

POWER PLANT

Where the City is Standing Today

REPORT BY THE COMPANY

MUST BE A CLOSE DOWN FOR A MONTH—NELSON MUST FALL BACK UPON W. K. P. & L. CO.—VERBAL BARGAIN FOR A RETAINING FEE.

There was a protracted and fully attended special meeting of the city council held last night to consider the situation of the city's power plant. R. H. Zavits of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific company was present and presented a report and at a later time Lorne Campbell of the West Kootenay Power and Light company was also present. Certain difficulties were outlined and the council adjourned until this evening at 8 o'clock in order to deal with the matter, the meeting of last night being only an informal one.

Manager Zavits reported that he had made during the past few weeks a thorough examination of the city power plant and had come to the conclusion that there was nothing wrong with the governor but that the water gates required adjustment. These gates fitted so tightly as to get up a steam pressure that the governor could not well overcome and in consequence as soon as the load amounted to 300 kilowatts, less than half of the capacity of the plant, the gates began "hunting," that is to say, varying in speed. He wanted the city to close down for a period of from 10 to 30 days and to do so at its own expense or, at all events, to meet the installing company in the matter.

On being questioned, Mr. Zavits could not explain why A. Pfau, the expert who had examined the faulty machinery earlier in the year, had said nothing about the gates, but had merely stated that a more powerful governor was wanted although he admitted that Mr. Pfau was probably one of the designers of the governor.

Mr. Zavits maintained that the city should pay its proportion of the expense of shutting down the plant on the ground that there were certain arts which were defective which the city must make good. These Mr. Zavits declared would take good, if it not quite as much time as the adjusting of the water gates. The defective parts alluded to were the strengthening of the supports of the main shafting, which Mr. Zavits asserted were not according to the plans, and the relasting of the draught tube which had gone out because the grouting which the city had done was defective and because the draught tube had not been anchored, as had been called for by the plans.

On behalf of the city it was asserted that the supporting of the main shaft was done by the city according to plans, that the grouting of the draught tube was satisfactory. On the other hand, while the draught tube should have been anchored, but as the produced plans showed, there was no anchoring called for.

"The city electrician was of the opinion that the grouting referred to was not good and could not well be shortened and that it could be put in place inside of ten days."

The strengthening of the supports of the main shaft could be done within two or three days. On the other hand the adjustment of the water gates could be done within 14 days.

Mr. Zavits pointed out that the company had not asked the city to take over the plant, as it was incomplete and therefore were within their rights in asking for the plant to be taken away and some of the business and instruments had been taken away and the plant neglected and further conceded that it would be a costly job to put it in working order again.

In reference to another matter, Mr. Brown said that he was satisfied that if the plant were completed, would be in a position to supply the Canada Zinc company with 600 h.p. daily, and yet keep up the ordinary service of the city, the only time there would be any trouble being between dusk and six o'clock in the evening and according to Mr. Brown's estimate of the possible overload on the power plant and the time while that overload could be carried, with the plant properly completed, there should be no difficulty in doing this.

It then transpired that 600 h.p. was what the zinc company, which assured the council that it would be in operation in February next, wants as an initial load, but that further on in the winter it will be in a position to take very much more power and therefore be in a position to guarantee the city practically the expense of putting in a second unit and thus having a margin of profit in the municipal power plant. In return the city is to furnish power at \$15 per horse power per month.

At this juncture Mr. Campbell came in and in reply to a query said that he was prepared to give the city all the power it wanted for any length of time at \$46 per horse power, about \$3000 per month, as long as the city paid him a retaining fee of \$1000 a year for possessing his power plant as an auxiliary to the city.

This demanded an explanation and it transpired that early in the year ex-city electrician Dickson had recommended that the West Kootenay Power and Light Co. be paid such a sum as a sort of insurance

against any accident happening to the city plant, it not having a second unit that also would have thought favorably and still thought favorably of the scheme and that a verbal arrangement had been entered into between the mayor and Mr. Campbell, which verbal arrangement both gentlemen admitted, that this retaining of \$1000 should be paid from year to year, from council to council.

On the other hand it was urged that during the past year while the city had sometimes used the power of the West Kootenay Power and Light Co., yet on other occasions the company had done the same with the city. Mr. Campbell admitted this but said that as no charge had been made on either side the benefits might be said to be reciprocal, but for all that he had at all times, under the idea that he was to receive his \$1000, held his part an auxiliary to the city. When the Hall Mines smelter had closed down he had first endeavored to get information from them as to whether that shut down was temporary or permanent and failing to get that information had acquiesced the city that four months after date, that is to say on January 21 next, he could not keep up the arrangement whereby he paid half of the cost of the substitution. He was still paying half the cost under his contract, quite distinct from the auxiliary idea, although the smelter is no longer running, but was not kicking on that account.

