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THE NELSON ECONOMIST IS ISSUED EVERY WEDNESDAY. SUBSCRIPTION: $2.00 PER ANNUM; IF PAID IN ADVANCE, $1.50. CORRESPONDENCE OF GENERAL INTEREST RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED. ONLY ARTICLES OF MERIT WILL BE ADVERTISED IN THESE COLUMNS, AND THE INTERESTS OF READERS WILL BE CAREFULLY GUARDED AGAINST IRRESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND WORTHLESS ARTICLES.

IN the disposal of the proposed charter to the Hill railway several vital questions must be taken into consideration. The smelters already established in British Columbia have been constantly menaced with a possible shortage in the product of the Crow's Nest coal mines. Indeed, the management of that company confessed on more than one occasion during the past year, that the mines were unable to supply the demands of the local smelters. This being the case, the problem naturally suggests itself, how can the Crow's Nest Coal Company, with the increased demands that must inevitably follow a line of railway to American smelters, expect to meet the expanding requirements of the local smelters. For instance, should it so transpire that the supply of coke from the Crow's Nest ovens was only sufficient to supply the smelters situated along the boundary line, is it within the sphere of reason that Mr. Hill and his associates, practically in control of the output, would sacrifice their own smelters and leave the British Columbia enterprises in possession of the limited output? The mind of the ordinary individual reels when it contemplates Mr. James J. Hill engaged in the performance of such works of self-sacrifice. Yet their foregoing is a contingency that will have to be provided against, and must be considered in the discussion of the question. It is all very well to say that an export duty on coal would safeguard the interests of the local smelters, but there are coal mines elsewhere in Canada, that would suffer by the imposition of an export tax.

The coal lands of the Crow's Nest company, although being the property of private individuals, can justly be regarded as being held in trust for the people. It has been laid down as a self-evident proposition by no less an authority than the Toronto *Globe* that private property to-day may become the property of a trust to-morrow. This being the case, what is to prevent the American Smelter Trust acquiring these lands, if its members thereof have not already a controlling interest therein, and thus shut off the supply to the smelters of British Columbia? The Trust in perfecting its scheme of consolidating its interests, will not be thwarted by the interests of Canadian smelters. If it suits the purpose of the Trust to close down the Canadian smelters, the supply of coke will be curtailed to the extent that our smelters cannot be conducted at a profit to their owners. Therefore the price of freedom from the tyranny of the American Smelter Trust is eternal vigilance on the part of the Government. If the Crow's Nest Coal Company has the illimitable supply of coal that it pretends to have, it should not object to the fullest investigation. The very fact that an attempt is being made to rush the application for a charter through the House, is in itself suspicious, and should put the Government on its guard. Of later years, certain Canadians have evinced an unholy desire to acquire large fortunes in an inconceivably short space of time, and it may be that the Crow's Nest coal fields will be exhausted to accomplish this object.

MR. A. C. FLUMERFELT, of the Granby smelter, has been interviewed at Victoria. He says the British Columbia smelters have no cause to complain of the transportation facilities supplied by the C. P. R. This effectually disposes of the charge made by the Crow's Nest Coal Company, that the railway, and not the coal company was responsible for the repeated complaints of the smelters of shortage.

THE rarest metal—and it is so rare that recent discoveries have thrown doubt on its elemental character—is didymium, and its present market price, if one may thus term the quotation of an article that never appears on the market, is £900 per pound. The next costliest metal is barium, an element belonging to the alkaline earth group; its value is £750. Beryilium or glucinum, a metalic substance found in the beautiful beryi, is quoted at £585. Yttrium, a rare metal of the boron aluminium group, so called because first noticed at Ytterby, in Sweden, is stated to be worth, at present, £450 per pound. Niobium, or columbium, a name suggestive of the American origin of the metal, it having been first discovered in Connecticut, is valued to-day, at £400 per pound. The price of rhodium, an extremely hard and brittle substance, which owes its name to the rose red color of certain of its solutions, £400. Vanadium, deriving its title from one of the appellations of the Scandinavian goddess, Fryea, and at one time considered the rarest of metallic metals, has been reduced in price to £375, at which value there will, no doubt, be many eager buyers. Iridium, a very heavy metal of the platinum group, so named from iridescene of some of its solutions, and well-known in connection with its use for the points of gold pens, may be bought, to-day, at approximately

£140 per pound. Osmium, another metallic element of the platium group, is hard, infusible and the heaviest substance known. Its present value is £125 per pound. Palladium, a silver-white, fusible metal, used in the manufacture of certain parts of timepieces and occasionally applied in dentistry, is worth £100 per pound. The price of platinum, the better known tin-white, ductile, but very infusible metal, is on a par with that of gold, viz., about £70 per pound.

