

# Rosland Weekly Miner.

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## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

The Queen's Birthday, May 24, is rapidly approaching, and it is time that preparations were under way if there is to be a celebration of it held by the citizens of this city. It is the occasion all over the empire when the subjects of the Queen meet and renew the fires of patriotism and swear anew their unwavering fealty to the crown. It serves, too, as an occasion in which to instill into the minds of the rising generation the idea that they are to become the future pillars of the empire and to show them that they should be happy because they are born under the folds of the British flag, so that they may be ever ready to show their loyalty and devotion to their country, so that they may in turn hand down its glorious traditions to their children. There is more than usual reason at present why the day should be observed. The nation is engaged in battle with a stubborn foe and has put out the largest army that it has put into the field during the nineteenth century. The people of Canada should consider, too, that they have done their duty in the present struggle in South Africa by sending men to and arms to the mother country. More than ever before, perhaps, the spirit of imperialism, love of British institutions, and of true patriotism prevails. Under the circumstances there should be a more hearty and fervent observation of the Queen's Birthday than ever before. On this occasion one of the features should be an oration in which some of the many deeds of Britain and Canadian soldiers should be the dominant feature. The history of the British race is filled with much that is great, much that is grand and glorious, and why should not our orators tell of these events, and even boast of them—though the race is not given much to boasting—on an occasion like the Queen's Birthday. Though it may be considered bad form to boast in some of the older sections of the empire we of the wide and boundless West feel that we can do so. We are young, and the heyday still lingers in our blood, and if we crow the more staid and older sections of the empire will set it down as a youthful and perhaps pardonable ebullition common in a country which is only a few score instead of a few thousand years old. Therefore, let us have an enthusiastic celebration of the Queen's birthday and one which will be in consonance with the spirit of the West. A preliminary meeting should be held at once.

## THE SANDON FIRE.

The town of Sandon was early yesterday morning completely swept away by one of those sudden conflagrations which are all too common in the West, and in the East, too, for that matter. The citizens were quietly sleeping, and were fairly driven out of their homes, so fierce and fast were the flames, and they had but little time in which to save anything from the general destruction. They saved scarcely anything but that which they were clothed in, and at present are poor, indeed. The loss is said, by the account which is sent from Kaslo, to be about \$1,000,000. The loss falls on a lot of people who can ill-afford it, because the mines in that vicinity were shut down for several months and only resumed operations a few months since. The people were just recovering from the effects of the labor troubles, and now comes the fire to give them another setback. There is, however, this consoling feature to the situation at Sandon, and this is that the mines are in full operation in its vicinity, and that mining, the principal industry of the place, has not been crippled by the fire. If this calamity had occurred and the Ruth concentrator, which was threatened, had been burned and mining plants destroyed, the result would be much worse than it is, although it is serious enough now. It is so serious that the people of this and adjoining cities, in the mining family, so to speak, should raise a good large sum and forward it to our distressed brethren. They are homeless and short of clothing and bedding. For a month or more it may be necessary to give a number of the fire sufferers relief in the way of shelter, clothing and food. Rosland and other cities of British Columbia, and particularly the mining cities, should see to it that the relief fund is one that will fully meet all the requirements of the situation. Those who have clothing and bedding and can spare them, should send them to the mayor, and they will be duly forwarded free of charge by the C. P. R. and the Dominion Express company.

The disaster at Sandon should serve as an example to Rosland during the present

open season to take greater precaution than ever against fires. This city has very fair protection now. It has a good fire department, an excellent chief, a well arranged fire alarm and paraphernalia sufficient to fight any ordinary fire. With vigilance and care this city should never have a big fire, but should there be carelessness there would be a repetition of the disaster like that experienced at Sandon. Therefore, the greatest care should be exercised to see to it that fires do not get too great a start, and that there be as few of them as possible.

