

ROSSLAND WEEKLY MINER.

Per Year \$2.50.

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Eighth Year, Number 58

IMPORTANT TO MINING

Were Various Developments of Past Week Here.

Record of Continued Activity and Enhanced Production.

Lack of snow on the Kootenay and Jumbo wagon roads prevented any shipments in connection with the first named mine and restricted the output up to the Jumbo, despite which the week's tonnage is substantially in excess of the previous week's output, largely owing to increased tonnage from the principal mines. If the present rate of output is maintained for the last three and a half weeks of the year, Rossland's output for the year will be slightly in excess of 400,000 tons, thus attaining by far the largest yearly aggregate ever witnessed in the camp. The next year's operations should see an equally large increase on the record of 1903 as the outcome of increased extraction of milling ores.

The past week witnessed various incidents of interest and importance locally. At the banquet marking the opening of the week it was announced that before the close of the ensuing year the iron ores of the camp would be treated on a commercial scale by a process that had stood the laboratory and other tests on a minor scale so successfully as to warrant its adoption on a working basis. This is presumably the Hendryx process of electro-cyanide treatment, and its adoption in one instance, if successful, is certain to be followed up by other mines. This opens up a vista of Monte Cristo and Kootenay mountains dotted with reduction works just as Red Mountain will be dotted with concentrators.

The announcement that the Velvet mine is to resume operations and add to its equipment a pyritic smelter for the purpose of concentrating its ore, thereby evading the extremely heavy tolls for teaming, will be received with gratification locally. The property has been the principal mine of the Rossland district outside of the city proper, and in past years it has contributed largely to the revenue of the community and the province generally. Moreover, the certainty of resumed activity at the Velvet renders the construction of the Sophie mountain wagon road almost imperative at the earliest possible moment. Much of the supplies required at the mine will be handled from Rossland, and the volume of this business will be largely increased if the supplies in question can be delivered at the mine with a twelve mile haul instead of the wearisome and costly twenty-two mile drive, partially through American territory, now required to reach the property. Then there is the practical certainty of much mining activity along the route of the proposed road, from which the city would derive a large amount of business. Few wagon road propositions in the Kootenays offer such substantial inducements as the Sophie mountain road, and no stone should be left unturned to accomplish the end desired at the earliest possible moment.

The addition of an expert ore buyer to the Le Roi's smelter staff has a deeper significance than appears on the surface. The smelter's avowed idea is to increase its customs business, and its natural field of activity is the Rossland camp. It has been demonstrated in the case of the Jumbo mine that some properties which could not be operated profitably four years ago can now earn excellent profits, and the Le Roi interests have doubtless satisfied themselves that many other such properties exist and have taken this step with a view to convincing the proprietary companies that the juncture is at hand for a resumption of operations. The information secured about the principal idle mines of the camp last summer when exhaustive examinations were made would seem to be preliminary to the campaign now to be inaugurated by the Le Roi interests. The course of the situation will not be marked by pyrotechnics, but substantial results may be expected to eventuate at a comparatively early date. The effect will be excellent from the viewpoint of the camp, for increased activity means the employment of more men and all the advantages accruing from enhanced payroll.

At the concentrators matters have progressed satisfactorily. The Le Roi Two plant has operated steadily, and the works are running with exceptional smoothness. Construction on the Rossland Power company's plant is proceeding rapidly, about seventy men being engaged.

THE OUTPUT.

Shipments from the Rossland camp for the week ending December 3, and for the year to date are as follows:

Week	Year
Le Roi.....	202,420
Central Star.....	74,026
War Eagle.....	54,336
Le Roi No. 2.....	24,505
Le Roi No. 2 (milled).....	350
Jumbo.....	140
Spitzee.....	480
I. X. L. (milled).....	1,799

BOUNDARY SHIPMENTS.

One shipment from Boundary mines for the week and year to date were as follows:

Week	Year
Granby.....	11,079
Mother Lode.....	2,240
Snowshoe.....	1,630
Emma.....	29,249
R. C.....	12,865
Sunset.....	60

	6,798	859	12,625
Kootenay.....	330	360	4,516
Giant.....	40		3,379
Iron Horse.....	3,276		2,435
Velvet.....	497		510
White Bear.....	25		213
O. K.....	90	33	33
Homestake.....			
Totals.....	8,955	17,004	619,728

AMONG THE MINES.

LE ROI.—

Nothing of a special nature has been reported from the mine for the week ending yesterday. Operations have been conducted steadily along conventional lines, special attention being directed to the deep level exploration and development. Much information of an interesting nature will probably be divulged at the forthcoming annual general meeting, the date of which is not yet definitely stated, owing to the probability of an adjournment being taken from the statutory date.

LE ROI TWO.—

In the Joste mine the usual work has been carried ahead steadily, and development on various levels are described as most satisfactory. At the concentrator concentrate bins are being constructed at the railroad track, and the tramway is being extended to deliver the product of the mill to the new bins. This points to the shipment of concentrates at an early date, the company having accumulated several carloads of the product.

WHITE BEAR.—

Deep level development and exploration have been continued during the week, the 1000 foot crosscuts being advanced consistently. This class of work will be continued. The trestle and grade for the spur from the Spokane Falls & Northern road has been completed, and the steel for the siding is expected to reach here during the present week. This will permit of the completion of the spur in time for the prompt handling of the 200 horse power hoist now in transit from the manufacturer at Sherbrooke, P. Q. The compressor plant will follow a little later.

CENTRE STAR.—

Mining and stopping operations on various levels down to the 700 have been continued without incident of special interest during the week, and good progress has been made with development on the 700 level.

WAR EAGLE.—

Steady operations along conventional lines is the story of the week's operation. Mining and development have been maintained without cessation. Under the head of development unofficial reports of unusually satisfactory conditions are to hand.

KOOTENAY.—

The Kootenay suffered last week through the lack of snow. It was impossible to handle any ore between the mine and the loading platform on the Spokane Falls & Northern road, and a couple of partially loaded cars left on the siding at the first of the week had to be unloaded to await the snowfall necessary to place the road in shape for a resumption of teaming. The ore bins at the mine are filled with product awaiting removal, and the management is anxiously looking for snow. With the snowfall, a considerable quantity of water is pumped daily from the mine, and the supply thus available would go far toward operating a mill. If the supply can be augmented to some extent the company will construct its plant on the mill site available alongside of the new headworks, this being the location which the company will utilize if possible. The machinery for the mill is under contract to be delivered here by April 1, and as it is the intention to have the building in readiness for the plant by that date, the company hopes to have the works in full swing by June 1.

JUMBO.—

The past week has been an active period with the Jumbo, despite the restriction on shipments due to the bad condition of the road. The road is in somewhat better shape than that from the Kootenay, owing to the protection of the mountains, but additional snow is badly needed. In the mine the work of stopping in the first level was continued, and good progress was made in the direction of connecting the first and intermediate second levelling. Four cars of Jumbo ore were shipped to the Granby smelter for the purpose of having tests made on the product.

I. X. L.—

During the week the lessees, Messrs. Craven and Pringle, were busily engaged with a crew of six men in getting things shipshape for a renewal of activity at mine and mill. Some underground work has already been started with a view to opening up known ore bodies, and the mill is receiving an overhaul, the effects of which will be to expedite its operation during cold weather. When milling is resumed, which will be a few days hence, the plant may only be run half time on the start.

SPITZEE.—

No ore was shipped from the Spitzee during the week, the attention of the management being concentrated on the work in the main shaft. This is now down to the 300 level, and the dump is being cut. On the completion of these preliminaries a drift will be turned off to undercut ore bodies already opened up on the 100 level. Some ore will probably be shipped this week.

RUTH-ESTHER.—

The announcement that the Velvet mine is to have a pyritic smelter for the purpose of concentrating its ores has created widespread interest among the owners of property on Sophie mountain. One of the results is that the Ruth-Esther company, owning an already well developed group of claims, has instructed its local representative, Benjamin Finnell, to proceed at once with an addition of fifty feet to the main tunnel. Mr. Finnell leaves on Thursday for the property.

	859	12,625
Oro Denoro.....	360	4,516
Athelstan.....		3,379
Morrison.....		2,435
Winnipeg.....		510
Providence.....		213
Elkhorn.....		33
Senator.....		33
Totals.....	17,004	619,728

SHIPS NEXT MONTH

WHITE BEAR WILL JOIN THE LIST OF PRODUCERS IN JANUARY.

ALSO STARTS WORK AT ONCE ON CONCENTRATION WORKS.

The White Bear will commence shipments soon after January 1, on a basis of fifty or sixty tons per day. This will be maintained until the concentrator is completed, when the shipments will be increased to 100 of smelting ore daily and the product of the mill. The foregoing emanates from James J. Warren, Toronto, managing director of the White Bear Consolidated Mining company. Mr. Warren reached here on Sunday and will remain in the city for a week or thereabouts on business in connection with his company.

Continuing to discuss the company's affairs, Mr. Warren stated that two carloads of machinery for the mine headworks were now in transit from the manufacturer in Sherbrooke, P. Q., and that the plant should reach here about the 15th inst. Allowing until January 1 to get the hoist in running order, he expects that matters will be in shape to permit of the commencement of shipments. In the various levels down to the 1000 level, now in course of being opened up, the mine has extensive ore bodies containing such quantities of smelting ore as warrant the statement as to output. On the start shipments will be confined to the smelting ore that can be extracted conveniently; on the commencement of stopping in the milling ore reserves it is figured that sufficient high grade material will be smelting ore to at least 100 tons daily exclusive of the product of the mill. This is in line with the experience of other mines, where it has been found that milling ore reserves always carry higher grade ore than can be profitably handled as a by-product, in a sense, of the larger tonnage of milling material, broken down.

On the subject of milling Mr. Warren states that his company's intentions in this direction contemplate a plant of 100 tons capacity daily on the Elmore oil process, and that construction will be commenced within the next few weeks, or as soon as arrangements for a supply of water are consummated. At the present time a considerable quantity of water is pumped daily from the mine, and the supply thus available would go far toward operating a mill. If the supply can be augmented to some extent the company will construct its plant on the mill site available alongside of the new headworks, this being the location which the company will utilize if possible. The machinery for the mill is under contract to be delivered here by April 1, and as it is the intention to have the building in readiness for the plant by that date, the company hopes to have the works in full swing by June 1.

Inasmuch as the White Bear is practically a virgin mine in the matter of production, about 300 tons being the total extraction to date, its possibilities as a long-lived producer seem to be exceptionally bright, all of which will substantially assist in securing the funds necessary for the future development of Rossland's hidden wealth.

IT'S IN THE GAZETTE.

New Business Contained in Last Issue of Official Publication.

The last issue of the B. C. Gazette contained the following new matters: The date for revising the Similkameen voters' list is postponed to February 8.

The Bennett Lake and Chilkat mining division has been abolished and the territory contained therein merged with the Atlin Lake division.

Certificates of incorporation are issued in respect to the following concerns: Fred Irvine Company, Limited, of Nelson; Nelson Brewing & Ice Company, Limited, of Nelson; Trout Lake Risk Company, Limited, of Trout Lake City; the Light Traffic Company, Limited; the Pacific Pile Servicing Company, Limited; the Surrey Shingle Manufacturing Company, Limited, and the Trust Agency & Loan Corporation, Limited.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church has chosen Rev. G. Alexander D. D., to succeed the Rev. John D. Wells, D., lately deceased, who had been for 47 years a member of the board, and for 19 years its president. Dr. Alexander is pastor of the University Place Presbyterian church, New York City, and a member of the board of directors of the Princeton Theological Seminary.

General News Of the Kootenay

THE LARDEAU.

Further evidence was recently discovered of the continuity of the Lardeau free gold belt at least as far north as Ground Hog basin. The lucky locator was J. O. Bradley, who has named the big lead discovered by him the Eureka. It is a massive white quartz, heavily iron-stained, and has a minimum width of eight feet. The main lead runs north and south and has been traced across five claims, a total length of 7500 feet.

A rink company has been organized at Trout Lake with the following directors: J. A. Wetmore, N. Abrahamson, J. C. Murray, Malcolm Matheson, Bert Ackert, Andy Craig, H. L. Godsoe, J. A. Wetmore, treasurer; E. G. Saunders, secretary. It was decided to build a rink 60x150.

Within the past eight weeks there have been three rich strikes made on three different properties in and around Mohawk creek, a tributary of Pool creek, which joins Fish river at Camborne.

J. A. Darragh has secured an option on the Silver Dollar from the assignee of the estate of the late J. Best, and will endeavor to place the property shortly in the east.

Cory Menhinick has taken the contract to cover the Eva flume. The work has been undertaken to prevent the mill being again shut down through the flume freezing up.

J. B. Sibbald, manager of the Revestoke and McCullough Creek Hydraulic is getting ready for an early start of hydraulic operations in the spring.

R. K. Floeter and J. A. Darragh have secured an option on the Homestead group on Mohawk creek, one of the most promising gold properties in the Fish creek belt. The property is owned by Mackay Bros. and Strutt.

The reorganization of the North-western Development Syndicate has been completed, and work will be resumed at once on the company's properties. At a meeting held in Calumet, Michigan, a new board of directors was elected and is composed as follows: Edward Ulseth, president; Joseph Herman, vice-president; Isaac Primrose, treasurer; W. Frank James, secretary; J. C. Light, assistant secretary; A. E. Rosenberger, general manager; E. Kocher, W. London, W. Cleaves and Joseph Vertin.

The Oyster-Criterion stamp mill is running smoothly and gold is piling up on the plates. A clean-up will be made about the 25th inst.

POPLAR CREEK.

O. Lermo, Gus Berg and N. Bodin have eight good claims situated at the head of Poplar in the neighborhood of the now famous Winquist claims. On the Hecla claim a 50-foot tunnel has been driven showing up a foot of galena (clean) of a good grade.

