

SURE OF TITLE

tenay Licenses Granted to Applicants.

Petroleum Locations Made by Rosslanders.

Saturday's Daily.

on and J. Fred Ritchie from a trip to the Flat-

South East Kootenay, they cruised out the thoroughly and made some lions in the neighborhood

the district from Kalisturn by way of Bella line of the Great North-

The journey was an arduous impossible to use horses half the distance. The

let lies on the western rocky mountains and in an out 5000 feet above sea-

stills from five to ten feet mountains of that section, mson and Ritchie were

find that a large number of "have been made in

THE HOUSE HOLDING ON

Business Delayed Awaiting Assent to Land Grant Bill.

Terms That Were Proposed by Government to the C. P. R.

VICTORIA, April 30.—Chief Commissioner Wells before the committee this morning tabled the memo which he submitted to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, of which the following is a condensation:

(1) Your company had earned the land subsidy for section 4, for 300,000 acres, but was not entitled to a crown grant until section 5 had been constructed.

Upon the completion of sections 5 and 6 it would have earned a further subsidy of 2,120,000 acres, or in all 2,420,000 acres. These subsidies have now been forfeited, the remaining sections, 5 and 6, not having been completed in the specified time.

(2) A cash bonus from Princeton to Spence's Bridge under conditions and terms to be arranged. A survey of the Hope Mountains has just been completed, and if it is determined as feasible proposals will probably be made for the construction of the Coast-Kootenay road from the coast to Otter lake, intersecting your road from Spence's Bridge to Midway.

Should this take place it would be imperative that running powers be given over your road to Midway, or should the Coast-Kootenay line be extended beyond Otter lake to Midway by anyone but the C. P. R., your rights to all land subsidies would terminate excepting in respect to section 4, to which you would be entitled only upon the construction of the Spence's Bridge road to Otter lake, to be fixed at say November 1st, 1903, and the remaining portion of the road to Midway in case your company built in one year from that date.

Spence's Bridge road to be completed by December 31st, 1903. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's reply is devoted largely to pointing out that the company has reduced transportation rates greatly, that its investments in British Columbia are not yet remunerative, and regretting the government's decision to attempt to force it to build certain lines before those already in operation are paying.

A special from Nanaimo says that great dissatisfaction exists at Ladysmith, Baker, on behalf of the Western Federation, went to there recently with \$200 and commenced its distribution among the most needy. Others declare that this is a direct violation of the arrangements with the union, and also hold that the sum is altogether too small to do justice to the situation.

Report states that information from Victoria indicates that McInnes has been asked to mediate with Dunsmuir by the committee sent down has disgraced the older men, who state that they might better throw up the sponge altogether. The married men particularly are stated to be tired of the present situation, which they feel is being handled so far as the Western Federation is concerned.

day said that he, Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Wells conferred before the latter went to Montreal, and they arranged that before the grants were delivered the company should surrender a large area of land and agree to build to Spence's Bridge. He denied Mr. Eberts' statement that Mr. Wells concealed the fact of bringing back the crown grants, and said Mr. Wells apprised the executive of it shortly after his return. He thought Wells told him that if the blocks were not given to the C. P. R. the Crown's Nest Coal company or the railway company would be entitled to 10,000 acres. Dunsmuir or Prior will be examined tomorrow.

The house sat only an hour and a half or two hours today. The only discussion of consequence was on the Kootenay Central Railway company bill. Houston moved on report to strike out the clauses empowering the company to take advantage of their powers under the water clauses as well as to use telephone and telegraph powers. Members of the house generally supported the application of the company, Eberts holding that these powers were in the old bill and this was merely a renewal of it. Most of the members, however, protested, and the offending section was killed.

The labor commission starts at Ladysmith on Monday. It will sit also at Fernie, Rossland, Vancouver and Victoria.

The local carpenters are striking today for \$3.50 daily for eight hours.

PETROLEUM LOCATIONS.

Bill Providing for a Reduction in Size of Claims.

VICTORIA, April 30.—Following is the text of the bill introduced by the member for Nelson respecting locations for petroleum:

1. This act may be cited as the "Petroleum Claim Act, 1903."

2. A petroleum or other mineral oil claim may be located on any unoccupied crown land, or on any crown-granted land in which the crown has reserved the petroleum rights, by any person authorized to enter on and locate a mineral claim under the provisions of the "Mineral Act" and amending acts and any such petroleum or other mineral oil claim shall be located, worked and held under the provisions of the "Mineral Act" and amending acts; provided all such claims are located and recorded as "Petroleum Claims."

The second bill reads: 1. This act may be cited as the "Coal Mines Act Amendment Act, 1903."