## THE CAPE NOME DISTRICT.

The Mining and Engineering Journal says: It looks very much as if some of the schemes for mining the shore deposits of the Nome District in Alaska are being prepared without counting the cost, and with very little knowledge of the true conditions. A good deal is said of the probable returns to be obtained by mining beyond the low-water mark, and we hear of some dredging outfits which are to be prepared for use during the coming season. Now dredging for gold is not altogether as simple an operation in practice anywhere as it is on paper, and at Nome it is going to be very risky work. To try to operate a dredge in shallow water, on a sloping beach, where there is always a heavy swell, and where there is no protection whatever from frequent and violent storms, is not merely a difficult matter; a wreck is only a question of time, and probably a very short time. To work by sinking shafts and running tunnels out under the ocean is likely to be a costly and difficult task. The building of coffer dams and caissons which will stand against the waves will also be costly. Altogether the problem of working these shore deposits is not an easy one, and it is by no means certain whether gold will be found in quantities which will pay for the risks to be incurred. People should hesitate and investigate carefully before going into any of these schemes, or undertaking to transport heavy machinery to Nome.

## ROSSLAND GETTING ITS SECOND WIND.

The mining situation is improving, and the promise made by the mine managers that there would be 2,500 men at work in the camp by the fall is likely to be easily verified. The Le Roi last week broke the record for itself, and any other lode mine in British Columbia by shipping 3,344 tons of ore to the smelter. It was a wonderful accomplishment, and the management states that it could have been beaten if there had been more cars and more power. Both of these are being provided for, and the time is not far distant when the Le Roi will beat this record by a good many tons. The No. 1 and Josie, of the West Le Roi group are ready to ship now, and in the Annie, of the same group, a find of high grade ore was made during the week. This group will commence to market its ore just as soon as the compressor plant ordered some time since comes to hand. It will probably be late in the summer before the plant gets here, as the factory at which it is being constructed is overcrowded with orders and hence considerable time is consumed after an order for a plant like this, of 40 drills, is received before it can be turned out. The Nickel Plate, of the East Le Roi group, is being rapidly developed, and the shaft is down to the 600-foot level. As soon as the level is reached the intention is to develop the several levels up to the surface, and as soon as the mine is in proper condition, to begin shipments. The Centre Star and the War Eagle should, at the furthest, be in condition to ship in three months. The Iron Mask should resume the taking out of ore before a great while. The Evening Star when its new plant is installed should become a larger producer than it is at present. The I. X. L. has many thousands of dollars' worth of ore in sight and should before long augment its monthly tonnage. The Velvet is having a wagon road constructed to it, and as it has a large tonnage in sight, it should ship within the next few months. With the Velvet, the Douglas, which has ore ready, should also join the list of those who get checks from the smelter. When all of these mines are producing large quantities of ore, which it is certain they will before long, the aggregate quantity per week should be very large, and will go far beyond the highest previous record of a little over 6,000 tons of ore in a week which will be nearly doubled. It is within the range of probability that this will be done before the year is over, and therefore, the public may look for weeks during the year 1900 when about 10,000 tons will be sent out. In the meanwhile an army of men is at work on the surface of the three largest mines making foundations and putting up machinery on a large scale. There can only be one reading of this installation of plants; this is, that there are immense bodies of ore in the ground underneath these works or the expense of installing them would never have been attempted. Those plants are the outward signs of inward richness.

The Rosland camp is getting its second wind and when the present possibilities become actualities it will, indeed, be a mining center which will be second to but few on the continent. We are of the opinion that there is one of the largest deposits of gold-copper ore here that is extant anywhere in North America, and

when this has been thoroughly developed and is made to attain the maximum of its production it will make Rosland a mining city—not a camp—of which the whole of Canada will be proud, because of its size, because of its importance, and because of the large amount of wealth which it will then produce.