THE Conservative leader in the House of Commons has completely disposed of the charge made by the Liberals during the recent campaign that the Conservatives were opposed to the principle of trade preference with the Empire. A few days ago, Mr. Borden moved the following resolution in the House as an amendment to the motion of the Minister of Finance :

"That in the opinion of this house the adoption of a policy of mutual trade preference within the Empire would prove of great benefit to the mother country and the colonies and would greatly improve the prosperity, unity and progress of the empire as whole and that the present time when the Commonwealth of Australia is laying the foundations of its fiscal system is particularly opportune for taking prompt and energetic steps toward the furtherence of this object.

"This house is further of opinion that equivalent or adequate duties should be imposed by Canada upon the products and manufactures of countries not within the empire and in all cases where such countries fail to admit Canadian products and manufactures on fair terms and that the government should take for this purpose all such available measures as may be found necessary."

NELSON has had very few friends in its development as a commercial centre. Why should it sacrifice its greatest friend, the C. P. R. to further the interests of a few monopolists ?

IF the Hill railway is so necessary to the development of the Kootenay, as some would make out, why should any opposition be found to its being built as a government enterprise ?

THE Mining Department of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture and State Domains has submitted to the various ministries a scheme for the foundation of a new mining school with a special petroleum section, and also a scheme for a teaching programme of the same.

A NEW YORK writer says that in spite of the general advance in the price of diamonds, owing to the war in South Africa, diamonds today are worth 30 per cent. less than twenty years ago. Yet the belief is firmly fixed in the minds of a great many persons, judging from the inquiries made of jewelers, that diamonds are a safe investment, and that their value rarely, if ever, fluctuates. Diamond dealers are constantly receiving visits from people who think that a diamond purchased years ago has retained its value and that they will have little or no trouble in getting for it almost if not quite as much as they paid twenty years ago. To the average diamond dealer these people are, as a general thing, a source of annoyance, for the reason that they are always incredulous when told of the change in value diamonds have undergone. When the jeweler offers them, say, 20 per cent. of what they paid for the stone years ago, they generally regard it as an absurd proposition, and make for the next dealer, only to find that his price is the same and that the possession which they had looked on as a valuable asset had depreciated in value. As a matter of fact, in these days diamonds are much like stocks in being up in value one minute and perhaps down the next. The Boer war, of course, is largely responsible for this. The largest source of the world's diamond supply being in the territory affected, the market for diamonds has been uncertain even since hostilities began. Diamonds today are worth 50 per cent. more than they were just before the trouble in the Transvaal started. Even with this abnormal influence on the market, diamonds have not reached the prices of twenty or thirty years ago, for the reason that the output today is about a third greater than then.

THE streets of Nelson are vastly improved by the cleaning up process of the past few days.

BUSINESS in many lines is giving marked evidences of improvement. The representative of a leading grocery store says business this month this year in Nelson is better than what it was for the same month last year.

THE Trail Creek *News*, published at a point where smelting is practically the only industry, and with unprecedented opportunities of gaining knowledge of the whole situation, has the following :

"Now that the Crow's Nest coal fields have passed to the control of the American smelting trust, but little encouragement for the advancement of British Columbia's smelting industry may be looked for, until new coal fields are opened by new companies. This will necessarily take time, and during the interval Mr. James J. Hill and his colleagues of the smelter trust will be active in placing every possible obstacle in the way of the Canadian smelters. It is useless to dilate on the difficulties which have thus far been experienced in securing adequate supplies of coke. In fact, since the company opened its coal fields, it has never made a creditable record for shipments except during the two or three days before the meeting of the Boards of Trade at Greenwood, and then it surprised even its own officers.

"Now, then, with such conditions existing while the mines were under control of the Canadians, what may be expected of them at the hands of people whose chief object is to ship the output to an Ameri-

can market, and whose direct and personal interests are in the advancement of the American Trust.

"It is to their advantage that smelting in British Columbia should not obtain a firm foothold, and if they cannot stifle it absolutely, their plan will be to restrict it by such conditions as the American Smelting Trust may impose.

"During the recent mining strike in the Kootenays the smelters were forced to close, and the coal company straightway made a contract with the American smelters. Before the expiration of that contract the smelters in British Columbia started up, and the coal company had great difficulty in meeting the requirements; so much so, in fact, that to relieve the situation the C. P. R., which had a contract with the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company for steam coal for use on the British Columbia Southern Railway and on the Kootenay steamers, were unable to obtain it, and had to purchase their coal, and are today purchasing their coal for this section at Lethbridge, paying at those mines 50 cents a ton more then they were bound to under their contract with the Crow's Nest, carried it past the Crow's Nest mines, and delivered it on board the Kootenay steamers.

