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CONSOLIDATION IS OFF Has Great Confidence in Rossland's Future

Le Roi and Le Roi No. 2 Mines Will Not Be Amalgamated--This Point and Others Discussed by Anthony J. McMillan.

Evidence points to the conclusion that the suggested amalgamation of the Le Roi and Le Roi No. 2 mines has been abandoned. Anthony J. McMillan of Rossland and London, recently discussed this matter and others of local interest in an interview with the London Financial Times. The Times' article was as follows:

Mr. McMillan did not feel at liberty to say much regarding the Le Roi or the No. 2 to our representative yesterday. To the query, "Can you say anything regarding the Le Roi itself, and as to the rumors respecting amalgamation with the Le Roi No. 2?" he replied:

"The published reports of the Le Roi show that considerable profits have been made during the last few months by the company, and profits are still being made. About 700 men are employed at the mine and smelter, and the work is being pushed ahead, but any details as to the working and finances should naturally be stated to the shareholders at the forthcoming annual meeting. As to the rumored amalgamation, it is not in the interests of Le Roi shareholders that there should be amalgamation under existing conditions, and Sir Henry Tyler, the chairman of the Le Roi company, has, I believe, stated that none is likely to take place. I might add that there is no truth in the report widely circulated in London that Le Roi No. 2 ore is essential to the economical smelting of Le Roi ore. From a smelting point of view Le Roi No. 2 ore is of no special value to the Northport smelter--that is to say, the contents of the ore from the two mines are such that the Le Roi ore can be treated alone quite as economically as when mixed with Le Roi No. 2 ore."

Mr. McMillan, on being asked as to the complaints which the Le Roi No. 2 is understood to make as to high rates for treatment charged by the Northport smelter under a joint contract, denied the charge, but did not care to go into details of the position of the No. 2 as customers of the company.

MUCH PROGRESS MADE.

Turning to the recent progress of British Columbia mining as a whole, Mr. McMillan remarked:

"The tonnage of the ore produced this year will be greater than ever before. Last year the Rossland mines produced 230,000 tons of ore; this year they will produce nearly 350,000 tons. In the Boundary district, lying some 50 miles west of the Rossland district, where mining has only recently commenced, the output in 1902 was 96,000 tons, and in 1903 it was 336,000 tons, whilst this year it will amount to about 500,000 tons. In both these districts gold and copper are the principal minerals produced, though a little silver is also extracted. The principal mines contain low grade ores, and the success of the companies owning the mines and of the country itself, upon the successful treatment depends the success of the country itself. Low grade mines are well known to be amongst the most permanent and the best paying in the world, so the mere fact that the mines are low grade need not frighten any investor; but, of course, rigid economy must be practiced, and advantage must be taken of every device

to reduce the costs of mining and smelting, thus making of commercial value vast bodies of ore otherwise valueless. "And are costs being reduced?" "Yes, very materially. When I first first knew British Columbia six or seven years since, the cost of smelting was \$13 per ton. Today ore is being smelted there from \$1.50 to \$2 per ton. The costs of mining are also lower than they were, but the costs of both mining and smelting will be still further reduced. Freight rates on ore from the mines in British Columbia are about half what they were some two years ago, but the railways will have to make still further reductions. It is in these directions that success lies, and, as showing that up-to-date methods are being employed, it is gratifying to know that the best equipped smelters in America--with, I believe I am right in adding, the cheapest smelting in the world--are in British Columbia; this is particularly so in the Boundary district, where the ore bodies are much larger, though of somewhat lower grade than in the Rossland district."

With reference to the 2 per cent ore tax, of which much has been heard recently both in British Columbia and in London, Mr. McMillan said:

THE TAX IS UNJUST.

"The 2 per cent tax on ore is unjust, inasmuch as it is levied on the gross output of the mines after freight and treatment charges have been deducted. This means that on every dollar paid out at the mines for wages and stores on account of ore production we have to pay the 2 per cent tax to the government. It also means that the low grade mines pay proportionately a higher rate of taxation than do the high grade mines. We contend that if imposed at all, the tax should be levied upon the dividends declared, and not upon the gross output. When in Victoria the other day I had a long interview with Colonel Prior, the premier and minister of mines, and with other ministers, and they gave me to understand that they favored the abolition of this tax, or its readjustment, to meet the views of the mine owners, and action will probably be taken in this direction at the next session of the legislature."

