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Work to Commence on Ecstall River Mining Property as Soon As Thaw Makes it Possible

Engineer to Arrive Very Soon and Large Number of Men Expected to be Employed at What is Known As The Dunsmuir Mine

Word has been received from the south that, as soon as spring opens, work will commence on the iron pyrites property up the Ecstall River, usually known in this part of the country as the Dunsmuir mine. It is now controlled by Texas Gulf Sulphur with the Wilson Brothers of Fernie holding an interest. As soon as word is received from

here that the Ecstall River is navigable and conditions are favorable, an engineer is coming from Vancouver to have charge and immediately a gang of men will be put to work clearing the old tramway which leads to the mine and putting up buildings to house the men who are to work there. Quite a large number of men will be employed, variously estimated at from fifty to one hundred.

The mine is situated about twenty miles above Falls River on the Ecstall River and the river is navigable for flat bottom boats all the way at high tide. Transportation will be an easy problem to overcome. All that is needed is the right kind of boats handled by men who know the river. It is understood that George Frizzell and Jimmie Donaldson, both of whom know the river well, will be prominently connected with the transportation plans.

The ore is thought to be true iron pyrites. If so it would run 53.4 percent sulphur, 46.6 iron and up to about two percent copper with gold values up to approximately 80c. The real reason for the acquisition of the property just now is to secure a supply of sulphur as there is at present a strong demand for the product and the consumption is steadily increasing, in connection with the manufacture of sulphite wood pulp. There is also a possibility of Japan being a market for the iron slag.

Treatment of Ore

In connection with the treatment of the ore, it is not known whether it will be smelted at the mine or brought out to the coast at a point such as Port Edward for treatment. In any event it will mean a very important industry and the employment permanently of a great many men.

Some development was done at the mine twenty to thirty years ago but only test shipments were made and owing to their being no market for sulphur the property was allowed to lie dormant all these years. Since then there has been considerable advance made in the methods of treating those ores so as to get everything marketable from them. This makes them more valuable and the increase in the pulp mill industry has created the demand for sulphur. A couple of years ago when there was much publicity given to the possibility of a pulp mill at Prince Rupert, the property was acquired by the Wilson Brothers of Fernie and they interested the Texas Gulf Sulphur Inc. The curious thing about this deal was that the Timmins concern was also interested in the property and would have taken it but the Texas company was about an hour ahead in deciding to close the deal.

Mining men who know the property say there is undoubtedly a very large tonnage of ore there and the possibilities are good for the development on the Ecstall of a great mine. It is low grade so far as copper and gold are concerned and most of the world's largest mining operations have been low grade with large deposits such as this is said to have.

Nearly Fifty Natives Dead

Influenza, Pneumonia and Measles Take Heavy Toll on Saskatchewan Reserves

PRINCE ALBERT, March 17:—Latest reports from the two Indian reservations north of here where influenza, pneumonia and measles are raging state that nearly fifty natives have died. Dr. King and a nurse have been sent from here to assist Dr. Lavoie, the resident physician.

Many Killed In Fireworks Plant

Holocaust in Factory at Manila—Blast Followed by Fire

MANILA, March 17: (CP)—Twenty-eight persons were killed in an explosion at a Chinese fireworks plant at Pasay, a suburb of Manila. Some officials estimated from twenty to fifty missing.

Fire followed the explosion and the force of the blast was felt over a radius of two miles.

Police reported that several Filipino workers jumped from windows into a swamp where they were trapped in mud and water.

PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA URGED TO CONSTRUCT RAILWAY CONNECTING PEACE WITH RUPERT.

(Continued from Page 1)

importance. It would be an incentive to desirable white immigration. It would immediately add to the national wealth and improve business conditions in the east as well as the west.

"Incidentally this connecting link would financially assist the Canadian National Railway by making the Prince Rupert section a real revenue producer. It would enable the country to make good the promises given to Prince Rupert and the people of that district at the time the G. T. P. Railway was built. It would convert the government grain elevator at Prince Rupert into a profitable undertaking and indirectly help in keeping the local shipyard and dry dock in condition to be an efficient and integral part of Canada's defence system.

"Another reason for building this railway is that it would tap a number of valuable gold, silver, base metal and coal properties, several of which are already active such as the properties operated by Northern Ventures Ltd., Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. of Canada, Germanson Mines Ltd. and the Groundhog anthracite coal fields.

