HOT SPRINGS NEWS.

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ELECTRICITY IN MINES.

The following summary of what is now being done by electricity in mining questions is taken from a leading editorial in a late number of the London Mining Journal. It will no doubt be perused with much interest by mining men. We have taken the liberty to strike out a few paragraphs to bring it within the scope of these columns:

The problem of how to reduce the cost of working mines to a level at which other than exceptionally rich deposits may be profitably exploited, is unquestionably largely bound up with the progress of electrical engineering. It is, indeed, hardly too much to say that mining in the future is destined to become an appendage to the electrical industry, and the important position taken up in the present exhibition at the Crystal Palace by appliances adapted to all the numerous purposes of mining and metallurgy is sufficient to show how much has already been done toward attaining this end. Mining engineers have, therefore, peculiar interest in the important advances which, in fact, place electricity upon a new basis in its practical application to the transmission of power.

The excessive strain upon machinery which was formerly necessary to produce powerful currents has already been so far lessened as to appreciably affect the cost of generating and transmitting electricity. This is but a typical example of the advances in electrical science that are bringing it nearer and nearer to general application in mining. The objection that was formerly entertained against the employment of electricity in mines through the danger of explosion in fiery workings, from the sparking of the commutators, can no longer be upheld, and another difficulty that arose from the depreciation of the delicate machinery by dust has been effectively overcome. In the best commutators there is no sparking whatever, and the simplicity which is being attained in the construction of electrical machinery has lessened considerably its liability to be affected by the dust. Indeed, there is reason to believe that, compared with steam, electricity already possesses advantages besides that of cheapness, under circumstances that were formerly considered to present the greatest impediments to its employment. Where cheap motive power can be obtained for driving the dynamos, and where it is found necessary to convey the power over long distances, there is no question whatever that electricity is the best force available for mining purposes. The conveyance of power by bands and pulleys is wasteful and inefficient, and compressed air does not, in all respects, fulfill the purposes that were at one time claimed for it. A great loss is certainly experienced in the conveyance of electrical power over distances of any magnitude, but that loss is rarely so much as 50 per cent, and at this point electricity is considerably cheaper, besides being more convenient, than any other power.

It is evident that where water power is available, electrical transmission must furnish a most valuable aid to the mineral development of a district. The Frankfort experiment has conclusively demonstrated that its capabilities in this direction are of the very widest range, and it is quite impossible to say how largely they may assist in opening up metalliferous wealth, which could hardly be worked if it were necessary to carry fuel to the mines. Moreover, even where water power is not available—and there are comparatively few districts where a river or water course cannot be turned to some account—electricity is the most economical and efficient agent that can be employed for driving mining machinery. This seems to be a growing conviction among mining engineers, who are coming to regard electricity as an established factor in their operations. Electricity has no longer the limited scope which it formally possessed, but is now applied to every process of mining, and extensive plants are being laid down not only in this country but in America and on the continent. A striking instance of the way in which the electrical engineer has overcome mechanical difficulties is afforded by the successful pumping operations at St. John's colliery, Northmanton. This instance is quoted by the earl of Albemarle, who says that the plant was required to cope with a salt water feeder of 5100 gallons an hour, at a vertical depth of 900 feet below the surface of the ground. The pressure on the ram faces was so much—400 pounds to the square inch—that very specially designed pumps were required. These difficulties were successfully overcome, and the electrical plant laid down is now raising 125,000 gallons a day. The efficiency of this plant is about 50 per cent. Considerable difficulties, too, have had to be met with in the designing of locomotives for mines, since the excessive wear and tear to which they are subjected would seem to render electricity an imperfect agent. But, as in everything else in which electricity is the motive power, the progress of electrical science has overcame these obstacles. Upon the continent, attention is being particularly given to this method of transport, and several types of locomotive have given satisfactory results. Among these, prominence must be given to one where the current is taken off a copper wire fixed to the roof of the gallery by means of a light metal frame which rubs along the wire. The return circuit is through the rails. Again, an engine is being constructed by a French engineer, which, it is claimed, will transport 25 wagons, loaded with 8½ cwts. each, at a speed of five miles an hour, over a line of two feet gauge. It is evident, however, that though electricity is destined to play a principal part in the working of collieries, it must depend for a great deal of its success upon metalliferous mining, where the question of motive power, and the extraction of metal from the ores is very often fraught with considerable difficulty. Under these circumstances it is encouraging to learn, upon the testimony of mr. Edison, that the application of elegricity to metalliferous mining will soon be attended with results of great economical value.

