The Prospector

WEEKLY CIRCULATION IS 375 COPIES

Vol, 1, FORT STEELE SATURDAY, MARCH 28 th 1896. No, 22.

THERE HE IS AGAIN.

The Golden Era, publishes an interview with Cap't, Armstrong, which bristles with mistatements concerning the transportation facilities of the Fort Steele section. Either the Golden Era has misunderstood Cap't Armstrong, or else that Gentleman is wofully deficient in knowledge appertaining to the water ways of East Kootenay District. According to the Golden Era the Captain is credited with stating that if certain improvements were made in the neighbourhood of the Columbia Lakes, that nearly the whole trade of the upper country could be secured for Canada. Now, no one ought to know better than Cap't, Armstrong himself, that it is a matter almost practicaly an impossibility to transport ore in any quantity from the North Star landing up the river to Canal Flats, and to make this portion of the river navigable for more than three months of the year, would require an immense expenditure on the part of the Government, and even then the rapid current which boats would have to contend against, would make it extremely unlikely for any practical steamboat man to carry ore that way, while all the time there was a natural outlet down stream to the Great Northern at Jennings, over which course a heavily laden boat can travel easily in less than two days; while on the other hand it takes over two days for a light boat to reach even Canal Flats, without speaking of the intervening portions between that point and Golden. Consequently if Cap't, Armstrong has the interests of the country at heart, he ought to impress upon the Government the advisability of not only improving the Columbia river, but draw their attention to the fact, that it is of vital importance to the mining interests of this section of the district, that the already natural outlet for the ore could be materially improved at a comparatively small expenditure, and the work if intelligently carried on, would not take more than one season to bring to a satisfactory conclusion. It is an absurd and ridiculous idea to try and force trade in a direction contary to its natural outlet, and is bound to fail in its object sooner or later. In the meantime the mine owners must suffer, and Mining being the principal industry on which all other interests depend, the whole country is hampered in its onward progress., through the short sighted policy of trying to bolster up and foster certain partially established lines of indirect communications ostensibly from patriotic views, but which are in reality utterly selfish and aggrandizing impulses on the part of companies, who are perfectly insensible to the injury they may do the country at large, provided they can attain their own ends. Surely sensible man, who knows anything of the country, must be aware of the fact that the only feasible route for the transportation of ore from this section, is down the river to the Great Northern, the distance from Fort Steele being about 130 miles, a continuous stretch of river navigation, which by the expenditure of a few thousand dollars could be made navigable for all practical purposes for at least eight months of the year. Now compare this with the other route as recommended by Cap't Armstrong through the columns of the Golden Era, from Fort Steele to Canal Flats a distance of 50 miles up a rapid stream, obstructed with numerous gravel bars, which would require a large expenditure to make even passable for a loaded boat during the high water month of May, June and July, and unpractible during the rest of the season. Then the mile and a half canal across the flat which gives access to the upper Columbia Lake would have to be entirely rebuilt at a large expense, even then when this point is reached, there is a five mile stretch of impassable channel to be dealt with before reaching the head of navigation on the Columbia river. How any one cognizant of these facts, can deliberately go to work and try to point out to the Government that nearly all the trade of the upper country could be secured for Canada, is beyond the comprehension of any reasonable being, he must either have some axe to grind, or else takes a very distorted view of what he considers the interests of Canada, which in this case comprises that section of country known as the Fort Steele Mining Division of East Kootenay. Of course there is no objection to offer towards the Government making an appropriation for the improvement of the Columbia river, but to try and impress on their minds the fact that by so doing they are advancing the interests of this section of the country, is not only misleading, but calls for prompt condemnation on the part of all persons who are in anyway interested in the advancement and progress of the district. Captain, Armstrong conveys another erroneous impression, when he makes the statement that most of the supplies will be shipped Via Golden, for it is now a foregone conclusion that the bulk of the material for use here during the coming season will be brought in, up the river from Jennings, probably in bond. Taking everything into consideration, and in view of the coming Election, it behoves every man in this vicinity to be up and stirring, and to do his utmost to have this question properly represented to the coming member, whoever he may be and not allow ourselves to be placed at the mercy of irresponsible persons or parties attempting to advance their own interests at the expense of the country at large.