"In the face of all this, and after the expiration of the contract entered into by the coal company with the American smelters, that company entered into another contract with the American smelters to supply them with several hundred tons of coke per day. They could not meet the requirements of both markets, and had the C. P. R. sat down tamely and accepted the situation, with its danger to the smelting industry of British Columbia, that company would have been the subject of the harshest criticism.

"Mr. Hill will not build any lines east and west through British Columbia. What he would be tempted to do, and what he is doubtless striving to do, is to run spurs from his main line to such points in British Columbia as appear to be the best producing sections. In this way he can tap and take out of the Province for treatment at the smelters along his own main line all the ores of British Columbia without expensive operation, and without adequate return to Canada for the benefits he would derive from our country."

THE citizens of Kaslo are beginning to learn to depend on themselves. The bane of British Columbia cities in the past was lack of self-reliance and a disposition to lean on Governments for public benefits.

THE sentiment of a vast majority of Nelson citizens is strongly antagonistic to the Hill charter.

ON the subject of granting a charter to Mr. Hill, the Vancouver *Province*, certainly a disinterested authority, has the following:

"A Mr. Henderson, of Fernie, has come out of the wilderness with the announcement that the people of British Columbia are unanimously in favor of the construction of Jim Hill's proposed line to the Crow's Nest coal fields. This will be news to the people of British Columbia. It is refreshing in its innocence and simplicity. Mr. Henderson seems to think that the people of British Columbia are a pack of fools, hungering for the inestimable privilege of cutting their own commercial throats. All they want is the opportunity to get rid of themselves and they are praying to Jim Hill to give them the chance.

"How absurd it is. There are very few people in British Columbia who do not see clearly that the construction of a branch of the Great Northern to tap the Fernie fields will be the most deadly blow at the smelting industry of British Columbia that could be struck, undoing all the good work that has been done and putting us back to the humiliating position we occupied before a ton of ore was smelted in this province. Even supposing a condition is made that B. C. smelters must be supplied first, of what value will that condition be if there are no smelters to use the supply? With the American Smelter Trust supreme our own smelters will be wiped out of existence.

"The construction of the Hill road might mean the development of the coal fields, but it will also be the death blow of the B. C. smelters. The American Smelter Trust is no philanthropic corporation. It is a business enterprise pure and simple and its methods are as soulless and calculating as the methods of a machine. As Mr. Houston has pointed out the domination of this Trust will be fatal to the development of the province, and it will be a sorry day for British Columbia when our natural resources and supplies are carried past our doors and out of our own country to still further enrich the great neighboring republic. It has had too much from us already."

PREMIER DUNSMUIR is evidently determined to resent any attempt on the part of corporation lawyers to place him in a false position. Mr. Dunsmuir is a Canadian, and all other things being equal can be depended upon to stand by the great national highway in preference to a policy that would mean alien domination.

THE Greenwood *Miner* evidently has some doubts as to the genuineness of the cases of smallpox reported from Phoenix. It says: "The little smallpox scare at Phœnix wasn't very serious after all. Only four cases, and they not of a very robust kind. If the disease had not been declared small-pox at the start, a compromise might have been had on 'spring rash,' or the measles. However it has been officially declared small-pox and the Phœnix *Pioneer* will again assume the erect attitude and 'truthfully' state that the doctors are 'quarrying' out smallpox cases by the carload."

IF, as suggested by telegram, an amicable arrangement has been reached between the conflicting interests in the contest over the Hill charter, and that the ba is of this agreement is an absolute guarantee of an adequate supply of coal and coke for the local smelting industries for all time to come, it will do a great deal to satisfy the minds of the people generally. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that much of the credit of compelling such a concession has been due to the patriotic fight of the Nelson *Tribune*, the Vancouver *Province* and the Ottawa *Citizen*. Future generations may have reason to to call those papers blessed.

THE price for which the Nelson city debentures were sold is a fit subject for congratulation by our citizens.

VENTS AND GOSSIP

THE bicycle season is again with us, and the great improvements in our streets and roads of recent years induce the belief that during the coming summer the demand for the "silent steed" will be greatly increased. A few years ago this form of pastime seemed to be reserved for the young people, but recently the more aged have taken to the bicycle, and in many places it is not an unusual thing to see men and women verging on the allotted span wheeling along the road at lightning speed. Bicycle riding has many advantages. For instance, it enables a person to evade the man who has always a long story to tell you, the bill collector would not think for a moment of attempting to collect his account from a man on a bicycle, and I am told that the members of the legislature use the bicycle to guard against the importunities of the office-seeker. The price of bicycles has been so reduced as to place them within the reach of all. A few years ago, any kind of a bicycle would cost anywhere from $ 00 to $145 ; now the same article can be purchased for $65. Indeed one dealer in Nelson—Mr. Jacob Dover—is now clearing out a splendid $65-bicycle for $35 cash. There is therefore no longer reason why anyone who desires to ride a bicycle should walk.

