

‘JUDICIOUS CONTROL OF THE MALT PRODUCT’: ALBERT MUTZ IN COAL COUNTRY

WAYNE NORTON

As the number of craft breweries in British Columbia continues to grow apace, the history of ales and lagers of quality is often presented as a tale of recent origin, with a few token nods to the pioneers of the 1980s. However, brewing pioneers in this province were well at work a hundred years earlier. As the twentieth century began, British Columbia was home to three dozen independent brewers, each offering customers a range of local products and each experimenting with recipes that could potentially expand that range. One of the longest-surviving of those historic breweries was located in the remote Elk River valley, a coal-mining region in the south-eastern corner of the province.

Introduction

The origins of brewing in that region are found nearly 100 kilometres to the west, at Fort Steele, where partners Fritz Sick and Fredrick Kaiser opened for business in 1898. They expected to find a ready market in territory served by the new Canadian Pacific branch line running from Lethbridge in Alberta to Kootenay Lake in British Columbia. However, the decision to route that line through Cranbrook – rather than through Fort Steele as anticipated – meant the small brewery was in a relatively isolated location. By 1900, its owners were faced with the choice of closing or relocating. Fritz Sick and two new partners – Albert Mutz and his brother-in-law, George Hilton Scott – decided on relocation, but not to Cranbrook. They would build in the Elk River valley – hard by the Canadian Pacific branch line – on a three-acre site with an ideal water source just west of the new boomtown called Fernie.

Like Fritz Sick, Albert Mutz had immigrated initially to the United States from the Freiburg area in Germany in the mid-1880s. Both were employed at the Puget Sound brewery in Tacoma in the early 1890s, but while Sick soon saw opportunity in Spokane, Mutz moved to Canada in 1894.¹ He settled near Fort Steele, where he built and operated a small

hotel and had some success as a prospector. He must have been surprised in 1898 to learn of his former colleague’s plans to open a brewery locally.² Two years later, when Sick was in dire need of operating capital, Mutz and George Scott stepped forward to become co-owners of the Fort Steele brewery. The decision to relocate quickly followed.

A new beginning

Sick, Mutz and Scott transported moveable equipment from Fort Steele as construction got under way at Fernie. Advertisements began appearing in the *Fernie Free Press* in March 1901, offering beer and porter ‘sold by barrel, keg or bottled’ by ‘Sick, Mutz & Co., Props.’ The owners, accompanied by their employees and children, gathered at the main entrance for a commemorative photograph when the new brewery opened in late April.

However, Fritz Sick – apparently uncomfortable within the partnership – was already considering other possibilities. Just as production was beginning, he sold his interest to his partners for the sum of \$10,000.³ George Scott was designated as business manager, but left brewing matters in the hands of his brother-in-law. From the first days of its operation, therefore, what quickly became the popular designation of the business as ‘Mutz’s brewery’ was an accurate one.

Posing for the photographer on the steps of the new brewery on Cokato Road, Albert Mutz was also standing at the threshold of his long association with Fernie. He would soon join the Fernie board of trade as he began to establish his reputation as the ‘genial German who understands beer manufacture from top to bottom’.⁴ The Fort Steele Brewing Company had chosen its new location wisely. Sales in the Fernie region were strong and the impressive new brewery – with decorative crenellations atop its façade and the capacity to produce approximately 1,000 barrels a month – was able to meet all demands from the string of coal-mining commu-