On the Vandalla and Poplar there is a 75-foot tunnel which opens up a three-foot vein of high grade concentrates.

On the Red and Blue claims the work done shows up 18 inches of galena of value. The owners have at their own expense built two miles of trail which greatly facilitates the getting in and out of that part of the country.

C. Ehlers, of the Royal Hotel, and some Rossland parties have, it is said, taken up the Beautiful (Buffalo) property at Second Crossing on a \$45,000 bond, ten per cent down.

VELVET MINE GETS SMELTER

Pyritic Plant Designed to Concentrate the Product.

Resumption in Spring Is Now Assured—Some Details.

Next spring will see active mining operations resumed at the Velvet mine and the addition of a smelting plant of sufficient capacity to handle the output of the property together with that of the Portland mine adjoining and owned by the same people. This announcement will be received with gratification by Rosslanders generally, who have regarded the Velvet as the most important property in the Rossland district outside of the city limits.

Some of the details are set forth in the following excerpt from the London Financial Times:

Velvet—The secretary has issued copies of a letter, dated 23rd October, from Mr. Allan Maclean, who has just returned from British Columbia, and is a director of the company. Mr. Maclean says: "After carefully considering the adaptability of the smelting plants inspected, in Mexico and elsewhere, we became thoroughly convinced that a small pyritic smelting plant, with a capacity up to 100 tons per day, would be most suitable to treat the ores of the Velvet and Portland mines, and the knowledge gained by our investigations will enable the company to erect a very suitable plant at a moderate cost. The copper values shown in the Velvet and Portland mines by recent assays will be of great assistance in collecting the gold and silver contained in the ore, and no great difficulty should be experienced in securing a ratio of concentration of 20 to 1; that is, for each 20 tons of ore fed into the furnace, one ton of matte, containing the gold, silver and copper contents, should be produced. Had we been in a position to treat at the mine by concentration or pyritic smelting the ore shipped during the past year, there would have been a saving in the freight and treatment charges, amounting to nearly \$40,000. On account of the probable results to be gained and the splendid equipment that the mine has for carrying on the further development work, I consider that it would be suicidal to abandon or to close it down. The suggestions made by Mr. William Thompson in his report (copies of which have also been issued) should, in my opinion, be carried out. To effect these, and in view of the position and trend of the ore bodies, an amalgamation of the Portland and Velvet mines would be mutually advantageous. At the same time I would suggest that the combined capital of the two companies be reduced to a sum upon which dividends could, with reasonable hope, be paid, when the concentration and smelting plants, now recommended, are in full operation."

Since the publication of the foregoing it is understood that the company's plans have advanced substantially, and that the details of the scheme are practically completed. Locally it has been felt for a considerable period that the solution to the problem of utilizing Velvet ore was simply that of so concentrating the product as to escape the heavy charges for freight, hauling and treatment on the crude output. The company will secure this measure of concentration by the use of the pyritic smelting works on the ground. In addition, it is not impossible that the establishment of the works may have an important effect on the section generally, inasmuch as there are various properties between Velvet and the summit of Sophie mountain that could ship ore at once were there facilities for concentrating the ore.

The resumption at the Velvet mine makes it almost essential in the interests of the community that the construction of the Rossland-Velvet wagon road should be effected. The only obstacle in the way of securing this road has been that the Velvet was closed down. This drawback is removed, and no stone should be left unturned that may assist in securing the appropriation required for the undertaking.

THE SERVIAN CABINET.

BELGRADE, Dec. 8.—Finance Minister Radovanovich has resigned and has been succeeded by Dr. Paskin. This is believed to foreshadow a change in the entire cabinet. Premier Grucic, it is understood, will resign on the plea of ill health and is likely to be succeeded by Dr. Paskin.

LANGLEY FAILS AGAIN.

His Air Ship Has an Exceeding Fondness for the Water.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The Langley second attempt to fly the Langley aeroplane today was a failure. The machine when released from the launching car took a downward course and fell into the river. The machine broke in half and fell into the water a total wreck. One man, who was operating it, became entangled in the wreckage, but was quickly rescued.

FIFTY DROWNED.

Two Great Steamers in Collision With Fatal Results.

ATHENS, Dec. 8.—The Greek steamers Eferos and Assos collided at Rhacata today. The bows of the Phyloros were submerged and fifty of her passengers were drowned.

James H. Schofield, president of the Crow's Nest Hockey League, is arranging for the annual meeting of the league to be held in the near future at

December 3, 1903

Don't harden or shrink with Sunlight Soap. It softens the oils and fats and leaves the fabric free alkali.

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ANA LEGISLATURE.

Extra Session to Consider Butte Controversy.

Mont., Dec. 1.—The leg-vened here in extraordinary today to consider a fair and also a measure giving the right to review the duty cases.

Measures are sought by the Copper company in or-justice, which it asserts is under the present district Butte and in support of this it recites that Heinze has an adverse decision at their

Effort has been made to induce the legislature to form a constitutional eight-hour day, but it is understood that to that body will refer only a change of judgeship and review measures.

Policy is as yet unannounced than that he had called to his city next Saturday to form a city, of which he is to be the mayor, is understood, however, that will make more than a mild to the passage of the meas-ure by the Amalgamate.

R. CHRISTMAS RATES.

PEG, Dec. 1.—The Christ-ian rates to the east were today by the C. P. R. three hundred westerners took of the cheap tickets.

ZOR STEEL, SECRET TEMPER CROSS-CUT SAW

like pleasure in offering to steel saw manufactured of the finest steel, and a temper which refines the steel, gives a cutting edge and holds it longer process known. A saw to cut just hold a keen cutting edge.

secret process and temper used only by ourselves.

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CITY NEWS

From Thursday Daily. Edward Funk, formerly a well known Canadian Pacific man, is in the city. Mr. Funk had charge of various freight runs in the Boundary and was then put in charge of the Larde-Gerrard passenger run. In the latter capacity he was exceptionally popular by reason of a marked disposition to oblige the traveling public and the residents of sections along the line.

William J. Nelson has held the post of police magistrate for two days without opportunity of exercising his judicial function in the police court. Today the record will be broken, however, a couple of assault cases involving citizens who have had dealings in the small courts of late being on the docket for a hearing this morning.

The work of razing the Bealey block, destroyed in last month's fire, is making fair progress, and the major portion of the building has now been removed. The owner of the block has not as yet concluded what action he will take in the matter of rebuilding, but it is understood that a new structure will be erected if a tenant can be secured to lease the proposed new premises.

Fernie is in the field this year with a fast hockey team, and is anxious to arrange a match with Rossland during the approaching season. Jack McLaughlin, formerly of Rossland, is manager of the seven, and the question of arranging games will be taken up at an early date. The idea of enlarging the Rossland team's scope of play beyond Nelson and Boundary points will be generally received with approbation.

A determined effort will be made to convince the officials of the Red Mountain railroad that there is a genuine necessity for action in the direction of filling in the swamp bounded by Washington and Georgia streets and Fourth avenue. It is worth while to point out in this connection that when filled to the level of the surrounding section the swamp land should be extremely desirable for building lots.

The passing of the snow during the recent thaw has seriously interfered with the teaming of ore in various sections. The Jumbo wagon road is well sheltered by the mountains and by adding snow to the bare spots the company have been enabled to maintain operations. On the Kootenay road these conditions do not exist. The snow has run off, which effectually prevents sleighing, and the freezing of the water on the road has made wagon-hauling dangerous, as a result of which shipping operations are necessarily suspended until additional snow falls.

Herr Albert Klockmann, of Spokane, who is in the city for a few days on business, is well known to Rosslanders as one of the largest shareholders in the celebrated Continental mine in Northern Idaho. Mr. Klockmann states that the company is now doing much necessary preparatory work for extensive shipping operations during the winter months, when teaming is more practicable. The railroad project to connect the Continental with the Great Northern system is still in view, and matters have progressed sufficiently in this connection to guarantee the commencement of construction with the incoming of spring.

The returns from the Ymir mine for October are just getting into print. The following is from the London Financial Times: Ymir—Return for October—Sixty-five stamps ran 30 days and crushed 5500 tons (2000 pounds) of ore, producing 367 ounces of bullion. The estimated reasonable value (gross) of the product is \$10,250; 395 tons of concentrates shipped, gross estimated value, \$7750. Cyanide plant treated 2550 tons (2000 pounds) of tailings, producing bullion having estimated gross value of \$1950. Sundry revenue, \$437-30; loss, \$3863. There has been expended during month on development \$4550.

A dispatch from Vancouver says: H. DeKeyser, who has formed a company here and erected a test furnace of 70 tons daily capacity at a cost of \$12,000, has instructed his lawyers to proceed against Dr. Hendryx if he proceeds with his contemplated works at Revelstoke. The works are being raised on the Hendryx process being allegedly stolen from DeKeyser, and fully protected in all particulars by the latter's patents in all countries. His company, as soon as the test smelter has made good his expectations, will build a 5000 ton per diem customs smelter here.

Some unwritten city council history was enacted after Tuesday night's meeting. The report of the finance committee for Tuesday night's session included an item of \$50 to be deposited in court in connection with the appeal against the decision of the police magistrate in City vs. Wood. The committee eliminated the item, and when Mayor Dean discovered the omission after council had adjourned he criticized the action in strong terms. Until the appropriation is made, however, it would seem to be impossible to proceed with the appeal.

Passengers arriving recently from eastern and Crow's Nest points are discussing with interest the recent wrecking near Cranbrook, when a passenger train was wrecked through a collision with a cow. The train was proceeding at a rate of forty miles an hour, when a bovine ran on the track. The locomotive climbed over the animal's body and jumped into the ditch fifteen or twenty feet deep. Three coaches followed, piling wreckage many feet high. Strangely enough, not a fatality occurred, slight scalp wounds on the engineer being about the most serious result. The coaches

were extricated within a few days by a wrecking crew, but the locomotive was only replaced on the rails yesterday.

John D. Macdonald, general superintendent of the West Kootenay Power & Light company, has returned from Fernie, whither he went in July last to install electric light systems for a subsidiary company of the Crow's Nest Coal company. While there Mr. Macdonald installed two 3000-light plants at Coal Creek, five miles from Fernie, built lines connecting the mines with the city, wired the city and started the lights in operation. The load was transferred to the new system and the old plant moved to Michel, where it will be put into operation. Next spring a 3000-light plant will be installed at Morrissey Mines.

The hearts of curlers are bounding high today in anticipation of continued frosty weather. During the last cold spell the curling ice at the rink was flooded and sufficient depth frozen to proceed with the markings. The manager has been able to preserve this ice fairly well throughout the thaw, and a few days additional frost now will enable him to announce the opening of the rink for curling. At the same time the skating ice is being made as rapidly as possible, and skaters will be enabled to open the season after the curlers commence the season's sport.

Arrangements are being made to have a number of the volumes contained in the defunct city library removed to the library at the high school. The pupils in the high school courses are exceptionally diligent and are anxious to avail themselves of every opportunity to broaden their course of study. Numerous volumes now locked up tightly in the old library premises will be of marked utility to the pupils, and the proposal has been received with the measure of commendation which it merits. Principals of the high school, undertake to assume the same responsibility in connection with the books that he takes with respect to other properties of the school, which will be a safeguard against loss.

Judge Forin of Nelson held chambers at the court house yesterday, all matters being confined to the county court. The list was as follows: Kesch vs. Blochberger, application for particulars granted, C. R. Hamilton for plaintiff, A. H. MacNeill, K. C., for defendant. In Day vs. Reed, C. R. Hamilton applied for a new trial of action, adjourned for a week. Administration was granted in the estate of the late Edward Gagnon, valued at \$400, to his widow, Mary Gagnon, and in the estate of the late Ellen Thompson, valued at \$500, to her husband, James W. Thompson. On the conclusion of the sittings Judge Forin was the guest of the Associated Boards of Trade at the opening session in the court room.

Hockey players are invited to attend a meeting of intermediate players at the board of trade rooms tomorrow night at 8 o'clock, when the matter of organizing a Rossland intermediate team will be taken up and proceeded with if deemed desirable. The intermediate team, speaking broadly, will include all players who do not qualify for the seniors. Nelson and Boundary points have such organizations, so that a local team will not lack for players. The juniors will have the encouragement of the seniors, inasmuch as the cultivation of young players eventually strengthens the sport in every direction.

A party of Great Northern officials spent a short time in the city on Tuesday afternoon. It was headed by F. A. Ward, general manager of the Great Northern; H. A. Kennedy, assistant general superintendent of the Great Northern Falls & Northern; H. A. Jackson, general freight and passenger agent of the Spokane Falls & Northern; and R. C. Morgan, superintendent of the latter road. The officials were in the city only a couple of hours, devoting the time to a flying scrutiny of the mining operations on Red Mountain and leaving in the evening for the south.

(From Friday's Daily.) J. Y. Cole was the defendant in an assault case at the police court yesterday, the plaintiff being George Novack. A fine of a dollar was imposed.

A blazing chimney at the corner of First avenue and St. Paul street caught on the fire department last night. No damage was occasioned.

The regular monthly meeting of the school trustees takes place on Thursday evening next. The business on the docket at the present time is of an unimportant nature.

The Canadian Pacific railway's receipts in the passenger department in the district south of Revelstoke for the month of November, 1908, were \$20,000 greater than they were for the same month in 1907.

Frank Boyd expects to sever his connection with the fire department on the 15th inst., having filled his resignation with the council on Tuesday last. No appointment has been made as yet to fill the vacancy.

Mayor Dean turned in a false alarm to the fire hall yesterday for the edification of the delegates to the Associated Boards of Trade. The department made a great run to the corner of Columbia avenue and Washington street.

On and after the 17th inst. the Early Closing bylaw on the municipal statute books permits all merchants to keep their places of business open to the public as late as desired, no restriction whatever being enforced in respect to closing.