Concluding with a query as to the future development of the country, Mr. McMillan said that a good deal might be expected from the extension of railway communication.

"It is a hopeful indication as to their view of what they have seen that, as the result of investigation made by Mr. J. J. Hill on his recent visit and the experts of the great railway companies, better railway facilities are being afforded. The companies are spending money now in furnishing improved means of communication. Rossland has the benefit of two railway systems, the Canadian Pacific and the Great Northern railway of the United States, of which, Mr. Hill, as of course, you know, is president. The Canadian Pacific railway has been in the Boundary district for three years, and this year the Great Northern extended its line there also. Both these companies propose to extend their systems westward through the mineral belt of Southern British Columbia to the Pacific ocean at or near Vancouver, and 1903 will, it is expected, witness great railway extension in this part of the province."

Hungry Man Bonded To New York People

Negotiations were recently closed whereby New York capitalists, represented by W. W. Hageman, have acquired a two years' working bond on the Hungry Man property on Rover creek, near the Slocan Crossing.

Arrangements are being made to install the machinery necessary to carry the development ahead for a considerable period, and after the holidays several men will be put at work on the proposition. The number of men employed will depend upon the results attained and the progress made with the workings.

The Hungry Man is quite well known in the Rover creek section. It is located something less than three miles above where the creek empties into Kootenay river at Slocan Crossing, and is owned by Judge William B. Townsend and John W. Moore. Between \$5000 and \$6000 has already been expended on development of the property, and enough has been accomplished to demonstrate that it is an exceptionally promising mineral

proposition. The period at the disposal of the parties holding the bond is ample to demonstrate the merit of the Hungry Man beyond the shadow of a doubt.

The property has a strong vein opened up at several points by vertical and horizontal workings. The ore is a pyritic, carrying gold-copper values. An average of the numerous assays made show aggregate values of \$20. The real extent of the ore deposit is unknown as yet, crosscutting never having been completed, but the fact that all the workings are in solid ore seems to indicate an unusually strong vein.

Arrangements are completed for the installation of the apparatus necessary to commence the initial development, and a small crew of men will be sent into the property after the holidays. Should the Hungry Man show up as well as expected, it is well located for shipping operations on a large scale, the conditions being admirable for aerial tramming at small cost to the Canadian Pacific railroad.

Joint Installation Of Masonic Officers

A most interesting event in Masonic circles was the joint installation of the officers of Corinthian Lodge No. 27, Rossland, and Fidelity Lodge No. 35, Trail, on Monday evening, December 22, at the Masonic hall. The installation of officers is always an interesting event to the brethren, and consequently

the occasion of a joint ceremony created more than ordinary interest and a large number of the members of the fraternity were in attendance. R. W. Brother George Hering, district deputy grand master, assisted by W. Brother James H. Schofield, grand superintendent of works, were the installing officers, and by their thorough acquaintance with

The Colonist contains the following reference to the visit in Victoria of C. Williamson Milne:

"Mr. Milne, who is chairman of the Rossland-Kootenay Mining Company, and who, with David B. Bogle, organized a prospecting company in Kootenay in 1895, arrived in the city from Rossland on Christmas night, and is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bogle. Mr. Milne is a successful mining man of world-wide experience, having interests in many paying mines in various countries. He is chairman of the Siberian Gold Dredging Company, of London, operating in the Tomsk mining division of Siberia with a complete dredging elevator and hydraulic plant manufactured in the United States; the big Bucyrus dredge coming from Milwaukee. This machine was shipped from Milwaukee to New York, thence to Hull, England, then to Lebau on the Baltic, then by trans-Siberian railway to within a hundred miles of the company's properties, whence it was conveyed by sleds to the scene of operations and was landed without mishap or injury. He is also chairman of the Anchor tin mine in Tasmania, which has 100 head of stamps at work--the largest concern of the kind in that colony. Mr. Milne is also a director of the British Guiana Diamond Syndicate, which was the first British company to exploit these new fields. He received a letter last week from the company in London conveying the news that 4000 stones had been received by the last shipment. The Guiana diamonds are of better quality and command better prices than those of the De Beer mines in South Africa. The date about 40,000 diamonds have been recovered. Mr. Milne is chairman also of the British and Australian Acids Company, which has a controlling interest in very valuable nickel, chrome and cobalt mines, covering over 40 square miles, in New Caledonia. He is also a director of several gold mining companies in West Australia."