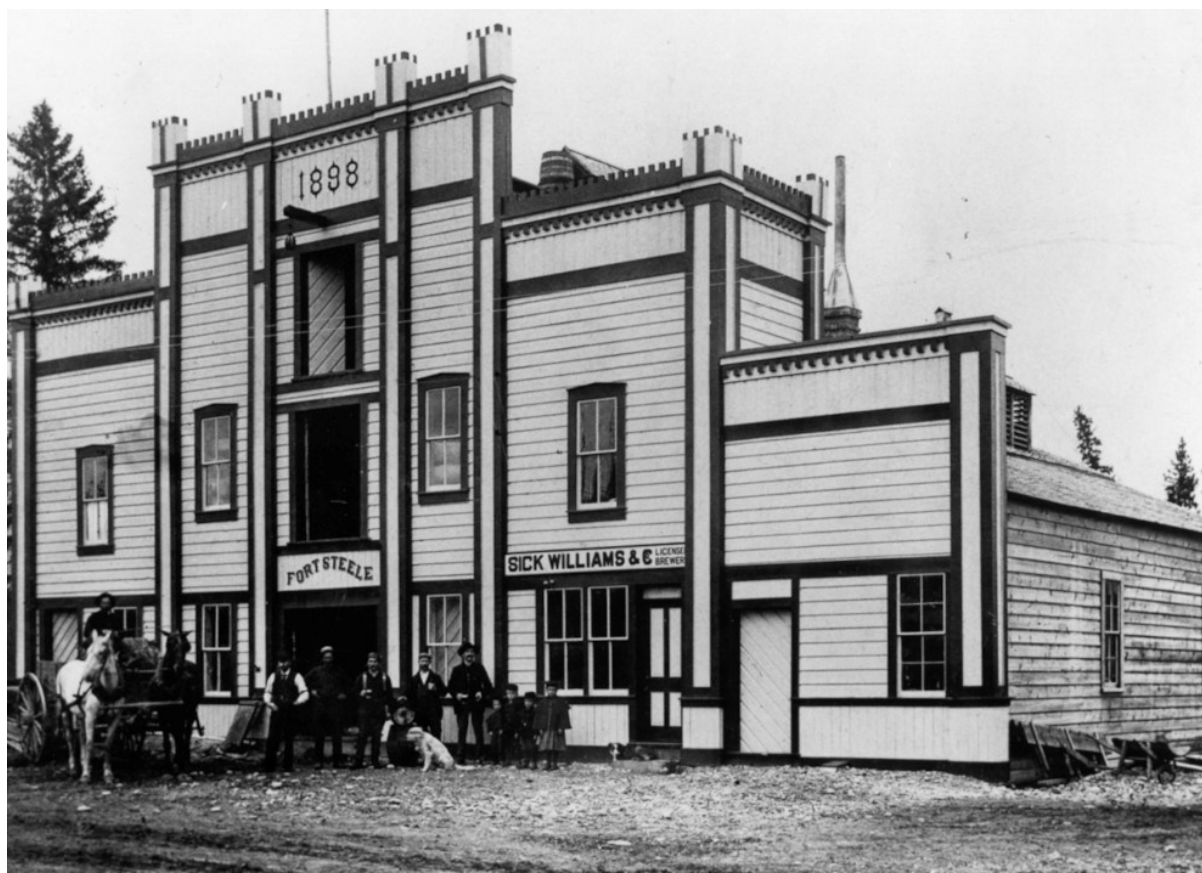


Figure 1. By 1899, Charles Williams had replaced Kaiser as co-owner of the brewery at Fort Steele. Facing the camera, Fritz Sick and his four children stand to the left of the dog. (Fernie Museum and Archives 1303)

nities located along the river valley and across the Crowsnest Pass into Alberta.

It soon became clear that Mutz possessed both ambition and access to capital. In the summer of 1902, the company announced it would proceed at once to erect a large brewery at Frank. Promotional advertising at Christmas indicated the facility was in operation, but work on what Mutz called his 'branch brewery' was still ongoing at the end of the year.⁵ He also purchased a property at Blairmore with the intention of building a brewery there.⁶ Typically, in British Columbia, brewers invested in the hotel industry and Mutz was no exception. In 1903, he acquired a half interest in the Imperial Hotel at Frank and full ownership of the Coleman Hotel. Frank, Blairmore and Coleman were all coal-mining communities in Alberta's Crowsnest Pass, some 50 kilometres northeast of Fernie.

In January 1904, Mutz and Scott expressed confidence in their venture by incorporating and jointly becoming majority

shareholders in the Fort Steele Brewing Co., Ltd. They then immediately acquired the East Kootenay Bottling Works operation in Fernie at a cost of \$5,000.⁷ The company was soon marketing a variety of soft drinks (then called 'aerated waters') – products to attract the more temperance-minded consumer.

While Mutz had quickly become a dominant figure in the local brewing industry and hotel business, he was not the only brewer interested in the region. The Crow's Nest Pass Brewing Company began production at Morrissey in July 1903.⁸ The new brewery was expected to compete with the larger operation at Fernie, but soon found itself in difficulty with creditors. In less than a year, the Crow's Nest Pass Brewing Company was bankrupt. The building, equipment, stock and land were sold at public auction for \$2,500 in May 1904. The purchaser was variously reported to be either Mutz personally or the Fort Steele Brewing Company. If plans to resume production at Morrissey were considered, they were permanently shelved when the brewery was destroyed by fire just two months later.⁹

A. MUTZ. GEO. SCOTT

The Fort Steele Brewing Company

Breweries at
Fernie, B.C.,
& Frank, Alt.

Selected
Bottled Beer
A Specialty.



Brewers of
Lager Beer
and Porter.

The Trade
And Families
Supplied.

Mutz & Scott, Props. Head Office, Fernie, B.C.

Figure 2. Albert Mutz and his children, George Scott, a dog and employees pose at the new brewery at Fernie. (Fernie Museum and Archives FFP-(02)-0095).

Another competitor soon emerged, this time in Fernie itself. In 1903, brewer Nicholas Klausman arrived in Fernie and found local investors in hotel owners William Eschwig and Sarah Jennings. They launched their Fernie Brewing Company in late 1904. The venture showed every sign of being successful, but just six months later, Eschwig and Jennings both decided to offer their interests in the brewery to Klausman – an offer he would not or could not take up.

