

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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SHOULDER TO SHOULDER: A very striking editorial, and one doing great credit to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, is the one headed "Shoulder to Shoulder," appearing in that newspaper on February 19.

War is dreadful to consider, hideous to contemplate. No one right minded can view the possibilities of war and particularly those of the present conflict without regret, without foreboding of tempestuous times ahead.

We of the red-blooded, strenuous race, whether called Saxon, Angle, Teuton or Norse, have one common blood: the blood of the North.

When the hosts at Armageddon gathered none knew whether the Israelites were to win or to go down to defeat.

In either case, the winner will be bound to us by no stronger tie. Behind either will be uncaptured millions who better have borne the white man's burden.

Not so, like them, "this little speck of the British Isles," they of the hearts of oak, Americans standing wholly aloof, will look wistfully towards their British brethren should they, haply stand at arm's length.

It is not beyond the vision that this should come. Should the ship of the Nippon sink, by treaty English succor is secured.

When that time comes, may the Angel of Peace forbear, then, as Tennyson said, "half a century ago, at Pe-Ho, they shall find that 'blood is thicker than water.'" More than that.

And we shall shock them. Naught shall make us rue. If England to itself do rest but true.

THE ORIENTAL SITUATION: A big land battle may be fought any day in the neighborhood of the Yalu river. It is consistent with the military tactics of the Japanese to lose no time in striking on land, as they did on the sea.

The movements of the Japanese army in the China-Japanese war were swift and impetuous. Its exceptional mobility is recognized by all military experts who have studied its organization and expressed themselves on the subject.

A London dispatch credits Count Benckendorff, the Russian ambassador to the court of St. James, with starting the report that King Edward had expressed himself as ready to act as mediator between the contending powers.

This statement was probably made as a feint, for it has been promptly and positively denied in official circles. Considering the source, this suggestion of mediation emanated, it looks like a diplomatic intimation that Russia is already prepared for the friendly intervention of some influential power, and it may be action as yet coming from a Russian source.

A London report that the Russians regarded as a strong confession of the

A PARALLEL IN WAR.

There is a striking parallel to be drawn between the present situation of Russia and Japan and the struggle between Greece and Persia at the time of Thermopylae.

In ancient times it was Greece, a European nation, that was in the defensive position in the war with Persia, an Asiatic nation, that would be on the offensive in the war with Russia, a European nation.

Persia sent an enormous army across the wild region of Western Asia, over the Hellespontic bridge and through Thrace into Greece.

While Greece stayed at home awaiting the arrival of her enemy with constant watchfulness, Japan is sending her troops to Korea, to await the arrival there of the Muscovites with equal constant watchfulness.

The chief difference is that Russia is not acquainted with the geography of the place of contest, and the Muscovites are also unacquainted; while the Greeks were and the Japanese are thoroughly familiar with the geography through their experiences.

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One of the interesting features of the war is the dispatch which relates to Japan's declaration regarding her attitude in Korea.

It appears that the Japanese government has negotiated a treaty with Korea, which guarantees the independence and integrity of the latter country.

This act places the Mikado's government in a safe position as regards the attitude of foreign powers, as it is an effective disclaimer of any intention to absorb the hermit kingdom.

Diplomats are said to regard this act as the cleverest move which Japan could have made.

It places her upon a high moral plane in international matters, as it announces to the world that, if she is successful in her struggle with Russia, she will take no advantage of her military occupation of Korea.

It is the opinion of the writer that the preference expected in this old country should be anything short of a cut in our present tariff.

Under the present Mikado has occurred the transition of the country from barbarism to civilization.

The Japanese constitution declares absolute freedom of religious belief and practice so long as the general peace and order are not disturbed.

There is no state religion. Elementary education is compulsory, and the public education system has made remarkable progress.

The desire for education on the part of the Japanese has been one of the remarkable traits of the nation.

They are not so zealous in the pursuit of knowledge that the standard of education is not equalled by many older nations whose civilization is far more advanced.

THE TWO PER CENT TAX.

Considering all that has been said and written against the Two Per Cent tax, the results of its operation, but we have yet to see a more intelligent exposition of the bad effect of this piece of legislation than is presented by Manager Kirby in his recent report on the War Eagle mine.

It is the whole thing in a nutshell and no one but a fool can fail to be impressed with the logic and object lesson contained therein.

Mr. Kirby says: "This tax has increased the cost of extracting an increasing proportion of the profit as the grade of ore lowers."

For instance, on milling grades of the War Eagle and other Rossland mines it will take from 10 to 20 per cent of the net profit, which greatly increases the difficulty of securing capital for mining operations.

The Chamberlain policy, if it gives a preference to the producers of food in Canada, will be popular with the farming community in this country.

In fact the farmers of the west have already declared as much. But the policy goes farther.

Supporters of Chamberlain in the old country expect Canada and the other colonies to do something in exchange for the tariff preference.

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WHAT THE WAR COSTS.