I agree with the Vancouver *World* that one of the most useful societies in British Columbia is that for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It performs a good work and deserves the utmost consideration. Those who are able should actively support it. The society has just issued its first annual report and a very interesting document it is, reflecting great credit upon the secretary. In brief the history of the society is thus given: The first meeting for organizing the society was held in the Board of Trade rooms, New Westminster, on October 8, 1896, when the first officers were elected. In 1897 the first branch of the society was formed in Victoria and in March, 1898, the Vancouver branch society was inaugurated. After the Victoria and Vancouver societies had been working for some time it was deemed advisable by many of the members and subscribers that the British Columbia Society should be organized upon a basis of representation from each branch society from whom the various officers and the executive should be elected. The New Westminster and parent society readily acceded to suggestion. A joint meeting was held in the City of Vancouver on the 6th day of April, 1900, when the constitution, which had been previously submitted to the various branch societies, was unanimously passed, and the first officers under the new constitution duly elected. As yet very little in the way of preventing cruelty to animals has been done in Nelson. This is certainly not because dumb animals are better treated here than elsewhere. On the contrary, scarcely ever a day passes that some one is not guilty of extreme cruelty to horses and other dumb animals.

The Americans are taking hold of their own history with graphic and industrious pens. The latest contribution to what one may call the personal social and commercial history of New England is "Stage-coach and Tavern Days," by Alice Morse Earle. It comes from the dual house of Macmillan's, New York and London, and in production is characteristic of their metropolitan reputation, and the work is worthy of the dainty handling it has received. Our Puritan fathers evidently considered the tavern as next in importance to the church. The "ordinary" (otherwise the tavern) was an institution not only fostered by the Government, but imposed upon communities with penalties. "Great inducements were offered to persons to keep an ordinary ; sometimes land was granted them, or pasturage for their cattle, or exemption from church rates and school taxes." Not such narrow minded persons the Puritans after all !

"The early taverns of New England were not opened wholly for the convenience of travellers ; they were for the comfort of the townspeople, for the interchange of news and opinions, the sale of solacing liquors and the incidental sociability." Think of that ! Dogberry might have called it "flat burglary." One is tempted to quote Shakspere's wise-acre from the fact that the New England instructions to the "night-watch" are couched in the quaint language of that illustrious constable. Shakspere, indeed, might have taken the Boston magistrates' order for his Dogberry travestie, or Boston might have taken a hint from Dogberry's charge while treating their own soberly.

Here is a passage from the veritable Boston instructions to the night-watch :—"If they find young men and maidens, not of known fidelity, walking after ten o'clock, modestly to demand the cause, and if they appear ill-minded, to watch them narrowly, command them to go to their lodgings, and if they refuse to secure them till morning." The story of the stage-coach from the first of that notable institution, is no less entertaining and instructive than that of the tavern, while the life of the roads and villages and the gradual growth of a well-disciplined, if severe, civilization, is full of the charm of romantic narrative. "Stage-coach and Tavern Days" should be a popular book.

Not long ago, a few gentlemen were invited out to spend an evening at a friend's house. There would be nothing unusual about this, had it not been that the guests had been treated to a game of cards upstairs with stakes so high that the amount lost was talked of and caused almost a common scandal. I am not going into particulars—that is not the object of my writing, but just here let me make a statement. Gambling has taken a firm hold in what is known as our best society. Extraordinary isn't it ? But true nevertheless as many a young man knows to his cost, and some young women have found out to their sorrow. "Come up and spend the evening and bring your wife with you so that we can have a game of cards." This is the invitation, and of course you go. Formerly you played whist or euchre, now it is poker, or black jack, and even in some places, a species of faro, roulette or piquett. Don't be startled at this. It is no innovation, but a gradual growth. It started with whist at so much a point and then when there happened to be five the game was changed to hearts at 5 or 10 cents a heart. Some one suggestsd poker, a mild game in its play and often played for amusement only, but gradually it becomes a betting game with some stakes no matter how small. There are those who say you can't lose any money at poker at a 25 cent limit. They must be mistaken for though I never played cards in my life, I have heard it stated by those I knew to be good players that a 25 cent limit game was liable to run away with a great deal of pocket money, even if the game only lasted from 8 to 11 o'clock. A gentleman was telling me the other day about

