellation of the reservation. In view of the many applications recently filed, it is likely that pressure will be brought to bear upon the government to open the reservation, but it is hardly likely that this will be done without adequate restrictions to conserve the rights of the public; so that in the event of these prospective coal and petroleum lands being proved to be valuable, the full benefit of such

a provincial asset may be realized to the best advantage of the province. At any event, it is understood that the question of opening the reservation has not been considered by the cabinet, and there is perfect freedom to deal with the subject from the exclusive standpoint of the public interest."

The government organ, "upon inquiry yesterday," has found it impossible to maintain further silence on this important question. The administration is being pounded on all sides so hard that it is compelled at last to recognize the storm of indignation that exists all over the province. More than a dozen B. C. newspapers now make a special feature of roasting the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and the Prior government for the injustice that is being done prospectors in the East Kootenay coal and petroleum fields. This has been going on for months, but the *Colonist* has remained as dumb as an oyster.

The foregoing article is undoubtedly inspired by Chief Commissioner Wells, because it reveals the clumsy argument that Mr. Wells always makes when he denies prospectors their rights in East Kootenay. It will be noticed that the *Colonist* has a lot to say about protecting the rights of the people, but this is only to gloss over the steal that is contemplated by the government ringsters. The fact of the matter is there is no official reserve on coal and petroleum in the southeastern corner of East Kootenay. Certain lands in the neighborhood were placed under reserve so far as the surface rights are concerned, but the lands in question are undoubtedly open to public entry and development. The only obstruction to their immediate development is the persistent refusal of the Prior government to grant licenses to those who have complied with all the requirements of the law. In doing this the commissioner is plainly doing that which is the very opposite to his duty.

The *Colonist* takes advantage of the 220 applications advertised in a recent issue of the B. C. Gazette, to make out a case against the legitimate prospectors. These 220 applications are for the most part "snow" locations—locations made this year in the deep snow, which, of course, prevents legitimate prospecting. These "snow" locations have all the earmarks of the speculator, the wild-cat and the corporation land grabber, but they should not be classed with the staking done by bona fide prospectors during the open season last year. It is not difficult to distinguish the one from the other.

It is unquestionably the duty of the government to prevent wildcatting and land grabbing by the big corporations, but the trouble lies in the fact that it is favoring this element to the great detriment of the honest citizen.

It is useless for Mr. Wells and the others of the Prior government to further attempt to check the wave of public opinion on this important matter. The commissioner and his associates will yet be compelled to do their duty. The whole province is aroused. The battle is more than half won. Filled in its attempt to hand this magnificent heritage over to the big C. P. R., Mr. Wells organ reluctantly admits that "in any case, the lands will not be gobbled up by a few people." This is quite a different tune to the song Mr. Wells used to sing before his game was exposed. Now that the big corporations are knocked out of the game, it only remains for the people to make the commissioner issue his licenses to the prospectors and kick him out of office at the next election.

Hon. James A. Smart, deputy minister of the Interior, is in Great Britain making a tour of the immigration agencies there, and his addresses on Canada are attracting a great deal of attention from the British press. They have published many interviews with him, and the interest that has been excited in Canada as a field for emigration is very noticeable. Mr. Smart has taken with him for a six weeks' trip 65 representative western farmers, who have done excellent work in travelling up and down the country, explaining to possible western emigrants what they may do in western Canada by their own exertions. The plan has proved eminently successful, and promises largely to augment Canada's share of desirable British emigrants.

The minister of railways was asked by a deputation of farmers a few weeks ago to appoint five members to his railway commission board instead of three. But Mr. Blair is satisfied, after thinking the matter over again, that three men will efficiently guard every interest that is at stake. In the first place there will be a lawyer of good standing, and, if possible, one with a knowledge of railway legislation and railway operation. Another appointee will be a trained railway man.

If we are to have purity of politics in this province, says the *Revelstoke Mail*, one of the first things to be done is to make the *Corrupt Practices Act* more stringent and severe. Recent exposures in the police court at Victoria, in connection with the North Victoria election, show the grossest and most deliberate impersonation ever seen in Canada. This sort of thing must be suppressed with a firm hand.

Frank Watson, manager of the Fisher Maiden mine, was in the city last night en route to Spokane.

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