

Rossland Weekly Miner.

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"FATHER PAT" FUND.

The "Father Pat" fund has reached a total of over \$1200, and has probably nearly found the limit. A few driblets may come straggling along later, but not enough to materially change the sum total. It was the intent at the start to make the fund \$1000, so it will be seen that the desired sum has been more than realized. It is interesting to note the wide range from which contributions have come. Almost every town on the Pacific coast and from many places in the east and abroad money has come to swell the fund. A few have sent small sums who never saw the divine, but knew of him. Most, however, who contributed had come in contact with him or seen him in the different places that he lived or visited. He was the most democratic of men, and of course met all classes. Action will soon be taken to dispose of the fund.

THUNDER MOUNTAIN RUSH.

Here is a dispatch that comes from Boise, telling of the hardships of a party trying to get into the Thunder Mountain district. This is only one of a like nature appearing at diverse times in the press, save that we never see them in the Spokane papers. They are as mums as oysters in that regard. With them everything is lovely and the goose hangs high. They are very fond of printing news of ledges 500 feet wide, all rich ore, and such like. But for the Boise dispatch, dated 27th ult.:

"The rush to the Thunder Mountain gold fields has assumed almost alarming proportions. There are reports of bodies of men snowbound and enduring untold hardships.

"James Kinsey volunteered to return from a party of 36 on the south fork of the Salmon. Not one of the others would face the dangers of the trip. For days he floundered through the soft snow, climbing towering mountains and swimming rivers. For six miles he wandered over a field of mush like knee deep. He arrived at Warren almost dead.

"A party with supplies has started for the Salmon.

"Kinsey said his party had provisions enough to last about two weeks when he left. There are over 500 men at Singiser, but food cannot be packed in that far on sleds."

"INDIAN OF INDIANS."

The medal bestowed by the Royal Canadian Humane Society on the Indian woman Mellie Hennius at Vancouver last Saturday was richly deserved. Scarcely in a life time do we hear of such an act of heroism. The dispatches told us of the facts leading up to the case—how the woman with her husband and sister and her own three small children were going up the Inlet in a boat, when a sudden squall capsized it. The man and the sister perished, but the brave woman, clasping two of the children in her arms, seizing the other in her teeth, and, after a hard struggle, reached shore. It seems that the employees of a logging camp hard by witnessed the occurrence and came to the rescue just before the brave woman reached the shore. The young children, however, did not long survive after reaching the shore, the ice-cold water probably chilling them to the marrow. The medal was given to the woman last Saturday in the presence of all the Indian officials and a large concourse of people, the mayor of Vancouver making the presentation speech. The grief-stricken woman, with head bowed down, came forward and received the medal.

But we are glad to note in addition to that that a subscription has been started to raise a sum of money to be given her, that she may spend her declining years in comfort. A medal is of small value to a person of her understanding and ways of living, and if heroism is to be rewarded a money donation will appeal quickly in the right direction. This is certainly one of the most wonderful cases on record. The foundation for a story is here laid that some one with the genius of Fenimore Cooper might weave into a tale as popular as any of the Leather Stocking stories. We have read a great deal about the noble red man, but we have indeed a noble red woman in the person of Mellie Hennius. We are pleased to note that the medal came so soon after the performance of the brave act.

While on this subject we desire to

refer once more—we say once more, because the case has been mentioned before in the local press—to the case of Indian Joe, the lad about 14 years of age, who jumped into the cold waters of the Columbia river opposite the town of Trall, and at the risk of his own life saved others from drowning. This happened nearly two years ago, and while the people of that burg often speak of Indian Joe, as he is familiarly called, and express their admiration of the brave boy, nothing so far has been done to recognize the heroic deed. Joe far more deserves a medal than many white men who have received them since that date. But with true Indian stolidity Joe seems content with his lot, only too happy to come into town and play marbles or ball with the white boys, when the gamins will let him.

THE QUARANTINE.

One case of smallpox was reported yesterday, and this again calls up the question of quarantine. The isolation hospital has been vacated for some time; it was the wish of all that it might remain so. The present case comes from Kalispell, Montana, and the patient passed the quarantine at Northport without being detained. Much dissatisfaction is expressed at the way the quarantine is managed at present. The money to maintain the quarantine is paid by the Dominion government, and to reduce expense (so-called) a peculiar method has been adopted. To protect Rossland and Nelson from smallpox from the other side of the line a competent physician should be kept constantly at Sheep Creek Station on the Red Mountain line and at Waneta on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard road. To maintain a competent physician at each of these places will cost probably not more than \$7 per day, or \$14 a day for the two. This means \$5110 per annum. But the government has adopted the plan of employing an American physician at Northport at a salary of \$3 per day to examine passengers coming into this part of British Columbia, and in addition has appointed a Dominion health officer to have a general supervision over this matter at a salary of \$100 per month, or \$1200 for the year. This means an expenditure under the present method of \$2296. The Dominion government, therefore, saves or is trying to save \$2815.