Mr. Campbell went on to say that he intended to make his line from Bonington and his apparatus at the substitution pay for themselves by business, but did not wish to be understood that he was seeking that business in Nelson.

Ald. Belous was of the opinion that if the city were driven to it, it could run on gas, kerosene and candles during the shut down of the power plant and that the motor users could fall back on water. He incidentally was said that the city electrician had been asking for a couple of tons of copper wire which had been offered him at 15 cents a pound f.o.b. Boston. Having said these facts before them, the city fathers adjourned at 10:30 o'clock until this evening at 8 o'clock in the city hall.

SOME ANCIENT HISTORY

B. C. WAS RENTED TO HUDSON'S BAY CO. FOR \$185.

THE ALASKA-YUKON PACIFIC EXPOSITION.

(Special to The Daily News) Winnipeg, Nov. 29.—The preparations for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition attracts some attention to British Columbia but it is not generally known that this province was once rented to the Hudson's Bay Co. for seven shillings or \$1.85 in American currency, per annum. This was in 1849.

The Hudson's Bay Co. had been driven out of Quebec by the British commercial sense told them British statesmen were beginning to direct their attention to that portion of Canada lying between the Rocky mountains and the Pacific coast. The directors, therefore, laid plans to secure their power while seemingly allowing the government to stand upon its own feet. By a curious coincidence the man at the head of the Hudson's Bay Co. affairs was Earl Grey, an ancestor of the present governor general of Canada. While satisfied with obtaining practical sovereignty of British Columbia for a time, the company aimed higher. It intended that "willing" to undertake the government and colonization of all the territories belonging to the crown in British North America and receive a grant accordingly.

So starting a suggestion naturally staggered Downing street, even in those days when it was customary to refer to "those wretched colonies" and the crown promptly suspended negotiations. After an interval the company returned to the attack with the more modest request that it was willing to accept that portion of Canada lying between the Rockies and the Pacific or even Vancouver Island alone, although it remarked that "placing all that territory north of the 49th parallel would have simplified arrangements."

Despite the strenuous opposition of Gladstone and the leading London newspapers the Hudson's Bay company was made lord and master of Vancouver Island subject to the domination of the British crown and upon the payment of seven shillings annually as rentals. This charter was dated January 13, 1849 and stated that the grant was "forever." The events showed the opposition had some grounds for their position as the "forever" only lasted nine years. The great year of gold, 1858, practically saw the last of the Hudson's Bay Co. as lord and master of the Pacific coast province.

At the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition British Columbia will probably be represented by a building which will cost fifty thousand times as much as the whole province was rented for fifty years ago.

KOOTENAY'S ATTRACTIONS

Need Pay Better Advertising in the West's Metropolises.

Editor The Daily News.—Could not the Kootenay Fruit Growers' association or other body take up the matter of having from time to time a case of apples or other fruit sent to the Canadian emigration offices, London, for exhibition? It would bring very good results. The office is at one of the busiest corners of the city, and it is rare that there is not a bunch of people collected in front looking at the specimens of grain and vegetables from western Canada. In conversation with the commissioner of immigration he said that hundreds of people called to enquire as to fruit growing in British Columbia, and that a small exhibit of fruit, together with a few thousand

single sheet, pamphlets, showing conditions with the subject would be most effective. The B. C. office is unquestionably doing good work, but being away upstairs on a side street it does not attract the attention that the other office does. Despite these drawbacks there is a steady flow of people to the B. C. office, resulting later in many good settlers, but I believe that special leaflets, for exhibit at the London office would do much good at very small cost. The exhibition of provincial fruit now on in which, by the way, Kootenay is very inadequately represented, is attracting much interest at the Crystal Palace and other places where shown. In the permanent Canadian exhibit at the Crystal Palace B. C. fruit is represented by three or four sick looking jars of preserved specimens.

If the people of the Kootenays realized the number of most desirable, well-to-do people that leave here every year as settlers for parts of the globe, possessing nothing like the attractiveness that the Kootenays do, and who with a little judicious work could have the power, information brought to their notice, that certain something would be done. The booklets issued by the provincial government, while excellent in their way, are better adapted for the people who already know something of the province.

