

FLOTATION A SUCCESS

English Capital Interested
in Consolidated Coal
and Oil

J. B. Ferguson Will go to Alberta to Manage Company—Toronto Invests Heavily

(Special to The Daily News)
Toronto, Dec. 8.—J. B. Ferguson, of Vancouver, promoter and secretary of the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated, has just completed the flotation of his reorganized company, which is now estimated at \$2,000,000. English investors have taken heavy interests, and development on a scale commensurate with the richness of the Alberta field in which the company is operating is fully assured. Mr. Ferguson has been in Toronto at the King Edward for some time, and has disposed of much stock in this city. He expects to return to the west shortly to take up the active management of the producing plants, making his home in Alberta.

Oil of the highest quality ever discovered, he says, is now flowing from the earth in huge gushes in the southwest portion of the province within five miles of the international boundary and some 45 miles to the southwest of Pincher creek, a station on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway. The valley in which these oil discoveries lie is described by geologists as an enormous crevice caused by volcanic eruption crossing the formation of the Rocky mountains and forming a huge basin, or vacuum, into which the oil has been seeping for centuries from the coal deposits of the north, forming vast lake under the rock formation at a depth of a little over a thousand feet. The country is mountainous and in most cases the valleys are narrow and covered with timber; on the mountain sides the formation is exposed, showing a gently folded strata, or anti-clinals, which can be traced for miles. When a break in the formation occurs a seepage can invariably be found. A large number of seepages exist where the oil can be dipped up and all along the creeks oil indications are plentiful.

Several years ago a farmer named William Aldrich used to gather the oil from various surface seepages and sell it to his Mormon neighbors who used the oil for lighting and lubricating purposes. Mr. Aldrich also had some seepages gathered up as much as ten and 12 barrels of oil in a day. So secret was the indication of immense oil fields that even the factors of the Hudson Bay Co. were not aware of the existence of their existence. Several years ago an American oil prospector heard these stories and determined to see what truth there was in them and went out on a journey through that part of the country known as the "tar belt." His discoveries surprised the world and every expert who has seen the oil fields is certain that Alberta oil is destined to become a great factor in the American industrial world when these fields have been properly developed.

When the exploits of Mr. Aldrich became generally known there was much talk of the southwestern corner of Alberta and many companies were formed for the purpose of developing the oil fields but the majority of them did not make a success of the business owing to lack of capital and the business was absorbed by the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated, which company today owns 26,246 acres of selected oil and coal lands. Before first in the field the company was able to strike up every acre which gave promise of covering mineral value.

When the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated was formed, Canada looked upon its southwest corner as a blank. During the few months of its existence this place has been turned to envy and at the present time its shares are being eagerly purchased by those who are not content with the "get it on the ground floor." Today the company owns four out of the five producing wells in Alberta and every day the company is obtaining hundreds of barrels of oil produced in Canada and added to the company have been sent to England for analysis and the following report was received: Moisture, 3 per cent.; fixed carbon, 51 per cent.; volatile combustible matter, 37.5 per cent.; sulphur, 2 per cent.; ash, 6.5 per cent. No well, not even those in Pennsylvania, can produce such a high grade of oil.

Another instance of the great wealth of these oil fields is the fact that W. S. Darrow, of Chicago, a representative of the Standard Oil Co., has spent several weeks around Pincher Creek looking over the prospects and he admits that the oil prospects of Alberta could not be better, in fact, to use his own words "they are phenomenal." The effect of this great discovery of oil will revolutionize the industrial world of Canada and will lessen the present price of oil by 50 or 60 per cent. The Canadian government allows a bounty of 1-1/2 cents on each gallon of oil produced in Canada and added to that the Alberta oil is such a quality that it can be refined for from 40 to 50 cents per barrel cheaper than any other oil now produced in the world. The process of refining adopted by the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated does away with the use of chemicals and consists of two distillations instead of three with the result of an increased yield of at least 20 per cent. in all products with the result of a purer quality when obtained by this process than by any other. As is known vital and caustic soda form two

of the costliest items in oil refining and consequently many thousands of dollars will be saved annually by the abolition of these chemicals. The simplicity of distilling the oil by one distillation is another economical invention, added to an increase of one fifth in all products will permit profits to be reached by the Western Oil and Coal Consolidated hitherto undreamed of in the oil trade. The credit of the introduction of this process of refining belongs to Mr. Ferguson, who secured the formula from Dr. McAlpine, a well known consulting chemist of London, England.

