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The Hotel Allan

Rossland, B.C., July 31st 1896

Dear George,

Thanks for your letter July 22. which reached me safely as I was stepping on to the train at Glacier.

I shall be very particular, as you suggest, in not involving you in any way in anything I do or say here, - indeed I have always been so. - Of course your reputation here inevitably throws a sort of halo of respectability about anyone connected with you, but this is inevitable. At least I shall see that it is not in any way abused. I find too that my connection with the Hall Mines, - temporary as it was, gives one a great reputation here, partly because of the assured success of the mine, but largely because the original owners, whose interests I endeavoured to safeguard, have done so well with it. They have all made small fortunes - or have them in the way of fully paid stock. Carlyle has just completed a 5 weeks inspection of this Camp & district, & I was so fortunate as to run across him at Trail, & had some talk with him. He is very favourably impressed, and his report on this district, which he has written, will appear shortly. He must have visited hundreds of claims and mines all about here.

2, 9/6 This is really a wonderful town to have sprung up in 18 months. and it has I believe "come to stay". You should certainly come out here in the autumn if you can possibly get away - They have now a very good little narrow gauge line from Trail, about 13 miles, or 7 as the crow flies - Trail itself is a most prosperous village, and the smelter there is working full blast at present, - about 200 tons of ore a day. The half dozen assured, and producing mines here, will alone be sufficient to more than support this town, & there are hundreds of claims all about, many of which may turn out good, when opened up - There is work being done on all sides - The R.R. from Northport on the boundary is being pushed on, & before Xmas they expect to have trains running in here from Spokane -

This is an ideal mining town in one way, - very little drunkenness, and absolutely no disorder or lawlessness of any kind. Yet quite as much push, energy and activity as, is needed or desirable - Although I have been here only 24 hours, I have already met most of the leading men of the town, & have learned a lot about things generally (thanks partly to 3 or 4 cards which Carlyle gave me) -

Of mining men, Green seems to be the only one who has not already got good employment, & have written to him. Care Bank of Montreal, Vancouver, is the only address I have as yet. Shall try to have letters forwarded to Nelson or to this place, if not at Vancouver -

All very kind remembrances, & good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Rankine.