The Golden Era, say's that it is evident that the Miners of Fort Steele, know what they want, and are not backward about asking for it. That is correct. the miners of Steele recognising the fact, that the time has come when it behoves us to watch and protect ourselves and our interests, by speaking for ourselves, and letting no one not acquainted with our wants, talk through his hat, in utter disregard of any and all of the facts. We shall look to the best interests of the district on all matters of importance, seeking to push forward our mining industry, by giving to the outside world as complete a description of our mineral wealth, which is unsurpassed by no place or district on the continent.

Keep your eyes on Fort Steele mining district.

THE PROSPECTOR.

IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE PROSPECTOR Co.
A. B. Grace, Manager.

One Year. ..... $ 1.50.
Six Months. ..... 75¢.

All communications directed to THE PROSPECTOR Co. Fort Steele B.C.

We are not responsible for communications.

PROFESSIONAL.

Charles. Maclean. Physician & Surgeon.

Thomas. McVittie. P.L.S. & C.E.

H.L.Cummins. P.L.S. & C.E.

W.J.Rooke.Cowell. M.A. B.Sc. F.G.S.

N.Arnold.Wallinger. Metallurgist &Assayer.

FORT STEELE MINING ASSOCIATION.

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Jonn.Grassick. A.B.Grace. H.W.Barnes.
R.L.T.Galbraith. Thomas.McVittie.

The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday the 4th of April.

All possible information,will be furnished by the Association upon application to
Thomas.McVittie,Sec,Fort Steele B.C.

We have been permitted to copy the following extract,from a letter to a prominent resident of Fort Steele.

I receive the PROSPECTOR regularly, and I am pleased with the opinionsthat it expresses. I hope the Editor will retain his independent attitude,and keep hammering away at what the country wants; It also pleases me to see that He is kicking about the improvement of the river,If I can do anything to assist him in the matter, let me know.
We will assure the writer,that we are to voice the wants of this district,and that we shall kick for all,and everything that will further the best interests of this section. We shall be independent and fearless in our duty,of speaking for what is needed for-this portion of the district,and shall promptly KICK against any and all matters that is detrimental to the onward progress, and development of the Fort Steele Mining Division of East Kootenay.

ROUND TOWN.

The 29th, will be Palm Sunday. when Divine Services will be held in the School Room at 7 1/2 Oclock. All are invited.

On next Sunday,the Services at St,Eugene Mission will be unusually interesting and instructive, There will be a large gathering of Indians from all the Reserves,and a procession will take place after the Services at the Church. The Rev'd Father Cocoola,O.M.I. will preach,and his subject will have special reference to the day.

Indian Agent Galbraith,paid his usual monthly visit to the Industrial School,and reports everything progressing in a satisfactory manner.

Our roads and bridges,are waiting the attention of our Assistant Commissioner Armstrong,who will probably be with us about the 7th of April.

Sand creek,is attracting considerable attention of late, and it is reported that H.J.Edson,late of the Mountain House,will open at this point a first class hotel, it is also reported that Chas' Chapman. E.Dills,F.P.Norbury have taken up pre-emptions in the vicinity.

During the week H.J.Edson and Tom Rae,made a trip to the Moyea,intending to go as far as Palmers bar. the other side of Cranbrooke,H.Js, horse got off the trail and H,J,and the horse went out of sight in the deep snow, having no snow shoes for the Cayuses they gave it up and returned to Steele.

The delay in getting out the Prospector this week is caused by the fact that we are out of ink. We have mounted the"devil" we mean the Sub Editor on the hurricane deck of a cayuse,and sent him 120 miles to obtain the needed supply of ink. Truely the path of the Sub Editor is hard.

Last week Jimmy Durick went to Westminster, He proposed to keep pace with the times,by riding through on his Bike. But the roads was soft,and Jimmy hit the road in a buggie propelled by a cayuse.