## SWELL THE RELIEF FUND.

A good start was made Saturday in the matter of the Sandon relief fund, and doubtless during the next few days it will be largely augmented. The relief of the Sandon fire sufferers is something that cannot be dismissed with a few hundred dollars. A large sum will be needed, and the relief will have to be sustained for a considerable period. The fund raised in this city for the relief of the victims of the fire at New Westminster was a fairly large one, and in the present instance this city should do as well by Sandon. The losses by the Sandon fire were greater in proportion to its size than it was at New Westminster. Sandon was almost completely destroyed, while a considerable portion of New Westminster was saved. Therefore, proportionately the needs of the homeless people of Sandon are greater than were those of the residents of New Westminster. There is the difference, too, that Sandon is nearer and dearer to us than New Westminster because she is our neighbor and her principal industry is mining, the same as ours is. While it is natural that we should extend aid to cities located at remote points when misfortune overtakes them, and while we have never been niggardly in this respect, still our sympathy should be and are a little warmer when a neighboring town, filled with people whose principal occupation is the same as ours is, meets with a disaster like that which overwhelmed Sandon. We would expect the Sandon residents to do as much for us were we in a plight like they are, and it is certain that they would not very carefully measure the quantity of relief which they would extend to aid us in our distress. Under the circumstances, the fund raised here for the relief of the fire sufferers at Sandon should be given with a generous hand, and should at least be as large as that which was contributed here at the time of the New Westminster fire. If necessary call out the Rosland minstrels, as they performed yeoman service for the Canadian patriotic and the Mansion house funds and they should be able to largely swell the Sandon relief fund. Let the same ladies who gave a dance for the patriotic fund a few months since again appear upon the scene and let there be a sale of stocks like there was then, and there will be money galore raised for the fund. Patronize the baseball game today. Let there be no cessation of effort and a long pull, a strong pull and a pull together and Rosland's contribution to the Sandon relief fund will be so large that we will all be proud of it.

## ORIENTAL IMMIGRATION.

Whatever may be the result of the elections in the Province—whichever party may be successful—there is no doubt that to insure a continuance of the confidence of the people the government will have to deal promptly and forcibly with the question of Oriental immigration. The disastrous results which will inevitably flow from a large influx of these people are beginning to be perceived even by the least observant, and the outcry raised against it is being joined in by the most indifferent of the citizens of British Columbia. The very few residents of the coast who are anxious for a labor market in which this class is to be found are coal miners and cannery men, and they are willing to sacrifice the interests of the country to serve their own private ends. That their wishes will be allowed to weigh against the general good is hardly to be expected, nor is it likely that the complacency of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his desire to meet imperial views in a matter so vitally important to our existence and prosperity will long successfully stand in the way of the determined efforts of a practically united province.

## SHOULD VISIT THE KOOTENAYS.

The Canadian Institute of Mining Engineers has sent an invitation to the American Institute of Mining Engineers to hold the autumn meeting in Canada in conjunction with their society. The date will probably be fixed for the last week in August or the first week of September. The locality which the Canadian engineers and their American brethren will visit has not yet been definitely settled, owing to complications connected with the transportation and accommodation of the party and hence the particular mining sections to be visited have not been finally determined on. Last year the members of the institute visited the mines around Rosland and other centers in the Kootenays, and this year they could with profit repeat the visit. The matter of the itinerary is under consideration, and it is probable that this section, which is the most important, because the most productive in Canada, outside of the Klondike, will not be included in the trip which the members will make. The choice at present lies between Sidney, Cape Breton, with its coal and iron interests, followed by an excursion to Newfoundland, and Toronto, with an excursion to the nickel mines of Sudbury, thence by rail to Sault Ste. Marie, Michi-

gon, by boat to Silver Islet, to Rat Portage and the gold mines of the Mine Center district.

These annual meetings of mining engineers are fruitful of much good, as each members gathers something new from the experience of the others in attendance, and the result is beneficial to the whole. When, however, the scope of the society is enlarged so as to include the leading mining engineers of two countries, like Canada and the United States, the good flowing therefrom should be much larger than where only one country is represented.