M. Jules Roche, an eminent French statistician, has just made public some astonishing figures regarding the cost of modern warfare.

He estimates that as long as the present war remains localized in Manchuria and Korea, Russia will be under a daily expense of about \$1,700,000.

Should the war spread, and thus necessitate the transportation and maintenance of troops at different points on the borders of the Russian empire, the sum may be increased by fifty per cent.

These huge outlays do not include the cost of the campaign which broke out in the first two months after hostilities broke out.

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THE MINING CONVENTION.

Last week's convention of the Provincial Mining Association seems to have been eminently successful in strengthening that body with the general public.

The business was carried through in a very businesslike manner, and, as was to be expected, the declarations of the convention were based on sound and rational considerations.

Significant of the impression made on the public mind are the comments offered by the two reading papers that speak for the government.

If any hostility to the association or its aims could be expected it would most likely to come from the "organ" of the McBride government.

As the "organ" of the McBride government, it has shown coolness, if not actual hostility, towards the efforts of the association to better the conditions of the mining industry.

The Colunist in a late issue thus speaks of the convention and its results: "The members of the Provincial Mining Association are to be congratulated on the success of the convention which closed its sessions yesterday afternoon."

The convention was fortunate in being presided over by a chairman who, while giving every member an opportunity for expressing his opinion, still kept the assemblage to the matter under discussion, so that no time was wasted in the three days over which the business meetings extended.

The manner in which the convention confined itself strictly to the object for which it was called together—the interests of the mining industry and the methods by which they could be advanced—cannot fail to make a favorable impression on the general public.

One result of the convention will certainly be to dissipate completely the suspicions entertained in some quarters that there were political or other ulterior motives behind the ostensible objects of the association.

Consequently, the association will secure a position of authority on all matters connected with mining, and its course be directed in the same conservative manner in which the business of the convention was guided.

It will undoubtedly be able to effect much good, both for the mining industry and the province at large.

The convention has adopted a number of amendments to the Mineral and Placer Mining Acts, it is impossible to discuss these intelligently without going into details that would occupy far more space than is at our disposal.

Some of the amendments adopted, however, are of such a nature that they are likely to be of great benefit to the mining industry.

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WAR OFFICE RECONSTRUCTION.

The report of the war office (reconstruction) committee, composed of Lord Esher, Admiral Sir J. Fisher and Sir George Clarke recommending radical changes in the methods of army control created no little sensation in Great Britain.

The leading recommendations of their report include: The appointment of an army council framed on the model of the board of admiralty, and constituted by parliament.

The abolition of the office of the commander-in-chief of the army, and the creation of a new post, that of inspector-general of the forces.

The creation of a department for defence by the addition of a permanent element to the existing defence committee of the cabinet.

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LIBERAL M.P. SPEAKS

W. A. GALLIHER ADDRESSED ROSSLAND LIBERALS LAST NIGHT.

TALKED OF DRILL HALL AND OF MATTERS THROUGHOUT DOMINION.

From Friday's Daily. Rossland Liberals had an excellent meeting at the board of trade rooms, the feature of the session being the presence and speech of W. A. Gallier, M. P.

The attendance was good and the enthusiasm manifested was genuine and spontaneous. Mr. Gallier was in the form and his address roused the members of the association into great appreciation.

Generally speaking, the representative's address was specially for Liberals, but at times he branched out into questions of wider interest and of local importance.

On the question of Rossland's drill hall, Mr. Gallier gave the gratifying assurance that the original plan of the government was not to be abandoned, but one of the prime reasons for this was the militia department's acquiescence in the request for an extensive addition to the province of Quebec.

This enlargement was intended at the request of Rosslanders and necessitated the preparation of new plans, which, it is thought, will be through the same official round as the original plans.

He had informed the department, however, that this was no reason why the construction of the foundations of the building should not be proceeded with at the present time.

Mr. Gallier stated that the plans had reached here on the 25th of the week he was leaving for Ottawa, and it is his intention to take the matter up immediately with the minister and insist that immediate action be taken.

It must be remembered that "large bodies moved slowly," but it was in his power to move the matter up to the cabinet.

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MINUS AN ENGINEER

ROSSLAND NOW HAS NO OPTICAL ACTING IN THIS CAPACITY.

MAJOR VAN BUSKIRK GONE—ACCEPTED COUNCIL'S DICTUM SINCE REVERSED.

Rossland is without a city engineer today. Yesterday, Mr. Van Buskirk, who has been engineer for the past three years and a half, shook the dust of Rossland from his feet and departed for Greenwood where he has a commission from the city council in connection with the extension of the waterfront there. It is probable that on the completion of his Greenwood commission Major Van Buskirk will go to Brandon, where he has been appointed city engineer. The latter post will be an excellent one.

The city department for Van Buskirk's successor has not yet been advertised. His departure is a loss to the city, as he has been a most efficient and capable engineer.

Following the departure of Major Van Buskirk, the city council has decided to advertise for a successor. It is expected that the new engineer will be appointed within a few weeks.

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