We are Independent,with a policy of letting both sides have a say and presenting all the views possible about every question of importance to the district. It does not follow by any means that the Prospector always indorses such views.We simply like to know what the other fellows have to say, and the readers of the Prospector may rely upon obtaining such information.

Brace up boys! and put on your Sunday clothes, "This is leap year"

We learn that the population of Fort Steele will be increased to the extent of five Young Ladies, who will arrive shortly.

O-coke hy-as kloshe, mi-ka iskum mi-ka kloochman yah-kwa.

Carpenter Bale,is building the new assay office for Cowell & Wallinger.

Ben. Rugh,is working on the Drum Lummon,Ben says that it is all right.

It is reported that our Constable will appear shortly in a new uniform.

THE PROSPECTOR
FORT STEELE B.C.

ALL OVER TOWN.

It is reported that the body of carbonates,(at the North Star) containing wire silver is much larger than expected, lying over the Galena in the roof of the drift is some three or four inches of lead crystals,above this formation is a large body of carbonates from eight to twelve feet thick,with wire silver interspersed through the carbonates. It is, in all probability one of the largest bodies of carbonates ever found in any mine,and the amount of Galena in sight would surprise even an expert mining man.At the present time,we know of no mine in the north west that can be worked as easily,and to so small an outlay,as the North Star.

If you have a good mine,let the outside world know it, dont follow the example of an oyster and keep your mouth closed"except when you take a drink"; For it is a duty that you owe to your mine,to yourself,and to the district at large. The PROSPECTOR is here to publish a full and complete description of your mine or prospect,if you will call in and see us,and furnish the necessary data.

THE INVICTA GOLD MINES.

This is the name of the English Company,engaged in hydraulic mining on Wild Horse creek. The new Superintendent Mr.James.Young, and Mr.Alexander. Mitchell,"who will attend to the financial affairs of the company"arrived at Fort Steele on the 14th Ult, The Gentlemen immediately went to Wild Horse,to look over the property,and will commence preparatory work at once. Mr.SKertchly, has been appointed Assistant Supt'.
A number of men have been employed to complete the new dam,put in new head boxes connecting the ditch with the dam,new pressure boxes will be made,a new sluice will be run on the China claim, also a new flume to the edge of the bank. an Electric light plant will be put in. The Company will employ about forty men,working two shifts. Supt'Young,and Mr.Mitchell,left on Tuesday Via the stage for Vancouver,where they will purchase 1600 feet of piping,and two No 4 Hoskins Giants and other machinery for the mine. Large results are looked for,and there is no doubt,that if managed properly,a good clean up will be the result.

A change will take place in the management of Mountain House on the 1st of April,Mr,Wm.Forsyth has leased the premises,and will renovate the house,and open for business on the 1stof the month. The Bar will be supplied with the best brands of liquors and cigars,good accommodations will be afforded to the travelling public. The Dining-Room will be under the supervision of Messers,Biggings. and Blodgett,who are experienced caterers from the States.

All the mining news in the Prospector.

THE NIP AND TUCK.

The Nip & Tuck Gold Hydraulic Mining Co,Ltd. has been formed to acquire the Placer mining lease and property known as the Nip & Tuck claims, situate on Wild Horse creek in Fort Steele Mining District; and to carry on the business of mining. Capital $ 35.000, in shares of $ 5. each. The Head Office is at Vancouver,B.C. the Directors are A.W.Creery, J.M.Buxton and W.H.Carnsew,all of Vancouver. J.H.Kinnard is Superintendent and Manager at Fort Steele, Mr,Kinnard is pushing the preparatory work,and expects to have every thing in readiness,by the time the new machinery arrives,but will commence washing the gravel, if there should be any delay arising from the non appearance of the coming machinery. Mr.Kinnard, is a thorough placer miner,having had thirty six years experience in California,and other places.

THE INTERNATIONAL PLACER CO.

This Company has been at work during the winter, running a tunnel to strike what is supposed to be the old channel. Last fall they sank a shaft some forty feet, finding good pay gravel that run as high as 75¢ to the pan,on account of the superabundance of water had to stop sinking,they then commenced to run a tunnel to reach the vicinity of the shaft. the tunnel is now in 265 feet, running through very hard rock,which is supposed to be the rim. they expect to reach the old channel in about 90 feet.

