

SEEKERS OF COAL AND OIL LANDS

SOME OF THOSE WHO ARE NOW FIGHTING

Spokane Capitalists Recognize Great Value in Deposits in Southeast Kootenay.

That Southeast Kootenay coal and petroleum lands are regarded as exceedingly valuable is proved by the action of residents of Spokane, a city largely built up as a result of the mineral wealth of British Columbia and others associated with these.

In the course of an article dealing with these lands, the Spokesman Review says: "Coal lands, believed to be worth millions, are being fought for by Spokane men who have locations in Southeast Kootenay, British Columbia. Ex-Senator George Turner, Senator Levi Arkeny, Thomas Greenough, mine owner; Colonel Alden J. Blithen, editor of the Seattle Times; former Mayor P. Byrne and dozens of others almost equally as prominent, are interested in the fight.

Rival interests: The Spokane group, the Rossland group, the Nelson group, the Laidlaw group, the C. H. Jones group, the Grand Forks group and other groups innumerable, have been staking claims, abandoning claims and jumping claims until there is now a tangle of such huge size that its creators are agast at their own handiwork.

"Unless all the maps in existence be, agents for various groups have been staking claims and jumping claims until the actual ground will not begin to hold the locations. It is manifest that some of the locators will either get no claims at all, for which they have put up good money, or else they will get mere fractions, much smaller than the mile square locations to which they are entitled under the law.

"The fight for the coal lands is only starting, and it is Mayor P. Byrne, through Canadian courts for years."

After recounting the history of the recovery of the land from the C. P. R. and the revoking of the order-in-council granting it, the article says: "Meanwhile in expectation that it would be revoked and that the ground would be thrown open to location, Andrew Hackett, of Spokane, formed his first syndicate to stake the land. He knew the country and knew of the coal. He went there first for the Spokane Falls Gas Light Company in 1902, and staked a group which he believed were on block 4593. Later when the Canadian Pacific engineers made an incomplete survey of the west line of the district, he suspected that the locations were not on the block, but on the C. P. R.'s undisputed ground, so he abandoned the locations.

In August of 1902, Fred Ritchie, P. L. S. and Ross Thompson, of Rossland, B. C., went in and staked the Ritchie or Rossland group. A few days later Mr. Hackett formed the Spokane group, and staked the first 50 claims, each on a square mile, on what he believed was block 4593. The rest were staked a year ago. He had a large number of backers who were to pay for the \$50 to \$100 each to have him stake them a claim. The provincial license giving them the right to prospect for coal for a year, cost \$20 each, and the provincial government at that time refused to issue the licenses, not taking a chance, each of the locators deposited \$50 with the government to pay the obligation. Among the people in the Spokane group were Senator George Turner, C. C. Dempsey, D. K. McDonald, ex-Mayor Patrick Byrne and D. B. Bixey.

The ground was staked on locations that a little later Mr. Hackett formed the Anderson group to the north of his first one. The nominal locator was Mr. Hackett's friend, W. L. Anderson, of Rossland and Spokane, and they were assisted by Judge J. Z. Moore. Among the people staked in the Anderson group were Dr. Harvey Smith, Arthur J. Shaw, R. D. Miller, of Spokane, Colonel Alden J. Blithen and Joseph Blithen, of the Seattle Times, W. E. R. Corne, Misses Elizabeth and Mary Leonard, Watson C. Sauer, formerly United States senator from Washington, and James A. Moore, real estate operator of Seattle. The Anderson group was staked on the north end of the triangle. It has been growing from a group of about 70 until it now numbers nearly 120 claims.

"All the maps in existence show that it would be impossible to crowd 120 claims, each a mile square, into that little space. Mr. Anderson, the locator, who has been piling up the locations, cheerfully defies the maps by saying all of them are wrong and that there is plenty of room for even more claims. None of the people he has staked can dispute him, for none has been on the ground. It is as completely an unknown land to them as though it was in Patagonia.

"While all this has been going on, troubles have been piling up for the original Spokane or Hackett group. Dr. R. L. Thomson, of Spokane, was in that first group, but withdrew and joined a Nelson, B. C., syndicate, headed by Dr. Le-Bau, John Houston, Mr. Teetzel and others. The Nelson people believed they had enough political influence with the government to invalidate the Hackett location on grounds of alleged irregularities in dates. So they sent a surveyor into the field, who staked many of the Hackett claims and staked considerably more landscape, until there were 120 claims in the Nelson group.

