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WILL EXAMINE AND REPORT ON MINING

MINING NOTES.

The options on the Jumbo, Commander and Gertrude have been recorded. It is a far cry from recording an option to buying a property, but it is more than likely that one or other of the properties will be taken, possibly them all.

Letters of incorporation are being applied for by Messrs. Scott and Houston, of Toronto, for a company to be called the Diamond Jubilee Exploration Mining and Development company. The promoters are E. S. Cox, Joseph Seagram, John Foy, H. S. Mara and others. The company has an attractive name and its promoters are men who are into mining on business principles.

The Red Mountain Railway is blocked with ore from want of switches and other facilities. Since Rossland became a shipping camp the output of ore has pressed hard on transportation facilities. And yet from the office of THE MINING REVIEW two separate lines of railway can be seen connecting with the mines, while eighteen months ago the site of THE MINING REVIEW'S office was a brush-grown wilderness, owned by Sam Wharton of Spokane as very speculative real estate.

The War Eagle mine is now opened on the 300-foot level, which should give War Eagle Consolidated a chance to earn dividends. A strike of ore in the Crown Point tunnel, another of the War Eagle Consolidated's properties, is now due. The tunnel is in nearly 600 feet.

The tunnel on the 200-foot level of the Jumbo is reported in ore. Another 100 feet of southward drifting should catch the pay values on this level. The Jumbo has quit shipping until the option now on the property either expires or is taken up.

Three carloads of ore from the Giant will be shipped this week to Tacoma as a test. This ore comes from the north and south vein, which is smaller than the main vein, but carries good gold values.

Good gold values are now being got from the White Bear mine. A magnificent sample of the ore is on exhibit in N. A. McKenzie & Co.'s office.

Tin, it is claimed, exists on the Salmon river. The average mining newspaper man's back aches with reporting discoveries of tin in Western America.

The machinery for the Palo Alto arrived three days ago and is being installed. On its present showing the Palo Alto should make a shipping mine within three months.

One of the greatest surface showings in Trail Creek camp was on the Gold Star, on Stoney Creek. Development work has been proceeding all winter, and at a depth of 70 feet there is a showing of rich ore which guarantees another shipper this year.

J. F. McLaughlin has bonded some Slocan and also some Toad mountain property.

The lower tunnel in the Monte Cristo is now in ore. An immense amount of dead work has been done to reach the vein on this level.

A meeting of the trustees of the Cambridge mine was held on Wednesday. Arrangements were made for the issue of the stock certificates at once, also for resuming work as soon as snow permits. The financial condition of the company is satisfactory, and as stock, except that issued to purchasers of promoters' and treasury, is strictly pooled, the stock is a good investment to buy and hold.

Mr. E. P. Whalley, representing the Nelson smelter, is in town. Regarding the discovery of tin on the Salmon, he says there is no question about the discovery being bona fide, although whether there is sufficient tin there to make mining it pay is entirely a different question.

The concentration test on the Le Roi ore continues the absorbing theme of discussion this week. It is maintained that the O. K. mill was thoroughly clean of O. K. gold; that the resultant amalgam was a

smooth amalgam, and that the test agrees in every particular with previous tests made on a laboratory scale. Another test is to be made with a 100-ton sample, which ought to be pretty conclusive. Its result will be eagerly awaited.

The Colonna tunnel is now driven 270 feet.

The Evening Star shows great improvement.

The Morning Star company has ordered from the Rand Drill company a 40-horse power hoisting engine, steam drill and a Carnation sinking pump. This machinery is now on the cars between Spokane and Rossland and the contract calls for it being installed within the next fifteen days.

Frank Loring returned to Rossland on Thursday.

J. E. Ross and E. Gove are in Rossland in connection with the Jumbo deal.

The Number One is likely to be worked this spring. Thanks to the good law in this country very few claims have been long tied up in litigation as this one has been.

Very rich ore continues to be taken from the Orphan Boy in the Big Bend country.

There is three times the quantity of snow at this time than there was in March of last year, or the year before either. Tracts in outlying districts are completely blocked unless in continuous use.

Everything looked for from the Trail Creek camp has happened—a large increase in the number of shipping mines and a satisfactory solution of the low grade ore question.

Almost at the same time that the options on the Jumbo, Commander and Gertrude were taken news comes that the Homestake deal has gone through in London. This is undoubtedly true, and the London market has acquired a splendid group of properties. This year is going to mark a tremendous influx of British capital.

Practical steps are being taken to follow out the suggestions of last week's REVIEW in the establishment of a Rossland stock exchange.

Rossland has now ten shipping mines, thirteen that have shipped at a profit, and about twenty that are in a position to ship so far as ore is concerned. Rossland had nothing like the same showing of mineral eight months ago when stocks were booming. Such is the nature of things. Meanwhile the legitimate miners of Trail Creek are sawing wood and saying little or nothing.

A chunk of Colonna ore weighing 450 pounds is on exhibit on a shelf between the Burns block and the Kootenay hotel. It assays \$26 in gold and 9 per cent. copper.

The Engineering and Mining Journal of New York has always given the development of Kootenay the heartiest encouragement. Of our present magnificent contribution to the mineral output of Canada it says: "The mineral history of Canada last year showed a substantial increase over 1895, and the value of its products has reached the highest amount ever reported, notwithstanding the low prices of some products. The greatest gains were in the precious metals and in lead and copper, and these were due to the active working of the new mines in British Columbia, which are now attracting so much attention, both in the Dominion and outside. The large shipments from Trail Creek, Ainsworth and the Slocan country have already been noted, and they make up the greater part of the increase in those metals which appears in the statement, and which, from present appearances, may be expected to continue."

The production of gold, silver, copper and lead in Canada during 1896 totalled \$6,690,317. The production of coal totalled \$8,006,305. As nearly all the gold, silver, copper and lead came from West Kootenay, and a great deal of the coal from Nova Scotia, the comparison of the Vancouver Island gold fields with the West Kootenay mining camps have the balance much in favor of the latter as a resource of the country.