Throughout the province of Alberta along the slope of the Rocky mountains from the international boundary as far north as the town of Cardston, the sole topic of conversation is "oil." The inhabitants of this section of Alberta are "oil crazy" and believe the province will become the greatest oil producing district in the world as soon as it has been properly exploited and developed.

J. S. Williams, an oil expert from Sumnerland, California, who has inspected the oil fields, states he believes a huge underground oil lake exists along the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains and his theory is borne out by the striking of gushers of oil in various parts of the province. The locality of the company's oil lands has been known to be an oil district for many years but development has been delayed until recently owing to lack of railway facilities. Every geologist and oil expert who has visited the district has pronounced favorably upon it. In a recent interview, Dr. Bell, late director general of the Canadian Geological Survey, stated that southwest Alberta will eventually prove, in his opinion, "the greatest oil field in the world." Dr. Selwyn, formerly occupying the same position, Mr. Ferguson, also stated that the director general of the geological department, were equally pronounced in their opinions of this district, and the drilling done by several companies, and the statement that the formation of these gentlemen. There is at the present time in this part of Canada, lying between the Pacific ocean and lake Superior, a population of practically 3,000,000 people, and it is a very small number of whom must use this crude oil for many purposes. With the development of these oil fields will come manufacturing, works and enterprises, as rushing to Alberta to get the benefit of cheap fuel and cheap illuminations.

COM. COOMBS AT FERNIE SALVATION ARMY LEADER GIVEN A GREAT WELCOME.

OPERA HOUSE WAS PACKED TO
THE DOORS.

(Special to The Daily News)
Ferne, Dec. 11.—That the people of Fernie appreciate a good show, and that the Salvation Army is well known and respected, was evidenced by the magnificent welcome and reception accorded Commissioner Coombs and his party, who arrived here on Monday night. They were met at the station by the local corps and band and many prominent citizens and a torch light procession was formed, the visitors being escorted to the Opera House, the residence of Mr. G. S. Lindsey, where they were entertained at dinner. At 8:30 a meeting was held in the opera house which was packed to the doors, and the speaker, Mr. Coombs, addressed the assembly. He spoke of the work of the Salvation Army in the world, and the difficulties that beset their efforts and the gradual success of the work. He told his audience of the work they were performing now, the refugees being sent to the front in the world; the prison work, the searching after and rescue of fallen humanity; the restoring of inebriates to respectable citizenship, the securing of work for the unemployed, the fostering of the orphaned, the care of the aged, the bestowal on waifs in the large cities. But the keynote of the latter part of his address were the plans which were maturing for the bringing into Canada and especially to the territories and British Columbia of a vast number of desirable emigrants from the British Isles, a class who would quickly assimilate with their Canadian countrymen and become a source of strength in the future progress of this great dominion.

On resuming his seat a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker was moved by Mr. G. S. Lindsey, in a characteristic, really clever speech, which was seconded by mayor Bleasdale and carried by a standing vote of the audience. At the conclusion of the meeting, about eighty persons, including the speaker, and personally meeting the commissioner, Mrs. Coombs and staff at Park House, where a reception was held and a dainty supper served. This will be a busy day for the Salvation Army, as the work in connection with army and navy has been mapped out for them. They leave by the evening express for the east tonight. While here they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey.

KAISER TO VISIT KING EDWARD
London, Dec. 12.—It is reported here that the German emperor will visit King Edward in the city of Windsor, England, in the course of a Mediterranean cruise. It is also reported in official circles that count Metternich, German ambassador to the court of St. James, will be succeeded early in 1909 by the hereditary prince of Hohenzollern-Launenburg, who was an attaché at Carlton House in 1893. The prince's wife is princess Alexandra of Saxony-Coburg and is a niece of King Edward's.

