The Prospector

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Vol,1. FORT STEELE,SATURDAY MARCH 21st 1896. No 21.

THE ASSESSMENT OF MINES.

There is no doubt as to the disastrous effects which the Governments method of assessing mines would have on an important Provincial industry. In other sections as well as East Kootenay,are urging the Government to withdraw,or modify the same. A glance at the provisions of the bill is sufficient to show those who are practically acquainted with mining,the viciousness of the principal on which the proposed assessment is based. Or perhaps we should call it rather the lack of any principle, for none can be claimed for a proposal which merely fixes the same rate of assessment on the gross output of every mine in the Province. That method necessarily precludes any reference to the varying conditions which prevail not only in every mining locality but in each district. The cost of mining may differ very much even in two shafts of one mine. But the bill idnores all these important considerations and proposes to fix one arbitrary rate, one unvarying rule on entirely different conditions. Evidently the sole idea which influenced the Government was that it had to extract a certain amount of revenue from the mines, and took the shortest and least laborious method to reach that end. It has succeeded admirably and has proposed a plan which involves disaster to the mining industry. It is hoped that the strong condemnation which this unwise proposal outlined in the assessment bill has called forth, will compell the Government to retrace its steps.

WANTED.

A batch of Provincial assessors qualified to carry out the several provisions of the proposed assessment Act.As we know of none capable of so doing, Applications should be to the proposers of the bill, who will place them on exhibition as "natural curiosities".

IRELANDS PATRON SAINT.

The 17th of old Ireland, was celebrated in the usual enthusiastic manner, and the majority of her Sons, drowned their "shamrocks" in the national beverage of the country; Dunvills,V.R. and Kinnahans L.L. Good order prevailed.
At Manns Landing a jolly time was spent, as the teams,and some of the miners had been laid off for a month. The only unpleasantness was that a "Son of Erin" ran foul of "a Son of Scotia.

NEW FERRY.

For the convenience of those travelling to and from Tobacco Plains, our old friend Cap't Tom. Flowers is putting in a wire cable and ferry at Elk river; There is no doubt as to the influx of prospectors,and settlers from the South,and the ferry will be largely patronized. It fills a long felt want.

Mine host DeRosier of the Dalgarno House has gone to Kalispel for supplies.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY.

Editor Golden Era:-

Deas 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 the President of the Mining Association came to this office and inquired if we had heard of the report 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 was 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 the 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 in the mine,in a different drift from where the first strike was made,As to the assay value of the silver, the following receipt will throw a little light upon the matter, though the sample was not as good as we have seen, but it was all 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 this sample for Silver and find it to contain the above quantities M.Arnold.Wallinger.

Continued on page 2.

THE PROSPECTOR.

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The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday the 21 st of March.
All possible information,will be furnished by the Association,upon application to
Thomas.McVittie,Sec,Fort Steele B.C.

The Editorial,in the Golden Era, entitled, "There we are again"is remarkable and quite funny, The average mind is unable to grasp the point,and see just where the laugh comes in. It is evident that the Editor would like to pose as an expert on mining,His articles on Mineralogy is "as we suppose"where the laugh should be rewarded, his knowledge of wire silver limited,and he accusses us of doing "just what he has done" ie.reporting as absolutely untrue, something that he knows nothing about,and dont take the trouble to investigate.which to the contary we did.we wish no controversy with the Era, but we wish it understood that we publish no report that there is the slightest doubt of being untrue. Our reply to the communication ,will sustain our position as to the origin of the report.

The road between the Plains and Fort Steele is in good conditionfor travel.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY.

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 originated 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 of the mine, and we have never been able to get any information direct from the officials,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 P.

If you have a good mine,or prospect, 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 the district at large. The Prospector is here to publish a full and complete report of your mine or prospect.

MATRIMONIAL.

