

THE NORTHFIELD QUESTION

Miners Hold Another Meeting on Saturday Last

AND TALK, AND TALK, AND TALK.

Mr. Robins Willing to Show the Books to a Confidential Committee—A General Feeling That the Offer Should be Accepted.

Nanaimo, Jan. 1.—The miners of Nanaimo and district met again on Saturday morning to consider the Northfield question.

Dawson, in an eloquent appeal to the meeting, requested them to permit the matter to be settled by arbitration. He went on to say that Mr. Robins had offered to submit the books to a confidential committee; then it could be ascertained what the coal sells for and whether the mine was a losing one or not.

T. Boyce said the meeting was struggling along in the dark. One of the principal questions was that Northfield was not satisfied with the way the case was presented to them by the company. The company claim they are losing money and the men claim they are not, and until these questions are cleared up he did not see how the matter could be settled.

F. Keith endorsed the remarks of the last speaker. He went on to say that the depression of business appeared to be getting worse instead of better. He favored arbitration as proposed by T. Dawson, and until the question was cleared up no faith could be placed in either the company or the Northfield men.

M. Flynn alluded to the figures the men were asked to work for as preposterous; it was way too enormous. If Mr. Robins would give the men the price asked in dirt they could make up wages, otherwise men on the south side could not make more than one dollar per day.

T. Horribin said they were repeatedly asked to accept certain reductions on the plea that the mines were not paying; he asked that Northfield be allowed to work one full month and then the arbitration board could get more nearly to the facts about the matter.

J. Lago said if an arbitration committee was appointed they would not care fully and only take the running expenses. He claimed coal had no real value, but only represented labor, and the company had no right to grind the men down in order to play a cut-throat game.

J. Bell was surprised to hear that while some men worked only eleven days in the mine some worked thirty-six, and asked if Mr. Robins had been informed of this fact. Another miner stated he had worked in the mine since he was nine years old, but he never saw a mine worked under such unnecessary expense as this mine was.

B. Dugan endorsed the remarks made by Mr. Horribin in reference to the men being allowed to work a full month and then arbitrate the matter. Also that the men of Wellington and Comox be asked to come into the union so that they could fight cheap labor.

A. Wilson inquired at the meeting that the agents at San Francisco stated that if they did so the coal would have to lie in ships' bottoms or be stacked. M. Flynn claimed that when the mine was not working there were still heavy expenses going on, but he believed that the present committee could deal with the matter.

D. McQuigan believed that when a manager of a company attempted to use an iron rod they should press against it, but that he did so his views should be respected. T. Dawson's motion carried.

Another motion was made that a committee be selected from the meeting with power to settle the matter. One of the Northfield men claimed that the whole of the company's mines should be arbitrated upon.

W. Keith said it would be useless talking the whole of the mines; it would in no wise be a fair thing to do. The committee chosen as a board of arbitrators were Messrs. Lago, Horribin and Flynn of Northfield, and for Nanaimo Messrs. Boyce, Wilson, Dawson, McQuigan, Keith and R. Booth.

D. McQuigan asked that men be forced to refrain from working when a mass meeting is called. (Vehement applause.) The meeting then adjourned.

W. Keith moved that the delegate interview Mr. Robins and ask him to lay the mines idle whenever a mass meeting is called, so that every one can attend. Mr. Robins, in seconding the motion, said some are continually working, yet others are unable to get a day's work. He thought it was about time they had a vote in this matter, and as an organization they should endeavor to equalize the work.

D. McQuigan offered as one of the steady workers to change vocations with any man in the shaft. T. Keith spoke of the Chinese being detrimental to the welfare of the community.

THE WATER WE DRINK.

A Report From Engineer Wilmot on Matters of Interest

TO EVERY CITIZEN OF VICTORIA

Claim for Drowned Chickens—Cost of Lighting City—Ald. Bragg Moves for Resolution on Surface Drains—Resolution of Thanks.

There was only one absentee, Ald. Baker, from the council board at its special session yesterday afternoon at 4. The minutes were accepted as read. The finance committee reported recommending appropriations for sums totaling \$7,000.