Troubles were coming in for Mr. Hackett on another side. "Fred Ritchie asserts that his Rossland group covers part of the ground which Andrew Hackett staked a few days later, in August, 1902, as part of the Spokane group. Mr. Hackett retorts that Mr. Ritchie's locations are not on block 4593 at all, but are west of it.

"South of the Spokane group, the Grand Forks group of 66 claims, staked a year ago, in which George Fraser, member of the provincial legislature, is

interested. Some of these claims tangle with some of the old Ritchie or Rossland group. "East of the Hackett group, is the Andrew Laidlaw group of 32 claims, which has been partly jumped by the Nelson group. Mr. Laidlaw, who is a Spokane man, was never on the ground himself, but formed the group and had two prospectors stake a number of claims for the following people: A. B. Raitton, H. L. Sorg, C. H. Fisher, W. E. Wing, A. E. Barnes, D. R. McDonald, Frank A. Chase, R. M. Steiner, Robert Miller, Christian Anderson, Charles McNaught, Philip H. Quilliam, J. E. Markwell, of Wallace, Idaho; Dr. C. E. Grove, John Brown, J. Andrew Laidlaw, J. M. Fitzpatrick, W. P. Snow, C. Ober, E. Ober, George H. Libby, L. G. Demert, Dorion Mihills, Frank Lavigne, Conrad Wolfe, G. L. Lohrer, M. E. Lane, S. W. O'Brien, H. E. Hanauer, Peter Morrison, H. N. Seelye, J. W. Stearns, of Pullman, Wash.; H. T. Welby and Geo. Baker, of Dayton, Wash.; H. G. DePledge, Seymour Manning, of Colfax, Wash.; A. T. Kendrick, of Ritzville, Wash.

"Southeast of the Spokane group is the second Laidlaw group, and south of it is the Chamber of Commerce group, in which C. H. Jones, J. H. Shaw, W. V. Douglas and others of Spokane are interested.

"A few days ago the provincial government announced that it would grant licenses to all claimants, but would not undertake to determine the rights of any of the contestants. The government says in short: "We can not try to untangle this mess. It must be threshed out in the courts." At the same time the government raised the license from \$50 to \$100.

"The result has caused turmoil here. Inevitable litigation faces the locators. There is no certainty of the outcome. In order to protect their interest some of the various groups are forming incorporation companies, which each of them will turn his claim and receive a pro rata share of stock. Then the holdings would be dealt with in a block. But meanwhile the claimants must add \$50 to the \$50 already deposited for licenses, and some of them are doubtful whether they will do so. The time is getting short in order to make a decision. There is the question of the enormous value of the coal lands. They should be worth millions. It is now a question who will get them."

MISSIONARY MET WITH TRAGIC END

REV. MR. SWARTOUT DROWNED AT UCLEUET

Sad News Was Received Last Evening - Termination of Career of Good Work.

Rev. Dr. Campbell Sunday night received a telegram from Ucleuet stating that Rev. Mr. Swartout was drowned on the 11th inst. on the Ucleuet harbor. He started for Dodge's cove in an open sailing boat on the above date, and nothing having been heard of him for several days his friends became anxious, but hoped that he was an expert swimmer and would be able to weather any ordinary sea, he would in due time turn up safely. This hope was strengthened by the fact that on several occasions in severe weather he had taken refuge in some of the sheltered nooks on Barkley Sound, where he was weathered for several days, and that the foreign mission committee of the Presbyterian church, ten years ago, appointed Mr. Swartout to the Indian mission at Alberni as successor to Rev. W. R. H. White. While he had a fine boarding school at Alberni, the best on Vancouver Island, was erected. This school has about 50 pupils, principally of the Indian race. He had a fine house on the river, which flows into the Alberni canal. About seven years ago Mr. Swartout was removed to Dodge's cove, the principal village of the Indians of the Ucleuet. He did good work in making that tribe one of the most sober, moral and industrious on the West Coast. He established here a day school, which has done much good work for the boys and girls of the tribe. After a few years he was removed to Ucleuet, and appointed itinerant missionary to the Indians of Barkley Sound. His principal places for evangelistic work were Ucleuet, Nanukamas and Ohiat, also occasionally visiting the Ahousahts. Mr. Swartout made a thorough study of the Indian customs and habits, and mastered their language so that he could preach the gospel clearly and fluently in the vernacular of the tribes among whom he labored. For several years he had been writing a book on the habits, customs, legends and traditions of the Indians of Vancouver Island, gathering his material at first hand from the old men and women of the tribes, and which he intended to have published. He was ordained to the gospel ministry on special request of the general assembly by the Presbytery of Victoria last fall.

He leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss. The daughters are well as to womanhood, the oldest of whom is with her mother at Ucleuet, and the other at school in Toronto.

Mr. Swartout was a man of good ability, sound, and devoted to his work. His position as superintendent of Indian mission work naturally brought him into contact with masters of sealing schooners, who employed Indian hunters, and consequently there occasionally arose a difference of opinion as to whether the "golden rule" was practically carried out in the matter and the money charged was fair. Mr. Swartout was well convinced that he himself was acting fairly and justly towards the red men. He will be much missed from the staff of able teachers and missionaries of the Presbyterian church among the Indians of the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

MR. YATES' REPLY TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY CHARGES

He Says Report Was Unfair and That Investigators Hid Behind the Specifications.

Readers of the Times will recall that a few weeks ago ex-Ald. J. S. Yates in communication to the council charged that the contractor of the Carnegie library building was not adhering to the specifications. A committee was appointed to investigate the report, which charges characterized as unfair and stated that the manner in which it was drawn leads him to believe that he was more nearly correct than it appears. His letter in full is as follows:

Victoria, B. C., July 18th, 1904. To His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen of the Corporation of the City of Victoria:

Gentlemen—I have to acknowledge receipt of a copy of your special committee report dealing with the statements made by me in connection with the erection of the Carnegie library, and I have to thank you for the same.

I am sorry I am not able to call it a fair report, and I would have been pleased had admitted (were such the case) that the statements made by me were incorrect, but the manner in which the report was drawn, making sort of half admissions, leads me to believe that it was a good deal nearer the truth than the committee's report would at first sight lead one to believe.

The committee, deal too much with the specifications, which are silent on most of the points raised by me, and too little with the plans which show them. I am free to admit that in one or two instances the plans are capable of being interpreted in another manner than that in which I interpreted them, but in the majority of instances they certainly uphold my contention, and I think that if submitted to an outside, disinterested committee I would be found to be correct.

The committee for some reason appear to have shunned the half-inch section and hidden themselves behind the specifications, which, as I believe, they well know are the latter as always governed by the former.

In dealing with my fifth and sixth statements, no mention is made of the plans. They hide themselves behind the specifications and ignore the plans which show my contention.

In dealing with my seventh statement, by implication they admit the correctness of it, and state that a change was made by the architect. But they do not state, (as the fact is) that the said change reduced the number of cut stone courses from eight to the original five to four, and thereby reduced the cost by the contractor by that amount. The architect gave as his reason for the change that in reducing the height of his building he could not get the courses to fit the staircase to which—J. B. H. Rickaby, L. Pither, C. Spencer, E. Temple and Jas. Thomson. City affairs—W. J. Hanna, E. M. Johnson, C. E. Redfern, F. B. Pemberton and J. A. Hollans. Legislative—R. E. Gosnell, Chas. Hayward, H. D. Helmcke, Jos. Hunter and C. H. Lugin. Reception—D. W. Higgins, Geo. Gillespie, J. A. Mara, E. G. Prior and Thos. R. Smith.

TRADE WITH MEXICO. Immense Preparations Are Being Made in the South—Mr. Courtney's Return.

From Geo. L. Courtney, traffic manager of the E. & N. railway, who has just returned from the south, it is learned that immense preparations are being made in the South—Mr. Courtney's Return.

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AN APPLICATION GIVEN THE BAND COUNCIL RECONSIDERS ITS FORMER ACTION

More Permanent Sidewalks Are Proposed for Suburban Parts of the City.

At last night's meeting of the city council the aldermen reconsidered its decision about giving the Fifth Regiment band an appropriation in aid of its proposed tour, and voted the musicians \$250. More permanent sidewalks for suburban parts of the city were also decided on, and considerable routine was disposed of. The deputy minister of marine and fisheries wrote in reply to the council's communication stating that Mr. Donnell's rental of towshack property on Rock Bay would have to receive further consideration by the department. Referred to the city solicitor.