The Harold Nelson company left yesterday morning for Nelson, where they opened a three nights engagement with "Richelieu." The company is as popular in Nelson as it is locally, and is assured of a favorable reception.

A possibility for reduced prices for meat looms up on the horizon. F. Burns & Co. has reduced the wholesale sale price of beef by the quarter to 81-2 cents as against 9 cents, the ruling figure prior to December 1. The retail price has not been cut as yet, but this may eventuate shortly.

Almost all the fraternal societies represented in Rossland elect new officers this month, in consequence of which the fraternal sessions are more or less social functions. Few communities in the west have stronger organizations in the fraternal line than has Rossland.

J. M. Lay, Thomas G. Proctor and W. W. Beer, Nelson delegates to the Associated Boards of Trade convention, left last night for home, the principal business of the convention having been disposed of. The balance of the visitors are expected to leave this morning.

The small fry about the city is spending its leisure sleighing on the hills. This season the youngsters have selected the roads instead of the sidewalks, with the result that pedestrians are not continually in danger of being run down. The rule does not hold good in all instances, however, and there is, therefore, a possibility of accidents.

The frost of the past couple of nights has materially expedited the work of making ice at the rink, and tonight may see the inauguration of curling for the season. The curling club will proceed immediately to select rinks for the coming season's play, and enthusiasts are looking forward with the keenest interest to forthcoming games.

Knights of the Macabees last evening elected lodge officers as follows: Past commander, A. Deslets; Commander, J. Partell; Lieutenant commander, Captain Merrill; Sergeant, V. Annable; Record keeper, W. R. Beaverville; Finance keeper, Robert Anderson; Chaplain, J. Swanson; First master, J. of the grade, J. Cadotti; Second master of the grade, Johnson Lee.

Citizens wishing to send parcels or cards by mail to Great Britain to reach the destination before Christmas, should mail them by next Tuesday at the latest. Parcels sent after that date are not likely to arrive till the following week. The mails are already beginning to show the effects of the near approach of the holiday season, and are getting heavier daily.

The I. X. L. mine has resumed operations under the new Craven-Pringle lease. Eight men are employed, and underground work in the mine has been started. Repairs are being made to the O. K. stamp mill, and in the event of a breakdown from freezing, and the next few days should see the entire battery in operation.

No word has been received as yet from the Kootenays of General Lord Dundonald. It is now known that instead of coming into the Kootenays from the Territories Lord Dundonald went straight to the Coast. The presumption is, therefore, that if he decides to visit Nelson and Rossland it will be on the return trip, the date of which is indefinite as yet. It now seems unlikely that the General will come to the Golden City, although word to the contrary may arrive any day.

The deer shooting ends on the night of the 15th inst., but cariboo may be killed up to and including the 31st inst. Grone may also be killed till the 31st inst. Game may be offered for sale for five days immediately following the commencement of the close season, but thereafter offerings of game may be seized. Private families are permitted to keep game killed in season for any length of time, the onus of proof as to the lawful killing being always upon the party in possession of the game.

The members of the Current Events club were at home to their friends at the club room last night, the occasion being the first open session of the organization. The feature of the proceedings was a literary guessing contest, in which the gathering selected titles of books from designs drawn on cards. Mrs. E. A. Laird carried off the honors in the contest and was awarded a handsome drawing executed by Mrs. Cleland. During the evening Mrs. T. Burns Linton contributed a recitation in exceptionally happy style. Refreshments were served. The next meeting of the club takes place on the first Monday in the new year.

Only two voters have been placed on the municipal voters' list by declaration to date, although the registration commenced on Tuesday morning. Practically no interest has been manifested as yet, and it would now seem as if history would repeat itself locally and the bulk of the voters leave the matter of registering until the last few days available. This is somewhat surprising in view of the general interest taken a few weeks ago in the probable outcome of the forthcoming municipal campaign.

The executive of the Rossland Hockey club meets at the Hotel Allan tonight to discuss business accumulated during the past fortnight. One of the points is the consideration of the constitution drawn up for the guidance of the organization in future. The make-up of the hockey team for the season will also be discussed. Lovers of the sport throughout the city are beginning to wonder if any advances are being accomplished in the direction of forming a strong seven to carry Rossland's new colors.

The Procter-Flashburn coal lands in the vicinity of Blairmore have been purchased by M. Fleutot at a figure said to be in the neighborhood of \$125,000. V. Hyde Baker of Cranbrook is

one of the principal beneficiaries by this sale, his portion of the purchase price being estimated at upwards of \$60,000. Other important coal land deals are under way in the Crow's Nest Pass district, involving the investment of large sums by French capitalists. T. G. Procter, now attending the Associated Boards of Trade convention in Rossland, was one of the principal owners in the Blairmore tract.

In pursuance of an order from Mr. Justice Irving at Vancouver, which reached Nelson Wednesday, Edward Tanghe of Rossland was released from jail yesterday morning. The first order for his release was by telegraph from Vancouver, and was not accepted by the local authorities as sufficient. Finally after considerable writing and writing between Tanghe's lawyers and the attorney-general's department the required order was issued. He would have been released Wednesday, but owing to the police magistrate being out of town for the day, a further delay occurred.

The recent reduction in the auctioneer's license fee chargeable under the City's Trades License bylaw may have the effect of abrogating in large measure the effect of the Early Closing bylaw. Any merchant taking out an auctioneer's license can apparently keep his premises open for as many hours daily as he desires, instead of being compelled to close daily at 6:30 p. m. save under exceptional circumstances. This is the way the bylaw works out at present.

If six or eight inches of snow would fall while the present cold snap lasts the wagon roads in the city and vicinity would be in exceptionally good shape for the balance of the season, inasmuch as there is now a couple of inches of frost in the ground. Thereafter in the event of thaws it would be possible to keep the roads in repair by the application of a few inches of snow at points where the traffic had worn down the covering. The section is sure of much snow before the season ends, but at least one mine is prevented from shipping at the present time owing to the scarcity of the beautiful on southern exposures.

The Rossland Civilians' Rifle association is winding up a successful season by calling in all rifles and other government property and preparing its financial statement for submission to the annual meeting of the members. In addition to enjoying success in the matter of the manifestation of interest by members in the pastime, the association accomplished great things financially. The cost of constructing the Ferndale ranges was defrayed, other expenses were liquidated and a small cash balance remains intact at the bank with which to commence next season's work.

A silver-lead miner in the city at the present time on business states that no surprise should be felt at the fact that the lead bounty has not brought about a large increase in ore shipments from the Slokan. A number of persons are developing ore bodies with a view to taking advantage of the bounty, but this cannot be accomplished in a few days or weeks, and spring will probably be at hand before the effects of the bounty are discernible on a large scale in the shape of materially increased production. That this would probably be the case was distinctly pointed out to the Federal authorities when the bonus was granted, and The Miner's informant is sure that no great disappointment has been occasioned at Ottawa.

In figuring on the hockey possibilities for the forthcoming season it will not be safe to leave Revelstoke out of the reckoning. H. A. Brown, the well known curler, who is in the city today, is the authority for the statement that Revelstoke possesses the "fastest hockey team ever gathered together in the province." He states that for months the team has been quietly strengthened by the addition of first-class players from Winnipeg and other portions of whom are holding good positions in the Canadian Pacific shops, now employing about 275 men, and that the club is determined to make the Nelson and Rossland teams hustle for the championship.

Officers for the ensuing term were elected at last night's meeting of Corinthian lodge No. 27, A. F. & A. M. The contest was conducted with vigor, particularly in view of the fact that grand lodge convenes in Rossland during the incoming term. The result of the election was as follows: Will Astlewood, worshipful master; John Dunlop, immediate past master; James Anderson, senior warden; W. Al. Pratt, junior warden; William McQueen, secretary; John Kirkup, treasurer; Thomas Long, tyler. The balance of the officers are appointed by the worshipful master. Installation will be St. John's day, and will probably be marked by the customary felicitous proceedings.

The annual meeting of the Kootenay Curling association takes place here today in the board of trade rooms. Among the visitors in the city to attend the session is H. A. Brown, the "father of curling" in Revelstoke. Revelstoke is a candidate for bonspiel honors, backing its invitation with an assurance of unbounded hospitality, the finest rink in the west and every possible convenience in the matter of first class hotel accommodation. The city has always sent rinks to the annual bonspiels, and with its facilities feels confident of being able to give the Kootenay curlers an enjoyable week. Nelson is also in the race for bonspiel honors. The Rossland delegates are not instructed to back any particular town, nor does the Rossland club desire to secure the event.

Among the visitors to the city yesterday was Dr. J. E. Barrett of Winnipeg, who spent a couple of hours in the city in his official capacity as inspector of breweries and malt houses for the Dominion, his post being one of the most important in the excise service. Dr. Barrett is best known to Cranley, local collector of inland revenue. While in the city Dr. Barrett was looked after by H. Perry Moffat in Canada as the gentleman in whose name action was entered against the province of Manitoba to set aside the famous act whereby the separate schools were wiped out of existence. Under the title of Barrett vs. Manitoba the suit was carried to the privy council and was a genuine cause celebre that threatened to upset the political situation in the Dominion as a whole.

(From Saturday's Daily.) The March sitting of the Supreme court is concluded, only a couple of issues being tried. Mr. Justice Martin will preside at the Supreme court sitting here on Tuesday next.

There will be no service in the Baptist church tomorrow morning or evening. Services will be held the following Sunday, conducted by Rev. F. H. McEwen.

A. S. Carey, inspector for the Hartford boiler insurance company, leaves today after spending several days in the city on one of his quarterly visits of inspection. Mr. Carey has officiated in this capacity for the past thirteen years, and is well known throughout the Kootenays.

The usual meeting of the board of trade did not eventuate on Wednesday night, owing to the convention of the Associated Boards. The December meeting can be held at the call of the president, and will probably be convened later in the month, although there is nothing of importance on the docket as yet.

The public school pupils are now approaching Christmas examinations. In the upper classes no special change is likely to be brought about as the outcome of the semi-annual tests of proficiency, inasmuch as the high school entrance examinations only occur annually and the course of preparation for the midsummer exams covers the entire year.

Curling was commenced pro forma at the rink yesterday, when the delegates to the annual meeting of the Kootenay curling association sent the "stones" down the rink for the first time this season. If the present frosty weather is continued the season's skating will be started on Monday. Good progress has been made with the formation of ice on the main section of the premises and the management expects to open the rink Monday night.

A. C. Galt has returned from Victoria, whither he went on the conclusion of the Kamloops session of the executive committee of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia, as a member of the special committee formed to present to the legislature the recommendations of the association. The committee did not secure a reasonable assurance that its presentation would have the consideration it merited.

The directors of the skating rink have altered the charges for tickets to the following scale: Men \$6, women \$5, children under fifteen years \$3. No family tickets will be issued owing to the abuse of this system in past years. Curlers will be required to pay full price for skating tickets, and the curling club's rent has been advanced \$50 per annum. Caretaker Williams has been re-engaged for the season at a salary of \$90 per month.

The ground on which application may be made to the Federal government to bonus zinc blende produced in Canada is that in the silver-lead sections it has been demonstrated that ore of depth carries a constantly growing percentage of zinc, and that in future steps must be taken to save this metal. The result is the inauguration of an entirely new industry, and Federal assistance would be valuable in placing the zinc industry on its feet.

Nelson's curling club easily carries off the honors in the Kootenays in point of membership. The club has 125 paid members, and could have secured more had a halt not been called in the enrollment of new members. The outcome of the interest manifested in the roarin' game will probably be that next year will see a rink constructed exclusively for curlers. On the start a four-rink building will probably be erected with arrangements for the addition of two rinks should necessity demand extra space.

Rossland is distinguishing itself as a convention city. The annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade has just been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and yesterday the curlers of the Kootenay-Boundary country assembled here for their annual meeting. Among the fixtures on the list for the approaching twelve month are the annual grand lodge meeting of the Masonic and Odd Fellows' fraternities. Such gatherings bring credit to the community and afford the opportunities for the display of hospitality for which Rossland is justly famed.

The hockey fever has spread in Rossland, and a manifestation of this developed last night when twenty enthusiasts gathered at the board of trade rooms and formed the Rossland Intermediate Hockey club in affiliation with the senior club. The officers of the new club will be the same as for the seniors, with the addition of Charles E. Summers as secretary, Al Keating as captain pro tem and the

following executive: J. Preston, D. E. Cross, R. Inches, the secretary and acting captain. The club is open to all players who do not succeed in catching a place on the senior team.

The curling season was formally inaugurated yesterday when the following rinks contested: A. W. Strickland R. W. Grigor Duncan Ross Charles V. Jenkins P. E. Wilson Dr. Coulthard H. A. Brown, skip, J. R. Fox, skip, 10 P. E. Macdonald, R. Kinning P. E. Wilson A. B. Mackenzie R. W. Grigor J. M. Macdonald D. Ross, skip, 8 H. A. Brown, skip, 10

It will be noted that visiting delegates to the Kootenay association entered into the composition of all four rinks. Major Van Buskirk, city engineer, has prepared an exceptionally neat and complete set of maps for the connection recently made between the city water system and that of the Le Roi mine. The maps show the actual connection, with the location of the valves by which the Le Roi water can be turned into the city mains and vice versa. Moreover the exact method of manipulating this set of valves is explained so that no loss of time need be occasioned by inexperienced men. The location of all hydrants in the Le Roi fire protection service is shown on the map. Copies will be framed and preserved at the Le Roi compressor, the fire hall and the city hall.

Rossland school teachers are looking forward with keen interest to a probable visit at an early date from D. Henry Dunnell, inspector of manual training for the province. Professor Dunnell is visiting the principal centres of the province and lecturing to the teaching staffs of the public schools or brush drawing and clay modelling, both of which subjects are initial studies in the manual training course. He is now in Nelson, but concludes his course of lectures there on the 12th inst. It is expected he will be in Rossland shortly after that date.