an evening he spent at the home of a friend. He was one of three guests, the other being a lady and her husband. They all played poker and had a most enjoyable game, as they declared when they had finished, yet the only winners were the hostess and her husband, who between them accumulated some fourteen or fifteen dollars. And the "guests" went home just that much poorer and no doubt they had thought of the happy time they had spent with their "friends." I have heard it said that ladies are not good card players. Perhaps this is correct, but I am assured by an acquaintance of mine that he knows some fair ones who are expert manipulators of the paste boards and who like nothing better than to sit around the gaming table. *Punch* once advised those who were thinking of getting married. The advice is just as good for and just as applicable to those who are getting into the habit of playing cards for money—*Don't*. Let this be emphatic, not only spelled with a big D, but with the whole word in big letters like this DON'T.

I do not desire to convey the impression that the sanitary conditions prevailing in and around Nelson are worse than in any place else in British Columbia, but I do aver that for a city of the pretensions of the Kootenay metropolis, sanitary arrangements should be more modern and up-to-date. My attention has been called to two or three spots that should be attended to at once. One is a gully that is completely littered with old cans, broken crockeryware, old clothes and several other things which I do not care about naming in this article. This collection is not of the character that is likely to create a favorable impression on the visitor who is looking around for a desirable locality in which to make a home. Recently a few cases of diphtheria have been reported in Nelson. With so many filthy spots in the city the wonder is that the number of diphtheria cases are so few and that typhoid fever is not epidemic.

The many friends of John Houston are sorely troubled in spirit these days. For years the ex-mayor and now member of the Legislature has been looked up to as a perfect specimen of the type that has made the West famous for its utter contempt of the usages prevailing in the effete East. For some months it has been observed that John was adopting modern customs, but this was only regarded as a new move to surprise the natives. However, matters reached a serious climax when the pride of the West during his recent visit to Nelson appeared in broad daylight on Baker street wearing rings and other ornaments, which plainly indicated the corroding influence of Victoria society. It was hoped that John Houston would be proof against the vanities of the world, but his recent metamorphosis is only another instance of the danger that lurks in association with society butterflies. In the meantime a meeting of John Houston's friends will be held and when he returns here again, he will be requested to either resign his seat in the Legislature or go back to original principles in the matter of dress.

Some queer things happen in church. A lady friend related to me recently a queer experience her father had while pastor of a church. Before he did anything else in the pulpit as he arose to give out a hymn Sunday morning, he always took out his handkerchief and wiped his spectacles. On this particular morning, he followed his custom, of course, looking, as was his custom, as he wiped his spectacles, out over the congregation. He could not understand the cause of the titter of laughter which he had noted until he looked down at his handkerchief and found that in the hurry of preparation for church that morning he had tucked a tiny baby's shirt into his pocket instead of his handkerchief and was in the act of wiping his spectacles with it, the main part of the little garment dangling down in the sight of the amused congregation.

Editorial vigilance is the only safeguard against errors in magazine-making. Every article that is published in *The Ladies' Home Journal*, for instance, is read at least four times in manuscript form, and all statements of fact verified before it goes to the printer. Then it is read and revised by the proof-readers ; goes back to the author for his revision ; is re-read by the editors three or more times, at different stages ; and again by the proof-readers possibly a half a dozen times additional. Thus each article is read fifteen and often twenty times after leaving the author's hands until it reaches the public eye. But with all this unremitting vigilance errors of the most obvious kind occasionally escape observation until perhaps the final reading, but it is rare, indeed, that an inaccuracy hides itself in the pages securely enough to go through a magazine's edition.

A. W. Ross, whose death at Toronto has just been announced, in his day saw more of the ups and downs of fortune than perhaps any man in the West. He was one of the moving spirits in the Winnipeg boom of '81-'82, and on more than one occasion could have disposed of his interests at a sum that would have left him fabulously wealthy. The bursting of that boom was brought about by Mr. Ross, and almost in the twinkling of an eye he was reduced from a position of affluence and wealth to a condition of poverty. He was not disheartened, however, and later on in the West he participated in several other mining and real estate booms, sometimes making money and just as often losing it. He was a politician of some note, and at one time his name was mentioned in connection with the Lieutenant-Governorship of Manitoba. His last visit to Nelson was on the day of the general elections, Nov. 7th, and he watched the returns coming into the Opera House, until the departure of his train at 6:40 p. m.

For the Easter holidays all Canadian Pacific Railway agents will sell round trip tickets at fare and one-third, good going April 4 and 5, and return April 8.