TO DEPORT THE HINDUS

Immigration Officer Robertson Has Reached
Vancouver

Says Their Standing as British Subjects Will Not Interfere if They are Undesirable

(Special to The Daily News)
Vancouver, Dec. 12.—E. Blake Robertson, federal assistant superintendent of immigration arrived here today to make a special study of the Hindu invasion. Interviewed as to the question of the Hindus standing as British subjects interfering with deportation, he said: "The fact that they are British subjects has nothing to do with it, as far as the working of the Immigration Act is concerned, provided it can be proved that they, as a class, are liable to be a charge on the community. That is the chief object in the recent amendment to the act. Members of any class or nationality can be deported in any number if it is conclusively established that they are undesirable emigrants and not self-supporting. Last year, for instance, the immigration department deported over 600 British subjects who came under that category. So, provided the Hindus prove objectionable in these respects, it will be an easy matter to deal with them under the act and the problem will thus adjust itself."

Mr. Robertson will hurry his work so as to get his report before the house after the Christmas vacation.

OF INTEREST TO MINERS

DIAMONDS (Continued)
The original system of mining in Griqualand West (around Kimberley) was by open working. This was found to be the best way of treating the deposit of "blue" ground until a depth of 200 feet was obtained. At this depth the mining companies started to tunnel in their opinions as to the means of treatment. The majority being in favor of taking out the over lying shale, which would have meant the removal of 4,000,000 cubic feet of waste material.

The process of treating the "blue" ground is by weathering. For this purpose, the company owning the properties, have constructed a group of "floors" these floors are widely scattered; covering in area many square miles. Upon these floors—which are simply areas of hard roller ground, moderately level and free from vegetation—the lumps of blue ground in stones measuring from about nine inches in diameter down to a few inches in size, are spread out. In the case of a shallow layer not more than 12 inches deep. The length of time which this lot of rock is exposed to the atmospheric influences is about one year, but by turning over the stuff and harrowing it and artificially watering it, its disintegration can be greatly hastened, and the whole made ready for washing after an exposure of six months or even less. The amount of waste material, or tailings, losses considerably in weight by this weathering process; for instance, say 95 tons were taken out, from this quantity only 72 tons would be available for treatment.

The first treatment of the weathered blue ground, is conducted in a number of small isolated works situated for convenience in the near proximity to the different weathering floors. The weathering mass, when agitated with an excess of water yields a fine clay mud, which overflows by the lip on the edge of the pan. This mud is passed into a separate pile to be treated again, while the granular substance of residue remaining behind is reserved for further treatment. This latter treatment consists of passing the granular matter, through a set of jigs, by which means the gravel is freed from all mud etc., allowing the diamonds to be readily detected afterwards. The examination of this gravel is usually confined to the English, a few Americans being sometimes employed. These men are well paid and are not subject to the ignominy of being searched before leaving the works as are the Kafirs. The finer gravel or sand is scrutinized directly by Kafirs, the majority of them being paid and are not subject to the ignominy of being searched before leaving the works as are the Kafirs. The finer gravel or sand is scrutinized directly by Kafirs, the majority of them being paid and are not subject to the ignominy of being searched before leaving the works as are the Kafirs.

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CRANBROOK LEADS AID

Will Help the Kootenay
Central to Get
Bonus

Board of Trade Passes Resolution Urging
Provincial Government's
Assistance

M'BRIDE'S FALSE MOVE

How the Premier Threw Away B. C.'s Opportunity

Official Minutes of the "Better Terms" Conference at Ottawa—Withdrawal of Hon. Mr. McBride

(Special Correspondence)

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—The official minutes of the proceedings in conference between members of the government of Canada and of the various provincial governments, assembled at Ottawa, in October, 1906, have just been completed and presented to the various officials interested. It recounts the facts connected with the unfortunate withdrawal of premier McBride of British Columbia, from the conference, and indicates the spirit of fairness in which the delegates of the various provinces and the representatives of the dominion considered the claim of the Pacific province for special favorable treatment. As an historical document, it will be of value in the future, and will inevitably be a factor in all subsequent negotiations between British Columbia, the other provinces and the dominion. In its preamble the minutes recite the call sent out by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the conference:

Conference Chamber, House of Parliament, Ottawa.

In response to an invitation addressed by the Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., to the several provincial premiers throughout the dominion, which invitation was conveyed in his terms, Ottawa, 10th, Sept., 1906.