THE OUTLOOK.

There will be four large companies placer mining on Wild Horse during the coming season. and with the new and improved machinery which the several companies are putting in,Wild Horse will soon regain its old time reputation.

ROUND TOWN.

We understand that the Government will soon put in a new draw in the bridge at Fort Steele, The new draw will accommodate the largest boat on the river.

Some 25 men went to work on the different placer claims up Wild Horse during the past week.

We learn that a number of settlers have taken up ranches on the Skookum Chuck during the last two weeks,they will form quite a settlement,there being some six or eight families to follow the advance guard of pioneers.

We are pleased to know that the Government has retired the Damphool tax bill,and given in exchange a bill that meets the views of all the mining men of the district.

F.Norbury,has received a communication from Mr,Hewett.Bostock,in which was enclosed a check for quite a large sum,to be applied to the hospital fund.

About the 1st of May, 25.000 pounds of new and improved mining machinery will reach Fort Steele,consigned to the Nip & Tuck Company.

The Mather mill is crowded with orders forlumber to be used in the mines.

Attention Prospectors and Miners If you want your mines listed for inspection,send a description of your mine to the Secretary of the mining Association,

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE PROSPECTOR, $ 1.50. for a year.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY.

Editor Golden Era. Dear Sir:-

My attention has been called to an article in Your issue of the 8th of Feb in which it is stated that some of the North Star ore assayed 17.000 ounces to the ton. This is absolutely incorrect,as no such assay was ever made. This ridiculous report originated in the Fort Steele Prospector,and was inserted without the authority of any of the North Star officials. In working the south drift,a small body of lead carbonates came to light which proved on examination to contain wire silver. The quantity of this kind of ore was too small to make any marked difference in the value of the shipment,and no assay was made.

Yours faithfully,W.J.R.Cowell.

Fort Steele B.C. Assayer of the N.S.Mine.
Feb 23rd,96.

In reply to the above letter, We wish to inform the North Star Co, that the PROSPECTOR does not originate any startling or ridiculous reports of any kind. and from data in our possession we will say that "in our opinion" the report of Wire Silver in the North Star Mine, though startling, is not ridiculous or untrue. And we want it distinctly understood that we did not originate the report, or its assay value. BUT TO THE CONTARY, IT CAME DIRECT FROM THE NORTH STAR MINE. We would like to ask,why this report was not contradicted at the time,"if not true" instead of waiting "as we think" a kick from Montreal.As to the report, we will say, that the President of the Mining Association came to this office,and inquired if we had heard of the finding of wire silver in the North Star, we informed him that we had,but that we would wait and see if it was correct.Later we were informed (and which we now know is true) that the report came direct from the mine. (The Manager can verify this by calling at this office We have also received a letter, stating that the wire silver went 19.000 ozs, and up to the present time,we have no reason to doubt the statement We have had specimens of WIRE SILVER,THAT IN OUR JUDGMENT,WAS AT LEAST 70% SILVER. We will call the attention of the Company to the fact,that another strike of rich wire silver has been made in a different drift,FROM WHERE THE FIRST STRIKE WAS MADE. The following receipt may throw some light upon the matter, though the sample was not as good as we have seen, but it was all that we could get at this time.

COWELL & WALLINGER.
ASSAYERS & METALLURGISTS.
ASSAY CERTIFICATE.

March 19th 1896. Sample from A.B.Grace.
Description.....Carbonates and Wire Silver.
Gold,..... Silver. 4.676. Ounces.

I hereby certify,that I have made a careful assay of the above sample for Silver, and find it to contain the above quantities.

H.Arnold.Wallinger.