An electrical concentrating works for the separation of magnetic ores is about to be established by mr. Edison at Ogden, New Jersey, and the circumstances under which this experiment is to be carried out, give reasons for believing that it will afford unquestionable proof of the industrial applicability of electrical science to the treatment of low grade and refractory ores. The work to be done with the magnetic ironstone at Ogden consists in merely quarrying out the rock, transporting it to the crushers, thence to rolls and screens where it is pulverized and passed through a sieve of 50 meshes to the lineal inch, and afterwards to the magnetic separators. The separated magnetite is then loaded into cars, and the waste taken to the dump. It would be difficult to find a mining enterprise in which the technical problem is more simple or the financial question more involved. Mr. Edison hopes to conclusively prove in dealing with it that ore can be more advantageously treated by electricity than by other means. He certainly will have an excellent opportunity of proving his claim, since the rock upon which he will commence operations contains only 16 per cent of magnetite. If the experiment realizes anything like a profit it will be impossible to gainsay the services which mr. Edison will have rendered to the metalliferous mining industry. If there is anything like a solid foundation to the claims that are being put forward the prospects of electricity in the separation of ores seems peculiarly auspicious. It has been applied to prevent mercury from "sickening" in the treatment of refractory gold ores in South Africa with satisfactory success, and a machine for this purpose is one of the exhibits at the Crystal Palace. In other branches of metalliferous mining the advantages of electricity are being continually exemplified by new instances. Electrical smelting and deposition has fairly won a position for itself, and the latest reports upon Elwell process show that the technical difficulties attending this utilisation of electricity have been surmounted. Hitherto, the industrial application is as yet largely a matter of theory. But taking into account the achievements of electrical science in the past, and estimating from these its possibilities in the future, there is ample ground for anticipating an improvement in the processes of metalliferous mining that will enable proprietors of mineral properties to take fuller advantage of the resources at their disposal.

The Mining Department of the World's Fair.

The scope of the mining exhibit at the World's Fair will be so broad that it will tell the story of metals from the days of primitive man to the present time. The story will be replete with romance and wild adventure, with tragedies and comedies, with wonders unfolded for the first time and with all the astounding developments brought about by the magic wand of science. It will be a tale without words, narrated to the eyes. Some parts of it will be understood only by the few, but others will be quickly comprehended by the many. The department of mines, mining, and metallurgy, is divided into 27 groups, in turn subdivided into 123 classes. The raw materials and the natural products to be exhibited in this department will constitute the basis of every other department—except agriculture and horticulture—made at the World's Fair. The groundwork of all the arts, sciences, and mechanical industries, will be found within the mines and mining building. The exhibit will embrace all the useful and precious metals, precious stones, mineral fuel, building stones, clay and sands, salts and pigments, and all the machinery, implements, and appliances employed in their conversion to use. In short, the evolution of metals and minerals from the crude condition to the finished product will be displayed, not alone of this country and age but of all lands and ages from the beginning. The people of our section of the province especially, and the whole province generally, who attend the world's exhibition of products, would feel chagrined and mortified if such a thing should occur as that noted above and we be "not in it." And there is but one way that this can be accomplished, viz., by a reasonable legislative appropriation, thus to allow the work of preparing the proper exhibit to go forward while there is yet time. Next February, one year hence, will be too late.

War on the Pagan.

Colonel "Bob" Ingersoll has finally begun to attract by his Titanic aggressiveness the attention of the Christain ministry. I seem to see a marked disposition on the part of the clergy to have a hunt for a bald-headed heretic, as it were. Whether it is that the colonel is growing bolder as he grows older, or whether the Christian community is beginning to look upon him as a dangerous man I am not prepared to say, but I think from this time out the colonel will have his hands full. He has been recently fighting a single-handed battle through one of the newspapers against 10 or 15 clergymen of various denominations, and he has just been compelled to sue the rev. mr. Dixon of Brooklyn for malicious libel. The colonel is a beligerent man by nature, and he loves controversy. I rather think he would enjoy a first-class fight at the finish. He has the assurance that whenever he chooses to hire a hall and hang out a poster he can clear $1000 per night by simply expressing his views in his own original way. He is the only man that I know of today in the country who could make an income of $50,000 a year if he choose to by simply standing up and talking to people at $1 per head. It is rather surprising that he does not abandon his law practice entirely and take to lecturing as a permanent business. The colonel's lack of orthodoxy may bring him considerable trouble, but it is also an unfailing source of revenue.