Mr. Wm. Irvine, of Fred Irvine & Co., has returned from a trip to the East, where he spent several weeks purchasing goods. The firm of F. Irvine & Co. has developed into one of the largest dry goods houses in Western Canada.

Madame Albani will be heard at the Nelson Opera House on the evening of April 15.

Prof. Payne, at the Opera House this week, is affording considerable amusement to fare sized audiences. Some are inclined to be sceptical of the professor's hypnotic powers, but there are others who argue that subjects who act so ridiculously must be hypnotized else they could not be persuaded to make such an exhibition of themselves. P. G.

A Remedy for the Evil.

"I'VE found a way to prevent favoritism in my factory," said the president of the International Air Engine company. His friends who were dining with him at the club, both of them being manufacturers, looked interested.

"In the old days," he went on, "when every little shop manufactured its own goods the proprietor had at most a couple of apprentices. He knew them well, of course, and watched them every day at their work. If one of them got a good idea, he was at once given credit for it. But under present conditions such a thing is not possible. There are 1,600 men in my factory. I don't know half of them by sight. If one of these men gets a good idea or makes a valuable suggestion, how am I to know that he gets the proper credit or recognition? Trust to my foremen and managers, you say. But you can't always trust to foremen and managers any more than you can always trust men occupying other positions. But I've found a way to make sure that the right man gets the credit for all he does.

"This is the way it came about: Into every International air engine go 27 pieces which are exactly alike. They are stamped out of sheet metal by a punch press at the rate of 50 a minute. Ever since we started making engines these pieces have then been turned over to the men on the filing job, who filed three little notches in each piece with a hand file. When we started making our engines, these little notches were the close working parts of the machine and were therefore filed by hand with great care.

"One day a man on the file job got an idea. He knew that the pieces he was filing were no longer the close working parts of the machine. He wondered why the punch press fixtures were not changed so that the little notches should be cut out at the same time with the rest of the pieces. He didn't stop to think that perhaps if he made such a suggestion the nine men on the filing bench might be thrown out of work, at least in that department. At any rate, he spoke to his foreman about it.

"'What's the use,' he said, 'of doing all this work by hand when it might as well be done at the same time by the punch press?'

"The foreman knew perfectly well that he ought to have thought of that same thing months before, and he was not pleased with the suggestion. He gave the workman little encouragement.

"'If you'd work harder and spend less time thinking about why we do things the way we do, you'd get along better,' he said.

"At the same time he cherished the suggestion, and he went to work and figured out that if it was adopted the company would save at least $5,000 a year. He even went so far as to have a few pieces stamped with the notches in them and tried them in an engine. Nobody knew the difference, and they worked as well as the rest.

"It happened that we had a new superintendent at the time. Naturally he was anxious to make a good showing. The smart foreman went to him with the suggestion he had stolen from the workman on the filing job. He had his figures and models all ready.

"'Here's a little idea of mine,' the foreman said as he laid his plan before the superintendent, 'which I hope you'll appreciate. If you adopt it, and I don't see how you can fail to adopt it, it will save the company not less than $5,000 a year. I'll trust to you to see that it doesn't knock me out of a job. We use 405 of those pieces every day. At present the three little notches on each piece are filed by hand. Nine men do nothing else. We can just as well have the notches cut by the punch press at the same time that it cuts out the piece. Do it that way, and you can lay lay off nine filers for good. It'll save the company $5,000 a year anyway.'

"It happened that the salary of the new superintendent was just $5,000 a year. It struck him that it would be an extremely happy hit to save the amount of his yearly salary in a single stroke within less than two months of the time he went to work. At the same time he didn't like the foreman of the file job. That gentleman impressed him as being tricky, which shows that the superintendent was a good judge of human nature. Besides being a young and new man he didn't like anything which might seem to indicate that anybody could tell him anything about the business. So he gave the foreman little apparent attention. He took care however, to gather up all the foreman's models and figures and dismissed him with the statement that he would look the matter over when he got time.

"He took time that evening to go over the thing carefully. Next day he went out into the shop and called down the foreman of the filing job for allowing his room to get so dirty. He also carefully looked over the punch presses, and as he was a good mechanic he had no trouble in seeing that the suggestion was perfectly feasible. He had a temporary fixture made for the punch press and turned out a number of the pieces all complete, which were successfully tried in engines which were sold and sent out in the regular way. A month later, when it was certain that the plan was perfectly feasible, he came to me. By that time, I suppose, the workman who originally made the suggestion had entirely forgotten it. Perhaps it had even slipped the memory of the foreman who tried to steal it in the first place.