During the recent session of the Associated Boards in Rossland it was suggested that the delegates might profitably consider the question as to whether the association had not fulfilled its object and was ready to disband. The suggestion elicited a series of addresses strongly advocating the maintenance of the institution. John L. Retalack scored strongly by stating that when the claims of the lead producers were being presented at Ottawa the delegates from Kootenay found that next to the provincial legislature the Associated Boards of Trade of southern British Columbia carried more weight with the Federal legislature than any other organization in the province.

A matter of considerable importance to business men throughout the Nelson and Lardeau districts is now being adjudicated upon in Nelson. It will be remembered that Carson & Porter, railroad contractors, failed in the completion of the Lardeau branch of the Canadian Pacific after having issued several thousand of dollars in wage checks, most of which were hypothecated with business men in the districts specified. The Dominion government held the sums so owing out of the subsidy to the road, and will re-pay the men who honored the orders. S. Leonard Shannon, auditor of the railways and canal department of the government, is now in Nelson investigating the matter and arranging to take up the time-checks. An arrangement will probably be arrived at whereby the orders will be cashed at the figure paid for them by the present holders.

The litigation started in the supreme court a few days ago under the style of City vs. West Kootenay Power & Light company was brought to a sudden and satisfactory close yesterday. The city claimed that the company's poles were really and therefore assessable by the municipality, while the province claimed the poles and wires were personal property and assessable by the province. The taxes in issue amounted to \$400 and have gone to the province for the past two years, and action was commenced to settle the matter, the West Kootenay company being in favor of paying its taxes to the corporation, but desiring a judicial settlement of the point in issue. Yesterday John Kirkup, government agent, Lorne A. Campbell, manager of the company, and City Solicitor Nelson discussed the matter, with the result that the city's claim is admitted, and the issue disposed of without resort to court.

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EAST KOOTENAY SCANDAL.

In the last issue of the Fernie Free Press appears the following moderate criticism of the government's refusal to deal with the lands in part of the East Kootenay so-called "reserve." "The action of the C. P. R. in withdrawing their suits against would-be property holders on Block 4594 is indicative of the company's intention to drop its claim on this block and to acknowledge the validity of Bill 16, which rescinded a former order transferring this property to the C. P. R. The government therefore can have no good reason for delaying longer the adoption of a decisive policy in regard to the disposition of these lands. Premier McBride promised to make known his policy in regard to this matter as soon as the people had endorsed his government at the polls. Hon. Mr. Wilson, more conservative in his promises, said the government could not take any active measures until the year allowed for appeals had elapsed. As the C. P. R. has apparently relinquished its threat to appeal the case to the privy council there does not seem to be any necessity for awaiting the fulfillment of the legal term. No doubt our member will lose no opportunity of pressing this important matter upon the government during the present session. The tie-up of these immensely valuable lands involves the interest of many individuals throughout the country who are impatiently awaiting developments." The Free Press might have been more emphatic and more comprehensive in its remarks and still have been within the bounds of moderation. Of course what applies to block 4594 also applies to block 4593, perhaps with the difference that the interests there concerned are more widely scattered.

But the individual interests involved in the opening up of this rich territory do not supply the main reason for prompt, judicious and honorable action on the part of the government. The whole province is vitally interested. The government is casting about for ways and means of raising revenue, and is proposing an addition to the heavy load of taxation already carried by the people. Yet here is at hand a ready method of very substantially adding to the receipts of the treasury without imposing obnoxious taxation. The development of these two "reserved" blocks would both directly and indirectly benefit the revenue, besides adding to the capital of the province to an enormous extent.

The ordinary observer can find no theory based on regard for the public good to explain the government's dilatoriness in this matter. He can only suspect the proverbial "ligger in the woodpile." Either too much regard for the feelings of the Canadian Pacific or an illegitimate desire to foster the Crow's Nest coal monopoly must be at the bottom of the scandal. Perhaps both are factors. In any event, it only requires joint action on the part of the government's supporters in East and West Kootenay to bring the scandal to an end at once. Those gentlemen have spoken in public and private in favor of the prospectors being awarded their rights. All they have to do now is to present an ultimatum to the government and the latter must yield.

GROWING TRADE.

The recent closing of navigation for the season at Montreal has led to the publication of some interesting statistics concerning the trade of that point. A very large increase of business was recorded for the season, and that is a cause of satisfaction to Canada in general as well as to Montreal itself. According to dispatches Montreal has held her own with Boston and New York in the increase of business, while Philadelphia and Newport have fallen

behind. This is one of the best commentaries possible on the advantage of the Canadian lake and rail routes in competition with American rail routes. During the past season 797 vessels with a tonnage of 1,977,693 tons entered the port of Montreal, as against 763 vessels with a tonnage of 1,541,273 tons, the increase in vessels being 39 and in tonnage 436,421 tons. The duty collected on imports for the season up to November 24 was \$7,325,849 as compared with \$6,583,973, an increase of \$1,241,975.

Of the figures on exports cattle show the greatest increase. During the season 147,216 head were shipped, an increase of 70,023 over the number for that of this year's shipment 44,657 head were from the United States. Sheep showed a gain of 15,136 head, the figures for this year being 60,317, which, however, is far below the record year of 1895, when 210,607 head were shipped from Montreal. The shipments of horses were small, only 273 head, a decrease of 173 head, as compared with last year. There was an increase in the shipments of eggs from 122,526 cases in 1902 to 128,770 cases in this year. In dairy products there was an increase of 290,654 boxes of cheese and a decrease of 196,674 boxes of butter.

The figures of the grain shipments have not yet been compiled, but those for flour show an increase from 599,342 barrels last year to 981,870 barrels this year. All of this, however, did not go out of Canada. Some of it was for points on the gulf and for the Maritime provinces.

THE ASSOCIATED BOARDS.

Much good work has been done in the past by the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia, and there are most satisfactory indications that the Rossland convention will be no less productive in this line than any of its predecessors. The assembled delegates have a large amount of important work to deal with, the agenda comparing well in this respect with that of any previous years. That the convention will be found equal to the occasion there is happily no reason to doubt, and the section of the province for which it acts will be pretty certain to benefit from its deliberations. The best means of securing a clear idea of the past work of the Associated Boards and of the good work they hope to accomplish is afforded by the clear and able review given by President Buchanan in his annual address, which The Miner publishes in extenso today. Mr. Buchanan has very well earned the compliment involved in his re-election to the office of president. The public of Eastern British Columbia will be as ready as the boards of trade representatives to testify to the value of his services in that position.

A FALLEN ANGEL.

The present legislature, with its distinctly defined party lines definitely established and its new blood, marks a new era in British Columbia politics. There is still a leaven of mossbackism, incompetence, stupidity and ignorance sufficient to dominate the house, but we are of the certain belief that it is only a question of a very short time before this baneful rule is swept aside and a really adequate government is placed in control of affairs.

Premier McBride went into office free and untrammelled to give the province the sound, progressive and honest government that the people so urgently require. His party was fairly well organized and all he had to do was to rise to the occasion with a policy adequate to the country's needs. Had he been courageous and wise enough to do this much it is safe to say that he would have carried three-fourths of the constituencies at the elections. He would have had little or no opposition. The Liberals had neither a leader nor a platform, and they were hopelessly split into warring factions. But because he refused to do the right thing by the people he landed in the house with a bare majority of one, which he has practically stolen from the Liberals and the constituency of Fernie.

Never did a politician throw away such a brilliant opportunity as did McBride on that occasion. He might easily have risen to the highest place in the confidence and affections of the electorate. So ripe was the occasion, so anxious were the people for a surcease from political turmoil, business depression, waste of public money and maladministration generally that they were ready to hail him as their political saviour had he but allowed them a reasonable opportunity. All he had to do was to administer affairs honestly, equitably and with due regard for public and private enterprise.

McBride has no one but himself to blame for his failure. He cannot take refuge in the argument that he was not fully informed as to what was required of him. It was his business to know; and he was made to know by a persistent reiteration of the country's crying needs through the columns of

the independent public press. He now stands dishonored and dis-trusted where he would have enjoyed the highest esteem and respect. He has sunk to depths that has necessitated the estrangement of hundreds of friends and supporters. He has blighted the bright prospects of true Conservatism and dragged the party down to his miserable level. When he makes his final exit from public life—which he will in the near future—he will go unregretted except by the few who benefit by his misdeeds. He is a serious bar to the prosperity of the province, a drag on the wheel of honest progress, a Jonah to the Conservative party and a traitor to his friends.

A LOYAL OPPOSITION.

Man for man the Liberal side of the Victoria legislature compares very creditably in every respect with the side opposite. In the first place there is an air of earnestness and alert intelligence to the left of the speaker's chair that is conspicuous in its absence in the government benches. Since their organization under the leadership of Mr. Macdonald, the Liberals have come to the front in a truly remarkable manner. They are no longer an unorganized horde made up of cliques and factions, but a united and harmonious political party who, for the present at least, seem to be thoroughly imbued with a due and proper spirit of what is required of them. It is questionable if another man besides Mr. Macdonald could have been found to do so much for the party in so short a period. His conduct so far has inspired confidence in both his honesty of purpose and his abilities. Again, he has never evinced a desire to espouse the cause of any particular coterie of the party. He seems to have confined his politics to Liberalism in its broadest and best sense, and this has had a decidedly beneficial effect. Then, too, his reputation as a hard and conscientious worker has stood him in good stead. The Liberals today under J. A. Macdonald are destined to early success, for they are rapidly gaining the confidence of a large majority of the electors, who, realizing that little or nothing may be expected from the Conservatives, are anxious to see the other side in power at the earliest possible moment. In this, however, there will be no great rush. Mr. Macdonald and his colleagues are not merely office seekers. Their first thought seems to be a thoroughly loyal opposition, checking McBride's blunders and monopolistic legislation as much as possible, while striving to induce the government to meet the demands of the country. It is safe to say that in the pursuance of this highly patriotic and commendable ambition Mr. Macdonald and his colleagues will enjoy the respect of the people irrespective of party.

DOMINION ELECTIONS.

It hardly needed the Toronto Globe's hint to establish the probability of a Dominion general election being held in the near future. Reports and warnings to this effect have been flying about for quite a time, many of them emanating from sources fairly close to the government. The impression so generally held may be taken as substantially correct. February 4th is the date named by those who may be accepted as very good authorities on the subject. It is held in some quarters that the appeal taken to the privy council by Prince Edward Island against the reduction of its representation leaves the constitutionality of the redistribution act in question, and that in the event of the appeal succeeding the act would be annulled. It is likely, however, that this question will be at once settled by the judicial committee. Good judges also say that the island has no chance of success in its appeal, and that the act will be left undisturbed in its present shape. It may therefore be expected with some confidence that the election will be held on or about February 4th, and the active party men on either side are proceeding on this expectation.

HIGH FINANCE (?)

The statement of Finance Minister Tatlow with regard to the financial condition of the province reveals a truly shocking state of affairs. It is bad enough to be told that the deficits since 1892 aggregate \$8,000,000; that there is a colossal overdraft of \$2,000,000 at the present time; that a further liability of \$300,000 for interest is due in London within the next few days, but what shall we say when we find the government admitting a still further deficit of over \$700,000 for the current year, in spite of its million-dollar loan and its much-vaunted amendments to the assessment act?

The situation would be a screaming farce were it not a serious blow at the fair name of British Columbia. That an intelligent people should be afflicted with a government of such incompetence is nothing short of incredible. We have found it necessary to refer to many shortcomings of Mr. McBride and his colleagues, but never once did we imagine that the premier would be

so hopelessly stupid as to make himself the disgraceful spectacle he is in this instance. He has not only earned for himself the ridicule and indignation of the whole province, but brought the credit of British Columbia to such a pass that it is without a parallel in any other part of the British empire. His methods are more like a discredited and bankrupt South American republic than anything we have ever heard of north of Panama.

The pawn-broking style of finance developed by Mr. Tatlow is preposterously inadequate. In the first place he proposes to borrow a million dollars at the usurious rate of 5 per cent when other countries and provinces with debts a hundred times larger than that of British Columbia, and a hundred times poorer in natural resources, pay 3 per cent and legs. He intends to repay this proposed indebtedness in ten years in ten equal payments of \$100,000 each. The interest will have to be provided for at the end of each year. He admits that he must have \$300,000 for interest next week, and that next June he will require more than \$700,000 more to cover this year's estimated deficit. He has already reached the limits in over-draft accommodation. Consequently, seven months from now he will again be confronted with an empty treasury and have nothing with which to meet the interest on the present loan and the first re-payment of \$100,000 on the same.

Meanwhile, we should like to know what Messrs. McBride and Tatlow propose to do about much needed public works all over the province. They estimate that the expenditures for the current year will aggregate \$2,900,000, but surely they do not expect that there will be enough left of this for a systematic opening up of new districts and ordinary cost of government are met. Mr. Macdonald and his colleagues of the Opposition are to be heartily congratulated for voting against such scandalous methods of finance. They were extremely considerate and patriotic in offering their sound suggestions for better arrangements. The government's disregard for the advice is only in keeping with its general attitude of willful stupidity. We are glad to know at last just where the Socialist members stand. We have always suspected that Mr. Hawthornthwaite was disposed to truckle and now we know it. He has dealt a blow to Socialism that will come near proving fatal to the party in this province.

A YOUNG DANIEL.