The city of Rossland takes exception to the present method of quarantine, claiming that all the cases of smallpox in the city, and as a result of which the city has been put to great expense and trouble, came from the other side of the boundary line through the defective quarantine methods now in vogue. The city so far within the past six months or thereabouts has expended \$3197 in treating smallpox patients, and the end is not yet. As most of our readers are aware the city council has asked the Dominion government to recompense the corporation for this outlay, claiming that the city is entitled to protection from the outside, and that it should not meet this large outlay when the fault did not lie at its doors. It will be seen that if the Dominion government recompenses the city for the expenditure in the treatment of smallpox patients, added to that required to maintain the present quarantine for one year, the total is \$5492. This is already over \$300 in excess of the plan of keeping two competent Canadian physicians at the two border stations already named at \$7 a day each for the entire year of 365 days. What it will be before the end of the year it is hard to tell.

To give the most satisfaction to all concerned—and this is a matter in which every citizen is concerned—a change in the method of quarantine should be made. To fully protect the city a competent official should be kept at each of the points named, whose sole business should be to not only examine passengers on incoming trains, but to see that stragglers coming along do not come in without first being examined. These remarks are not intended to reflect on the present officials, who have undoubtedly tried to do their duty, but on the methods adopted by the Dominion government, which seems to have been on the penny wise and pound foolish principle. It is the duty of the government to protect the cities and towns along the border, and Rossland being the most populous and important town in this part of the province, through which more travel passes than any other, it is certainly not asking too much that a strict quarantine be maintained for the protection of those living here. If the dread disease smallpox is kept out entirely the cost of quarantine is money well spent, that comes back with more than compound interest. If, on the other hand, loose methods are in vogue, we pay dearly for our negligence. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure any time. This is an old foggy expression that we have all heard before, but like many old things—old wine, for instance—it loses none of its value by being old.

The country to the south of us is full of smallpox. Physicians in all the towns and cities admit this. Their pest-houses are seldom vacant. As pointed out in these columns once before, the press over there say but little about it for fear of injuring their towns and driving people away. We live so close to the border, and our people intermingling so frequently, that we come in constant contact with those who have been exposed to smallpox, and the wonder is that our city has not been filled with it more than it has. With the maintenance of a strict quarantine we can feel reasonably secure in being free of the disease altogether. When it does come it generally proves to be a costly luxury—a luxury that is not altogether appreciated. We hope the single case now in the isolation hospital will be the last one.

A FEELING OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

The provincial budget recently brought down by the finance minister will be read with a feeling of grievous disappointment by the people of the Kootenay district, and by all who realize that the mining industry is the backbone of British Columbia.

We can scarcely believe, even after a perusal of Mr. Prentice's speech, that the government intends to let the present session pass without removing some of the burdens that are strangling the industry, and especially the two per cent. tax.

Our reasons for refusing, up to the very last moment, to believe that the government will not lend their assistance may be stated as follows:

(1). Before the tax was imposed the members of the executive were attended by a delegation of many of the leading mining men of the Kootenay district, representing the mines of the Boundary, Rossland, Nelson and the Shocan, and were earnestly warned against the injurious effects which the tax would produce, particularly upon low grade mines. But the government decided to try the experiment.

(2). One result of the experiment was that capitalists shrugged their shoulders and would not advance further moneys for opening up prospects.

(3). Another result was the tax had to be borne by a few mines which had distributed millions of dollars among the citizens of British Columbia, in developing their properties, but which were not yet in shape to pay dividends to their shareholders.

(4). Yet another result was that many mines, with thousands of tons of low grade ore in sight, were and are compelled to leave that ore untouched, owing to the great proportion of profits which this tax appropriates.

The objection to the tax is not that the total amount realized out of it by the government is an excessive amount to be borne by the mining industry, but that the tax operates in a peculiarly unfair manner upon low grade ores which form the bulk of our mineral deposits, and thereby prevents the great majority of our mineral deposits from being worked at all. This result is so well known to our readers that it is needless for us to reproduce the figures establishing it.

It is also well known to all the members of the government and to the provincial mineralogist.

It is also clearly recognized by the working miners themselves, who realize the injury they sustain by a measure which hurts the mining industry.

No louder voice has been raised against this unfair tax than that of the Evening World, the mouthpiece of the miners of this district.

Mr. Prentice, in his budget speech, dwells at considerable length upon the methods of taxation which have recently been discussed in Colorado. The one great object lesson to be learned from Colorado is that when the mining industry there was in its initial stages, the legislature adopted the wise and beneficent policy of freeing mines and minerals from taxation altogether for a period of several years. The result is well known. Colorado rose rapidly to the position of the banner State of the Union.