A report for the appropriation of \$58,200 out of the surface drainage by-law funds was also adopted. The school trustees asked the appropriation of \$268.00 out of the educational fund.

The cemetery committee reported recommending that the caretaker of the cemetery be allowed \$75 for help required on account of the increased number of interments during the past few months. The report also recommended that the caretaker be granted a month's vacation.

The special committee on the Victoria & Sidney railway location inside the city limits and the terminus of the line reported in favor of the plan proposed by the Northfield men.

A resolution for recision will be posted on the bulletin board. The Oak Bay sewage improvement by-law was put through final stages.

The Old Men's Home committee reported that the finance minister had agreed to pay out of the provincial funds \$15,000 for the purchase of the Northfield in the home. The medical officer's certificate of good health as far as infectious diseases is concerned, accompanied the report.

Ald. Mann here presented the council with a plan of a new sewerage system for the city. The plan was handed in, Ald. Belyea saying he approved of the idea.

A report from the electric light superintendent gave information asked by Ald. Harris. This showed the cost for 1892 to have been \$4,837 for salaries and \$4,490 for maintenance, a total of \$9,327.

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M. Flynn—If Mr. Robins will submit to the decision the Northfield men will. T. Dawson moved that the committee go back to Mr. Robins and ask to be allowed to investigate the books and try to make some concession.

T. Boyce upbraided the meeting for the feeling of doubt which prevailed among them and pointed out to them that the water supply from Elk and Beaver lakes. The extension of the 24-inch main to the head works.

2. Damming Elk lake from Beaver lake, cleaning out Beaver lake and bringing water from Elk lake to filter beds while Beaver lake is being cleaned. 3. Building a dam that will raise and increase the supply of water to its reasonable highest capacity.

4. Also complete system of filter beds. 5. The water to be pumped to high ground on Cook street, with hydraulic ram and separate pipes to supply the higher levels.

To give a detailed statement of all requirements to make the water works successful, etc. The undersigned has the honor to submit the following report, which from the fact of there being no funds available to obtain the necessary data for giving the information asked for on some points, includes such information as was obtainable from the data accessible at the time.

Extension of the 24-inch main to the lake—3,500 feet has already been laid, which would leave a distance of 23,200 feet to construct. Basing the estimate on the contract price of the work at ready done the cost would be approximately \$121,000.

The completion of this work would add greatly to the efficiency of the fire protection service, and would be of sufficient capacity to maintain a pressure at the City Hall for ten hydrants while providing a supply for domestic purposes for the rate of about one million gallons per day, which, combined with the supply from the 16-inch main, would be ample for all requirements.

2. Damming Elk lake from Beaver lake, cleaning out Beaver lake and bringing water from Elk lake to filter beds while Beaver lake is being cleaned. In order to carry out this work efficiently the dam would be required to be located at the south side of Elk lake, as the stretch of water between Elk and Beaver lakes is no more free from vegetable matter than Beaver lake proper.

The cost of a dam at the south side of Elk lake, and the construction and laying of a main to bring water from Elk lake to filter beds while Beaver lake is being cleaned (after which there would be no further use for the dam or the main), can only be determined by survey and boring.

The length of the dam would be about 1,800 feet, the depth of the water being about nine feet. The length of main would be about 7,500 feet, and the main would have to be laid below the level of the water surface of the lake, as existing at present, and in the carrying out of which sewage water from the lake would have to be encountered, which would add greatly to the expense of the work.

The area to be cleaned out between Elk lake and the dam at Beaver lake would be about 180 acres, which at say \$100 per acre would be \$18,000.

3. Building a dam that would raise and increase the supply of water to its reasonable highest capacity. The information necessary for a reliable estimate can only be obtained by survey. According to Mr. Bulkeley's report, raising the height of the water ten feet would increase the area of the lake 177 acres. Assuming the same ratio to hold good, viz., 17.7 acres increase of area

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INTERIOR INTELLIGENCE.

Events of the Week in the Great Inland Country.

(Special Prospector.)