The people of Ashcroft are to be congratulated in having such a man as Stuart Henderson to represent them in the legislative assembly. He is a man of sound ideas, and has a happy and effective way of expressing them. He has the faculty of getting to the very root of a subject and does so in a decidedly epigrammatic style. Mr. Henderson realizes very fully that the greatest cause of this province today is the outrageously inequitable method of assessment that is in force. He, better probably than any other man in the house, has explained the inconsistencies of the present system and exposed the disgraceful negligence of the present as well as past governments. It is certainly to be hoped that Mr. Henderson will continue to devote careful attention to this all important question. He should make it a special study and gather all the information concerning it that is available. The Miner is confident that were he to do this he would do an incalculable amount of good and at the same time expose a state of affairs that would create almost as great a scandal as the revelations made last year in connection with the attempted Columbia & Western land grant. The people have waited a long time for the coming of a man of Mr. Henderson's courage and abilities, and now that he is at hand they want him to do his whole duty.

THE POLL TAX.

The action of the McBride government in repealing the section of the revenue tax act that gave power to the Lieutenant-governor-in-council to increase the poll tax from \$3 to \$5 by an order-in-council, is thoroughly characteristic of that clap-trap and shoddy outfit. Their action in this particular instance in no way alters the present poll tax. It leaves the poor man paying just as much as he did before. The government has, however, relieved itself of the great temptation to soak the wage earner for an extra \$2. Although at his wits' end for money, Premier McBride has refused to remodel the present assessment system so that it would fall equitably on all. Were he to do that he would have a surplus instead of a deficit and still be in a position to reduce the present poll tax 50 per cent. As he refuses to do this, the poor man has still to pay more than his fair share of taxation.

ROAD TO PROSPERITY.

There is no section of British Columbia that is not rich in one or more

natural resources, which languish for want of development. The cry goes up constantly, "Come and help us." Men and money are wanted to develop the country.

But as soon as the enterprising settler of modest means appears upon the scene and strikes out for new districts he is confronted on every side by either a huge area of "wild land" in the hands of speculators who refuse to sell at a reasonable figure, or a tract of crown land "reserved" for some pet of the lands and works department. The capitalist is also discouraged from investing in the province by a system of taxation which bears heavily on every industry but leaves the "wild land" speculator practically free from assessment.

Meanwhile the minister of finance admits that there will be a deficit of over \$700,000 at the end of the current year.

If success is to attend our efforts to encourage immigration, the intending settler must be afforded an opportunity to acquire land at a reasonable figure. If capital is to be induced to establish greater industrial activity, it must be shown greater consideration in the matter of taxation. If the credit of the province is to be saved from absolute ruin, a fiscal policy must be inaugurated by which the present great discrepancy between revenue and expenditure may be wiped out.

If, instead of taxing the struggling industries, the land barons are made to pay their fair proportion of taxation there would be plenty of land available for actual settlers at reasonable figures, capital for industrial purposes would no longer hesitate to come to the province, there would be no deficit and general prosperity would reign.

TIME FOR A CHANGE.

The Chamberlain proposal for a tax of two shillings per quarter on foreign wheat works out at six cents a bushel or one-third of a cent on a four-pound loaf.

It is against this tax that Lord Carrington and others declare that "the proposal means that the poor man must go without his Sunday dinner." In England so poor in pocket that this statement can be true, or are people so poor in brains that they will vote under the influence of an obviously false statement?

The great cry against Mr. Chamberlain is that twelve millions of the people of England are so close to the verge of starvation that a tax of six cents a bushel on grain or a possible increase of one-third of a cent in the price of a loaf would force them "to go without their Sunday dinner."

It is time that a Joseph Chamberlain rose up to denounce the free trade that leaves twelve million people so poor that a duty so small that bakers would not be able to translate it into an increase even of one-third of a cent in the price of bread could mean the loss of a Sunday dinner to these millions.

THE PROSPECTOR, THE PIONEER OF CIVILIZATION.

The prospector may be said to be the pioneer of civilization. Conquering armies may devastate a territory, depopulate it or subdue the inhabitants to a certain extent, but they never civilize; the real pioneers of civilization are the men who delve in the mountains the rugged, uninviting mountains or tramp with scanty rations over hot and arid sands of the desert; who dare to tread where the foot of civilized being has never trod before; who sleep for months at night under the arched canopy of heaven after a hard day's toil; whose bones are sometimes found bleaching by one of their brethren on a mountain side, in a lonely canyon, on the burning desert, or the frozen tundra, whither hope had beckoned him; whose reward is the discovery of mineral, perhaps after years of laborious search, a discovery which, when he gets back to civilization, exhibits his samples and makes known his find, results in a rush—a new camp—mines being opened, machinery being erected, and the noise of stamps and busy population of a new town soon banishes the desolation which surrounded the prospector when he slept on the ground the night before his discovery.

Trails are followed by wagon roads, later by railroads, and the freight wagons are supplanted by the engine and cars; the camp, which perhaps in time grows to the dimensions of a great city, has been connected to the centres of civilization by rail and wire.

The prospector has perhaps received a sum of money for his claim or claims which makes him independent for the balance of his life and he may rest from his labor; but away somewhere ahead of the march of civilization, ahead of the locomotive, away from the haunts of men, mayhap surrounded by hostile natives, there are other prospectors blazing a trail for the army which is sure to follow. The man with the pick and pan, with his little store of bacon, beans, flour and coffee and rife, is hunting for mineral, and whether on the desert, in the canyon, or on the hills, the bright star of

hope leads him on, until he finds the magnetic metal which attracts man and which builds up cities and empires, or until he gives up the search and lies down to take his last sleep under the blue vault which he gazed at so many lonely nights and passes over the last "great divide."

FOR CLOSER CONNECTION WITH BRITAIN.

Some of the more ardent Imperial federationists in Toronto are taking steps to form a new organization in that city. Col. Mason, one of the prime movers in favor of the new club, said, in discussing the project:

"The club we have in mind will have as its main feature the fostering and continuation of a closer connection with the Empire, in order to maintain our integral existence as a self-governing colony. If we seek a parallel as to what might be expected of the United States in case Canada stood alone, we have only to consider their recent action in regard to Panama."

The grand chief of the Sons of Scotland in Canada, in a recent address to one of the Toronto camps, also urged his hearers to stand strongly by the old land, out of both love and gratitude.

It certainly looks as if the action of the United States in regard to Panama has awakened a great deal of suspicion and distrust in the minds of the other peoples of this continent both north and south of the Isthmus, and is stirring them up to look more closely to their own security.

AMERICAN DUTY ON COKE.

A strong effort will be made at the present session of the U. S. congress to have the temporary suspension of the duties on coal made permanent, but so far no steps have been taken to include coke on the free list. It is important that coke should also be free of duty. The smelters of Montana, Idaho and Eastern Washington have to depend largely on Canadian fuel for successful operation. The abrogation of the duty would in no way conflict with the demand for American fuel and would only serve to greatly increase the profitable operation of ore reduction works in the American Northwest. It would, for instance, make a difference of 80 cents a ton on the cost of fuel at Northport, and this would be an important saving to the Le Roi smelter there. With the development of the Flathead coal fields in Southeast Kootenay the smelters of Montana and Idaho would be greatly benefited if the present U. S. impost duty on coke were abolished. While the abolition of the duty would of course prove advantageous to this province, it would result more profitably to the mining and smelting industry just across the line.

TAXATION.

The appeal of the provincial government to the loyalty of the people to bear with any reasonable increase in taxation will not be made in vain. The appeal of the McBride government to the people to bear his fiscal policy with equanimity will be received with righteous indignation and a storm of protests from one end of the province to the other. A reasonable system of taxation would mean an equitable system of taxation which would bear lightly on all classes and elements of the population, but the system of taxation with which Premier McBride is attempting to shackle the prosperity of all industries and enterprising British Columbians would bear lightly only in the case of the unenterprising land barons.

SELF-GOVERNMENT AND IMPERIALISM.

Great Britain, Canada and Australia are democratic countries, countries in which the voter at the polls is supposed to be all-powerful. But the average voter really does not study Imperial affairs in detail. A war, the death or coronation of a monarch, a royal progress or journey, will stir his heart, but when the excitement is over he is apt to lapse into indifference or forgetfulness. He finds that his own affairs take up all his time. This is the reason that in a democratic empire the principle of self-government is all-important. It means division of labor. It means that every man understands his own household, his own calling, his own province or country, better than any other else. That idea is not antagonistic to the idea of unity and common action. The history of Canada shows that self-government and unity go hand in hand.

AMERICAN ENGINEERS.

The American engineering profession received a compliment and recognition recently from Alfred Mosely, of England, the philanthropist who has arranged and paid for the commission of inquiry into industrial conditions in the United States which visited the United States last year and a similar commission now in this country investigating educational matters. Mr. Mosely said that he was first attracted

to the importance of the development of the mining and engineering long to America." The typical mining sourceful, versatile and "real." He brings to mind well equipped principles of the science and his success at this is the result of the command and the method, phets of old, the American engineer is held with home as well as in s

THE GERMAN

A careful statement working of the German states that it cannot be the imports from Germany appreciable extent. It is expected to keep sugar will probably be Austria and Belgium many, woollens will be in an increased demand.

It is gratifying to know that tax is likely to be a stimulus of teaching German; for success or nothing left for us to do. Canada could not, respect, lie down under man discrimination which at her with a frankly p

CHRISTMAS SE

The time has arrived chase of Christmas presents supplies is the all This Christmas sees of the Golden City time and care to the stocks than at any p the history of the can next few days these c will be unpacked and the purchasing public the opportunity of a lif from a very varied and ity of selections at pri a revelation. It will Rossland stores are up respect, and that for and price they easily in the East. If there greeted people who have cret enough to send Montreal for their hol they will soon learn that they could have do if not better, right here writer knows that this true, because in more stance yesterday after shown eastern price list higher figures than plainly on the wares of chant.

THE EGGLESS I

It would also be well as shopper to remember merchant who has real er is proud of the fact at the world know. He tries in the leading paper. It is an axiom—a fo on, that the man who has nothing worth At this particular time columns of The Mi usual. They contain e advancements, and th ho thus manifest their rtainly worthy of the divided patronage coppers.

Mrs. Rorer, once the Q

author of one of the

on, until he finds the... which attracts man... up cities and empires...

CONNECTION WITH BRITAIN.

more ardent Imperial... in Toronto are taking... a new organization in...

have in mind will have... nature the fostering and... of a closer connection...

looks as if the action of... in regard to Panama... a great deal of suspicion...

DUTY ON COKE.

fort will be made at the... of the U. S. congress... temporary suspension of...

The smelters of Mon... and Eastern Washington... largely on Canadian...

TAXATION.

of the provincial govern... loyalty of the people to... reasonable increase in...

of the McBride govern... people to bear his fiscal... indignation and protests...

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

tain, Canada and Austr... countries, countries... voter at the polls is sup...

IMPERIALISM.

It means division of... means that every man un... his own household, his own...

AMERICAN ENGINEERS.

merican engineering profes... compliment and recognition... Alfred Moseley, of Eng...

THE EGGLESS HOME.

Mr. Rorer, once the Queen of Cooks... and author of one of the best works in...

to the importance of American meth... by "seeing that the honor of the... development of the South African...

THE GERMAN SURTAX.

A careful statement of the proble... working of the German surtax indic... that it cannot well fail to reduce...

It is gratifying to know that the... surtax is likely to be a success in its... mission of teaching Germany a needed...

LAW AND BUSINESS METHODS.

A London, Ontario, barrister has... been graciously forgiven by the Law... Society for advertising that he made...

Germany has not yet reached an... industrial and commercial equilibrium... A generation ago, under free trade...

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

The time has arrived when the pur... chase of Christmas presents and holi... day supplies is the all absorbing topic...

This Christmas sees the merchants... of the Golden City devoting more... time and care to the selection of choice...

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"Trade follows the brains," said Sir... Norman Lockyer, in his address as... president of the British Association...

In 1902 no less than \$70,500,000... of Canadian imports and exports passed... through United States ports. Of this...

The disparity between the Canadian... and the United States tariffs is now... so great that a very large increase of...

The plea that Canada's net tariff... should be made sufficiently high to... absolutely exclude British manufactu...

Forced by the Opposition, the Mc... Bride government has reluctantly rais... ed the wild land tax from 3 per cent...

Of course it is all right for dealers... to advance the price of diamonds, but... when they give as an excuse the state...

The Americans who stole a boat, put... treasure aboard and set off from the... Philippines for Borneo, failed to get...

THE FELLOW WHO IS IN THE HABIT OF...

The fellow who is in the habit of... swindling undertakers has been captu... red. In so far as the statutes will not...

the English language upon the art... preparing food, has long been suffer... ing from a revulsion of feeling broug...

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

John Delaney, New Denver—If you... write to the secretary of the Victoria... Sealing company you will probably se...

By all means insist that your... script is returned to you. The firm... you ask about are reputable solicitors...

Mr. Spencer was born in Derby, Eng... land, April 27, 1820, where his father... was a teacher. Of delicate health in...

G. A. F., Montreal—We cannot... recommend you to buy the shares un... der existing conditions, unless you...

The Liverpool Mining company of... Montana is hundreds of miles outside... of the miner's field, and we have no...

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Their Membership as Recently Fixed... by the House. VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—The standing... committees of the house have been se...

Committee on Mining—Messrs. Price... Ellison, H. E. Young, Thos. Taylor, H... Wright, R. Grant, L. W. Shatford, J...

Committee on Railways—Messrs. C... W. D. Clifford, Price Ellison, J. F... Garden, Thos. Taylor, Thos. Gifford...

Committee on Agriculture—Messrs... Price Ellison, Thos. Gifford, A. McDon... ald, L. W. Shatford, H. E. Tanner, C...

Committee on Municipal Affairs—... Messrs. J. P. Garden, Jno. Houston... W. J. Bowser, J. H. Hawthorthwaite...

Committee on Public Accounts—Me... ssrs. F. C. Cotton, W. J. Bowser, A. H... R. Macgowan, H. Wright, R. Hall, W...

Committee on Printing—Messrs. Jno... Houston, W. R. Ross, C. W. D. Cliffo... rd, J. D. McNiven and W. G. Camer...