Mutz, attempting what was clearly a hostile takeover, then approached the hotel owners with a generous proposal. It was soon understood that the partnership of Eschwig, Jennings and Klausman had been dissolved and that the Fort Steele Brewing Company had purchased the rival brewery. Mutz announced the facility would be closed until production demands on Cokato Road might require its capacity, while Klausman – much like Fritz Sick four years earlier – left Fernie to explore brewing possibilities elsewhere.¹⁰

Like the operation at Morrissey, that brewery never did resume production. The Fort Steele Brewing Company apparently was interested in a local monopoly and possessed the financial resources required to pursue that objective. The workers at Cokato Road immediately understood the implications of there being only one brewer in the region. Just a week after the purchase of the Fernie Brewing Company, they went on strike for a wage increase of 25 cents per day, a demand to which Mutz and Scott quickly agreed.¹¹

Just as Sick had done at Fort Steele, Mutz and Scott at Fernie employed German immigrants in positions with the chief responsibilities – especially those of a brew master – and provided on-site accommodation for more than a dozen employees. The brewery output for the month of March 1905 increased to 1200 barrels, each containing 32 gallons.¹² Mutz was also experimenting, making a Bock beer available ‘for a few days only’ in May. Prospects for the Fort Steele brewery were bright and the company paid its first dividend

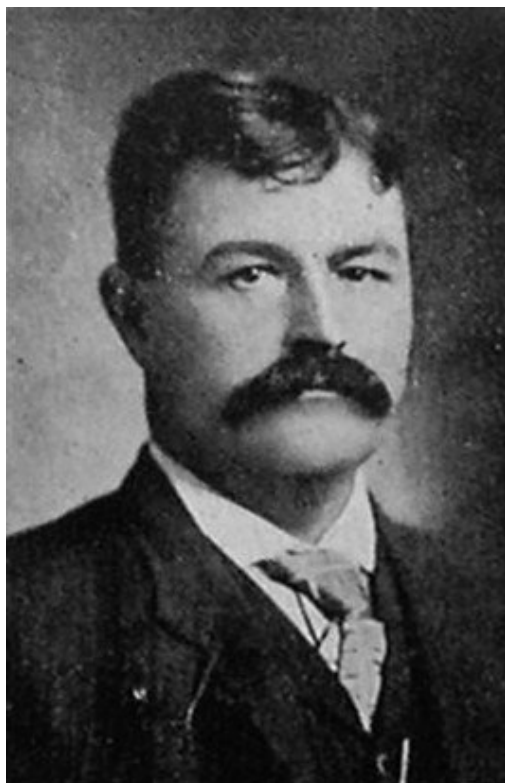


Figure 3. Albert Mutz, c.1905. Fernie Museum and Archives FFP-(05-06)-0073.

at the end of 1904.¹³ Nevertheless, George Scott soon left Fernie and began to withdraw from the company, selling his shares to Mutz some months later. Both brewing and business matters were henceforth entirely in the hands of Albert Mutz. ‘Mutz’s brewery’ had indeed become Mutz’s brewery.¹⁴

However, as Mutz well knew, competition for the local trade was inevitable. Geographically, that competition came from all directions. The Cranbrook Brewing and Malting Company opened in 1904, but quickly ran into financial difficulties. Again demonstrating his quest to maintain a regional monopoly, Mutz managed to purchase the defunct brewery in 1906, but production at the facility was not resumed.¹⁵ In Alberta, Fritz Sick had transformed his modest first brewery into the Lethbridge Brewing and Malting Company, and by 1906 his beer was available in Fernie.¹⁶ The Royal Hotel was alone in offering patrons Sick’s brew locally, claiming it was ‘the only good beer in Fernie.’ For private consumption, the Pollock Wine Company of Fernie advertised its bottled American-made Schlitz beer, which then enjoyed Milwaukee’s reputation for quality.¹⁷

Ambition and adversity

Confident and profitable, the Fort Steele Brewing Company announced plans in the autumn of 1906 to expand its operation on Cokato Road. It called for tenders to construct a new fire-proof building of brick, steel, cement and stone, with the capacity to produce 30,000 barrels annually.¹⁸ For over a year, further details of those plans were not made public, but the souvenir booklet published by the *Fernie Free Press* just before Christmas 1907 contained an advertisement, showing an architect’s rendition of a strikingly modern facility. The illustration also indicated that other changes were being made. The company’s lager beer was to be renamed Mutz’s Extra, and the company itself would no longer be the Fort Steele Brewing Company at Fernie; it had become the Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company.