Why cannot our legislature adopt the same course? Undoubtedly the province of British Columbia possesses vast mineral wealth, but every mine requires a large expenditure of money before the owners realize any return.

Admittedly the mining industry here is in its infancy, and the entire mineral tax is collected from the few remaining mines which have survived the disastrous effects of unjust legislative burdens.

Finally the united voices of capital and labor throughout the mining districts have swelled into a long loud howl of indignation and protest against the continued imposition of this iniquitous tax. If the closing down of mines and the depopulation of once active business centres is of no account to the government, it is a very serious state of affairs to all of us in the mining districts.

Nothing short of drastic and immediate relief will satisfy our people.

Surely the government will not maintain their attitude of turning a deaf ear to our entreaties.

The London Post, referring to the shipping combination, despair of any appeal to the government, and concludes by saying: "When finally the United States peacefully annexes Great Britain there will be rejoicings over the reunion of the English-speaking people and over the fact that their old home has been saved from conquest by Germany." Ah, friend, not so hasty. The United States will not an-

If the "Hot Air" line is not careful Jim Hill's road will get into Republic first. The injunction has been declared off and work is being pushed. Hill don't say much but he can saw wood.

Among those enlisted to go to South Africa with the fifth Canadian contingent is Mr. David Livingstone, of Winnipeg. It is an interesting coincidence that Mr. Livingstone, who goes with a rifle in hand to fight the Boers, is a descendant of Dr. David Livingstone, the great explorer and missionary, who went to South Africa with Bible in hand.

Next Great Britain, neither has the Post probably any such real thought. The government may not do everything just to our liking, but we can rest assured that the welfare of the country will be considered above all else. But then some people are always for-ninst the government.

Our special Tuesday morning from Westbridge, West Fork of Kettle River, says that with the melting of the snows survey work is being pushed on mineral claims and pre-emptions on the main Kettle River. It is further announced that the permanent survey of the West Fork section of the Midway-Vernon railway will soon begin. This all means a great deal for that section.

CURRENT COMMENT

LE ROI NO. 2—POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The following timely article appeared in the Colonial Goldfields Gazette of April 29th, which will be read with more than local interest:

"The Le Roi No. 2 mine, despite its name, is steadily demonstrating the fact that it stands second to none in the Le Roi group. Indeed, the No. 2 has completely dethroned the Le Roi in public esteem, the shares of the latter being neglected at a shade over \$1 1/2, while No. 2 have been an active market at over 5 1/2. The nominal capitalization of the Le Roi is \$1,000,000, in 200,000 shares of \$5 each, and the property is valued by the market at a trifle more than \$700,000; the capital of the No. 2 Company is \$600,000, in 120,000 shares of \$5 each, so at 5 1/2 the mine is capitalised by the public at over \$660,000. On intrinsic merits No. 2 shares seem likely at no distant date to make a further substantial advance, and a glance at the position and prospects of the mine may, therefore, be interesting. In his annual report dated October 29th, 1901, Mr. Bernard Macdonald, the general manager, estimated that the ore in sight amounted to 240,000 tons between the 500-foot level and the surface. Since the date of Mr. Macdonald's report the 700-foot level has been reached, at which depth the ore body fully maintains its value. It is estimated that the proving of the vein at the 700-foot level adds another 100,000 tons of ore to the reserves, thus bringing the total up to 340,000 tons. Preparations are now being made for sinking to a depth of 900 feet, and there is every indication that the vein will maintain its value at that depth. At the ruling prices of copper and silver the grade of ore, without sorting, works out at about 18 1/2 dollars per ton, and estimating mining and depreciation at 3.50 dollars, freight and treatment at 6 dollars, and indirect smelter charges at 2 dollars, it will be seen that the company is making a net profit of about 6 1/2 dollars per ton. The returns of the month of March showed that, shipping at the rate of 173 tons a day, the net profit for the month amounted to nearly \$3,000, a result which, if maintained throughout the year, would be equivalent to 18 per cent. on the capital of the company.