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Hot Springs News.

THREATENED WITH EPIDEMIC DISEASE.

Ainsworth is badly in need of drainage, but how to begin and complete the work is a question that the residents of the town appear to be unable to decide. While one property owner is willing to stand his share of the expense, another is indifferent, and another still opposed to making any outlay. The townsite is owned by a company that appears to oppose every improvement that the residents of the place favor, and the result is that the town is without a water system, without graded streets, without drainage, and without many more conveniencies that are actually necessary. Unless something is done in the way of drainage epidemic disease will be the result, and the loss of a few lives will probably cause those most directly interested to bestir themselves. The people should ask the lieutenant-governor in council to create a health district under the act for promoting the public health; then see to it that the men appointed on the board are men with backbone. The result will be that the danger now threatened will be averted.

COMING REPUBLICS.

One does not have to search very long to discover signs that half the globe will be ruled under republican form of government before very many years have passed; and that half will be the enterprising, the vigorous, the growing half. England seems destined to be famous among nations as a mother of republics. Love of independence and a determination to govern themselves have characterized her offspring wherever they have settled a new country. Canada may never unite with her sister the United States, but Canada will in all probability become an independent nation, maintaining with England only the relations of daughter and mother. The new population flowing into British Columbia, Manitoba, and the vast farming areas of the Northwest Territories, opened up by the Canadian Pacific, will bring this about quickly when they have taken the management of the affairs of the Dominion out of the hands of the eastern provinces. Then the three Americas, from one extremity to the other, will be republican. Australia and the neighboring British colonies are now discussing plans for federation under one government, and, when the union is accomplished, a nation with a magnificent destiny will have been born. It is hard to say what heights of power and prosperity such an Australasian federation might not attain, with its advantages of geographical situation, its own resources, and the wealth which nature has poured on the outlying island gardens of the archipelago. The young nation would soon realize its strength, hoist a flag of its own, declare itself of age, and throw off England's leading-strings, adding a whole continent to the list of republics. Africa, too, may reasonably be considered ground where the seed of one or several republics is germinating. From the Soudan to the Cape of Good Hope white men are opening up the dark continent. Hundreds of explorers are completing the work of Stanley, Emin, Livingstone, and their predecessors; and they have entered Africa not merely to solve problems, but to establish commerce and agriculture. The progress of the last few years, great as it has been, will be vastly accelerated by the railroads now building; the white colonization of Africa will not be long delayed. It is Englishmen and Germans who are doing this, Englishmen chiefly. One of these races will probably control the Congo state in time, and settle all neutrality questions by turning it into a republic. Agents of the British East and South Africa Companies, of whose work little is heard, but whose explorations are carried on unceasingly in every direction, are penetrating the innermost mysteries of Africa, and opening more trade routes than ever were known to the Arab traders of the past. Anglo-Saxon traders and settlers follow in their footsteps, and wherever a colony is formed the spirit of republicanism takes root. The story of the English colonization in Africa is likely to be that of the United States, of Canada, of Australasia. Is it unreasonable to suppose that eventually three continents—America, Australasia, Africa—will be republican, while Europe and Asia will continue to be ruled by sovereigns? What would be England's relation toward Canada and Australasia in such a case? Imperial federation, the union of the three in empire, has been proposed, but is meeting with diminishing favor on the ground that it would be impracticable. Instead, there has been proposed union on some principle of the acknowledgment of relationship by blood, some recognition of consanguinity, but on terms so vague, and involving such complete independence one of another, that even the United States might join in it with the other nations of Anglo-Saxon descent.

THE COMMUNITY'S CURSE.