At the same time, it seemed other competitors were about to emerge – these much closer to home. Mutz had not proceeded with his plans for a brewery at Blairmore, and others saw an opportunity. In the summer of 1907, hotelmen in the Crowsnest Pass announced the creation of the Blairmore Brewing and Malting Company.²⁰ On the British Columbia side of the border, plans were further advanced. Arrangements for the construction of a new brewery at Natal were all in place by the end of 1907. In charge would be none other than Otto Meier. The brew master at the original Fort Steele operation, Meier had accompanied Mutz on the move to Fernie, but left the company soon after it incorporated.²¹ By coincidence or design, the contract for Mutz’s new brewery on Cokato Road was awarded in May 1908 – just as Meier’s bottled beer from the Elk Valley Brewing Company first became available.

Mutz was a busy man. He was president of a new venture (the Fernie Brick Company) had increased his interest in the Coleman Hotel, and was supervising preparations for construction at Cokato Road.²² The Mutz residence was moved to clear the site just to the south of the existing brewery where the concrete foundations were soon being laid for the new one. But all preparations came to an abrupt halt on the first day of August. Strong winds from the south sent a raging forest fire along Cokato Road, and before the day was out the entire business district of the city of Fernie was burnt to the ground. The wooden Fort Steele brewery was the first building destroyed. Reports of losses incurred by the company varied significantly. The *Coleman Miner* stated the loss was \$30,000; the *District Ledger* gave a preliminary estimate of \$150,000; the *Fernie Free Press* reported a figure of \$185,000, of which insurance would cover nearly half.²³ Just two weeks later, in an apparent show of bravado, the Fort Steele brewery was advertising for orders.²⁴



Figure 4. The brewery's flagship product before provincial prohibition began in 1917.



Figure 5. The Beer from the Mountains was known throughout the western provinces.



Figure 6. A corporate merger in 1950 brought a redesigned label.

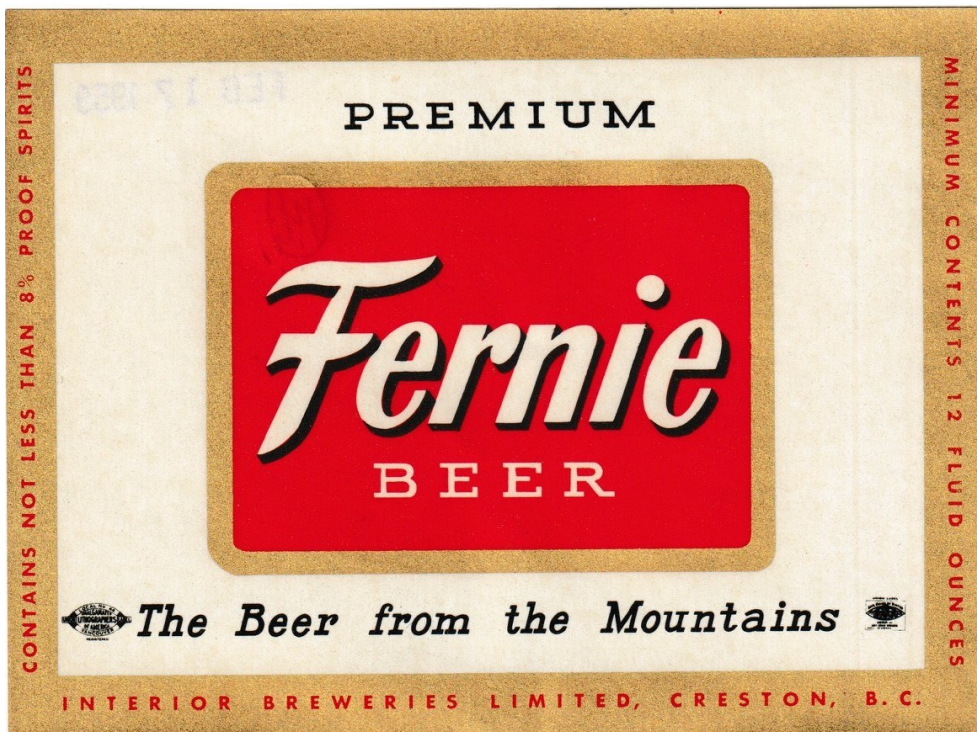


Figure 8. The end of an era: when Fernie Beer no longer came from Fernie.