Before the meeting place and itinerancy of the engineers is finally decided, the claims of this section to the attendance of these men of mining science should be pressed. The matter should be looked into by the boards of trade of the Kootenays, and the advantage of including Rosland in the trip should be impressed upon the two bodies. With energetic effort in this direction a favorable result might be achieved. The matter is an important one, as the engineers can scarcely afford to overlook so rich a section as the Kootenays. A visit here could not fail to greatly impress the engineers from the other side of the boundary line.

## HON. JOSEPH MARTIN'S CAMPAIGN.

The vigorous campaign which Premier Martin and his clever lieutenant, Hon. Smith Curtis are now prosecuting in the interior of the province is chiefly remarkable for the excellent attendance at their meetings, the amusement which the auditors obtain from the addresses delivered by the members of the government, and the impatience with which they receive any attempt on the part of those speakers to argue seriously on the questions which gravely affect the people. Mr. Martin's ability and shrewdness as a politician have been variously commented on, but while his capacity as a legislator and an administrator has been successfully asailed his courage as a combatant has been universally admitted. It is this reputation as a fighter, combined with the notoriety he has obtained as a wrecker of administrations with which he has had disagreements on questions of policy or on personal grounds which lends him his seeming importance in the public eye. The announcement that "Fighting Joe," the man who defeated the Selmin government and coerced Lieutenant-Governor McInnis into calling on him to form a government when he did not possess a friend or follower in the House of Assembly, is to address a political gathering is in itself sufficient to crowd the largest hall in any town he may visit. But it is "Fighting Joe," the adversary in British Columbia of Mr. Cotton, the opponent in Manitoba of Mr. Greenway and his government, the enemy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal party in the Dominion, with whom he was in the closest alliance for 25 years, that the people flock to hear and see, it is not a legislator to whom they look for good government for the province, whom they trust to carry out an honest or progressive programme or for whom they propose to deposit their ballots. It is a matter of curiosity with them to attend his meetings, not one of serious concern. They expect to be entertained and amused, but for grave discussion and convincing argument they do not look.

Indeed, Mr. Martin's very reputation as a public man, his many political eccentricities, the conviction in the public mind that any important office he might hold would be employed to satisfy private malice as well as further personal ends, is in itself sufficient to render him an impossibility in the minds of the people as a guardian of their affairs. It is felt that his administration would not be characterized by sagacity, but by cunning, not by prudent legislation, but by artful scheming not by principle, but by expediency. That he has framed a policy which contains many good features may be true. It is one thing, however, to arrange a program and another to carry it out; promise and performance are two very different matters, and it is usually the adventurer who has nothing to lose, who does not feel called upon in justice to all who may be affected, to consider every side of a question, to reconcile differences and maintain a good understanding among all classes of the community, who is able to manufacture a platform on which he can pose with apparent frankness before the people—this is usually the case, but fortunately it is not so in this province at the present juncture. There are luckily in the field men who possess the confidence of the people and whose candidness is an assurance of their election, who have a policy of equal definiteness with that of Mr. Martin and who will put into practice the principles which they enunciate.

Mr. Martin's campaign in the Kootenays was marked, as we say, by well attended meetings, to which the people went out of curiosity and for the purpose of being amused, and in the latter respect they were not disappointed. The premier made some frank admissions regarding his personal conduct, which were not less true because they were delivered in a jocular vein. He touched the risibilities of his auditors by his lively descriptions of the way in which he had discomfited some of his opponents and he made some merry jests at the expense of the members of the late government and his adversaries