Yours truly,
VISITOR FROM THE KOOTENAYS,
London, S. W., Nov. 13, 1907.

DARING BANK ROBBERY

TWO MEN HELD UP THE ENTIRE OFFICE STAFF.

IMPRISONED OFFICERS RESCUED JUST IN TIME.

Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 28.—The state bank at Clinton was held up and robbed of \$2000 in coin late today by two men who made the robbery a most daring one. The men of Butte in putting into force a sliding scale of wages, rising and falling with the rise and fall of copper, yesterday called a meeting and at that meeting it was decided to put the vote today among the employees of the mines the question as to whether a cut in wages had not better be voluntarily proposed. It is understood that there has been no official expressed desire to this effect coming from the employers although there may have been, as rumored, some undercurrent in that direction. If the action of the men today shows that they are willing to assist in the strike, the employers will feel that there may be found a solution of the whole question.

Appended will be found the ore shipments and the GRANBY RECENTS for the past week and year to date in tons.

BOUNDARY SHIPMENTS

Mine	Week	Year
Snowshoe	1,273	123,382
Other mines	1,038	103,148
Total	2,311	226,530

ROSSLAND SHIPMENTS

Mine	Week	Year
Centre Star	423	113,302
Le Roi	1,476	101,629
Black Diamond	23	2,735
Other mines	23	11,475
Total	1,545	228,143

SLOAN-KOOTENAY SHIPMENTS

Mine	Week	Year
Sullivan	600	28,300
La Placa	39	3,263
La Placa, milled	436	19,976
St. Eugene	330	22,366
Whitewater	22	1,440
Whitewater, milled	500	14,400
Queen	34	494
Queen, milled	185	5,065
2nd Relief	23	6,670
Second Relief, milled	146	6,336
Silver Dollar, milled	250	5,700
Montezuma, milled	130	3,140
North Star	75	2,400
Black Diamond	23	2,147
Vancouver	21	719
Standard	23	629
Ruth	63	482
Rambler-Cariboo	23	266
Granite	23	259
Yukon	23	40
Black Diamond	15	32
New Jerusalem	20	20
St. Eugene	1	1
Other mines	1	16,372
Total	3,689	156,714

TRAIL SMELTER RECEIPTS

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ROSSLAND SITUATION

Mining to Vancouver, Tuesday, on Reduction of Wages Question.
Rossland, Nov. 28.—The Rossland Miners' union will hold a referendum vote tomorrow for the purpose of determining whether or not the present scale of wages will be decreased to the scale which prevailed prior to July 1 of this year. The scale at that time provided for \$3.50 a day for miners, instead of \$4 as at present. Other workers around the mines will have their wages reduced in like proportion if the vote is in the affirmative. The low price of metals has cut down the profits of the mines to such an extent that it is claimed they cannot be operated until the present scale is reduced, and the mines may close down if the old scale is not adopted.

A BIG ISSUE

Important Meeting of Miners in Rossland

MAY SOLVE DIFFICULTIES

OUTPUT OF KOOTENAY-YALE PROPERTIES SMALLER THIS WEEK THAN THEY HAVE BEEN FOR MANY YEARS—SLOCA, NOT APPRECIABLY AFFECTED.

The output of the mines of southeastern British Columbia districts for the past week has been lower than has been the case for many years past. The output of the Slocan-Kootenay district is not appreciably affected as yet, but that of Rossland is lower than it has been average for the year and the shipments from the Boundary and operations being resumed at the large, only mine recorded as having shipped being the Snowshoe and the ore noted is one that was in transit early in the week.

Another turn has been taken by the action of the effect coming from the same source, the miners there, seeing that the price of copper had dropped so as to make it unprofitable for most of the properties to ship, other than their best ore, and having also under their notice the action of the men of Butte in putting into force a sliding scale of wages, rising and falling with the rise and fall of copper, yesterday called a meeting and at that meeting it was decided to put the vote today among the employees of the mines the question as to whether a cut in wages had not better be voluntarily proposed. It is understood that there has been no official expressed desire to this effect coming from the employers although there may have been, as rumored, some undercurrent in that direction. If the action of the men today shows that they are willing to assist in the strike, the employers will feel that there may be found a solution of the whole question.

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TRAIL SMELTER RECEIPTS

Total	1,919	88,524
MARYSVILLE SMELTER RECEIPTS		
Marysville, B. C.		
Sullivan	600	28,200