As to Mr.Cowell,his assays or his affairs,we know nothing,He says that he made no such assay, His word to that effect is enough, But when He says that the report orignated with the PROSPECTOR, He is mistaken. Of the Managers of the mine,We will say,that they positively will not furnish any report of the doings at the mine,and we have never been able to get any information from the officials of the mine, And we take this opportunity to assure them THAT WE ARE HERE TO PUBLISH ALL THE MINING NEWS OF THE DISTRICT,and if possible we shall do so,and get the desired information from the best source possible.(Manager,)

NEWS FROM THE MINES

The Wasa Group of mines,distant about twenty miles in a northerly direction from Fort Steele, and five miles from the Kootenay river; are situated in a gulch of the Rocky Mountains on the East side of the valley,and at an elevation of nearly 1500 feet above the rolling bench lands which intervene between the mountains and the river bottoms. The two principal claims are the "Wasa and the Mammoth". This property was discovered in 1893. and is in the possession of Wm. Thompson. Wm.Haupt. Eric.Sundon and Peter.Rosendale, who are the original locators. About 1300 feet from the croppings,"which measure 20 feet across" a tunnel has been run in for a distance of 80 feet,tapping a vein of ore from 2 to 4 feet in width, assaying 22% copper,112 ounces in silver,and $ 10. in gold. the ore being Grey Copper, Red Oxide of Copper and Galena. The hanging wall being Porphyritic Slate,and the foot wall Black Slate. these claims are easy of access,it being possible to build a waggon road at a small expense to within a short distance "a mile" of the workings.Good water power right on the property, with any amount of timber on the surrounding mountain side. It will be strange if some enterprising capitalist does not soon take these claims in hand and develope them into producing mines.

THE NORTH STAR.

A large amount of ore has been taken out during the past winter,it is estimated that there are 2400 tons at the company landing on the Kootenay river,ready for shipment,800 tons at McGinty's, and nearly 3000 tons on the dump,this is a grand showing for the mine,though it is not the capacity of the output of the mine,for with force enough 100 tons daily can be placed on the dump. Last week another strike of wire silver and carbonates was made in a drift separate from where the former discovery was made, there is a strip in the roof of the drift some 15 feet in length covered with lead crystals and wire silver,parties who have seen them, say that it is a beautiful sight, the crystals hanging from the roof and sparkling with the wire silver. There is no doubt that the North Star is one of the largest Silver-lead properties on the continent.

MORE CAPITAL COMING.

It is reported that negotiations are pending for the purchase(BY A STRONG SYNDICATE FROM THE UNITED STATES) of all the claims near the North Star ,and not owned by the Mann Co. We hope the sale will be consumated as it will be the means of bringing a large amount of capital into the country. "more anon".

GOLD HILL.

We have been informed that it is the intention of of the owners of this property,to develope the mine during the coming season.the property is a low grade gold proposition,with a mountain of ore in sight.

LILLIE MAY.

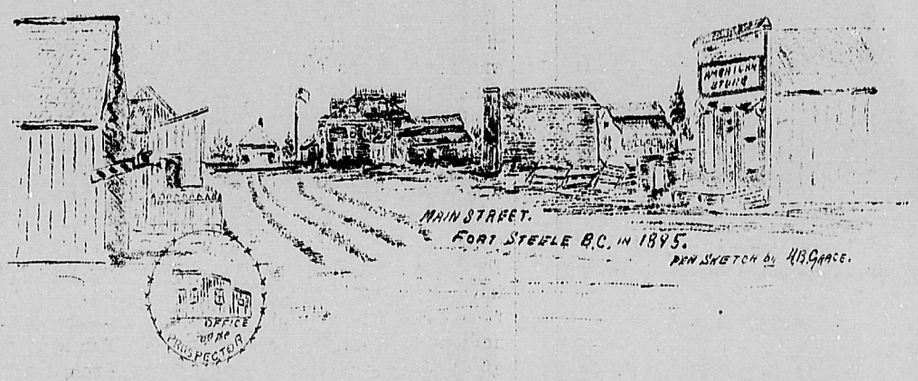
Some vesy rich quartz was brought in from this claim during the past week,it will be shipped to Spokane as soon as possible.

THE DARDENELLES.

The Banks Bro's are hard at work developing this claim,and the ore is improving fast,the tunnel is in 140 feet with a good showing of rich ore.

THE St EUGENE.