An Obvious Benefit

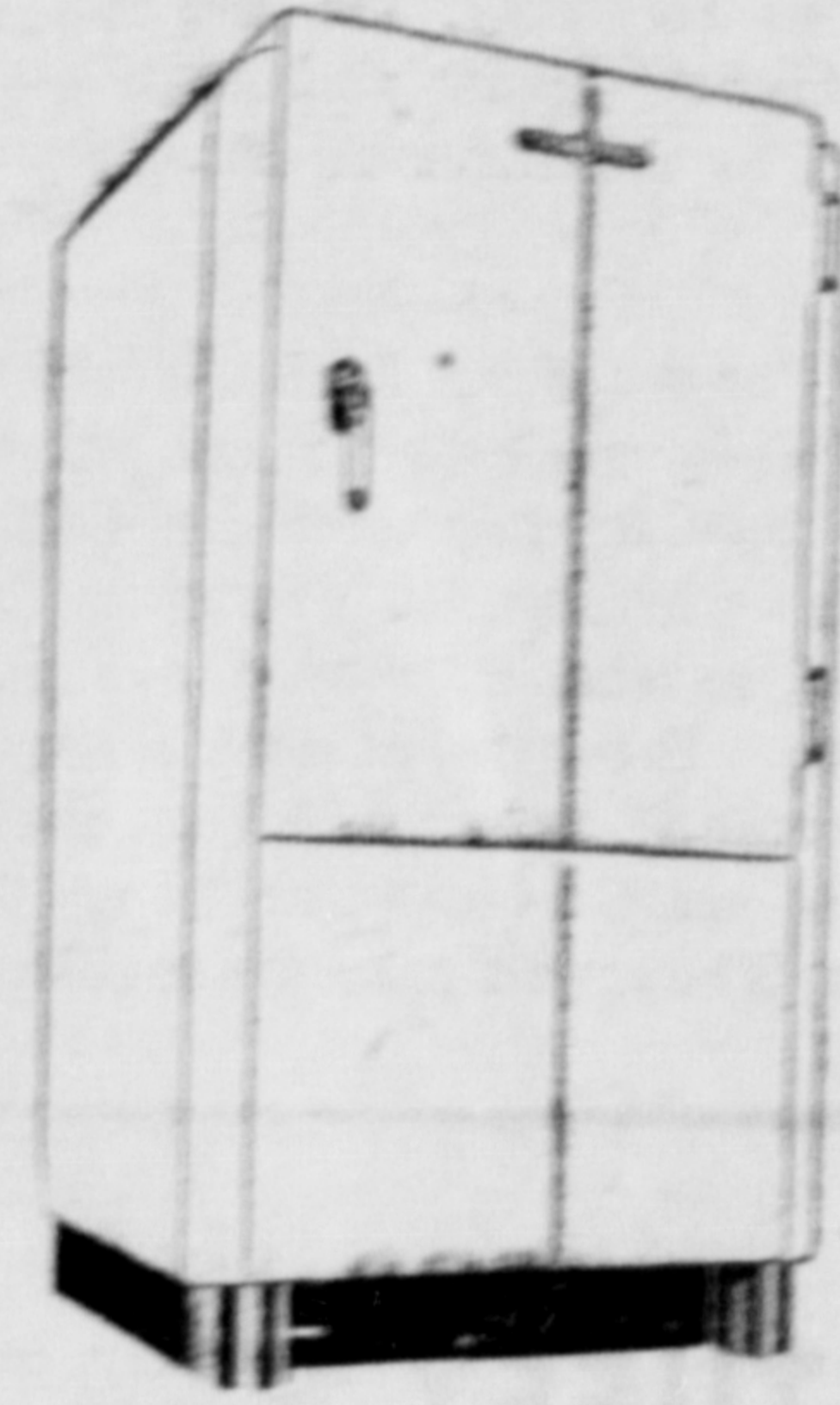
"It seems scarcely necessary to point out to you the necessity of providing remunerative employment for many people in British Columbia and on the prairies who are now living 'on the dole.' The building of this railway would employ a large part of these people and would at the same time so stimulate industry that the remainder of the economic slack in the west would be taken up and an impetus be given to eastern industries that would prove exceedingly helpful there also.

"From an economic point of view also, in the consideration of a policy to absorb the greatest number of our able bodied unemployed (a very pertinent feature at the present time) the various phases of railway construction, through this type of country, would employ more labor in proportion to the whole cost involved than any other form of constructive effort or expenditure.

"In consequence it would have a very far reaching effect economically, by providing employment at a self-respecting wage to the greatest number with the least ultimate expense to the country.

"It is impossible to think of any national undertaking that could be so important to the whole Dominion as the building of the railway from the Peace River country to the C. N. R. by the most economical and shortest route, which we believe to be via Finlay Forks to a connection in the vicinity of Hazelton. For that reason we are urging upon you, as strongly as possible, the desirability of commencing this work at an early date."

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PRINCE RUPERT IS:

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- The Central City for the greatest virgin timber area in the world, outside Russia.
- The Capital City of a great mineral empire.
- The Natural Port and Outlet for the Peace River district and central interior.
- The Northern Terminal of the Canadian National Railway.

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