"There is every reason, however, to believe that the mine has not yet reached the limit of its profit-earning capacity. With the ore body proved at the 700-foot level, Mr. Macdonald will, doubtless, feel justified in advising that the ore shipments be increased to 200 or 250 tons per day, and it is also probable that 30-dollar ore will be shipped, having regard to the fact that the grade of ore is understood to be steadily improving. In the not far distant future, too, a further reduction should occur in smelting charges, owing to the cheap rate at which coke can now be obtained from the Crow's Nest Pass. Before it is possible to extract ore from the depth of 900 feet it will be necessary to widen the shaft and to provide additional machinery, expenses to which a portion of the profits will have to be applied, but even making allowance for this expenditure, a handsome sum should be available for distribution amongst the shareholders. It is probable that, at the time of writing, the ore reserves in the No. 2 have been increased to half a million tons, and, having regard to the assured position of the mine and its excellent prospects, the property would reasonably bear a higher market valuation. In concluding his report Mr. Macdonald remarked, 'The extensive area of your company's property, stretching as it does across the trend of the great mineral zone of Rossland, possessing within its boundaries most of the pay ore veins of the camp, bespeaks for the future of your property

immense possibilities. Already your mines are firmly established on a dividend-paying basis, and it is a pleasure to feel warranted, as I am, to forecast the continuance of this condition indefinitely.' Mr. Macdonald's optimism is being justified by events."

THE VICTIM OF THE BEEF TRUST.

I have banished the meat from my table.

The flesh of the sheep and the cow, for a poor man is wholly unable to purchase such luxuries now. And the chops that I took from the hands of the cook, and the bacon and things of that ilk, are replaced by some stuff that is tasteless and tough.

Like hay that's been simmered in milk.

I sit me tonight at my dinner, and I think how a porterhouse fine Would fill up the vacuum inner Of this physical framework of mine. But I'm sorry to state that they give me a plate

Of a mixture like sawdust and glue, And I'm am told that it's good, that it's Dash's Health Food, And its cheaper than roast or rougout.

I am not a carnivorous person

In the actual sense of the term, But I cannot keep writing my verse on A diet like this, I affirm.

For breakfast whole wheat (though it's simple to eat); For luncheon more wheat than is cracked;

And after dinner a deal of some mushy cornmeal— That's a little too much, for a fact.

I retired to bed and in slumber I dream of a happier land, Where turkeys are wondrous in number

And there's mutton on every hand. There, in spirit elate, I am filling my plate

And the fork's going upward . . . Just then I'm awakened to hear, from a voice at my ear,

The price of beef's risen again. —John O'Keefe.

FOUGHT VICIOUSLY

A LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL CAMERON—LEIN.

ART'S RIVER FIGHT.

BOERS WOULD NOT SURRENDER

—COURAGE OF VERITABLE BULL DOG TYPE.

MONTREAL, May 6.—A letter received here today from Lieut. Col. Cameron, second in command of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, dated Dieppe, the morning after the Leinart's River fight, Col. Cameron says: "Easter Sunday morning about 3 o'clock we left Hardtuelfontein with 2000 mounted men. We covered 30 miles before coming in contact with the enemy, who numbered over 3000 men. We gave chase for at least 10 miles more, to where we expected to camp for the night, a point we reached about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We had hardly taken off our saddles before the enemy was seen surrounding our camp at a distance of 2000 yards, completely hemming us in. Two troops of one of my squadrons (I was in command of three) had not come into camp and were cut off by the Boers and lost heavily. They fought viciously, with only blades of grass as shelter. Their courage was of the veritable bull dog type, and under no circumstances could they be compelled to surrender. They held their ground until almost every man had been killed or wounded. A few survivors were stripped and sent into us naked. We fought hard for two hours and managed to beat off the Boers, who greatly outnumbered us. Our men at once began entrenching themselves, fearing a night attack, and they did their work so well that no living force could have dislodged them from the position they held. The British loss in the engagement was about 150 killed and wounded, while the Boers, it is estimated, lost over 300. Our green men did splendid work and proved themselves to be wonderfully adapted for conditions under which the battle was fought. About 12 Canadians were killed and 40 wounded. As a veteran of early stages of the war I can say that in severity, in number of skirmishes, in hard fighting and in privations, the campaign I am now passing through greatly exceeds my former experience."

A DECENT THIEF.

Speaking of one of his clients, a police court lawyer said the other day according to the New York Commercial Advertiser:

"He is quite a decent thief. He has a brother who is in the same line of business, but he is a bum."

When asked what he meant by a decent thief, he said, with philosophical gravity:

"Well, that's the kind of a fellow who will save for the rainy day, so that when he gets in trouble, he has ready cash for his lawyers. There are lots of thieves of this kind. I know a methodical pickpocket who sets aside so much a week for what he calls the 'legal department.' He pays his debts promptly and is absolutely honest in everything outside his regular course of business. The story goes that he once returned a pocketbook to a wealthy thief of this kind. I know a methodical pickpocket who sets aside so much a week for what he calls the 'legal department.' He pays his debts promptly and is absolutely honest in everything outside his regular course of business. The story goes that he once returned a pocketbook to a wealthy thief of this kind. I know a methodical pickpocket who sets aside so much a week for what he calls the 'legal department.' He pays his debts promptly and is absolutely honest in everything outside his regular course of business. 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