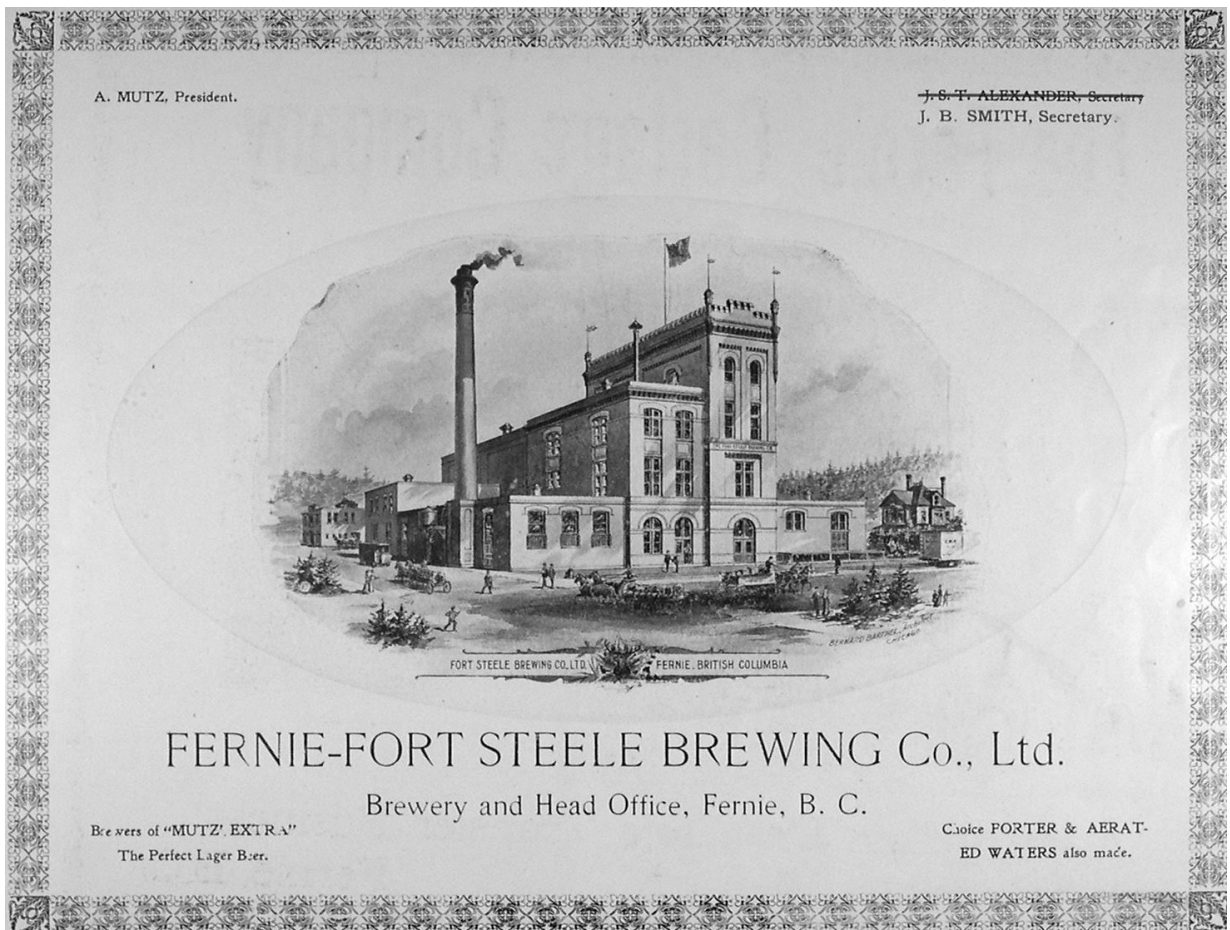


Figure 8. Advertisement in *Fernie Free Press Souvenir Edition*, 1907. (Fernie Museum and Archives FFP (07)-0043).

Filling any orders it may have received would have to wait. The debris of the destroyed brewery was cleared quickly and construction resumed on the new facility in mid-September. Despite inevitable delays during the winter months, progress was sufficient to allow a test of the new brewing system in April 1909. To mark that occasion, Mutz flew the flags of Great Britain, Germany, the United States, Sweden and Italy, to honour men the *Fernie Free Press* described as 'the representatives of those several nations whose brain and brawn had made this magnificent building possible'.²⁵ Satisfied with test results, Mutz began commercial brewing in mid-June. All that remained was what would now be called re-launching the brand. When that occasion arrived, it proved to be the most spectacular commercial opening Fernie was ever likely to witness.

To celebrate the remarkable rebuilding of the city in just twelve months, Fernie mayor Sherwood Herchmer declared 2 August a holiday. Picnics, a baseball game and a grand

banquet organised by the board of trade at the Waldorf Hotel were planned. Mutz also scheduled the official re-opening of his brewery for that date. He sent hundreds of personal invitations, and placed notices in the Fernie newspapers inviting everyone to help mark the occasion.²⁶ According to newspaper reports, over the course of the afternoon, almost every man in Fernie accepted the invitation. Offered beer, sandwiches, frankfurters and a selection of cheeses – courtesy of the officially renamed Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company – guests enjoyed an occasion that would long be remembered. Some took a tour of what the *Fernie Free Press* called the 'new monster brewery' and expressed their astonishment at its modernity and capabilities. Ongoing work on the malting and bottling facilities would reportedly bring total expenditure to nearly \$300,000 on a facility capable of producing 125 barrels a day.²⁷

However, it quickly became clear Mutz would be allowed no time alone in the spotlight. Liquor merchant John Pollock