The currish spirit which clutches everything within reach and gives nothing in return is too despicable for the toleration of fair-minded people. The man who disregards the claim upon him by a community in which and out of which he is making wealth, who has a soul so small or so dead that he feels no pride in his town nor any ambition to maintain its enterprises or promote its prosperity, is probably impervious to public scorn and contempt, but should, nevertheless, be made to realize that he has earned them and that they are unanimously accorded him.

A PROMINENT BANKER ON SILVER.

It is refreshing in these days of the silver agitation, to know that one man prominent in banking circles who had the courage to speak out his sentiments at a meeting of banking men in the city of Chicago, recently. The speaker was none other than president William H. St. John of the Mercantile National Bank of New York. The speech was in substance as follows:

"Free coinage and free silver are the common "but misleading terms for a proposal to restore the coinage system of the United States "founded under Washington, as advised by Alexander Hamilton, recommended by Thomas Jefferson, and ratified subsequently by Andrew "Jackson. That old system of equally unrestricted coinage of gold and silver, which it "is now proposed to reinstate, was maintained "continuously for 81 years, until overthrown in "1873, and yet no objections now are too paradoxical to hail from some antagonists of silver "coinage. The same men who denounced it as "a scheme of mine owners to enhance the value "of silver and yet a swindle of pensioners by "reducing the value of the legal tender silver "dollar, and then a futile endeavor to reduce "the value of money by enlarging its volume, "futile because the enactment will banish gold, "but nevertheless a practical repudiation of 30 "cents on the dollar of all debts to benefit "the debtor class."

Mr. St. John rapidly analyzed the monetary condition of continential Europe as showing their need of silver and the world's insufficiency of gold. If Europe should desire to discard her silver, Europe's only silver is her coined money. It is as equally legal tender as her gold, therefore Europeans would get nothing more available as money at home—dollar for dollar exchange of their silver coin for gold. Continuing he said:

"The Bank of France reserves its stock of sil"ver like its stock of gold, as the unlimited law"ful money of France, irrespective of bullion "value. As such it will liquidate the bank's "vast liabilities at par. Therefore our reopened "mints could not attract it at a discount. The "minimum discount would be 3.06 per cent. "Her old coin would lose 5 per cent, in a dollar "for dollar exchanged at our mints. That "chartered bank could not recoin her $250,000,"000 of silver which is serviceable at home to "redeem her $600,000,000 of circulating notes at "par, unless her shareholders would sanction "its surrender at a discount. A discount of five "per cent would mean a sacrifice on their ac"count of $12,500,000 in such evidently valueless "exchange."

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January 19th, 1892.

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No. 1 common, D, "	25 00
" " BD, "	27 00
Bar and counter tops, clear, per foot	10

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No. 1 common, per M	$20 00
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THE EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES.

There was a story in the newspapers recently about a Massachusetts minister who resigned his charge because someone had given his parish a fine house, and his parishioners wanted him to live in it. His salary was too small, he said, to admit of his living in a big house, and he would not do it. He was even deaf to the proposal that he should share the proposed tenement with the sewing societies and clubs of his church, and when the matter came to a serious issue, he relinquished his charge and sought a new field of usefulness. The situation was an amusing instance of the embarrassment of riches. Let no one to whom restricted quarters may have grown irksome, and who covets larger dimensions of shelter, be too hasty in deciding that the minister was wrong. Did you ever see the house that Hawthorne lived in at Lenox? Did you ever see Emerson's house at Concord? They are good houses for Americans to know and remember. They permitted thought. A big house is one of the greediest cormorants which can light upon a little income. Backs may go threadbare and stomachs may worry along on indifferent fillings, but a house will have things, though its occupants go without. It is rarely complete, and constantly tempts the imagination to flights in brick and dreams in lath and plaster. It develops annual thirsts for paint and wall paper; the plumbing in it must be kept in order on pain of death. Whatever price is put on coal, it has to be heated in winter; and if it is rural or suburban, the grass about it must be cut even though funerals in the family have to be put off for the mowing. If the tenants are not rich enough to hire people to keep their house clean, they must do it themselves, for there is no excuse that will pass among housekeepers for a dirty house. The master of a house too big for him may expect to spend the leisure which might be made intellectually or spiritually profitable in acquiring and putting into practice fag ends of the arts of the plumber, the bell-hanger, the locksmith, the gasfitter, and the carpenter. Presently he will know how to do everything that can be done in the house, except enjoy himself. He will learn about taxes, too, and water rates, and how such abominations as sewers or new pavements are always liable to accrue at his expense. As for the mistress, she will be a slave to carpets and curtains, wall-paper, painters, and women who come in to work by the day to clean. She will be lucky if she gets a chance to say her prayers, and thrice and four times happy when she can read a book or visit with her friends. To live in a big house may be a luxury, provided that one has a full set of money and an enthusiastic housekeeper in one's family, but to scrimp in a big house is a miserable business. Yet such is human folly, that for a man to refuse to live in a house because it is too big for him, is such an exceptional exhibition of sense that it becomes the favorite paragraph of a day in the newspapers. An ideal of earthly comfort, so common that every reader must have seen it, is to get a house so big that it is burdensome to maintain, and fill it up so full of jimcracks that it is a constant occupation to keep it in order. Then, when the expense of living in it is so great that you can't afford to go away and rest from the burden of it, the situation is complete and boarding-houses and cemeteries begin to yawn for you. How many Americans, do you suppose, out of the droves that flock annually to Europe, are running away from oppressive houses?