THE ROSSLAND-KOOTENAY.

"This is Mr. Milne's first visit to British Columbia, and his immediate object was to inspect the Nickel Plate and the Columbia-Kootenay mines at Rossland, in the interests of the Rossland-Kootenay Company, which is a reconstruction and amalgamation of two of Whittaker Wright's concerns. In accordance with Mr. Milne's recommendation, the capital was written down from \$300,000 to \$250,000, and the mines are now being operated on a business basis. Arrangements have been made with the Trail smelter to treat a trial shipment of 300 tons of ore from the Kootenay mine, after which the smelter people hope to be able to quote a figure for freight and treatment, which will enable the management of the Kootenay to ship an average of 1200 tons per week at a profit."

ROSSLAND'S FUTURE.

"Mr. Milne was a member of the shareholders' committee of the Le Roi mine, and the author of the minority report which aroused so much interest in mining circles and which advocated what is regarded in British Columbia as the right policy. "The permanency of Rossland as a mining camp depends, in Mr. Milne's judgment, on the economical treatment of the enormous bodies of low grade ore which undoubtedly exist, and he has reason to know that there is a disposition on the part of the railway and smelter people to co-operate with the mine owners in securing the desired result."

London Men Move For Better Legislation

The attitude of English investors towards British Columbia is of vital importance to the residents of the Kootenays. No one is better equipped to describe the attitude of these investors than the promoters and mining men of London who have their fingers on the pulse of the capital. One of the most serious drawbacks toward securing capital for the development of the mining resources of the Kootenays is referred to in the appended excerpt from a letter written by John B. Morrish, a well known London promoter who has been instrumental in securing a considerable amount of funds for Canadian enterprises. The letter was written to a Rossland man and says in part:

"You may be interested to know that at the present time the mining companies and others are trying to form a powerful association in London with a view to making direct representations to the government of British Columbia

for the removal of a deal of grievances that now exist in the colony, and to promote as far as possible the general interests of all connected with B. C. Unless the government assists capital how can B. C. prosper? In view of the many disappointments of the past, I am fully convinced that unless some attraction is offered it will be a very difficult matter to induce people to put money into B. C., and it is the government's duty to do all they can to get new capital brought in. Of course, those who are already there can't help themselves, but it will be a great pity that such a good country should be hampered by incompetent folk."

"I am doing all I can to get the organization going, and if it comes about and does any good I shall be satisfied that my efforts have had some effect as I first suggested the affair. We have already had two very important meetings of interests."

City Fathers Exchange Compliments of Season

The proceedings of the city council last night were pleasantly varied by a neat little address from the chair. Before adjournment was taken, His Worship Mayor Clute remarked:

"As this is the last meeting of the city council in 1902, I take advantage of the occasion to thank the members of the board individually and collectively for the cordial manner in which they have supported the chair during the current year and for the courtesies extended to myself in the capacity of presiding officer. I sincerely wish each member of the city council of 1902 a very happy New Year. To those who will seek re-election to the council, I wish that each may head the poll in his respective division. Once more I thank you for past kindnesses and tender the compliments of the season."

"I am sure every member of the council reciprocates his worship's sentiments," said Alderman Charles R. Hamilton in acknowledging the remarks of the chair on behalf of the council.