Figure 9. Mutz and a work crew prepare to clear the debris, August 1908. (Fernie Museum and Archives 1358).

was president of the Fernie board of trade and a director the Elk Valley Brewing Company. He advertised regularly as the agent for draught and bottled beer from Natal, but immediately after Mutz's grand re-opening, he placed small notes in both the *District Ledger* and the *Fernie Free Press* touting Elk Valley bottled beer as 'even better than imported Schlitz,' 'the best beer made,' 'always on tap at the leading hotels'.²⁸ Mutz, busy re-establishing contacts with local hotels following the opening of his new brewery, may have thought Pollock's timing unkind, but he had a greater challenge to face. He was admitted to hospital in mid-August with a fever that was soon diagnosed as a case of typhoid, not uncommon in Fernie at the time.²⁹

Back to business

For several months, The Elk Valley Brewing Company had been quietly enjoying the local monopoly long desired by Mutz. With its considerable investment in the new plant on Cokato Road, the Fernie-Fort Steele brewery might have been expected to return to competition aggressively. It certainly had done so with its re-opening, but it did not follow up with advertising. Until the Fernie fire, the Fort Steele

Brewing Company had advertised for a decade in both the *Cranbrook Herald* and *The Prospector*. As Fernie-Fort Steele, the renamed company did not resume that tradition. Nor did it advertise in two new publications, the *Michel Reporter* and the *Hosmer Times*, both of which carried weekly advertisements for the Elk Valley brewery. Regular Fernie-Fort Steele advertisements – surprisingly nondescript for a business needing to regain lost market share – began to appear in mid-September, but only in Fernie's two newspapers.

In addition, there seemed to be a curious reluctance to exploit the personal connection of the company's chief executive to its most popular product. Fernie-Fort Steele lager, rebranded as Mutz's Extra in 1907, was not mentioned by name in regular weekly advertising, which continued to identify only 'beer, porter and aerated waters.' That rather bland product listing was renewed in newspaper advertising even after the opening of the new brewery. Only in the *Progressive Fernie* booklet of 1909 and the *Catholic Directory* of 1910 is Mutz's Extra specifically named and promoted in company advertisements.

Advertising content notwithstanding, the Fernie-Fort Steele and Elk Valley breweries were both thriving as the econom-

Fernie Ft-Steele Brewing Co.

LIMITED

FERNIE, B. C.

UNDOUBTEDLY
FINEST PLANT
IN WESTERN
CANADA





MUTZ'S EXTRA
SERVED IN ALL
LEADING
HOTELS



Ask for Mutz's Extra and Take No Other

Figure 10. Advertisement in *Progressive Fernie*, 1909. (Fernie Museum and Archives DL-PF-1909-0155).

ic boom continued. Their success brought renewed interest in brewing from Blairmore. In the summer of 1911, a group of investors finally began work on the construction of the long anticipated brewery there.³⁰ Mutz was attending to his considerable personal investments throughout the region, particularly to his hotels in Frank and Coleman and the property at Blairmore, which was being described as a 'significant mining property'.³¹ He also purchased the Michel Hotel and became a substantial investor in the rival Elk Valley Brewing Company. Mutz's Extra was being shipped as far as Saskatoon.

However, economic conditions were deteriorating significantly by 1912. Nationally, the decade known as the 'Laurier boom' was over; locally, miners were fortunate if they were employed part-time. To much surprise, Mutz decided to move to a small rural community and abruptly curtailed his business activities in the coal-mining communities. He sold his recently acquired interest in the Michel Hotel and his long-held share of the hotel at Coleman. At

Frank, he closed his hotel and transported as much of its contents and materials as was possible to Vulcan in Alberta, where he planned to build and operate a new hotel.³² While he would retain his address on Cokato Road for some time, Mutz soon moved his family to Vulcan. He remained as president of the Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company, but relinquished his position as manager of the brewery.

An uncertain future

New management at the company adopted a fresh approach to advertising after its president left town. Identifying Mutz's Extra as the 'best beer made in British Columbia,' the advertisement in J.F. Spalding's *Official Automobile Road Guide* of 1913 marked the change. Advertisements for the Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company and for Mutz's Extra then appeared on every page of *Jeffries Southeast Kootenay Directory* of 1914. In the *Fernie Free Press*, the company responded to the outbreak of war in Europe by



Figure 11. No children or dogs were present for the final commemorative photograph, c. 1950. (Fernie Museum and Archives 6664).

urging readers of the newspaper not to ‘overlook our beer in the war excitement’.³³

In the *District Ledger*, eye-catching advertisements employing humour began to appear in May 1915. Whether or not Mutz was involved in their creation is not known. They all contain minor problems in grammar, perhaps reflecting the imperfect command of English for which he was known. The same advertisements and some new additions – with English usage largely corrected – were then featured in the *Fernie Free Press*:

Alexander the Great was a great man. He drank beer. Perhaps he would have been a greater man if he had not drunk beer, but you had better take no chances.