Ore has been struck in the lower tunnel,which is of the same character as that in the tunnel above, There is between 2000 and 3000 tons of ore on the dump,the lead in the first tunnel is 7 feet in width,Messers,Finch & Cronan are expected early in the spring.



BACKED DOWN.

Since our Provincial Government has backed down on the Assessment Act, in regard to mines and minerals. Our old friend, and pioneer, Dave. Griffith, has decided to abandon his trip down the river on a shingle, and now offers the "Historic Shingle" for sale. We would suggest that the Government buy it, and give it a prominent place in their Cabinet of Curiosities.

MORE LIGHT.

We have been promised, by a party connected with the erection of the bridge at Fort Steele, the correct cost of the same, and we are assured that it will differ considerably from the amount put down by the Chief Commissfoner of Lands and Works, in his report. Let us have all the Light possible on the subject, for the benefit of the tax payers of the district.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

A "Son of Erin" who failed to celebrate the 17th of old Ireland, has been making up for lost, durthe last few days.

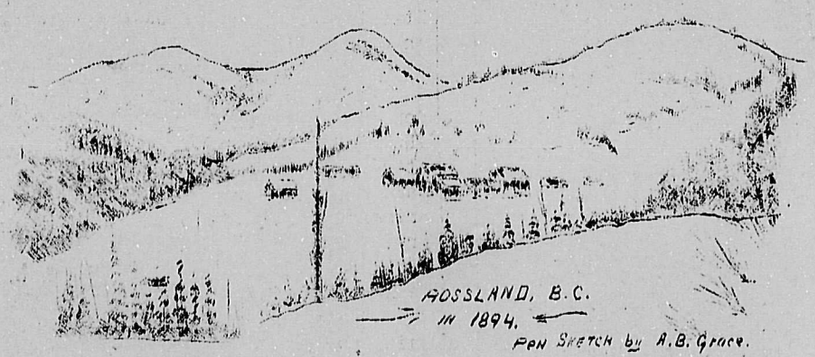
THE PEOPLES BRIDGE AT THE St, MARY'S.

We understand that it is the intention of a number of the residents to subscribe with labor and money, to put in a bridge at the Robinson Crossing of the St Marys river. there is no more needed want in the distri ct. as at present those coming to and from Fort Steele, frow the North Star, and St, Marys Prairie have to take the Mission road which is many miles longer than the road which ~~now~~ connects with the proposed bridge.

PARTNERSHIP

We learn that R.D. Mather and Mr. Jones, have formed a partnership in the Saw Milling and Shingle Business. and have let a contract for 5,000 feet of logs. The new firm is getting a Shingle mill from Kalispel.

Fred, Hazen, has gone to Golden for a load of farm implements for the Cranbrooke estate. We learn that Colonel Baker, has decided to go into farming extensively this season.



COURT PROCEEDINGS, BEFORE T. McVittie, and Chas. Maclean, J.P's.

A Chinaman, appeared before their Honour's, for "Hitting the pipe", and was defended by R.L.T. Galbraith, whose eloquence on behalf of his client failed to soften the obdurate heart of their Worship's; and the unfortunate hitter of the pipe had to donate to the Provincial Treasury, $ 10. and costs. The prosecution was conducted in a very able manner by Constable Barnes.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE PROSPECTOR.

COMMISSION RECEIVED.

The President of the Fort Steele mining association has just received his Commission as one of the Vice Presidents of the North West Mining Association, it is very handsomely gotten up,

We take pleasure in announcing that the President of the Mining Association, has had several inquires from parties East about the purchase of Gold and Silver properties. and he hopes to arrange for the sale of several prospects shortly.

We hear that a Bond is being arranged by R.L.T. Galbraith on a Copper property at Windermere.

CARLIN & DURICK.

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Willia m. Forsyth,Proprietor.

This is one of the best appointed Hotels in the Fort Steele District.
Every room is comfortably furnished.

THE MOUNTAIN HOUSE DINING ROOM,
Is under the management
of Messers,BIGGINGS & BLODGETT.

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Tonsorial Artist.

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