Last night's session of the council was practically confined to routine business. Beyond a communication from the department of education stating that the school appropriation for the last quarter had been forwarded to the city treasurer, no new business was introduced. The by-law relating to the franchise for the Electric Messenger Service was taken under advisement again and given a third reading, with certain amendments by Major VanBuskirk, city engineer, which were drawn with a view to more thoroughly safeguarding the corporation's interests. All the members of the council were in attendance.

the work made the ceremony doubly interesting. Following is a list of the officers of Corinthian lodge and their positions: John Dunlop, W. M.; D. E. Kerr, I. P. M.; W. S. Rugh, S. W.; James Anderson, J. W.; John Kirkup, treasurer; William McQueen, secretary; George McKay, chaplain; M. Stephens, S. D.; I. Coward, J. D.; B. Wade, S. S.; William Carpenter, J. S.; R. E. Flewman, organist; Thomas W. Long, tyler. Each of the officers of Fidelity Lodge, Trail, who were installed were as follows: D. F. Jolly, W. M.; James H. Scho-

field, I. P. M.; William J. Devitt, S. W.; W. S. Tower, J. W.; D. B. Stevens, treasurer; J. D. Anderson, secretary. After the installation ceremonies the members repaired to the banquet hall, where a delicious repast awaited them. After full justice had been given to the menu, a number of interesting and witty speeches were delivered, and several of the brethren further enlivened the proceedings with song and story. C. J. Darby was ticketed to Saginaw, Mich., over the Spokane Falls & Northern yesterday.

ALMOST 60,000 GREATER

The Close of 1902 Will See Rossland's Ore Production Larger by Almost 60,000 Tons Than in Any Previous Year--Week's Operations.

The companies operating in the Rossland camp closed down their properties for Christmas day in order that their employees might enjoy the holiday. This interruption in the ordinary working operations had its effect on the tonnage shipped during the week, the aggregate output being a couple of thousand tons below the normal figures. The mines sent 4450 tons to the Northport and Trail smelters.

The camp's output in excess of last year is now 56,339 tons, and shipments for the four days prior to the end of the year will increase this to at least 58,000 tons. The schedule of ore shipments given from week to week in The Miner has been carefully compiled by the mining companies, but gross weights are necessarily given. After the end of the year it is hoped to give the actual dry weights as received from the smelters.

The past week has not evoked any information of special importance relative to the mines shipping extensively. The interruption resulting from the holiday practically meant the loss of three shifts in most of the mines, and the effect on the output is indicated by the figures appended. In closing down for the day, however, the mines followed a precedent which has become a time-honored custom, and the holiday was thoroughly appreciated, particularly by the employees of those mines which do not close down for Sunday.

Arrangements are being made for the commencement of shipments from the Kootenay mine in the course of the present week. Heavy snow at the property has delayed matters slightly, owing to the necessity of uncovering the pipe line from the compressor plant to make connections. The work recently under way in the Kootenay has been on the No. 6 level, while stoping will be started on the third level, with which the air line has not been connected for some time. As already stated in The Miner, shipments will be maintained from the property during the month of January at the rate of about twenty tons per day, or until an aggregate of some 500 tons is piled up at the Canadian Smelting Works, when the tests of the ore on a commercial basis will be got under way. The results of these tests will determine the policy of the company with respect to continuous shipments. If the outcome is satisfactory the Kootenay may be expected to ship largely from week to week, giving employment to a considerable crew of men. In the interim, the temporary stoping operations will increase the crew at the mine from eight to twelve men, outside of those employed in hauling ore from

the mine to the Canadian Pacific railroad.

THE OUTPUT.

Shipments from the Rossland camp for the week ending December 27 and for the year to date are as follows:

Week	Year.
Le Roi	2112 216,620
Le Roi No. 2	1320 52,679
Centre Star	870 37,981
War Eagle	870 31,606
Rossland G. W.	50 2,400
Giant	50 3,100
Cascade	30 800
Columbia-Kootenay	30 30
Edman	30 30
Yolrest	100 1,449
Spitzee	20 20
White Bear	5 5
Totals	4452 335,672

Total shipments for 1902 to date, 335,672 tons. Increase to date, 56,339 tons.

BOUNDARY'S BIG OUTPUT.