Committee on Finance—Messrs. J... Price Ellison, Thos. Gifford, A. McDon... ald, L. W. Shatford, H. E. Tanner, C...

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swindling undertakers has been captu... red. In so far as the statutes will not... permit him to be sentenced to at least...

A graduated land tax is necessary... for British Columbia if the appalling... deficit which crops up annually in the...

For eloquent, cogent and telling inv... ective it would be hard to match... President Gompers' denunciation of...

Germany has not yet reached an... industrial and commercial equilibrium... A generation ago, under free trade...

The Liverpool Mining company of... Montana is hundreds of miles outside... of the miner's field, and we have no...

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P. E. B., Montreal—The Montreal... Gold Fields has been inactive for sev... eral years, but we understand its hold...

C. A. S., Owosso, Mich.—And Many... Others—We would strongly recommend... you to leave Referendum shares sev...

D. M. J., Austin, Neb.—We are not... in sufficiently close touch with the... Camborne camp to give you details...

D. B. S., New Westminster—We are... unable at this juncture to give you... detailed information respecting the...

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physical and chemical operations, his... intellectual bias being strongly in the... direction of experimental inquiry and...

For several years Mr. Spencer was... engaged in railway engineering, in the... course of which period he indicated...

During the following years he pub... lished many essays devoted to the... elaboration and application to various...

Besides his vast work on this sys... tem of philosophy, Mr. Spencer prod... uced many volumes on sociological...

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Briefs in... behalf of the Northern Securities com... pany and the Northern Pacific Rail...

NORTHERN SECURITIES.

Briefs for the Defence Filed in the... Big Suit. WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Briefs in... behalf of the Northern Securities com...

The Union Pacific interests still... held seven millions of the Northern... Pacific company's stock. Between one...

He says that in this emergency... Messrs. Morgan and Hill saw clearly... that they must depend upon themse...

On the question of consolidation... the Securities company Mr. Young... says: "The ownership of the shares of...

DOWIE REINSTATED.

An Agreement Reached and the Re... ceivers Discharged. CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—John Alexander... Dowie is again in control of Zion City...

As no objection was offered to... the motion by any of the creditors, the... judge granted the request, and Receiv...

The proceeds for the payment of... all merchandise accounts within one year... and the giving of notes in the mean...

Menus and Bedell were found to be... stunned by the upset, but no bones... were broken. Barclay had his right...

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—In the bicycle... race Galvin collapsed for the second... time shortly after midnight and fell...

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PREFERENCE DISCUSSED

Minister Sifton and Toronto Liberals Give Their Views.

An Estimate of the Wheat Supply in the Northwest.

OTTAWA, Dec. 8.—Hon. Clifford... Sifton at the Canadian club last night... in speaking of the Chamberlain tar...

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 8.—The... Springhill strike has been declared off... and the miners resumed work today...

ST. JOHN, Dec. 8.—R. L. Borden... leader of the opposition, opened the... campaign in New Brunswick here last...

OTTAWA, Dec. 8.—Father Fulham... the priest who was injured at the Ot... tawa university fire on Wednesday...

TORONTO, Dec. 8.—The Toronto... Liberal club last night voted down a... resolution sympathizing with Cham...

WINNIPEG, Dec. 8.—A circular of... the Manitoba and Northwest grain... dealers' association issued today est...

WINNIPEG, Dec. 8.—Municipal elec... tions were held today. A very light... vote was polled, owing to the stormy...

Some Documents Which the Defence... Did Not Want Published. NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—At the hearing... in the U. S. shipbuilding receiver...

STUDENTS IN REBELLION. Whole Body of Them Walked Out Because of Suspensions. HANOVER, Ind., Dec. 8.—President...

TORTURED RACERS. NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—In the bicycle... race Galvin collapsed for the second... time shortly after midnight and fell...

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GREAT WRITER DEAD

HERBERT SPENCER PASSES AWAY AT HIS HOME IN BRIGHTON.

THE CLOSE OF A LONG LIFE THAT WAS CROWDED WITH WORK.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—Herbert Spencer... the famous author, died this morning... at his home in Brighton. His health...

Mr. Spencer was born in Derby, Eng... land, April 27, 1820, where his father... was a teacher. Of delicate health in...

He then, too, became familiar with... physical and chemical operations, his... intellectual bias being strongly in the...

GOVERNMENT IN HASTE

The Money and Taxation Bills Rushed in the House.

Opposition Members Effectively Criticise Measures.

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—The government organ announces this morning that the government intends completing the business now in hand by Friday next and adjourning until January 11th. Green stated this morning that the original intention was to complete by the 10th of December, but so expeditiously had business been put through that it may now be possible to adjourn on Friday.

Yesterday the loan bill and the railway assessment bill passed through committee and were reported, while the new assessment bill, the coal tax amendment bill and the bill to amend the revenue act passed their second reading. The premier announced that night sittings would be held next week. In reply to Houston the premier said the lieutenant-governor did not interfere between June 3rd and October 3rd in the management and sale of public land.

When the loan bill had been committed, in reply to a question, the finance minister stated it was not expected that there would be any commissions on the sale of the debentures. Drury offered some criticisms of the bill, particularly with reference to the negotiation of the securities. If they were disposed of by public competition debentures maturing in 1905 would not compare with those maturing in 1914 in value.

The finance minister thought the effect of Drury's suggestion would be to tie the hands of the government. The government, he said, intended to dispose of these securities at par.

Drury introduced an amendment to strike out clause 5, which permitted anyone outside the minister of finance negotiating the loan. He added that it was clearly the intention of the government to dispose of these debentures in bloc to one institution, and he, therefore, was opposed to any broker's commission being paid.

Cotton pointed out that the clause referred to provided for a continuation of the debt of the finance minister. Drury, therefore, on being assured that there would be no commissions paid, withdrew the amendment.

The bill finally passed committee with the addition of a clause providing for the setting aside of a sinking fund for the redemption of the loan, commencing March 1st, 1905.

The Railway Assessment bill being committed, Oliver moved to strike out the clause forbidding all municipalities incorporated since 1895 assessing railways for taxation. He pointed out that under such a clause Vancouver, which owed its existence to the C. P. R. could levy taxation on that railway, while Rossland, incorporated later, had not that privilege. He claimed this was a direct attempt to give Vancouver an advantage over other municipalities.

The attorney-general contended that this condition had been imposed on towns incorporated since 1894.

Oliver's amendment was lost on a vote of 18 to 12.

The leader of the opposition later drew attention to clause 5, which conferred power to tax railways "within the province and without the limits of any incorporated municipality." This, he pointed out, was out of harmony with the clause which Oliver wished to strike out.

Wilson and Fulton made a vain effort to reconcile the two sections, but so cleverly were his points taken by Macdonald that they were finally argued out of court. Macdonald described the arrangements as double barreled inasmuch as sidings and switches in the old municipalities might be assessed, and in new municipalities were excluded from assessment. This clause, however, stood, but Macdonald has given notice that he will seek to amend it on report.

The opposition objected to the railway of lumber camps being included in the bill. The attorney-general, to overcome the difficulty, offered a clause exempting from assessment those railways carrying exclusively logs, ores or coal. The bill then passed and was reported.

Reminding the debate on the second reading of the Coal Mines Amendment act, McInnes complained of the increase in the license fee. He also drew attention to the fact that where before the issuance of licenses was left to the lieutenant-governor-in-council, it was now given into the hands of the chief commissioner of lands and works.

There was a well-defined rumor that the governor had refused to sign leases for southeast Kootenay. The present bill was framed to take that power out of his hands and place it in those of the chief commissioner.

Davidson also disapproved of this feature of the bill, and said that if the license fee was to be amended to lodge the power with the governor-in-council.

Oliver wanted to know if the provisions of the bill would apply to applications already filed for southeast Kootenay.

The chief commissioner replied that the bill had no connection with the lands of southeast Kootenay.

Oliver, continuing urged the government to respect the applications of bona fide prospectors only in southeast Kootenay.

good time taken up the lands there but up to the present no leases had been issued. He did not object so much to this as to the law which allowed companies going in and taking up lands intended for the general good. In some instances these companies were composed of foreigners. He argued that if the law required amendment at all it was in the direction of preventing pop-corn vendors, milliners, etc., acquiring rights which should be reserved for bona fide prospectors. The government should dispose of all doubt as to the rights of applicants in the present bill. The bill passed its second reading.

On the second reading of the new Assessment Act the finance minister said he hoped by the new bill to increase revenue under the different heads by \$200,000. The tax on real estate was raised from four-fifths of one per cent to one per cent. Wild lands were left at three per cent, but the government ultimately intended to increase it to five per cent. Personal property was raised from three-quarters of one per cent to one per cent, while some increases were also made in the income tax.

He proposed to amend the act so that a merchant would not be assessed on both stock and personal property, and to exempt personal property when the income of the individual was also taxed. He also promised an abatement of the provision assessing residences at five per cent of their value as income. The minister claimed that he had endeavored to find some alternative modification of the two per cent tax, having seriously considered including the pay sheet with the cost of transportation and treatment. He had decided, however, to leave the matter open for the legislature to deal with in committee.

The bill then passed its second reading. McInnes has a question on the order paper inquiring if the government had any reason to believe the C. & W. Cancellation act of last session will be disallowed.

MINISTERS GET LIGHT

At Last Find a Substitute For the Two Per Cent Tax.

Squirming Under the Criticisms of the Opposition.

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—There is nothing new in the way of the government effecting its loan, the loan bill having passed its third reading this afternoon.

The amendment to the revenue bill abolishing the power of the governor-in-council to raise the poll tax to \$5 was also put through. It is generally believed that this is the price of the support of the two Socialist members.

The attempt of Brown, of Greenwood, to eliminate the clause raising the fee for a coal prospector's license to \$100 was defeated on a close division.

The assessment bill was considered both at the afternoon and at the night session. A number of clauses were stood over at the request of the government, the ministers being plainly embarrassed by the sharp criticisms of the opposition. It is in committee work that Leader Macdonald displays those qualities which demonstrate his fitness for the post. His catchism of Finance Minister Tatlow today, as to the effect of the new tax on banks, was one of the most amusing of the session. Tatlow, although aided by Assessment Commissioner McKilligan, was utterly unable to meet Macdonald's quiet criticisms, and was forced to acknowledge that he was quite ignorant of the effect of the bill.

The government abandoned its proposition to lands within or without stoner of lands and works the powers formerly held by the governor-in-council relating to disposal of coal lands.

Among the amendments to the assessment bill was one reducing the amount of property which is exempt from \$100 to \$50, extending municipal purposes to lodge with the chief commissioner a municipality, and increasing the area which is exempt for agricultural purposes from one acre to twenty.

The wild land tax is increased to five per cent. The tax on cattle brought into the province or pasture on crown lands was increased to 75 cents.

During the evening sitting, in reply to a question from Mr. Macdonald, the government announced that it had under consideration a substitute for the two per cent tax, and hoped to be able to announce it before recess.

DID NOT SHOOT.

VIENNA, Dec. 7.—The authorities here deny the report that Princess Elizabeth of Windisch-Graetz, wife of Prince Otto of Windisch-Graetz, and grand-daughter of the emperor of Austria, shot and killed an actress recently at Prague because she found the latter in the apartments of the prince.

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Warranted to be superior to all others. DON'T call or write for book. It is free. We are the largest dealers in electric body appliances in Canada. The genuine Karm Belt can only be obtained from THE F. KARM CO. 117 Victoria St. Toronto, Ont.

THE SUPREME COURT

MR. JUSTICE MARTIN OPENS DECEMBER SITTING THIS MORNING.

VARIOUS MATTERS OF INTEREST ON DOCKET FOR HEARING.

The supreme court sitting commences here this morning before Mr. Justice Martin, who arrived in the city yesterday from Nelson, where court was in session last week. The local list is not lengthy, and no difficulty will be experienced in concluding the business before the court before the end of the week.

The action of Tanghe vs. Morgan et al is among the most interesting matters set down for hearing. It arises over the famous Lucky Jack claim, the pioneer bonanza property on Poplar creek. The matter is in the nature of an adverse action, whereby the plaintiff claims the rights of a placer claimant against the defendant, a prior locater. It will be remembered that when the issue first came to light the gold commissioner for the district ordered Tanghe to remove his stakes from Lucky Jack ground, and the order was disregarded. Tanghe was then summoned to three months' imprisonment for disobeying the commissioner's order. An appeal from this decision was taken and Tanghe was released from the Nelson jail on bail procured in Rossland. The present suit is to set aside the gold commissioner's decision in respect to the removal of the stakes and to rehabilitate Tanghe's claim against the Lucky Jack locater. The action gives point to the recommendations from various sources to the government to amend the Mineral Act with a view to a clearer demarcation of the rights of placer miners as against locater miners. A. H. MacNeill appears for plaintiff; Robert Hodge of Trout Lake for defendant.

Another action set down is Dumas Mining company vs. Boubtbe and Pellant. Defendant Boubtbe secured judgment against the Dumas company in respect to the rights of another party to certain mineral property vested in the company. The present plaintiff company asserts that these rights had been transferred to the company prior to the commencement of Defendant Boubtbe's action, and in the suit now under way an effort will be made to establish proof of the bill of sale.

Under the head of court motions application will be made for judgment in Robinson vs. Empey and Hamen & Bissan. A. H. MacNeill, K. C., for plaintiff; J. A. Macdonald for defendant. Plaintiff Robinson is assigned the Hamen & Bissan estate and seeks to set aside a mortgage given by the defendants Hamen & Bissan to defendant Empey.

The action of Centre Star company vs. Rossland-Kootenay company is set down for trial, having been adjourned from the previous sitting. The plaintiff company seeks to recover damages for underground trespass, the defendant company's workings having been demonstrated to extend into the plaintiff company's ground, from which ore was taken by the defendant company. A. C. Galt appears for the plaintiff company, Charles R. Hamilton for defendant.