The Turks were once a great people, but they refused to drink beer – and look at them now!

The best safeguard against intemperance in strong drink is to cultivate a taste for that harmless and wholesome beverage – good beer – we make it.³⁴

Just as the advertisements were appearing, Mutz abruptly stepped down as president of the Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company. In keeping with the local economy, the brewing industry was experiencing a prolonged period of decline. The Blairmore Brewing and Malting Company – just as it was finally ready to start production – went bankrupt in 1915. The Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company nearly followed suit. The company found it necessary to negotiate a sizeable mortgage, an undertaking that resulted in the disturbing realisation that Mutz’s brewery was in serious trouble.

A group of shareholders resorted to legal action and a scathing auditor’s report for the calendar year 1915 quickly fol-

lowed. It found confusion over ownership and valuation of properties listed as company assets in Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat and Cranbrook, and of hotels in Blairmore, Frank and Fernie. Although Mutz was not mentioned by name, the auditor complained of being hampered in his assessment by the ‘incompleteness, looseness, and general inadequacy of the records.’ Company directors declared an intention to continue production, but entered into voluntary liquidation – a form of creditor protection – in January 1916.³⁵

Further depressing the industry, the adoption of prohibition by British Columbia a year later allowed breweries to produce only aerated waters and two-percent beers.³⁶ Struggling through these years, the Fernie-Fort Steele Company nevertheless introduced its new Lion brand of low-alcohol beer and porter in 1917, and added to its range of aerated waters with the introduction of Orange-Kist and Lemon-Kist in 1920. At the same time, the sale of its interests in the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Blairmore and the Royal Hotel in Fernie enabled the return to financial stability.

When prohibition in British Columbia ended in 1921, the company finally emerged from creditor protection and resumed its production of full-strength beer and porter. However, it did not revive the Mutz’s Extra brand. Perhaps reflecting the widespread post-war avoidance of overt Germanic associations, Fernie-Fort Steele brews would be referred to simply as Fernie Beer. Mutz remained as a director and the company’s largest shareholder.

The objectives of management remained unchanged, and a singular opportunity was quickly recognised. Without a line of aerated waters, the Elk Valley Brewing Company had not survived the prohibition era. The Fernie-Fort Steele Company purchased the shuttered brewery in 1921 and closed the operation completely.³⁷ One newspaper commented astutely that the brewers of Cokato Road believed in ‘the judicious control of the output of the malt product’.³⁸ The regional monopoly of production – so long desired, so long pursued – had finally been achieved.

Postscript

Albert Mutz remained a frequent visitor to Fernie, typically to attend board meetings of the Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company and the Fernie Brick Company, and also often en route to the United States. In 1918, one such journey was interrupted by 10 days’ detention at the Kingsgate border crossing, when American officials suspected his travel plans were connected to Germany’s war effort. He remained on the board of directors of the Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company until his death in 1932.

The company then restructured, finally dropping ‘Fort Steele’ from its name and acquiring what Mutz would have called a ‘branch brewery’ at Cranbrook in 1933. The re-named Fernie Brewing Company marketed its ‘Beer from the Mountains’ for the next quarter century. In 1950, the company amalgamated with Kootenay Breweries of Nelson to form Interior Breweries.³⁹ When Interior Breweries centralised production at Creston in 1956, the brewery at Fernie was closed. The end of an era had clearly arrived. The building on Cokato Road – once known as Mutz’s brewery – was gifted to the City of Fernie and demolished in 1960.

Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges advice and assistance provided by beer historians Gary Flynn, Sean Enns, Joe Wiebe and the late Greg Evans.

References

1. Albert Mutz is clearly identifiable in the photograph of Puget Sound brewery workers and draymen found at Gary Flynn’s History of the Pacific Brewing & Malting Co. of Tacoma (brewerygems.com/pacific).
2. The first reference to Mutz locally is found in *The Prospector* (Fort Steele), 6 February 1896, p.5.
3. Hagelund, W.A. (2003) *House of Suds: A History of Beer Brewing in Western Canada*. Surrey, British Columbia: Hancock House, p.58.
4. *Fernie Free Press Souvenir Edition 1905-06*, n.p.
5. *Fernie Free Press*, 23 August 1902, p.5; *Fernie Free Press Souvenir Edition 1902*, n.p. There is no local historical record of a ‘branch brewery’ having operated at Frank, and no mention of it in company advertising after 1902. Curiously, one newspaper reported it to be in operation in 1905. See *Fernie Free Press*, 21 April 1905, p. 1.
6. *Calgary Herald*, 23 August 1902, p.7; 11 February 1903, p.3; *Edmonton Bulletin*, 12 December 1902, p.5; *The Prospector* (Fort Steele), 12 December 1903, p.1.
7. British Columbia Archives, Attorney General, Company Registration Files (1897 series), GR 1438, file 1070. The company incorporated with 750 shares valued at \$200 each. Mutz and Scott maintained control by holding and equally dividing 405 shares. See also *Fernie Free Press*, 16 January 1904, p.5.
8. *Cranbrook Herald*, 9 July 1903, p.2.
9. *Morrissey Despatch*, Friday, May 13, 1904, p.5; *The Prospector* (Fort Steele), 30 July 1904, p.1.
10. *The Ledge*, 26 April 1905, p.1; 10 May 1905, pp.1, 4. British Columbia Archives, Attorney General, Company Registration Files (1897 series), GR 1438, file 1070. Combining figures from these sources, it seems Eschwig and Jennings each received \$3,500 for