The following are the Boundary shipments for the past week and year to date:

Week	Year.
Granby Mines	5889 296,943
Mother Lode	4413 138,988
Snowshoe	1050 20,338
B. C.	410 13,477
Sunset	275 11,215
Emma	450 9,338
Jewel	20 785
Winnipeg	20 625
Golden Crown	20 482
No. 7	20 128
Providence	20 128
Total	12,479 494,474

Shipments from the Slocan and Slocan City mining divisions for the past week were:

Tons.	
Payne	20
Ivanhoe	27
Reco	21
Arlington	40
Bonus	59
Enterprise	159
Superior	159
Silver Glance	51
Ottawa	20
Slocan Star	42
Rambler	22
Ruth	21
Slocan Boy	22
Antoine	42
Total	711

The two divisions specified have produced 27,827 tons this year.

Joker Mine's Chance To Make Good

Next spring will see the resumption of active mining operations on the well known Joker group, near Kaslo, which has been before the public at various junctures in a series of interesting climaxes.

William E. Boie, of Slocan City, manager in the Kootenays for the company owning the Joker, Derby and adjoining claims comprising the Joker group, is in Rossland for a few days, the guest of his brother-in-law, E. B. Linton. Mr. Boie has recently returned from a trip to England and states that the result of his conferences with the directors of the company there that it is practically decided to resume operations on the property as soon as spring is sufficiently advanced to permit of men going in. He is confident as to the future of the Joker, although unable to speak from personal observation of the showings obtained in the workings.

Mr. Boie was identified with Ernest Mansfield, and as the latter's lieutenant was non persona grata with the manager of the Joker property, consequently he was not able to secure admission to the workings. The John A. Mona Fraction and other adjoining claims were operated under Mr. Boie's management and he proposes when work is resumed to approach the Joker vein through a tunnel that has been driven for a considerable distance on the John A. When it reaches the point where the Joker lead should be cut, the aggregate length of the tunnel will be close to 1200 feet, but a vertical depth of some 450 feet on the vein will be secured when the crosscutting is effected, and further depth will be secured as the drifts are carried in either direction from the point of intersection.

Reliable reports from the Joker are to the effect that the vein has been opened up for a considerable distance, exposing a fine shoot of high grade ore. The values are carried in gold and silver and are claimed to average close to \$40 across the face. The conditions are such at the present time in connection with transportation facilities that only high grade ore can be worked profitably, but if the vein holds good and the ore does not become base, the Joker promises to become one of the most important properties in the Kaslo district, as transportation can be arranged in such a manner as to deliver the ore at the lake front on a reasonable basis as compared with present charges.

The Joker lies in one of the best known and most traveled passes through the watershed dividing the Slocan and Kaslo districts. Scores of prospectors passing from one division to the other walked over the property, but it remained for George Wesley Taylor and a couple of partners to stumble across the vein. The pass is above the snow-line, but it happened that an unusually low winter had been followed by a sharp thaw and the pass carried less snow than had been the case in the memory of the oldest pioneer. The thaw exposed a big outcropping of ore, and Taylor and his partners immediately staked the ground. They made a small fortune out of their find.

Ernest Mansfield, the English promoter who cut a wide swath in the Nelson district some three years ago, happened along in search of properties and was impressed with the possibilities of the Joker. He negotiated with the Taylor-Lambert partnership, and secured their holdings, the men realizing about \$150,000 between them.

The management of the proprietary company eventually passed out of Mansfield's hands and the new manager devoted his attention to other mining propositions. Now it would seem that the property is to be given a fair trial, which will please residents of the Kaslo district.

Mr. Boie states that Ernest Mansfield is promoting Similkameen coal fields in London, and that he seems to be meeting with considerable success.

WATSON EXONERATED.
BRANTFORD, Ont., Dec. 30.--The coroner's jury in the case of Wesley Watson, who shot last Tuesday his brother Samuel under the impression he was a burglar, today returned a verdict exonerating the latter, as he acted under intense mental excitement.

MUST STAND TRIAL.
STRATFORD, Ont., Dec. 30.--John Litch, J. P., however, committed Watson to stand trial before a jury this afternoon.

TORONTO VARSITY DEFEATED.
HOUGHTON, Mich., Dec. 30.--The Portage Lake hockey team defeated the Toronto varsity team by a score of 13 to 3 here tonight. Three thousand persons saw the contest.