The secretary of the Indian department, Ottawa, wrote enclosing a letter granting permission of Esquimaux street through the Indian reserve on certain conditions. Received and filed. His report was the result of communications he had sent to the Victoria representatives at Ottawa. He expected that the mayor would be satisfactorily arranged. The department will be notified that there are no individual claims against the property sought.

A tender for the supply of shingles and roofing for the Carnegie building was laid on the table. J. A. Henderson, manager of the Henderson Publishing Co., notified the council of a number of communications asking for a number of improvements. Received and filed. City Engineer Topp reported on the cost of the laying a permanent sidewalk on the new Government building. The report was adopted.

Only one tender was received for the supply of 750 cubic yards of sand for the filling of the water tank. The report was adopted. City Engineer Topp reported on the cost of the laying a permanent sidewalk on the new Government building. The report was adopted.

Working committees appointed at yesterday's council meeting of the Board of Trade.

Owing to the demand on space the following committees appointed for the ensuing year could not be given the full attention of the council meeting of the board of trade: Trade, commerce and transportation—Geo. Carter, Jas. Pater, J. G. MacGregor, B. G. Moss and C. P. Todd. Agriculture and forestry—M. Baker, Phil. R. Smith and J. A. Grant. Finance—J. S. Gibb, G. A. Taylor and A. J. Deane. Harbors and navigation—John Nelson, Lindley Crease, A. G. Sargison, A. Henderson and W. L. Chalmers. Public works and railways—H. P. Bell, A. J. Morley, A. Gray, A. G. McCandless and E. Moore. Harbors and navigation—Chas. E. Clarke, Wm. Grant, E. B. Marvin, R. Seabrook and J. W. Drou. Harbors and navigation—H. B. Rickaby, L. Pither, C. Spencer, E. Temple and Jas. Thomson. City affairs—W. J. Hanna, E. M. Johnson, C. E. Redfern, F. B. Pemberton and J. A. Hollans. Legislative—R. E. Gosnell, Chas. Hayward, H. D. Helmcke, Jos. Hunter and C. H. Lugin. Reception—D. W. Higgins, Geo. Gillespie, J. A. Mara, E. G. Prior and Thos. R. Smith.

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Notice is hereby given that 30 days after date I intend to make application to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and carry away timber from the following described lands: Commencing at a stake planted about 40 chains south of the northwest corner of Alfred E. Lyle's location, thence south 90 chains, thence east 80 chains, thence north 90 chains, thence west 80 chains to point of commencement. 7th June, 1904. GEORGE KILBY.

Notice is hereby given that 30 days after date I intend to make application to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and carry away timber from the following described lands: Commencing at a stake planted about 20 chains north of the west corner of Alfred E. Lyle's location, thence north 110 chains, thence east 90 chains, thence south 90 chains, thence west 80 chains to point of commencement. 7th June, 1904. GEORGE KILBY.

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VOL. 85. GIVING CONCERN TO DIPLOMATS. CORRESPONDENCE PASSED ON. British Press Regards Malacca as Creating Acute Advance on Russia.

Paris, July 21.—Foreign case is making friendly to Count Lamdorff, the elgin minister, suggesting the release of the Russian Russia which depends, to exert a strong influence settlement: Russia's anxiety release of the steamer will be followed by the money indemnity. This from the prevent the affair from proportions. Although Russia incline a mistake being made, which Russia will admit and correct us through excessive pressure. The French press and the the affair calmly.

QUESTION OF THE DA. London, July 21.—With question of the passage, elms which Great Britain it is expected here that this does not demand the tentation which the Malacca requires.

It is pointed out here position generally is as treaties regarding the D. habit the passage of the ship in. Letting this provision and Turkey to go. But nor forbid the passage of straits. Russia is not the treaties forbid the taken by the St. Petersburg. Russia, it is clear at the foreign office, desirous of raising the case in friendly spirit, believing solution will be reached both powers.

This question until the time the British government the Malacca incident will be discussed. For Lansdowne and Count another conference this discussed the Malacca in a friendly manner.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 21.—It is made that if G. Russia is not desired. Russian volunteer shed the Red Sea, Russia will the case to the arbiters. The dispute, Count L. passed to the note of the Basseeor here on the seizure of the Malacca by the St. Petersburg, inquiry into the case is London, July 22.—The assurances that the Malacca, called by the from St. Petersburg, do British morning, but patches to a somewhat from St. Petersburg alarmist views of the

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