"Of course I was pleased with the idea. I ordered the superintendent to adopt it at once and congratulated myself on the possession of a prize at the head of my factory. I went around and bragged about it to my friends. I told them that our new superindent had saved his salary for a year in less than 90 days after he went to work. Naturally I was tickled to death. I didn't know about it at the time, but it appears that the first thing the new superintendent did was to fire the foreman of the filing job. That was before there was any idea prevalent that the men on the job were to go too. But in the discharge of that foreman the superintendent unknowingly laid the foundation of his own undoing and my enlightenment.

"A couple of weeks later, after the new fixtures for the punch press were completed, the nine filers, including the man who originally made the suggestion, were laid off. Then the trouble commenced.

"One night after dinner the former foreman of the filing job came to my house. I had a talk with him. He complained that the superintendent had stolen his suggestion and fired him in order to cover the theft. I didn't like the man's looks, so I took a long chance with him.

"'But you know,' I said, 'that suggestion was not original with you either."

"'Well,' he answered before he thought, 'he's fired Jack Burns too.'

"'So Burns, then,' I answered, 'is the man who really deserves credit? Where does he live.'

"I got Burns back again and got rid of both the foreman and the superintendent. Then I set to work to devise a plan by which I might be sure that every man in the factory who had a good idea might get proper credit for it. At last I struck it. In every department I put in plain sight a small box with a slit in the top of it. Above each box is a placard reading :

'Complaints and Suggestions.—If you have any complaint or suggestion to make, write it out on a piece of paper, sign it and drop it in the slot. The key to this box is carried only by the president, who will personally read its contents.'

"So far the plan has worked well."

IN THE PALACE OF THE KING.

A LOVE STORY OF OLD MADRID.

By Marion Crawford, author of "Via Crucis." The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Publishers, Toronto. For sale by the Canada Drug & Book Co, L'td, Nelson, B. C.

"Come, my love, the stars are shining ;
Time is flying ; love is sighing.
Come ! for thee a heart is pining,
Here alone I wait for thee."

—*From song, "In Old Madrid."*

The girl who sang and the girl who waited was none other than Dolores de Mendoza, renowned throughout for her great beauty, and the envy of other court ladies in that she was the chosen of Don John of Austria, younger brother of King Philip the Second of Spain.

There was a sadness in her beautiful gray eyes as she sang ; but it was not the sadness of grief, only the key to a very dear secret—her love for the princely Don John. This was her woman's secret, this the story's secret, and this its final glorious revelation.

Behold the man she loved : "All in dazzling white—white velvet, white silk, white lace, white shoes, the most faultless vision of young and manly grace that ever glided through a woman's dream."

And wonder not that she loved him ; for what so full of charm to a blue-veined lady as such a knightly gentleman, noble in heart and soul and exquisite in appearance ? How the white velvet must have appealed to her as a symbol of gentleness, truth and grace !

This love was deep from the beginning, and needed not opposition to make permanent ; yet the lovers faced a stern barrier in the proud old soldier, Mendoza—Dolores'father— who very well knew that a more illustrious marriage would be sought for Don John than a union with the daughter of a poor retainer.

Listen to this, ye women of the Twentieth Century, and ask yourselves if Dolores were not justified in refusing an easy compliance with her father's request :

"Then promise me that you will never see Don John of Austria again ; that you will forget that you ever loved him ; that you will put him altogether out of your thoughts, and that you obediently accept the marriage I shall make for you."

This was the signal for civil war—for an open fight in the Mendoza family, and it was then that Dolores and her blind sister, Inez, combined their wits against their father. It was a pathetic struggle, for there was much justice on both sides ; the younger fighting for the ardent and hopeful love of youth, the older for honor only as he saw it—a traditional honor, which would permit a man to be cruel to his family if thereby he could exalt his king.

In this case the royal master was King Philip, who throughout this story is painted in very ugly colors—sickly yellow and grim black ; character always black, and skin always jaundiced, two very unlovely attributes, appealing neither to man nor to a woman. But the artist-author may have made Philip thus, that Don John might be the more resplendent in relief, for there were foils and foils in Spain as elsewhere.

Philip was thoroughly disliked by the people ; Don John they loved, and would at any moment have hailed with gladness as their ruler. Philip knew this, and had therefore a deep and sullen hatred for his brother. How he brought the always gentle Don John to a quarrel, and even to the sword's point, is well told by the wonderful Crawford pen ; and chapter xviii, relating the interview between Dolores and the king, is one of the most dramatic scenes ever conceived. The excitement is keen. Dolores rises to an exalted height when she ordains herself Philip's accuser :

"I am not asking anything of Your Majesty ; I am dictating terms to my lover's murderer !"