Sir:—In accordance with the request of the provincial governments for a conference with the dominion government to discuss the financial subsidies to the provinces, I beg to inform you that such a conference will take place at the city of Ottawa on Monday, the 8th of October, at 11 a.m., which you are invited to attend. Your obedient servant,

WILFRID LAURIER.

The following gentlemen assembled at the conference chamber in the parliament buildings at Ottawa on Monday, the 8th day of October, 1906, at the hour of 11 o'clock in the forenoon:

From the province of Ontario—Hon. J. P. Whitney, premier; Hon. J. J. Foy, K.C., attorney-general; A. J. Math, provincial treasurer.

From the province of Quebec—Hon. Lomer Gouin, K.C., premier and attorney-general; Hon. W. A. Weir, minister of public works.

From the province of New Brunswick—Hon. L. J. Tweedie, premier and provincial secretary; Hon. William Pugsley, attorney-general.

From the province of Prince Edward Island—Hon. Arthur Peters, K.C., premier and attorney-general; Hon. G. E. Hughes.

From the province of Manitoba—Hon. R. P. Roblin, premier, minister of railways, and minister of agriculture; Hon. C. H. Campbell, K.C., attorney-general.

From the province of British Columbia—Hon. Richard McBride, premier, and minister of mines.

From the province of Saskatchewan—Hon. Walter Scott, premier; Hon. J. A. C. C. Rutherford, premier; Hon. C. W. Cross, K.C., attorney-general.

The above named gentlemen were relieved on behalf of the government of Canada by: Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., first minister; Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance; Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, K.C., minister of justice; Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, K.C., postmaster-general.

It was moved by the Hon. Mr. Whitney, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Roblin, that the Hon. Lomer Gouin be chairman of the joint conference.

Hon. Mr. Gouin accordingly took the chair.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier briefly expressed the pleasure of his chief and of his ministers at meeting the provincial premiers and their colleagues, and said that his government would be glad to discuss with them whatever proposals they might after conference among themselves, agree in submitting.

Hon. Mr. Gouin returned thanks for the honor done him in electing him to the chairmanship of the joint conference, and expressed on behalf of himself and colleagues his appreciation of the welcome accorded them by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Hon. Messrs. Roblin, Whitney, Tweedie, Rutherford, Peters, McBride and Scott, followed to the same effect.

CONFERENCE MINUTES

OFFICIAL REPORT OF "BETTER TERMS" DEBATE

McBRIDE'S FAILURE TO GRASP B. C.'S OPPORTUNITY.

(Continued From First Page.)

Conference Chamber, Ottawa, October 10th, 1906.

The chairman of the joint conference took the chair at 11 o'clock, when all the members present at the sitting on the 8th inst. were convened, and in addition thereto, as representing the province of Nova Scotia, the Hon. G. H. Murray, premier and provincial secretary, and the Hon. Arthur Drysdale, attorney-general; also the Hon. Adelaide Turgeon, C.M.G., minister of lands and

forests in the provincial government of Quebec.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier proposed that Mr. C. H. Campbell, and Mr. Jos. Pope, C.M.G., under secretary of state, be appointed secretaries of the joint conference, which was agreed to.

The chairman handed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier certain resolutions of the inter-provincial conference, which are as follows:

Whereas the members of this conference are of the opinion that it is desirable in the interests of the people of Canada, and essential to the development of the provinces, that an immediate provision be made for an increase of the subsidies granted by the dominion to the several provinces, and for the award to the provincial governments by Canada of an amount sufficient to meet the needs of the administration of criminal justice, not exceeding 20 cents per acre of the population:

Therefore it is unanimously resolved—

1. That the subject matter of the resolutions adopted by the conference of the representatives of the several provinces, which were shortly thereafter presented to the government of the dominion, and which were ratified by the legislatures of the several provinces, except the province of British Columbia, be now pressed upon the government of the dominion for immediate and favorable action, under reserve of the right of any province to submit to such government memoranda in writing concerning any claims it may have to larger sums than those set out in the said resolutions, or to additional consideration or recognition; provided that in the case of the government of Canada concurring in the views of the conference as expressed in the above resolution, a measure should be submitted to the parliament of Canada, and that it will be of value in the future, and will inevitably be a factor in all subsequent negotiations between British Columbia, the other provinces and the dominion. In its preamble the minutes recite the call sent out by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the conference:

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Hon. Mr. Gouin accordingly took the chair.