When nature undertakes to provide a house, it fits the occupant. Animals who build by instinct build only what they need, but man's building instinct, if it gets a chance to spread itself at all, is boundless, just as all his instincts are. For it is man's peculiarity that nature has filled him with impulses to do things, and left it to his discretion when to stop. She never tells him when he has finished. And perhaps we ought not to be surprised that in so many cases it happens that he doesn't know, but just goes ahead as long as the materials last. If another man tries to oppress him, he understands that and is ready to fight to death and sacrifice all he has, rather than submit; but the tyranny of things is so subtle, so gradual in its approach, and comes so masked with seeming benefits, that it has him hopelessly bound before he suspects his fetters. He says from day to day, "I will add thus to my house;" "I will have one or two more horses;" "I will make a little greenhouse in my garden;" "I will allow myself the luxury of another hired man;" and so he goes on having things and imagining that he is richer for them. Presently he begins to realize that it is the things that own him. He has piled them up on his shoulders, and there they sit like Sinbad's old Man and drive him; and it becomes a daily question whether he can keep his trembling legs or not. All of which is not meant to prove that property has no real value, or to rebut Charles Lamb's scornful denial that enough is as good as a feast. It is not meant to apply to the rich, who can have things comfortably, if they are philosophical; but to us poor, who have constant need to remind ourselves that where the verbs to have and to be cannot both be completely inflicted the verb to be is the one that best repays concentration.

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LAND NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that I intend to apply within 60 days to the chief commissioner of lands and works for permission to purchase the following described tract of land, which is situate in West Kootenay district: Commencing at the northeast corner post of lot 184, group 1, thence running 40 chains west along the northern boundary of such lot to its northwest corner post, thence 40 chains north along the eastern boundary of the Columbia & Kootenay Railway Company's block number 12, thence east 40 chains more or less to the shore of Kootenay lake, thence southerly along the shore line to the point of commencement; containing 160 acres more or less.

CHARLES WESTLY BUSK.

Balfour, February 20th, 1892.

H. GIEGERICH,

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LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

The first through freight for lake points came in by way of the Little Dalles route; but unless the local rates are lowered the bulk of the freight will come by way of Bonner's Ferry.

A. E. Bryan, the assayer, has decided to remove from Ainsworth to Kaslo. The ores in the camps back of Kaslo are all high-grade. W. F. McCulloch, at one time government assayer at Victoria, will probably locate at the mouth of Carpenter creek, so as to be within easy distance of the Slocan mines.

Owing to the scarcity of lumber, little headway is being made at Kaslo. One hotel has been opened and another would be if building material could be procured. Green Brothers' store building is ready for goods, but the goods are sidetracked somewhere on the main line of the Canadian Pacific. W. J. Wilson has a fine site for a store, but the material with which to erect the building is not in sight.

It is expected that the government will bring in an appropriation of $1500 for the Ainsworth wharf in the supplemental estimates. If the townsite people had been more liberal with the government regarding the site for the new recorder's office the government would probably have been more liberal in its grant for the wharf.