SHORT STORIES

A gentleman who owns one of the finest estates in the north of Ireland, while in his gardens one morning, noticed one of the laborers very badly clad and asked him :

"Have yo'i no better clothes than those, Mat ?"

"No, in troth, yer honor, worse luck," replied Mat.

"Well call at the house this evening on your way home," said the gentleman. "I'll leave an old suit of mine with the butler for you."

A few days later, when showing a party of visitors through the gardens, he was much annoyed to see Mat looking, if possible, more of a scarecrow than ever.

"Why are you still wearing those old clothes, Mat ?" he asked.

"Sure, yer honor, they're the best I have," replied Mat. "But did you not get the suit I left for you the other day ?" asked the gentleman.

"Indeed, an I did, thank yer honor kindly," replied Mat ; "but, sure, I had to lave them at home to be mended."

Benjamin West's picture of the "Death of Nelson" is closely connected with an anecdote of the great sailor. Just before he went to sea for the last time he was present at a dinner, during which he sat between the artist and Sir William Hamilton. Nelson was expressing to Hamilton his regret that he had not, in his youth, acquired some taste for art and some discrimination in judging it. "But," said he, turning to West, "there is one picture whose power I do feel. I never pass a shop where your 'Death of Wolfe' is in the window without being stopped by it." West made some gracious answer to the compliment, and Nelson went on. "Why have you painted no more like it ?"

"Because, my lord," West replied, "there are no more subjects."

"Ah," said the sailor, "I didn't think of that."

"But, my lord," continued West, "I am afraid your intrepidity will yet furnish me with another such scene, and if it should I shall certainly avail myself of it."

"Will you ?" said Nelson—"will you, Mr. West? Then I hope I shall die in the next battle !"

A few days later he sailed, his strangely expressed aspiration was realized, and the scene lives upon canvas.

I is probable that the Pathfinder will ship to the Boundary Falls smelter at no distant date.

For the week ending March 23 the matte shipped from the Trail smelter was 161½ The bullion amounted to 101¼ tons.

The Cascade *Record* reports that another shipment of 60 tons of copper matte, was made last week from the Mother Lode smelter to the refinery at New York. Thursday 60 tons more were shipped, making 180 tons shipped in three weeks.

Advices from Honolulu, February 27, state that a new 800-ton steam schooner, purchased by the Samoan Mining Company, will soon be running between Apia and Sydney, and Capt. W. Best, formerly of the Oceanic Steamship Company's service, will be in command. The schooner will be run by the company mainly to transport gold-bearing black sand from the mines near Apia to Sydney smelter.

The shipment of ore from Slocan Lake points, up to and including last week from Jan. 1, 1901, was :

	Tons
From Bosun Landing	
Bosun	180
From New Denver	
Hartney	120
From Silverton	
Hewett	520
From Enterprise Landing	
Enterprise	120
From Slocan City	
Arlington	840
Two Friends	40
Black Prince	60
Bondholder	50
Chapleau	15
Speculator	20
Total	1965

Sufficient progress has been made in the construction of the two additional lead furnaces at the Trail smelter that it is expected that operations may be started in the course of the next two or three weeks. The roasters are being built at an estimated cost of $30,000, and when completed will double the capacity of the works at Trail, and the company will at once enter into contracts for lead ores.

Following are the ore shipments received at the Trail smelter for the week ending March 23 as reported by the Trail Creek *News* :

	Tons
Centre Star	262¾
War Eagle	749¾
Iron Mask	63
B. C.	919
Goodenough	57¼
Rico	27¼
Ivanhoe	91¼
Monitor	59
Pontiac	27¼
Enterprise	19¾
Fourth of July	34
Sullivan	57¼
Arlington	59¾
Total	4789¼

Notice to Delinquent Co-Owner.

To Hiram S. Sweet, or to any person or persons to whom he may have transferred his interest in the Montana mineral claim situated about three miles north from Creston, and recorded in the Recorder's Office for the Goat River Mining Division :

You are hereby notified that we have expended four hundred dollars in labour and improvements in order to hold said mineral claim under the provisions of the Mineral Act, and if within ninety days from the date of this notice you fail or refuse to contribute your proportion of such expenditure together with all cost of advertising, your interest in said claim will become the property of the subscribers, under section 4 of an Act entitled an Act to amend the Mineral At, 1900.

Dated this 31st day of December, 1900.

JOHN F. WILSON,
JENNIE E. SPAULDING,
By her attorney in fact
SAMUEL LOVATT

Jan 2-1

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18.40 Daily	Rossland, Columbia River Points, connecting Revelstoke with main Line	22.10 Daily
10.00 Ex Sun	S. S. Kokanee for Kaslo and Intermediate Points	11.00 Ez Sun

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