FIVE BODIES RECOVERED.

HANNA, Wyo., Dec. 7.—Bodies of five men killed by the explosion of gas in the Hanna mine on June 30 have been recovered. Their appearance indicates that they were overcome by the afterdamp.

AROUND THE CITY

The Miner is informed that the information given respecting the charge for ladies' season tickets to the skating rink is incorrect, and that the amount should have been \$4, instead of \$5, as was stated by one of the directors approached on the subject after Friday's meeting.

A drunk was assessed \$5 and costs in the police court yesterday morning, the case having been adjourned from the previous day's sitting. The defendant would probably have escaped with a warning had he not endeavored to draw a police officer into a scuffle by stating that the officer drank with him. The statement was given an unqualified denial by the officer.

Up to date only scratch curling gains have taken place at the rink, but the present week is expected to witness the annual drawing for rinks among the members of the curling club. Then matters in respect to rinks will resolve themselves into the shape that will be followed for the balance of the season, and the sport will be on in earnest.

Maxwell Smith, federal inspector under the Fruits Marks Act for British Columbia, is in the Kootenays. Mr. Smith states that few breaches of the act have been discovered in the Kootenays. He is a well known authority on fruit raising and marketing, and took a lively interest in the recent experiment of consigning a five hundred barrel lot of Okanagan apples to the Glasgow market in competition with the Eastern Canadian apple product.

The case against L. A. Peel, ex-shifft boss of the Northport smelter, is still in progress at Colville. On Friday A. W. Watson, former manager of the smelter, written by him to an Oakland, Cal., sampling works in which a trap was laid to catch Bartlett. It was situated in the course of the evidence that Bartlett's confession implicated

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We Paid \$100,000

Ligozone—liquid oxygen—is the only product that can kill germs in the body without killing you. No one knows any other way to destroy the cause of any germ disease.

It is new to America, and millions who need it don't know of it. For that reason we make this remarkable offer. We will buy the first bottle and give it to you if you need it. We will do it willingly, gladly, to convince you at once and forever that Ligozone does kill germs.

for the rights to Ligozone for America. We tested this product for years in the most difficult germ diseases; then we bought these rights for the largest price ever paid for a scientific discovery.

We paid that price because Ligozone does what all the skill in the world cannot do without it. Any drug that kills germs is a poison to you and it cannot be taken internally. The best physicians, the world over, employ Ligozone alone for germ troubles; and any physician who doesn't is almost helpless in any germ disease.

Just Oxygen.

Ligozone is simply liquid oxygen—no drugs, no alcohol in it. It is the discovery of Pauli, the great German chemist, who spent 20 years on it. His object was to get such an excess of oxygen in staple

Watson as well as Peel. Mr. Watson was on the stand again yesterday. The proposal to appeal the decision of the late police magistrate in respect to the city vs. Woods judgment is at a standstill. The appeal papers were not made out, but the city council did not grant the funds necessary to expedite the appeal, and the majority of the aldermen appear to oppose any further action at the present juncture. The matter comes up at next meeting of council, but the aldermen are at least three to two against the appropriation to cover the costs of the appeal.

Shortly after the installation of the White Bear hoist now in transit from the manufacturer at Sherbrooke, Quebec, it is expected that the mine will commence shipments. Superintendent Morgan, of the Spokane Falls & Northern, went over the grade for the siding yesterday and pronounced it ready for the steel, which arrives during the present week. With his new and powerful hoist the White Bear can continue development to the 1500 level and proceed with the hoisting of ore.

The new trail between the head of Earl street and the Le Roi mine has now been in use for ten days, and is giving excellent satisfaction. It will be remembered that \$100 was appropriated out of the Summer Carnival to construct this trail, and the testimony of various miners is that the funds were expended to excellent advantage under the direction of Major VanBuskirk, city engineer. A small balance remained after the work was completed, and this will be reserved to liquidate such repairs as are likely to be required in spring.

Referring to the public and high school examinations in yesterday's school the two were confused and the erroneous statement was made that entrance examinations would not be held at Christmas. No high school examinations take place until next summer, but entrance examinations are usual for Christmas as usual. More than that, the pupils eligible for the test have barely another week to prepare for the ordeal, as the examinations commence in Principal Bruce's class a week from tomorrow, and the youngsters will require to labor assiduously in the interval. Several pupils from Trail will come to Rossland to try for high school entrance, and the point led to a vigorous use of the telephone between Rossland and Trail until the facts were learned.

The executive of the hockey club meets this afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Hotel Allan to discuss matters respecting the game to date. The executive will shortly meet the directors of the skating rink for the purpose of arranging for the use of the rink during the winter. The seniors wish to arrange for three practice nights weekly before the rink is open to the general public for skating, and the intermediate team would like to secure the space for two nights weekly. Arrangements to this effect will likely be secured readily. William M. Hood, who distinguished himself on Sandon's forward line, will probably play with Rossland this winter, and McCabe, a fast man from New Westminster, is also expected to play with the home team.

The raising of the Bealey block on Columbia avenue has revealed to passersby a log cabin in excellent repair standing on the rear of the lot formerly occupied by the premises now practically obliterated. The cabin has an interesting story, inasmuch as it was the first structure erected on the Rossland townsite. In 1891 Ross Thompson staked the townsite as a preemption, and in 1891 he recorded the ground at the record office in Nelson. In May, 1892, he built the first building, being assisted in the work by Lewis Mulholland, owner of the St. Elmo and Deer Park properties. For some time the cabin was the only structure on the townsite, although there were, of course, a number of cabins on the side of Red mountain, where the first prospectors lived. Thompson's shack was open house to all comers and it was not unusual for fifteen men to sleep there over night. In February, 1895, John Houston, now of Nelson, started The Miner, and it was in Thompson's cabin that the cases and the eastern provinces. Thompson turned the press for the first copy of The Miner ever published in Rossland.

form into the blood that no germ could live in any membrane or tissue. Ligozone does that. The results are so certain that we publish on every bottle an offer of \$1,000 for a germ that it cannot kill. Yet oxygen is Nature's greatest tonic—the very source of your vitality. Its effects are exhilarating, purifying, and vitalizing. But germs are vegetables; and this excess of oxygen—the very life of an animal—is deadly to vegetable matter.

We spend 14 days in making each bottle of Ligozone, and the result is liquid oxygen—the best thing in the world for you, yet certain destruction to disease germs, wherever the Ligozone-laden blood goes.

Germ Diseases.

These are the known germ diseases. All that medicine can do for these troubles and such results are indirect and uncertain. Ligozone kills the germs, wherever they are, and the results are inevitable. By destroying the cause of the trouble, it invariably ends the disease, forever.

Hay Fever—Influenza
La Grippe
Whooping Cough
Scarlet Fever
Typhoid
Dysentery—Diarrhea

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John P. Vroom, customs officer at Waneta, is in the city. J. D. Anderson, P. L. S., manager of the Trail Creek News, was in the city yesterday.

H. A. Brown, the well known Revelstoke courier, is registered at the Hoffman House. Otto H. Becker, travelling freight agent of the Canadian Pacific, is in the city on business.

Armand Oulmette, a mining man from Iron Mountain, Montana, is registered at the Hotel Allan. (From Sunday's Daily.)

The colored minstrel show appearing at the opera house last night was decidedly the weakest theatrical offering of the season, and is not likely to be outclassed in this respect for the balance of the winter. The only redeeming feature was the performance of Professor Wheeler, an exceptionally clever pianist in ragtime selections.

The executive of the Hockey club met on Sunday afternoon and discussed the affairs of the organization at some length without taking any definite action on the various matters under advisement. One of the questions to be decided at an early date is that of the terms under which the intermediate players are to be taken under the wing of the senior club.

Charles Blise is under summons to appear at the police court this morning on a charge of aggravated assault preferred by a Mrs. Sullivan. The complainant certainly received a terrible beating from someone, and this morning's proceedings in court will determine the question of Blise's connection with the matter.

The rink could not be prepared for skating last night, but tonight may see the institution open to skaters. The enthusiasts among skaters are taking advantage of the skating on the low level Black Bear pond, although the ice is filled with air holes and more than one venturesome skater has been ducked. The depth of water in the centre of the pond is said to be fifteen feet.

The sale of real property to recover delinquent taxes takes place today at the court house, John Kinup, assessing the real estate, presiding. The offering includes about 250 parcels of land, including town lots in Trail, Phoenix, Midway and additions to Greenwood, and farm lands elsewhere in Rossland assessment district. Originally 396 parcels were redeemed up to last night. The terms of the sale are spot cash, and possession of the property passes at once to the purchaser under the tax sale, although title does not revert until the expiry of the two years redemption period.

Scratch matches took place among the curlers yesterday. The drawing for club rinks has not taken place, and the date for the drawing is not settled. The managers of the curling club have a difference with the management of the skating rink as to the rental for the curling privileges. In former years the curlers paid \$450 for the season and the rink management raised the rent to \$500 per season, on the ground that a large expenditure had been incurred in improvements, without which the rink could not have been opened, and that the increased rent is trifling when distributed over seventy curlers, while it will help to assure the rink company of sufficient returns from the institution to pay for repairs made. At present the point is in issue.

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Scratch matches took

CONFESSING FAILURE

Incapable Ministers at Victoria Make a Poor Showing.

Efforts at Legislation Riddled by Opposition Members.

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—In spite of the declaration of the premier that night sittings would be held all this week, the house was released from its labors at six o'clock tonight until tomorrow.

The bill is now regarded as a monument to the incapacity of the ministers, who themselves are quite unable to give a lucid explanation of its provisions, much less undertake to outline any general principle upon which it is framed.

Brown, of Greenwood, made another attempt today to obtain a reduction of the coal prospector's license fee to \$50, and made a strong plea for this course, urging that the effect of the bill was discriminatory in favor of the mineral prospector and the fee itself disproportionate to the rental which the coal prospector had to pay.

Argument was lost on the ministry, however, although the premier winced when Houston, who sided with the opposition, said prospectors were a benefit to all classes in the province, excepting the fishermen on the Fraser, who in turn were a benefit to no one in the province excepting themselves.

Brown's motion was defeated, the Socialist and Labor members supporting the government and Houston voting as he always does now, when in the house, with the opposition.

NICE POINTS OF LAW

DECISION IN CENTRE STAR VS. THE ROSSLAND-KOOTENAY MAKES PRECEDENTS.

MATTER COMMENCED YESTERDAY—NUMBER OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.

The legal aspect of underground trespass and the possible liability of one mining company to another in event of the second permitting workings adjacent to those of the first concern to fill with water, are the points now being threshed out in Centre Star vs. Rossland-Kootenay at the supreme court sittings before Mr. Justice Martin.

The case was commenced yesterday morning, when A. C. Galt opened for the plaintiff company, Charles B. Hamilton appearing for the defendants. A legal point was raised on the start, to the effect that as successors to the Rossland Great Western company the Rossland-Kootenay company had not assumed the former company's liabilities and were not, therefore, entitled to be defendants in any ac-

tion hinging on the omissions or commissions for the company in possession of the Nickel Plate mine at the time of the alleged trespass. Documents of various descriptions were filed in court for the purpose of establishing that prior to the formation of the Rossland-Kootenay company an agreement was entered into between a trustee representing the new company and the Rossland Great Western company, whereby the company to be formed and afterwards formed as the Rossland-Kootenay company, was to assume the assets and liabilities of the Rossland Great Western, owning the Nickel Plate mine. This agreement, it was sought to be shown, was adopted by resolution of the company, and incorporated in the articles of incorporation of the Rossland-Kootenay company as published in the British Columbia Gazette.

The plaintiffs then proceeded with their case. Depositions were submitted from E. W. Strout, mining engineer formerly of the Centre Star company, who swore that he had examined the alleged trespass workings of the Nickel Plate mine and found that a cubic quantity of ore equal to 750 tons of ore had been extracted therefrom. He identified the stope as an ore body and gave other evidence relating to the operations of the Rossland Great Western company in Nickel Plate ground alleged to have taken place in 1901.

Carl R. Davis, general superintendent of the Centre Star mine, went on the stand with a plan of the Centre Star workings, which he described. His evidence as to the influx of water into the fourth level of the mine was that the flow was exceptionally heavy after the Nickel Plate mine had suspended operations and permitted its workings to fill.

Edmund E. Kirby, manager of the Centre Star following on the witness stand. He stated that up to January last he had no suspicion that the Rossland Great Western company had operated in Centre Star ground, and the first intimation he had was from the manager of the Rossland-Kootenay company, who remarked casually that a crosscut from the Nickel Plate mine into Centre Star ground and that a plan would be furnished to the Centre Star company showing this crosscut. Witness left for the east almost immediately, and on his return a month later found the plan in question at his office. It then developed that the Nickel Plate company had mined on Centre Star ground. Witness had personal knowledge of the heavy flow of water into the Centre Star mine, and stated that this might arise from two reasons, either the seepage through fissures or the flow from the alleged trespass workings.

Charles V. Jenkins, chief of the Centre Star accounting and purchasing department, was called to give expert evidence as to the costs of pumping the water from the Centre Star mine from the Nickel Plate workings through the trespass workings or otherwise. His evidence was that from February 1st last to September 30th last the item totalled up \$4284.70. During the period when the Nickel Plate workings were filled with water the Centre Star mine's pumping costs were enhanced \$700 per month, but the increase was only \$300 per month after the unwarranted operations at the Nickel Plate.

The last witness examined yesterday was Augustus B. Emery, mining engineer in the employ of the plaintiff company. He deposed that he had sampled the dump at the Nickel Plate headworks alleged by defendants to comprise the total tonnage of ore extracted by the Nickel Plate from Centre Star ground. His report as to the contents of the dump placed the amount at 2000 tons, or slightly less, making a discrepancy of some 5000 tons between the report of one engineer as to the tonnage extracted by the trespass workings and the amount on the dump claimed to represent the total tonnage thus stoned. The value of the ore now on the dump was placed at \$3 to \$4 per ton.