2. Section 2 of chapter 137 of the Revised Statutes, 1897, being the "Coal Mines Act," is hereby amended by striking out the words "or petroleum" in the first, third and fifth lines thereof.

3. Section 5 of said act is hereby amended by striking out the words "and one cent per barrel on all petroleum" in the fourth line of sub-section (B) and by striking out the words "or petroleum" in the second and third lines of said sub-section (D).

4. Section 7 of said act is hereby amended by striking out the words "or petroleum" in the second and third lines of sub-section (A) of said section. This bill will provide those amendments necessary to remove the location and operation of petroleum claims from the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and in order that they may come under the regulations of the first act here recited.

AS TO WHITE BEAR

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT IN REGARD TO PLANS.

ATTENTION FIRST TO BE GIVEN TO THE PLANT AT THE MINE.

(From Tuesday's Daily.) James J. Warren, managing director of the White Bear mine, arrived in the city on Sunday night and will remain here a week or ten days. His visit is undoubtedly of importance in connection with the plans of the company for the future of the company, but as yet no announcement of special interest has been made in connection therewith.

"I am not in a position to make a statement with respect to the White Bear," remarked Mr. Warren to a Miner man yesterday, "but will probably be able to say something prior to my departure. You may say in regard to shipping operations that we are not now in shape to produce any considerable tonnage of ore because of the deficiencies of the existing plant. To produce any large amount of ore requires a new and larger plant, and as to this we are not quite ready to refer. In the meantime it is our intention to ship such ore as is necessary to secure a thorough idea of the values."

The inference from Mr. Warren's remarks is that the White Bear company has gone into the question of producing a considerable tonnage of ore and that plans for headworks and winding machinery necessary to such operations have been under advisement. It has been intimated that the question of milling White Bear ore has been disposed of, and that a concentrator is to be constructed immediately. The Miner is given to understand that this is exaggerated, and that while the company has gone into the question of concentrating, as it has into other matters affecting the company's local interests, the adoption of milling is to be subservient to the installation of a much more substantial plant at the mine and the opening of levels below the 900.

THE TURBINE YACHT.

NEW YORK, May 4.—George J. Gould's new turbine steam yacht Emerald, chartered in England, arrived today from Greenock by way of Fajal after a rough passage of eleven days from the latter port. It experienced a succession of heavy gales, but behaved admirably.

Green suggested that as the inquiry had got beyond the scope where a layman like Oliver could direct it, professional counsel should be engaged on both sides and the expense borne by the government. This Prior readily conceded, it being arranged that Oliver should choose the prosecutor. The man selected will likely be L. P. Duff, K. C. Prior suggested that in order to let

THE WHOLE PLOT LAID BARE

Ex-Premier Dunsmuir Gives Sensational Evidence Before the Legislative Committee—East Kootenay Lands Were to Be the Plaything of Grafters.

VICTORIA, May 2.—The investigation conducted by the special committee of the legislature here into the reasons for the issuance and subsequent cancellation of the crown grants to two large blocks of coal and petroleum lands in South East Kootenay to the C. P. R. company came to a dramatic climax today, when ex-Premier Dunsmuir was examined. The latter was at the head of the government when the cancellation took place, and the efforts of the committee were directed to ascertaining what had not yet been disclosed, namely, the reason why the crown grants were cancelled and why they were not delivered to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy in Montreal. In starting out Mr. Dunsmuir said he was not going to allow his oath of office to cloak matters. He understood he was at liberty to disclose conversations that took place in executive meetings. He declared he first suspected something wrong when Wells returned from Montreal bringing the crown grants with him.

Wells told him things that he did not think he should disclose to the committee, and Dunsmuir added: "From what he told me I knew there was something wrong, and I was not going to have my name attached to anything of that character. I saw the best thing to do was to cancel the grants, which I did at the next meeting of the executive."

At last Dunsmuir, pressed by the committee, added: "I am telling the truth. I will tell the truth. I may hurt some of my friends, but I can't help that. I'll take the blame of all on my own shoulders. I was premier of the province. When I found there was something wrong I did the next best thing and cancelled the grants."

Asain John Oliver, who was acting as prosecutor, pressed for more specific information. Dunsmuir replied: "I know what the papers will say—that I am keeping something back. So I am keeping something back."

Finally he said that the committee should ask Wells the reasons for cancelling the grants. Wells was sent for and said the answer involved certain matters which took place in Montreal, and which he did not care to disclose. Then Dunsmuir blurted out the whole story as follows:

"When Wells came back he first told Prentice that after the Shaughnessy would not accept the proposition to build to Spence's Bridge. Wells would not deliver the crown grants. I was told by Prentice that after that Taylor, of Eberts and Taylor, had approached Mr. Wells and offered him a certain number of acres—I think 30,000 acres—that he handed over the crown grants. Prentice said not to say anything until Wells told me.