Mr. and mrs. E. E. Fletcher returned to Ainsworth this week from Kansas City, Missouri, where mrs. Fletcher spent the winter.

D. Bremner returned on Wednesday from Scotland, via Victoria. He reports times as good in the "old country," and judging by his looks he fared well while there.

Mrs. Hughes of Seattle arrived in Ainsworth this week with the intention of leasing the Windsor hotel. Being unable to come to terms with landlord McLeod, she left vowing that "people could make two dollars in the United States while they were making one in British Columbia."

It is reported that a machine shop is to be erected at Pilot Bay this summer, with John Fife in charge. Mr. Fife is now on the ground.

The office of recorder and constable for the new Slocan mining division is being reached for by several of the boys. The rumor is that J. L. Retallack of Ainsworth carried the longest pole and knocked the persimmon.

Mr. Kellie has been requested by the local justices of the peace to use his influence to secure the appointment of a constable for Ainsworth, as one is needed during the summer months at least.

The smelter wharf at Pilot Bay is being planked, and when completed it will be as large as all the other wharves in the lake country put together.

Tracklaying on the Great Northern railway has reached a point 6 miles east of Bonner's Ferry. As soon as the roadbed is surfaced, so that cars can be run with safety, a regular train will be put on between Sand Point and Bonner's Ferry.

The owners of the Tenderfoot are not a little jubilant over striking ore in the north drift on that property. The Tenderfoot may yet surprise the "knowing ones."

Balfour Notes.

A correspondent of THE NEWS writes from Balfour, under date of the 22nd, as follows: "Having noticed in the last issue of The Miner statements made by its Balfour correspondent that are not in accordance with the opinions of the majority of the residents of the town, I wish to give their side of the question in THE NEWS. In the first place, we are fashionable people, and the only objection we had to the smelter being built here was the fear that it would injure our plum trees. But the town is booming just the same, as is evidenced by the fact that the owner of the townsite has withdrawn the unsold lots from sale for fear that he would run out of these staple articles. This is a very pleasant place to live in, as there is no noise or bustle to disturb anyone, and a very nice place to die in, as you can either be buried on the beach or on some non-resident's lot. Our one wholesale and retail establishment is doing a thriving business, having just received by steamer Spokane a large supply of English-made clothing and hob-nailed boots and shoes. The sole proprietor of the Balfour house has gone daft on boat building, and in attempting to navigate a craft built by himself, and named "White Wings," takes many a header in the pellucid waters of the outlet. The street-clearing contractors have undoubtedly made a success of their contract, as when last seen they were rolling a keg, labeled "Club Whisky," throught the stumps that stand so thick on Westley street."

Old Districts Neglected for New Ones.

It is invariably the case when a new mining camp comes to the front that older and more reliable ones apparently fade into insignificance, for the time being, and prospectors and buyers are strong in the belief that what they are in search of can only be found in the newly discovered Eldorados. Down near the boundary line is a district that has many good showings for miles, yet no one of the hundreds intending to visit the Kootenay country this year think of taking a look through it before going on a hundred miles farther north to the Slocan country. The Goat River and Duck Creek district has been run over, not prospected, say the men who wintered there. A couple of weeks ago one of these men took a short walk from his cabin, and before returning found no less than three well-defined ledges carrying good-looking ore; another, while hunting game, found two. Yet, even these men will not be content to remain and prospect their new finds, for they will go with the crowd, only to return later on, wishing, perhaps, that they had remained.

Returned to His Bailiwick.

Napoleon Fitzstubbs, gold commissioner and government agent for West Kootenay, returned to Nelson on Sunday, after putting in the winter at Victoria advising the government as to the needs of the people of whom he is lord and master.

Contract Let.

The superintendent of the Krao has let a contract to Robert Jackson to sink the shaft on that mine another 50 feet. This was not because of any disagreement between the mine management and the miners employed.

Wright Street, AINSWORTH.

GREEN BROS.

Wright Street, AINSWORTH.

DEALERS IN

Miners' Supplies, Iron and Steel, Hardware, Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes, Dry Goods, Clothing, Men's Furnishings, Etc., Etc.

N. B. Having bought the stock and book debts of the late firm of E. S. WILSON & CO., all parties having outstanding accounts are requested to call and settle them as soon as possible.

Telephone 58.