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only upon grounds of large public policy of a national character—the routing of confederation—that the dominion was justified. It was also universally conceded that the province physically handicapped as it was, would not pay its way in confederation, and it was strongly contended that the province of British Columbia was the only province of the Canadian Pacific railway.

The price asked by British Columbia was too great a sacrifice on the part of the dominion, and that the railway when built would prove unremunerative. Consequently the financial terms conceded to British Columbia were the least favorable possible.

A similar attitude towards British Columbia was maintained as long subsequently as 1884, when the Settlement Act was passed whereby the outstanding differences between the provinces and the dominion were finally adjusted by the terms of the Settlement Act.

The province, tired of delays and wearied with fruitless negotiations, agreed to transfer \$5,000,000 of the best land in the province to the dominion in exchange for the part of the dominion amounting in all to about \$1,000,000. These lands, worth now at the lowest valuation \$17,500,000 were parted with to the dominion for the purpose of building a railway from Nanaimo to Nanaimo, costing less than \$3,000,000, which under the Carleton Place terms the dominion government had pledged itself to build without cost to the province.

The value of the lands was not then foreseen. The treaty of 1871 as revised in 1884, was made in misapprehension of the possibilities of British Columbia and the development to acquire the building of the Canadian Pacific railway.

The subsequent course of events has shown that British Columbia has not only paid its way in confederation, but has contributed in 35 years nearly \$15,000,000 to the federal treasury in excess of what it has received therefrom; that the Canadian Pacific railway has been built, and that the dominion government has been able to build up Canada, with benefits vastly greater to eastern Canada than to British Columbia; and that the Settlement Act gave a realizable asset to the dominion, nearly twenty times greater than the expenditure which it involved.

The government of British Columbia submits as incontrovertible that as the original and amended terms of the Settlement Act, I propose, therefore, that the very opposite of what was anticipated has transpired, it is incumbent, in the light of the developments which have taken place upon the dominion, morally and constitutionally, to now substitute fairer terms for those made perfect in anticipation of what did happen.

This contention is strictly in line with what is promised in the resolution of the Quebec conference of 1902 to the effect that at the time of the passing of the Settlement Act, the dominion government was to provide for the development of the dominion, and to provide in an unalterable and fixed way for the requirement of the various local governments for the time being in respect of the dominion, to now substitute fairer terms for those made perfect in anticipation of what did happen.

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cent of the price of confederation and gets in return one per cent of the trade, (see table page 8 of memorial, prepared by the Hon. Mr. C. H. Campbell, late dominion secretary.)

3. The non-industrial character of the province accounts for the enormous contributions it has made to the federal treasury in proportion to the amount received therefrom. An elaborate statement of the account appears in the memorial referred to, which has been brought forward showing an excess of contributions over receipts amounting to nearly \$19,000,000. This is not submitted as an exact mathematical solution of financial relations but is substantially accurate and represents approximately the actual condition of affairs in respect to receipts and contributions. There is the further consideration that the population which accrues directly to the benefit of the dominion accrues in the ratio of about three to one as compared with the average benefits from population, in other sections of Canada.

4. The geographical position of the dominion also handicaps it in relation to the products which it sells. This is true for the most part of foreign exports of lumber, of fish and of minerals to the dominion government in a new light, and while I am not prepared to express any final opinion, I can say at once that such a recommendation of the conference would have great weight with us and we should feel bound to give it further consideration. While I give you this expression of my own views and of the views of my colleagues who are here with me, I shall, if you will permit me, offer a suggestion. I propose, therefore, that the part of the conference to recognize that the conditions in British Columbia, owing to the vastness of the territory, its mountainous character, and the remoteness of its population, create exceptional difficulties which should be taken into consideration in the adjustment of the distribution of the grants in aid of provincial governments.

The chairman of the conference announced that this question had been considered by the interprovincial conference and that the various premiers had come to the conclusion to propose to their legislatures to repeal the tax.

Some discussion was had on the subject of fisheries, in the course of which Sir Wilfrid Laurier dwelt on the inconvenience resulting from the divided jurisdiction which at present existed.

The joint conference adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

KILLED BY TREES

Moyle, Dec. 1