A bachelor aged 60,living near the growing and progressive town of Fort Steele B.C. wants a wife. A Lady between the age of 35 & 45 years, accustomed to a life on a farm,and would be content with a good comfortable home, and who is seeking a good man,will find this a rare chance . The party seeking a wife has a good farm,well fenced,and a band of cattle.He means business, Address P. Fort Steele B.C., Canada.
Ad,M21.

ROUND TOWN.

Divine Service at the School House,next Sunday Evening at 7 1/2 Oclock, Subject "The Service of the Church".

The Gillis and Herron teams have gone to Tobacco Plains for oats.

The Mathers mill is making full time,and will be kept busy for some months filling the orders now being placed with the proprietor.

Superintendent Young,and book-keeper Mitchell of the Invicta Co, arrived in Steele last Sunday. And on Monday went to Wild Horse creek, They will at once put the Invicta Co's claim in shape for working.

Sidney. Skertchley has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of the Invicta Co,at a good salary.

Last Sunday while the Guests were enjoying their dinner, at the Dalgardno House,a Gentleman recently from Scotland presided at the organ and discoursed sweet music.

H.L.Ammie,and R.O.Jennings left Fort Steele on Monday last for Spokane. They took the river route,going down in a canoe to Jennings.

Dont forget the Mining Association meeting to night.

William,Bossie. Pete.Olson and Charlie.Chapman are in from the StEugene mine.

The Owners of mines on Wild Horse are bringing in lots of good looking ore.

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 situate 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 of this group and on which the most work has been done are known as 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 ozs 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 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 develop them into ore 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. some 800 tons at McGinty, and nearly 3000 tons at the dump. this is a grand showing for the mine, though it is not the capacity of the output of the mine. with force enough, 100 tons daily can be placed on the dump. Last week another strike of the rich WIRE SILVER was made in another drift, seperate 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 annon.

GOLD HILL.

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

LILLIE .AY.

Some very 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 on the dump. The lead in the first drift is 7 feet in width, Messers Finch & Cronan are expected early in the spring.

SETTLERS COMING.

Seven settlers arrived at the Fort on Friday morning, and reported at the Custom House. they came through with a wagon from Kalispel, they report the road in a fairly good condition.

ROUND TOWN.

There was a report current in town during the week, that the Provincial Government would be defeated. on account of their refusal to aid the British Pacific R.R. C.N.Armstrong was to hold a monster meeting in the Theatre at Victoria to protest against the Government's attitude on the question, a very lively time was expected.

It is reported that the body of Carbonates containing wire silver, is much larger than expected Over the main body of galena is a small layer of lead crystals some three or four inches thick, above this formation is a large body of carbonates from eight to twelve feet in thickness with wire silver interspersed through the carbonates, We shall try and give the readers of the Prospector a full and complete description of the of this new find, in our next issue.

The teams at the North Star engaged in hauling ore has been laid off until the road gets in condition to enable them to use wagons.

Spring has come, but the Gun Club has not put in an appearance.

A tidal wave of disapprobation is sweeping over the whole of British Columbia, and the proposed assessment act will be modified to meet the wishes of the people.

Dont forget the Mining Association meeting to night.

For the year ending June 30th 1895, the sum of $72.000 (or one twelfth of the total revenue of the Province) was collected from miner's licenses and record fees. in B.C.

A change will take place in the management of the Mountain House on the 1st of April. Mr.Wm.Forsyth has leased the premises, and will ~~fit~~ renovate the house, and open on the 1st of the month; The bar will be supplied with the best brands of liquors and cigars. good accommodations will be afforded to the travelling public.

Messers, Cowell & Wallinger will shortly commence the erection of a new assay office, on main street

The Spot man say's that he dont know where he is going, and wants some to tell him where he can drop on some favored spot. now dont all speak at once.

We notice that Westport is improving very much, the boys all say that Hank, is the coming Mayor.

James, Durick, will go to Windermere on the next stage.

Miss, Wallinger is visiting some friends at Calgary.

DeRosiers, teams are expected in from the Plains to-day.

Mr, Winterbottom, left per the stage last Sunday for Calgary.

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