"Brown was pressing for an answer as to why the crown grants were not landed over. I asked Wells why they were not. Wells said he would say in a short time. "Later Wells came to my house and told me. I said: 'Wells, I will cancel the grants, as I won't have any monkey matter in the government while I'm in it. I forgive you afterwards, but it was wrong to issue the crown grants for these lands.' "When the examination of Wells was continued he explained that he felt he owed a duty to his colleagues, which prevented his making this statement hitherto. Dunsmuir's statement, he said, was substantially correct. Taylor saw him in Montreal and told him a company was being formed, in which the shares would number 20 in all. Applying that to the blocks it would make approximately 20,000 acres each. "Who were the 20?" asked Helmecken. Wells replied: "He told me there were two members who were to be allotted a share each—members of the house. He did not name them. Taylor saw me alone in Montreal. I do not think Brown was present for the C. P. R."

Wells did not say how many times Taylor saw him with respect to delivering up the crown grants. Asked as to other names, Wells said he did not hear any particular names; he had some conversation with those who were closely connected with the C. P. R. company who were connected with this company."

Asked by Green as to how the transfer of these blocks was to be made to the new company, Wells said that when he was in Montreal last, Shaughnessy and him. He was told that Mr. Wells had been told in Montreal that a company was being formed in Montreal to take over the blocks of land, and two members of the legislature were allotted one each of the twenty shares.

In the course of a lengthy editorial a local paper says: "Nothing less than the appointment of a royal commission will be satisfactory to the electorate or to the legislature. The reputations of some of the members are at stake. Aspersions have been cast upon their character which can only be removed by a full and complete investigation. It has been charged that certain of the members were personally profited by the transfer of the lands in question to the C. P. R. We take it that the house will with one voice insist upon the charges being proven or refuted."

His primary reason for not surrendering the crown grants was because the C. P. R. did not consent to build to Spence's Bridge. His official reason afterwards was that given in the statement. He looked upon these blocks as of problematical value.

Asked as to his reply to Taylor's proposition, Helmecken, Wells said that he did not want to be considered at all in connection with this matter."

The fact that Taylor is the law partner of the committee report, the house should be impossible to go on with such grave charges pending. In this view most of the house concurred, some mentioning two weeks. The committee will, however, sit two or three times daily and seek to get through before Monday. Curtis urged criminal prosecutions for those found guilty, and wanted the house to get power for the committee to go to Montreal to examine the C. P. R. books and thoroughly investigate the matter.

At the opening of the session this afternoon the governor came down and amid applause assented to a number of bills, among them No. 16, the cancellation bill. It is understood that Dunsmuir's evidence on Saturday finally decided him.

Curtis has been assailed by both Eberts and Taylor within the last two days, both wanting to fight. Eberts attacked him at the close of the session today, and Taylor in his hotel on Saturday night. Neither made good his challenge, however, when invited to do so.

The ejection of Eberts and Wells from the ministry is regarded as inevitable here. At the opening of this afternoon's session Eberts denied the statement of a day or two ago that he had suggested that Curtis write editorials for The Miner.

The special labor commission held its first sitting at Ladysmith today. Chief Justice Hunter and Rev. E. S. Rowe, together with Deputy Minister King, were in attendance. After the commission had been read by Mr. King, Chief Justice Hunter drew attention to its terms and asked if any one had suggestions to make as to matters to be brought before the commission or the method of conducting the inquiry. E. V. Bodwell, who represents Mr. Dunsmuir, suggested that the miners file a statement of their grievances, to which the company could reply. A. A. Barnes, one of the miners' committee, stated that the miners had retained counsel, but were not able to proceed today. They asked for an adjournment till tomorrow.

The chief justice said the inquiry would be a searching one, and that the commission were determined to get at the facts and the truth irrespective of who might be affected. The commission then adjourned till 2 tomorrow.

Charles Wilson is expected to represent the miners at a conference of the Cumberland miners have gone on strike for recognition of the Western Federation of Miners.

UNDERGROUND CITY. In Turkestan, on the right bank of the Amou Daria, is a chain of rock hills near the Bokharan town of Karak, and a number of large caves, which, upon examination some time ago, were found to lead to an underground city, built apparently long before the Christian era. According to effigies, inscriptions and designs upon the gold and silver money unearthed from among the ruins, the

INVITED TO NELSON

MILITIAMEN OF ROSSLAND INVITED TO VISIT NELSON JULY 1st

THE COMPANY ARRANGING FOR SPRING DRILL — BANDSMEN WANTED.