their quarter-shares of the business, while Klausman received \$4,000 for his half-share.

11. *The Ledge*, 3 May 1905, p.1; *Fernie Free Press*, 5 May 1905, p. 4.

12. *Fernie Free Press*, 21 April 1905, p.1; 5 May 1905, p.4; 26 May 1905, p.4.

13. *The Ledge*, 22 February 1905, p.1.

14. Scott is not listed by *Henderson's Gazetteer and Directory* as a resident of Fernie after 1904. He is last mentioned in company records in 1906 and is identified then as a rancher at Gateway.

15. *Cranbrook Herald*, 15 February 1906, p.5. According to the newspaper report, he initially stated he would 'operate the plant to its full capacity.'

16. For Fritz Sick's full career, see Hagelund, W.A. (2003) op. cit., pp.51-86. Sick's business Empire – playing upon the homophone Six – would eventually include breweries and hotels in Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Washington State. See also see *Lethbridge Herald*, 17 July 1908, p.3.

17. *Fernie Ledger*, 4 July 1906, pp.3, 4.

18. *Fernie Ledger*, 31 October 1906, p.4; *Calgary Herald*, 2 November 1906, p.11.

19. The Fernie-Fort Steele Brewing Company was registered in May 1907, with 4,000 shares valued at \$100 each. Mutz was the largest shareholder with 719 shares. British Columbia Archives, Attorney General, Company Registration Files (1897 series), GR 1438, file 1765.

20. *Frank Paper*, 8 August 1907, p.1.

21. *Fernie Free Press*, 6 December 1907, p.8; *District Ledger*, 13 June 1908, p.1.

22. *District Ledger*, 9 May 1908, p.1; 21 May 1908, p.4; *Frank Paper*, 9 July 1908, p.4.

23. *Coleman Miner*, 7 August, 1908, p.1; *District Ledger*, 8 August 1908, p.1; *Fernie Free Press*, 14 August 1908, p.1.

24. *District Ledger*, 15 August 1908, p.2.

25. *Fernie Free Press*, 23 April 1909, p.1.

26. *Fernie Free Press*, 30 July 1909, p.1.

27. *Cranbrook Herald*, 5 August 1909, p.1; *District Ledger*, 7 August 1909, p.1.

28. *Fernie Free Press*, 6 August 1909, p.5; *District Ledger*, 14 August 1909, pp.1, 2; 21 August 1909, p.1.

29. *Frank Paper*, 2 September 1909, p.4.

30. *Coleman Miner*, 26 May 1911, p.5; *Bellevue Times*, 19 March 1915, p.8; 14 May 1915, p.1.

31. Shares were registered in the name of his wife, Alice Mutz. British Columbia Archives, Attorney General, Company Registration Files (1897 series), GR 1438, file 2185; *District Ledger*, 19 August 1911, p.8.

32. The Vulcan and District Historical Society notes Mutz called the hotel at Vulcan the Imperial because that name was on the chinaware transported from his Imperial Hotel at Frank.

33. *Fernie Free Press*, 21 August to 18 September 1914.

34. The advertisements appear weekly in the *District Ledger* from May to July 1915 and in the *Fernie Free Press* from August to December 1915.

35. British Columbia Archives, Attorney General, Company Registration Files (1897 series), GR 1438, file 1765. On behalf of shareholders, Thomas Crahan sued director Roland Wood for fraud. See *Vancouver Daily World*, 22 December 1915, p.8.

36. For the tumultuous history of the Elk Valley/Crowsnest region during the prohibition years, see Francis, D. (2014) *Closing Time: Prohibition, Rum-Runners and Border Wars*. Madeira Park, British Columbia: Douglas and McIntyre, pp.87-91, and Norton, W. (2017) *Fernie at War: 1914-1919*. Halfmoon Bay, British Columbia: Caitlin Press.

37. British Columbia Archives, Attorney General, Company Registration Files (1897 series), GR 1438, file 2185.

38. *Fernie Free Press*, 16 September 1921, p.5; *The Creston Review*, 23 September 1921, p.5.

39. *National Post*, 17 June 1950, p.5.