H. H. St. John, general agent of the Great Northern at Spokane, is at the Idaho mine. Mr. St. John recently purchased a one-third interest in the Idaho for \$6000. The force at the Idaho is to be increased, and Mr. St. John intends to pay much attention to his newly acquired property.

Neil Gething went up to the Cumberland yesterday. He reports the mine as being fully up to his most sanguine expectations and brought several excellent samples of ore from the lead in the lower tunnel. The miners have run a cross cut of 60 feet and have drifted 50 feet on the lead. Mr. Gething reports three feet of concentrating ore in the lower tunnel and six inches of solid galena on the hanging wall. The owners do not intend to ship ore until the Nakup & Slocan railway is completed.

There is a wrong idea abroad that the townsite of New Denver is in litigation. It is true that there is a dispute over an undivided interest in the McGillivray addition, but there is enough rosin with the McGillivray addition on which to build a large town than yet exists in the interior of British Columbia. The title to the remaining part of the townsite, upon which the town proper is built, has never been questioned and is undoubtedly perfect.

The section of "gold-bearing rock" on Eight Mile Creek and extending over the divide toward the "galena farm" on Four Mile creek will probably be the first ground prospected in the spring in the Slocan district. Gold is found all along the lake, from the Dayton mine at the foot of the lake to Wilson creek, near the head of the lake, but Eight Mile, where the Little Daisy is located, appears to be the richest in gold. The gold fever is bound to break loose in the Slocan in the spring, and the veteran prospectors want to be in it. Silver and lead are good enough, but let us have gold, too.

Golden Era. Two young men, Ed. Murphy and Roy Gilman, were fooling the other evening in the Columbia house when Gilman was thrown and had his collar bone broken.

The first curling game of the season was played on the Kicking Horse river on Wednesday afternoon. Considerable interest was taken in the game and the excitement, judging from the shouting which was done and which could be distinctly heard half a mile away, must have been intense.

On Tuesday night at Donald the thermometer registered 9 degrees below zero, while at Kerestoke it was 23 degrees above. The distance between the two places is 79 miles.

A rumor spread itself over town on Monday that M. Kelly, late roadmaster on the C. P. R., had committed suicide at Nakup, but as yet no one seems to be able to authenticate or contradict it.

At the Inland Hospital on Christmas day every patient was able to be up and take his place around the table well laden with the delicacies Mrs. Potter and the hospital staff had provided.

At the Kamloops provincial gaol on Christmas day the 23 prisoners confined there were given a sumptuous repast through the kindness of the gaol officials and other benevolently inclined citizens. It is needless to say that they appreciated the good cheer provided fully as much as any others in the city.

A private letter from Kaslo announces a valuable discovery of galena near Ainsworth. The body is six feet in thickness and runs \$100 to the ton, while the surrounding rock also bears valuable minerals. The immense body of the ore makes the find a valuable one. A concentrator will be erected in the spring, and Ainsworth is expected to be a busy place. G. B. Wright makes a rich strike in his mine at Mile Point.

Work is going on busily at Ashcroft on the line of forwarding the pipes required for the Horseshoe mine. D. McGillivray has made the pipes at his iron works near Westminister, and is forwarding them by train to Ashcroft. He sent up two blacksmiths and some wagon makers, and there they made immense sleighs to convey the pipes up the stage road. Twelve teams are now engaged hauling the pipes to where the new road leaves the stage road, while a sub-contractor will team them into the mines. The teaming will occupy fully three months with all the sleighs that can conveniently be put on.

THE CLOSING YEAR. Link on to link, an ever-growing chain. Of days, months, years, are added to the past; Aye-calling back into Time's locker rest, The while our mental crew, singeth in pensive strain. Link on to link.

Link after link, forged and firm welded on; Spreading far back in men's rievler tier; The circumstantial chain rusted with many a tear. Life-long remains, and so the work goes on— Link after link.

Link on to link, the work never tires; His furnace grows ever, and our ceaseless din. A far and near resoundeth, and within Our inmost chamber. Link after link.

Link after link ringeth the hammer on; Proving the work, which erst his hand had wrought. The worker, pausing not, counteth, aye one by one, Each separate part joined in one cable strong— Link on to link.

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