All the witnesses were critically examined by Mr. Hamilton for the defendants. Today the case for the claimant will be concluded, and the defence commenced. It is probable the matter will be closed before the conclusion of the afternoon session, after which the Tanghe case will be opened.

J. B. M'ARTHUR DEAD

FORMER ROSSLAND MAN PASSED AWAY MONDAY AT TORONTO.

WELL KNOWN AND HIGHLY ESTEEMED IN GOLDEN CITY—OUTLINE OF LIFE.

A wide circle of Rossland friends will learn with keen regret of the death in Toronto on Monday of J. B. McArthur, formerly a prominent resident of Rossland and an active mining operator throughout the Kootenays. It is more than two years since Mr. McArthur visited the Golden City, but everyone resident in the community prior to that time remembers the deceased gentleman with respect and in many instances with admiration.

Mr. McArthur was 54 years of age. He studied law with the firm of Crother & Tilt, afterwards Mulock, Tilt & McArthur. He retired from the firm in 1882 in order to go to Winnipeg, where he was one of the pioneers, and built up a very large practice which he carried on for several years in partnership with Hugh John Macdonald and Stuart Tupper. For the past ten years Mr. McArthur has been prominently connected with the mining interests in the Kootenays, British Columbia. When he first came to the British Columbia he became a resident of Kaslo, where he practiced law. When the Rossland boom started he left Kaslo and came to the Golden City, where he had considerable to do with the mining interests of that place. For a time he was the attorney for F. Aug. Helme, pri-

ncipally, however, in the capacity of legal adviser. It was said by his friends in Toronto that he suffered severe financial reverses by the collapse of the British Columbia mining boom in 1897, which has taken him ever since to recover from. The late Mr. McArthur was largely interested in the Rambler-Cariboo mine at one time, and was practically the owner of the Columbia townsite at another juncture. One of his last ideas was the enhancement of prosperity in mining throughout the Kootenays, the formation of the Mining Exchange, which was to have operated on a comprehensive scale.

AROUND THE CITY

Piet Simonetti, a well known Rossland miner, has returned to the city from the Mount Sticker district, where he spent some months.

The school board holds its regular monthly meeting tomorrow afternoon at the city hall. The only business on the docket at the present time is of routine nature.

A pleasant hop took place at Union hall last night under the auspices of Mackinnon & Schramm's dancing academy. The attendance was large and the program most enjoyable.

The high school is to have the books from the defunct city library. Many of these volumes are exceptionally valuable to students and will be put to excellent use by the high school pupils, who are really diligent and ambitious students. The transfer is approved by the city council on the condition that the volumes shall be returned should the library be revived at any time in the next few years.

The White Bear Consolidated Mining company is making application for water rights on the overflow stream from the Le Roi Two mill. This will help to make up the quota of water required by the company to warrant the construction of its concentrator in the immediate vicinity of the new headworks.

The city council has voted \$50 to the board of trade to assist in defraying the expense of entertaining Associated Boards of Trades delegates. The council draws salaries partly from the duties of civic hosts were undertaken by business men the council voted \$50 of the citizens' funds to help the cause. Last month the mayor and aldermen were remunerated for services to the city in the sum of \$438.

Mayor Dean was unexpectedly called away to Nelson last night on pressing business and left on the evening train. He expects to return tomorrow. Ald. Embleton was named to fill the vacancy. He was elected to the council on the nomination of Alderman Embleton's eminent fitness for the position. The mayor also left a letter of instructions for Alderman Embleton, which the latter very judiciously ignored in favor of his own judgment on the various points arising at last night's council meeting.

The community is not as yet aroused to the exigencies of the situation in connection with the forthcoming municipal elections. To date only twenty-five voters have registered under the declarations provided for in the Municipal Elections Act. Several hundred are certain to register before the list closes at the end of the month, but the question is not sufficiently pressing as yet, although more than a week has elapsed since the list opened and barely twenty-one days remain in which to file names.

No action was taken in respect to the proposed repairs to the fire tower at the fire of the 18th st. It was expected that at the regular meeting of council last night the aldermen would permit the building to remain where it stands now until spring without prejudice to any interests. The aldermen are a unit on the question, but at the request of Mayor Dean, who opposes the indulgence, the question is laid over till next week.

Charles Blise, charged at yesterday's police court with aggravated assault by Mrs. Sullivan, was convicted of the offence and fined \$20, with costs added. The defence was that Blise had looked too intently on the wine cup and was not responsible for his actions. The only other case before the court was that of a drunk who had been incarcerated twice previously for the same offence, and who was fined a dollar and costs.

The opening of the skating season is still indefinite, although a night or two of good frost would put matters shipshape. On the curling sides of the rink the ice is in excellent order, and scratch games among the members of the club are of daily and nightly occurrence. The "Winnipeg Four," headed by Harry H. Smith, is open to challenges from any quartette of club members that desire to court defeat. The statements that the members of the club as a whole are greatly exercised over the annual rental is minimized in some quarters to a small section of the members.

Opportunities are rarely wanting for the aspiring pugilist. The Miner is in receipt of a communication from Fred Wright, of New Westminster, offering to match Fred Wyatt, champion lightweight of the Pacific coast, against any man weighing 135 to 138 pounds resident in Rossland or vicinity. He proposes a twenty round contest for a decision under the auspices of a club or parties offering the most attractive financial inducements for a mill in Rossland or Nelson. Wyatt would prefer bringing the fight off on the night of the 25th inst., and suggests that replies be forwarded to him, care of the Queen's hotel, Vancouver. W. A. Macdonald, K. C., of Nelson,

The Sunlight way of washing requires little or no rubbing. You should try Sunlight Soap. Will not injure dainty fabrics.



will appear as counsel, with Robert Hodge, of Ferguson, for the defendants, in the action of Tanghe vs. Morgan et al. As already stated, the case involves the rights of the Lucky Jack lode location as against the placer claim located by Tanghe. The points at issue have never been thoroughly threshed out in any of the provincial courts, and the decision ultimately reached in the present suit is likely to stand as a precedent on several vital points. A few years ago the question of placer rights adjacent to lode claims became somewhat of an issue in Rossland, the I. X. L. mine, owning the lode rights, and a placer claim, strangely enough located by Tanghe also, being so close as to give rise to the questions now actually raised in Tanghe vs. Morgan.

Business was dull at the auction sale of lands seized for non-payment of taxes and put up for sale by Gold Commissioner Kirkup at the court house yesterday. Mr. Kirkup offered the entire list of 300 parcels to the little gathering of four people, but only succeeded in selling nine parcels. The total amount realized under the sale was something under \$100. The sales were as follows: Lot 8, block 5, lots 11 and 12, block 33, Cascade, to George K. Stockton at \$2.90, \$2.90 and \$3.10 respectively; lots 1 and 2, block 15, Elmot, \$2.65, \$2.90 and \$2.65 respectively; the property known as Barney's Ranch, lot 4664, group 1, West Kootenay, to A. H. MacNeill, K. C., for \$30.50. All lands not disposed of by 5 o'clock last night when the office closed will revert to the crown, with the customary redemption clause.

PERSONAL

W. J. Harmer, Canadian Pacific agent at Maple Creek, Alta., spent yesterday in the city. He was looked after by Oscar W. Dey, local Canadian Pacific agent.

T. D. Pickard, assayer, of Fairview, is in the city. He is accompanied by Mrs. Pickard.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Another Report That Negotiations Will Be Successful.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The dispatch received from St. Petersburg by the Associated Press, confirming its Paris advices, that peace between Russia and Japan is now believed to be assured, was taken to the Japanese legation tonight, where it was read with much interest. In the absence of Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, Secretary Nabishima said: "We have not been kept informed by our government at Tokyo as to the successive steps in the negotiations. Of course we cannot pretend to say how Russia's reply will be received by the Japanese government. It is another step in the negotiations, but from my knowledge of Japanese public opinion I feel safe in saying that the final settlement of the great questions at issue between Russia and Japan will be difficult to reach. Concerning Manchuria the question is left in abeyance."

THE KAISER'S HEALTH.

Ambassador Von Sternberg Says It Was Good When He Left.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—Baron Speck Von Sternberg, who arrived today on the Kaiser Wilhelm II, said, speaking of the health of the German emperor: "He was in excellent health when I left, and in good spirits too. He, however, speaks in a low tone so as not to complicate his throat trouble. Those who are in a position to know all about him feel no concern whatever over his condition."

The baron denied the report that he was bringing a personal communication from Emperor William to President Roosevelt. "I am charged, however," he said, "with a communication from the emperor to the New York Yacht club. It relates to the proposed ocean yacht race, and explains why the postponement of the race was made."

FURNISHED BONDS.

Habeas Corpus Proceedings at Telluride Ineffectual.

TELLURIDE, Colo., Dec. 8.—Secretary Carpenter of the miners' union, having failed to secure his release from jail by means of a habeas corpus writ, furnished a bond for \$750 for his appearance in the district court to answer charges of conspiracy and intimidation of non-union miners. He has arranged to furnish bonds for other union men who are held on the same charges.

MACEDONIAN REFORMS.

Officers Are Appointed by Russia and Austria.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 8.—M. Zonkheff, the Russian ambassador, has informed the ports that Russia and Austria have definitely decided to appoint respectively M. Demerika, the consular general of Russia at Beirut, and Herr Von Hulle, of the Austrian foreign office, to supervise the carrying out of the reform scheme of the powers for Macedonia.

U. S. MARINES LANDED.

Further Precautions Against Movements by Colombia.

COLON, Dec. 8.—A company of marines from the U. S. auxiliary cruiser Dixie, under command of Captain McCreary, were landed here this morning and took a train for Empire, a town on the railroad near Panama, where a camp was established in the canal company's buildings. Another company of marines, to the number of 50, from the Dixie, left on the afternoon train for Empire City. It is probable that the remainder of the marines on board the Dixie will be transferred to this camp.

The stated official purpose of this movement is to give the marines practice in the building of camps, and to relieve them from their long confinement on the vessel. The actual purpose of the United States government in landing the marines is, however, believed to be connected with the precautionary measures now being carried out on both sides of the isthmus, and perhaps also for the moral effect which the landing of marines may have on the native garrison at Panama.

It is considered significant that the point selected for the encampment, while it is the most sanitary on the line of the Panama railway, is also on the trail most frequented by troops going overland to the Chiriqui district. If a body of Colombian troops should succeed in obtaining a foothold in the Chiriqui district it is conceded that after preliminary raids on the country, from which it would be most difficult to dislodge them.

The report of the movement of 3,000 soldiers from Cartagena for the purpose of invading the isthmus cannot be confirmed. Rumors of such movements may be looked for frequently, particularly as the people of the isthmus are more or less excited by the precautionary measures adopted by the United States.

General Huertas is about to establish a garrison for the troops of the new republic at Yaviza, a town at the head of San Miguel Bay, on the Pacific side of the isthmus.

PANAMA, Dec. 8.—The Panamanian gunboat Padilla and the U. S. gunboat Concord left this afternoon for Chiriqui.

The U. S. cruiser Boston and the Panamanian gunboat Chiriqui have left for the Gulf of Darien and Cheep rivers for the Chiriqui district. It is announced that the entrance of the Atrato river, at the head of the Gulf of Darien, is being closely guarded, so that any attempt on the part of the Colombian government to send troops through this river to the isthmus will be ineffectual.

PANAMA CELEBRATED.

Special Commissioners to Washington Were Welcomed Home.

PANAMA, Dec. 8.—Dr. Manuel Amador and Frederico Boyd, the special commissioners from the republic of Panama, returned from their visit to Washington today. There will be a big demonstration tonight.

The railway station and streets adjoining it were packed with thousands of enthusiastic people. Battalions of militia in full uniform lined the streets, which were decorated with flags. Several arches, bearing such inscriptions as "To Panama's Saviour" and "To Panama's First President," were erected on the streets. When the commissioners stepped from the train bands of music played national airs, crowds cheered and several orators made speeches, to which Dr. Amador replied.

Then entering carriages the commissioners were driven through lines of soldiers to Dr. Amador's residence. As Dr. Amador passed his carriage was pelted with flowers.

Panama is celebrating the day with the utmost enthusiasm.

LONDON PRESS COMMENT.

Views Expressed in Regard to President's Message.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—While President Roosevelt's message to congress is acknowledged to be of universal interest to the outside world, it evokes no very striking comment from the London press. Both sides in the face controversy seize points in it which they extend to favor their particular claims. Perhaps the part attracting the most serious attention is the president's reference to the necessity for creating a great merchant marine.

The Standard refers to the entry upon a career of colonial domination, so that henceforth the problem for the government will likely be not how to get rid of its automatic surplus, but how to maintain its financial equilibrium.

The Daily Telegraph refers to the portion dealing with trusts as "sound common sense" and says his allusion to the settlement of the Alaska boundary difficulty is "in the best of taste." The Daily News views with some alarm the entrance of the United States into world politics, and says: "America is fortunate in opening an aggressive diplomatic career with statesmen as able as President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay, but she will not always be so favorably situated, and must be prepared for heavy burdens such as Europe has to bear. American squadrons will soon be rapidly multiplying in number and strength. Let us hope the world's peaceful instincts will grow at the same pace."

A MANCHURIAN BATTLE.

Russian Troops Kill and Wound Many Chinese Robbers.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 8.—The Russian troops have defeated a band of Chinese robbers on the Liao river, Manchuria, killing 200 of them and wounding many more. After the conflict reported on Nov. 28th between the force of Russian soldiers and a body of Chinese robbers at Tachichao, in which five Russians were killed and nine were severely wounded, the Russians pursued the fleeing tribesmen and finally hemmed them in at the Liao river. The great loss of the robbers is attributed to a Port Arthur dispatch to a "panic among the Chinese."

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