in the opposition ranks; but he did not seriously attempt to deal even with his own platform except to defend his position on the question of Oriental immigration—a question on which the great majority of those who are opposing his return to power feel as strongly as he does himself. He gave no indication that he grasped, even partially, the questions which affect the great mining districts of the province, nor any promise that he would safeguard their interests or assist in their development. The impression which was left on all who heard him at Rosland, at Grand Forks, at Phoenix, at Greenwood, at Eholst was that he was a politician who regarded the province as the theatre on which he desired to play an important role, but that the character did not necessarily imply that he was to be a disinterested legislator or a public benefactor. It was Joseph Martin's consequence as a public man which was to be sustained by his return to power, not the country's interest which was to be served; it was his own restless ambition which was to be satisfied not the people's well being which was to be assured. In such a fight as the present one and with such objects in view Mr. Martin cannot hope to win. The people have too much at stake to elect a man to office on the strength of vague promises or because of his faculty for turning telling jests. The development of this country is a matter of vital importance to the people who will not be disposed to give him their confidence in view of his past conduct and present attitude.

Mr. Smith Curtis is unhappily committed to the support of Mr. Martin, and his election would mean an endorsement of Mr. Martin's career in the Legislature; it would mean that the most important constituency in the Kootenays was disposed to condone offences which ought never to be forgiven and that good government was a matter of secondary consequence.

## A LABOR OPINION.

The action of the Miners' union in endorsing the candidature of Hon. Smith Curtis will not, we think, be regarded as an absolute claim made by organized labor on the votes of the workmen of this constituency. The meeting, at the best, was sparsely attended, as was shown by the balloting, and it is quite recognized that the friends of Mr. Curtis were, with very few exceptions, the only ones who remained in the hall to the end of a protracted discussion, a discussion which was lengthened out by them, with the knowledge that they would thus be able to wear out their opponents and decide the question in favor of the man whose cause they advocated. The result of the meeting, therefore, cannot be regarded as even fairly crystallizing the view of organized labor in the riding. We are confident that in placing the matter in this light we will be sustained by the unbiased opinion of the workmen of the district. It was a few, as we say, of the members of the labor party and those few, composed almost exclusively of men who dabble in politics, not for the good which labor is to obtain from their efforts, but for the excitement which is enjoyed in this kind of game, who were the real endorsers of Mr. Curtis, and we do not at all exceed absolute fairness in contending that they did not represent the opinion of the class for which they profess to speak.

We are sure that every member of organized labor in Rosland who is anxious for the well being of the country and the preservation of good union principles, will pay much more attention to the utterances of a man like Mr. Ralph Smith, the recognized labor leader of the province, the president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and one who by years of faithful devotion to his principles, has earned the esteem and confidence of every member of organized labor in Canada, than they will to the vote of a small fraction of the union element in Rosland, who were interested, by reason of personal prejudice, in supporting the candidature of a gentleman who, no matter what his personal merits may be, is the staunch and unwavering friend and supporter of Premier Martin. Mr. Ralph Smith found it necessary a few days ago, to define his relation to Mr. Martin and his government, in justice to himself and the party of which he is so able and sterling an exponent. He did so in a letter to the Times newspaper of Victoria, and in this letter he says:

"Since my arrival in Victoria. I have been approached concerning my political position, as an impression is current to the effect that I am a supporter of Joseph Martin. How this has arisen I do not know, except it be because of my outspoken opinion of Mr. Martin's platform at the meeting in the Nanaimo opera house, when I was nominated as a candidate for Nanaimo city. My position is clear, as it has always been. I supported the Selmin government because they endeavored to bring in legislation which in my opinion was favorable to the masses, and I differed from Mr. Martin because he opposed such legislation, and made a contract with the enemy to burst up such a government. When I disagree with a man for such good reasons, I am not prepared to allow the announcement of certain theories to affect me in his favor, although I may agree with the theories themselves, and as I say, he joined hands

with the political enemy and destroyed what we considered important, and what he himself considered important, if his words mean anything. I must therefore, judge him by his past actions. My position is an independent one, with sympathies for the late Selmin government, because I believe they tried to do something for the people. But, true to my position as secretary of the Miners' union, and president of the congress of Canada, I will support the people's interests at all times, and will trust no man because of what he says he will do, especially a man whose record is before us of having defeated good legislation."

Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the fact that, according to this letter, Mr. Ralph Smith has no confidence whatsoever in Premier Martin, and we think that his position that he is not "prepared to allow the enunciation of certain theories" to affect him in Mr. Martin's favor should be carefully weighed, not only by every member of organized labor, but by every voter in the province. Mr. Martin is a theorist to the same degree that he is a fighter, and it may be said, without fear of successful contradiction, that his theories are simply for the purpose of seducing honest votes and are not intended to be carried into actual practice. As Mr. Smith says, he may agree with the theories themselves, but he knows the man who promulgates them too well to believe in his honesty of intention as far as any attempt at performance is concerned.

When we consider that Mr. Smith Curtis is pledged absolutely not to the Martin platform but to Martin himself, and that he must support the premier without question in whatsoever he may do, should he be elected as head of the government, we begin to see that it is not Mr. Curtis for whom we are asked to vote, but a man who knows little and cares less, for the interests of the province, and whose only desire is to serve private ends. This is evidently the view which Mr. Ralph Smith takes of the situation, and we would commend it to the careful consideration of organized labor in this constituency.

## A DREADFUL DEATH.

Alick Carson Goes to His Long Home Unwatched and Unknown.

Morris Riddle, walking along the railway yard of the Red Mountain line yesterday morning, noticed that the cabin of Alex Carson, a well known prospector and a friend of his, which is situated near the water tank, back of Third avenue, was fastened on the inside, and, therefore, it was presumable that his friend, Alick, would be inside. As Riddle had not seen him for several days, he tried the door, and finding it fast, looked through the window. He thought he saw some person lying on the floor. Summoning Dr. Harry Hyland, who was passing along the track, the latter also looked through and found that the person on the floor was dead. The matter was immediately reported to Officer Raymer, who was found on the corner of Washington and Columbia streets. Mr. Raymer accompanied them to the cabin and looked into the window, after trying the door, and saw a person lying on his face on the floor. He then forced an entrance.

At the first glance it was easily observed that the person was dead, and had been dead for several days. He was recognized as Alex Carson, who was last seen alive sitting at the door of his cabin on Saturday morning last by a neighbor. Notice was given to Coroner Bowes, and the body was removed, under his instructions, to the undertaker, Mr. W. R. Beattie. The coroner held no post-mortem as it was evident that death had resulted from natural causes.

Alex Carson was a well-known prospector in this camp. His cabin, on the Dewdney trail, on the slope beyond Big Sheep creek, half way to Cascade, is well known to all wayfarers on that trail, who have for years past made it their half way house. During the winter Carson has always lived by himself in the little cabin in which he was found dead. The funeral will take place today.

## ALBI AND ALBO.

Case Remanded for Eight Days—Probable Enlargement Till After Assize Week.

The prisoners, Albi and Albo, the former charged with attempting to murder Herbert McArthur, and the latter with being accessory to the same, were brought before Magistrate Southey yesterday afternoon. Mr. R. Hodge applied for an adjournment on behalf of the prosecution. Mr. C. R. Hamilton said that he had no objection, although ready to go on, but that, as he had business at Ottawa, he could not go on inside of a fortnight. It was arranged that a further enlargement should take place next Thursday, which should clear the assizes which will be held in Rosland during the week following next.

## Vancouver Court Sitings.

A telegram has been sent to Registrar Schofield from the District Registrar at Victoria, saying that the Vancouver full court sittings set for the 21st inst., have been postponed to the 28th inst., and asking Judge Schofield to notify the profession of the change of date.

## Warlike Australia.

Western Australia is recognizing its responsibilities in very earnest fashion. The latest proposals include the creation of permanent artillery forces and the reorganization of the Colonies' defenses. At Fremantle a Naval Brigade is being formed, and at Perth two new Volunteer Corps have already been established.

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