The invitation issued by the Dominion Day celebration committee at Nelson has been received by Captain Townsend, and will be brought up at the annual meeting of the company on Monday. It is probable that an acceptance will be forwarded with some conditions relating to the transportation of the militiamen and their subsistence while in the Queen City. The members of the company feel that as they are to be used as a feature of the attractions, and will be in a sense under the orders of the celebration committee, the conditions they ask will be accepted readily.

The bugle band of the Rossland company has started practice under the direction of Charles A. Barrett, bugle major. At full strength the band comprises fifteen members divided between bugles and drums. There are a number of vacancies in the band, and the bugle major would be glad to hear from young men wishing to learn either instrument. It is expected that the band will be in excellent shape by Dominion Day, and that it will be one of the features at the Nelson proceedings.

The militia will probably commence drill at an early date. Some steps would doubtless have been taken in this direction ere this had it not been for the fact that the skating rink was not available. A few days longer will be necessary to dry up the floor of the rink, which forms the only parade ground available for the corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes, D. O. C., is expected in Rossland about the 15th inst., and a number of matters of importance to the local corps are to be taken up with him. Principal among these are the command of the company, the new dress regulations, an application to district stores for tents and a request for permission to visit Nelson on July 1st.

Shooting at the militia company's ranges will start in the course of the next fortnight. Arrangements have already been made for the season's program, and it is likely that shooting badges will be arranged for this year.

GREEN FIELDS NEAR

AN OBJECT LESSON ON AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES IN ROSSLAND.

CHINESE GARDENS NOW A SCENE OF PASTORAL FAIRNESS.

The Chinamen have cleared and cultivated an area of 50 or seventy-five acres, and with all their faults from other standpoints, the Celestials must be given credit for unswerving perseverance and energy. These lands are clear of brush of every description, and innumerable calms indicate the patience with which the cultivators have gone over every inch of the soil and removed the impediments to vegetation. The fields are comparatively tiny plots, but the richness of the soil makes large holdings unnecessary. Irrigation is arranged for, and the Chinamen appear to have regulated the use and drainage of water for irrigating without the clashes and appeals to the courts that have cropped up where irrigation has been instituted elsewhere.

The point is that a demonstration is afforded of the possibilities of bringing into cultivation lands that have heretofore been regarded as of little value. This is in line with the statements about the progress of agriculture in various of the Pacific northwest states of the union after mining had been instituted and a market provided for agriculturists. There can be no doubt that in the immediate vicinity of Rossland there are hundreds of acres of ground that can be utilized for ranching and that these areas are fully equal in value from the agricultural standpoint to the lands improved in the past few years by the Chinese gardeners. It cannot be doubted, either, that the growth of the local mining industry would encourage the development of these lands to an extent that would in the course of time build up an agricultural industry of great magnitude.

Two million eighty thousand bushels of grain were shipped by boat from Fort William last week.

Only five votes were cast against the bylaw to give a loan of \$7000 to the Durham Cream Separator company by Durham ratepayers.

A man named William Doyle went to an Essex hotel and went to sleep in a drunken stupor in a chair. In the morning he was found dead.

The London board of trade is urging the removal of the duty on soft coal. A new synagoge to cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000, will be erected by the Hebrews of Ottawa.

MAKING RUBIES. A Frenchman, M. Verneuil, has succeeded in manufacturing artificial rubies by a new process of fusing aluminum. He read a paper describing his experiments at a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Paris. The largest rubies he made weighed more than 15 carats, but when the process is finished these stones split in two, forming half spheres, which he says may be worked by lapidaries and cut like natural stones.

Experts to whom he submitted the product of his laboratory pronounced them to be of the same hardness and as capable of fine polish as the real gems. The only fly in the ointment—a fortunate one, perhaps, for the inexperienced purchaser of pigeon bloods—is in the drawback of internal discolorations, or bubbles of air, particularly in the larger stones so produced. The inventor, however, thinks that with time and further experimentation this difficulty will be obviated.

In New York the makers of artificial rubies use the "chippings" from the real stones for the purpose, grinding the bits into fine powder, then fusing them by chemical processes into a kind of red paste, which, when hardened and treated, presents so exact a counterpart of the real gems that even experts have been deceived. They are able to make a very clear, translucent ruby in this manner, which may be purchased for about \$50, while a real pigeon blood of the same size would sell for upward of \$600.

SEALING SCHOONER'S CATCH. VICTORIA, May 4.—The first of the coast sealing schooners returned to port today with a catch of 9 skins. She reports bad weather and that seals are scarce. All the schooners are expected to have a small catch.

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